

Message from the President

Spring traditions include pulling pranks on the first day of April, opening day for major league baseball, and here at WCU, Banana Day and Alumni Weekend.

This year's Alumni Weekend gets underway Friday, April 26 with a Ramboree Carnival on the Quad at noon. The fun continues with activities for every age and interest, including a planetarium show; tennis, softball, baseball and football games; a family friendly performance of *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*, and an alumni painting party. The long weekend concludes with the WCU Alumni Golf Outing on Monday, April 29.

You won't want to miss the Opening Gala for *Faces of the Berlin Wall: Divided Lives and Legacies 30 Years after the Fall*, which takes place April 26 in the Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology in the Old Library. Marking the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the exhibit examines the experiences of divided East and West Berliners, the Berlin Wall's symbolism and global impact, and its relevance today.

You'll also want to attend the April 27 groundbreaking for The Sciences and Engineering Center and The Commons. Construction cranes and front loaders have been popping up on campus just as frequently as daffodils these days. Now, we're ready to break ground on this 175,000 square feet living and learning facility that will be the largest academic building on our campus.

The building will house the departments of health, nursing, nutrition and physics as well as the newly approved biomedical engineering program. In addition, it will feature a large student dining hall and flexible conference space.

Finally, please join me, if you can, at the Distinguished Alumni Award Dinner later that day. This year's award-winners are Tina Sloan Green '66, Henry Pearlberg '82 and Chip Smith '70, M'81.

Come enjoy good times with your fellow Golden Rams. Learn more and register:

<https://www.wcualumni.org/aw>.

My wife, Sue '86, and I will see you there!