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REPORT TO ALUMNI AND OTHER FRIENDS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

RACING TOWARD OUR SECOND CENTURY

New President Karen W. Morse shoots the starter's gun to launch the Turkey Trot race at Homecoming, growing yearly after its revival in 1990. For a look at the year in which we celebrated the centennial of our founding, and the start of Western's second century, see page 1.

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A Year of Changing Traditions

It has been a year of strengthening traditions: Homecoming is increasingly popular with students and alumni. Students, by the way, are talking about reviving another long-absent tradition, the yearbook. Renovation of Edens Hall is nearing completion, returning to campus the residence that was the center of social and artistic life for 50 years (see page 2). After nearly a half-century, thanks to the alumni of the Campus School, chimes were installed in the Miller Hall bell tower, bringing the long-absent sound of bells to campus at noon and in the evening.

It has been a year in which some traditions disappeared: One that will not be missed is the interminable wait in long lines for class registration. The last line was in November with registration by phone replacing it spring quarter. One that is missed (see Point of View, page 5) is the Home Economics Department which closed this year. Its unique collection of designer chairs was exhibited at the Western gallery this fall, however, gaining national attention. An effort to retain the collection for exhibit and study is underway with $8,000 in “seed money.”

It has been a year of change: On July 8, Karen W. Morse, a noted chemist who had been named Western’s 12th president, visited campus to tour the nearly completed chemistry building and help break ground for a state-of-the-art biology building. She officially took charge August 1, and our peripatetic president has since been seen everywhere around campus and the community: inaugurating the new archives building four days after her arrival, visiting each department on campus to hold discussions with faculty and administrators, cheering Viking teams in every sport, making speeches at service clubs, meeting with alumni and friends in the Puget Sound area, even helping to barbecue salmon before the Homecoming game.

It has been a year in which we looked back, finding value in many of our traditions and looked forward to a second century of change and growth.
Winter 1994

Guest of Goldsmith
By Alumni Travel Coordinator Caterin Ward

This fall, for the third year in a row, a group of Western alumni and friends shared a cruising vacation. Our ship, 77,000 tons of luxury cruise liner, sailed up the Inside Passage to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and spent a glorious day cruising in Glacier Bay National Park — an awesome site and sight. Experiencing the beauty of Alaska was enhanced by traveling with both new and familiar faces — some of our alumni were on their third cruise, while others were on their first.

So what does it mean to Travel With Western? Simply taking a vacation with other Western alumni, family and friends.

As a former tour guide (five seasons for a large Northwest-based touring company), I know the pros and cons of guided group travel. Let me assure you that on a Western-planned trip, having a "tour guide" simply means that someone else will handle the logistics and ensure the smooth running of the trip. On our trips, responsibilities are shared among the group. We are not there to intrude on your vacation or your personal time. Our trips are unstructured. You don’t even have to wear name tags. We are not, however, a travel agency. We leave the complicated stuff to Bellingham Travel.

Why have Western alumni gone cruising for the last three years? Because people love it! It’s a truly relaxing way to vacation: no unpacking and packing every few days, no worrying about the details so you don’t have to. We arrange transportation to and from points of departure, get information on parking options, share knowledge about customs, embarkation and disembarkation, provide complete itineraries, and help people have fun. We are not there to intrude on your vacation or your personal time.

Our data base of alumni is now so large — at last count, over 50,000 — that we can’t afford to mail a travel invitation to everyone on it. So, if you are interested in experiencing the ship is one vacation, and exploring the ports of call is another. People love it! It’s a truly relaxing way to vacation: no unpacking and packing every few days, no worrying about the details so you don’t have to. We arrange transportation to and from points of departure, get information on parking options, share knowledge about customs, embarkation and disembarkation, provide complete itineraries, and help people have fun. We are not there to intrude on your vacation or your personal time. Our trips are unstructured. You don’t even have to wear name tags. We are not, however, a travel agency. We leave the complicated stuff to Bellingham Travel.

Edens to host alumni “sleep over”

Former residents of the old Edens Hall will get a chance to relive their school days this fall, when they are invited to be the first overnight guests in the renovated structure. For the past year, Edens (now known as Edens South) has been undergoing a complete renovation in order to house this most memorable building back on line as our operating residence hall. Nearly 100 alumni who attended the August 14 reunion luncheon last summer will be first in line as overnight guests.

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Other former residents of Edens and those for whom Edens has special memories will also be invited for the “sleep-over.” And because the former residents’ residence will now be co-ed, some men out there may finally be able to say: “I spent the night in Edens Hall.”

When selected from 150 candidates, the residence will now be co-ed, some men out there may finally be able to say: “I spent the night in Edens Hall.”

Just fill out the interest form on page 3 to reserve your spot for the christening of the New Old Edens. Remember, space will be limited and reservations will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis, so let us know soon.

In addition to the slumber party, there will be a grand opening of Edens. Those who would like to help plan the grand opening celebration are welcome to join a committee being formed for that purpose. Please indicate your willingness to participate on the form to the right.

Call for annuals

Still have your Western annual but are not sure what to do with it? Well, the Alumni Office and the Wilson Library Archives are in need of unwanted Western yearbooks. So, if you’d like to donate your copy, send it off to Alumni House, Western House, Washington, WA 98225-9199.

We are particularly in need of the following years: 1964, 1967, 1968, and 1948 through 1945.
Homecoming ranges from fireworks to slam-dunks to community service

From a serious discussion of environmental issues to fireworks and slam-dunk basketball contests, a wide range of activities attracted hundreds of alumni, students and community members to campus during Homecoming 1993:

* Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist Bill Dieterich ('73) drew a capacity crowd as he launched a quarterly alumni lecture series (see article on page 4).

* More than 500 people attended the Friday night fireworks, and 1,500 filled the Carver Gym bleachers to kick off the basketball season.

* About 100 people rose early Saturday for the Turkey Trot race and brunch.

* The salmon barbecue crew, led by Chet Ullin ('37 & '41), served every last piece of fish to an estimated 300 people, the biggest crowd yet. The football game, a thriller with Pacific Lutheran, was sold out.

* Seven hundred people attended the Homecoming dance, and 50 showed up for the swing dance lessons taught by two Western alumni: Mari Davis ('83) and Tony Collins ('92).

* The Not-Just-Food-Drive, which continued through mid-November, netted more than 3,000 pounds of food, personal and household items to aid 12 Whatcom County organizations. The drive, which began Hallowe’en night, was organized by students of the LINK Project which matches volunteer tutors and mentors from Western with students in the Bellingham schools.

Mark your calendar for reunions in September

Planning is in the beginning stages for the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1944 and the 40-year reunion for the Class of 1954, which are set to take place on the Western campus, probably in September.

Members of those classes will soon receive "lost" lists for grads in those years in our efforts to locate as many reunion class members as possible.

And as usual, all Western alumni in class years prior to 1944 are also invited back to the 50-year celebration as part of our Gold Seal Society.

Mark your calendars and get ready!

Let us know your interests

In the coming months, there are many unique activities open to Western alumni (see Guest of Goldsmith column for cruise and travel opportunities, and stories about Northwest Trek and the Edens Grand Opening Slumber Party on these pages). To indicate your interest or interests, please fill in your name, address and telephone number, then check the appropriate box or boxes. We'll take care of the rest.

Name _______________________________________________________________
Street Address ________________________________________________________
City _______ State _______ Zip _______
Daytime Phone _______________________________________________________

☐ I would like to be invited to the Edens Grand Opening
☐ I lived at Edens/attended Western in these years:
☐ I would like to help plan the Edens Grand Opening
☐ I would like to reserve a place for the Edens Slumber Party
☐ I would like to join the Cruisers Club and be informed about alumni cruises
☐ I would like to receive information about any Western Alumni Group Travel

Three places I hope to travel in the next few years are:

☐ I would like to go to "Go Wild with Western" at Northwest Trek, May 21
My check is enclosed for the special 50% alumni discount. Make checks payable to WWU Alumni and return no later than May 1.

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Please return this form to Alumni House, Mail Stop 9199, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9199.
Dinah Russell: learning to write— all over again

Seven years ago, her doctor told Dinah Russell ('86 and '91) that she would never be able to read or write after a tragic car accident left her with the literacy level of a child. With help from family, friends and rehabilitation professionals, she not only regained her capacities, but wrote a book about her triumph to inspire others.

And, she has begun a new career as a customs officer in Douglas, Arizona, spending the summer in training so intense that she learned the equivalent of two years of college Spanish in 12 weeks. Russell was a single parent in her mid-30s when she received her communications degree from Western and immediately landed a job as a copywriter for a San Diego advertising agency.

Her new career was brief: Two days after she began, a car slammed into hers, smashing her head into the steering wheel and windshield, leaving her with major head injuries that reduced her level of literacy to that of a third-grader. Russell could no longer read her customary six to eight books a week; it took her more than a month to read one.

At that point, Russell recalls, she was filled with frustration, anger and despair. She thought it was the end of the world. Thanks to her son Philip, and Philip's first-grade teacher Anita Sharatt, who is also Russell's best friend, she overcame her disabilities through daily rehabilitation routines. Every day for an entire year, Philip, then 11, spent two to three hours teaching his mother how to read again.

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By 1991, Russell — encouraged by枕her mother to read again — and write about it — with support from son Philip Irgens, and friend, Anita Sharatt.

-Photo by Frank Varga, Everett Herald

Bill Dietrich

Award winning writer is Homecoming speaker

Kicking off a series of quarterly talks by accomplished alumni — as well as Homecoming Weekend — was Bill Dietrich, award-winning environmental and science writer, who spoke to an overflow crowd at the Wilson Library Presentation Room.


His book won the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association Award and was recently named a winner of the 1993 Governor's Writers Award. Simon & Schuster published the hard-cover version in 1992 and Penguin brought out the paperback in 1993.

Dietrich, the Seattle Times science reporter, shared a 1990 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. He has worked as a reporter for The Bellingham Herald, Gannett News Service in Washington, D.C., and the Vancouver (Wash.) Columbian. In 1987-88 he was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, and in 1993 was honored as an Alumni Fellow by the Journalism Department during Western's Founders Celebration.

Currently, Dietrich is working on a book about the development and transformation of the Columbia River and its environmental cost.

Suggestions of speakers for the alumni lecture series are welcome. Speakers must be alumni of Western or one of its predecessor institutions. Contact Alumni Relations Director Chris Goldsmith at (206) 650-3353.

Bookshelves groan with "Western" works

Bookshelves are groaning with offerings from alumni and faculty. We mentioned several in the fall rollcall. Hereafter, the latest literary update:

• Adam Woog ('73) explored the inventions of Pacific Northwest residents in his first book, Sexless Oysters and Self-Tipping Hats. With Harriet Baskas, he has recently brought out a guide to museums, collections and roadside curiosities in Washington and Oregon with the arreting title, Atomic Marbles & Branding Irons (Sasquatch Books). Baskas and Woog write of unusual places and people whose collections "deavor a shelf, a room, the garage and, in time, a home and a life." (The atomic marbles, by the way, can

Atomic Marbles & Branding Irons

Heard Baskas and Adam Woog
Based comedy show and Economics graduates took a first-place firm in Bellingham. Amber Smith begun work with Moss Adams accounting teacher... Kittie Ann (King) Bowen has teacher... Trow Tornow will be the new Chad Donohue as Language Arts is David Van Boven. 93 - Monroe Middle School has hired Northwest: Essays in Honor of James Northwest Studies in 1971 and received founded Western's Center for Pacific memoir was printed last August. of their friendship could be lost, so she at 49. In October 1991, while celebrat­ ing young dogs "and a 12-year-old cat who were drawn from 6,000 entries in a make up a new collection. We do not sell names Alumni have asked us to remove them to provide their information to others. It is against state law to provide any information to any outside organization, whether nonprofit or commercial, and it is a violation of privacy laws. We do not sell names to any outside organization.
Central School, and, until his retirement, Bellingham High School. Died of cancer on August 30. He left Red Lion hotel chain, Washington. He received a state ambassador of goodwill for the State of Washington. He was 76.

DeWaine Wallin in 1980 and in 1983 they founded Wallin Selective Care Facility in Rochester, a home for disabled seniors.

1986 graduate, Elizabeth R. Moske McNamara, was killed in a automobile accident in Kent. She leaves behind her husband, David, and son, Jonathan, her parents, and two sisters.

Huxter College graduate, Charles Scott Paul ’83, died September 23 near Lincoln City, OR in a work-related accident. He was 39. Employed by the Forest Service since 1976, Paul was trails and wilderness co-ordinator for the Mount Baker Ranger District of the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. He is survived by his wife, Debra, and two daughters.

Dorothy R. Rawls of Bellingham died August 19 at the age of 71. Married to Albert Rawls and raised five children with him. The Rawls owned and operated Rawls Sapphires until 1972. Mrs. Rawls worked for St. Luke’s and St. Joseph’s Hospitals and Dr. Rimne. She also taught needed transcription at Cascade Business College. She married Lewis Story in 1989. A memorial service was held at Faith Haven College for Bellingham artist and commercial printer, Blake Gristlestine (’86). He was one of five people who disappeared aboard the 58-foot crabber Nettie H which vanished September 13 after it left King Cove near Anchorage headed into the Bering Sea. A gifted artist in metal sculpture, he also did specialty metal fabrication. Memorials are suggested to WomenCare Shelter of Bellingham or the Western Foundation.

Elizabeth Bowman, associate professor of English, died September 2 in Bellingham at age 78. She served in the Marine Corps during World War II before earning her doctorate in linguistics from the University of Chicago. She came to Western in 1966, teaching until 1979. Associate professor emeritus of technology Edna Channer died September 23 in Seattle. She was born in 1904, came to Western in 1940 and retired in 1972. Memorials may be directed to the Western Foundation, The Associated Fund of Horizon House, 900 University Street, Seattle 98101; or the Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, Seattle.

Recently, the Western Foundation sponsored a two-day seminar on estate planning conducted by Bruce Smith, a partner with Brett & Daugert, a Bellingham law firm. He discussed both the practical and technical aspects of planning an estate to preserve, assets, provide for intended distributions, and minimize taxes and costs. Smith developed a 45-page Estate Planning Reference Guide for the seminar covering a number of topics: jointly-owned property, living wills, health care directives, commercial and property agreements, durable power of attorney, major elements of a will, probate, various forms of trusts, charitable gifts, estate and gift taxes and more. He has also developed an Estate Planning Data Workbook. This workbook was designed as a tool to assist people in organizing their thoughts and records to begin estate planning.

microSOFT alumni substitute disks for dishes at RedmonD ‘potluck’ reception; raise $70,610

Alumni employees of Microsoft joined forces to donate more than $70,610 in computer software to academic departments at their alma mater. A highlight was a “potluck” reception at Microsoft’s Redmond headquarters with Western alumni bringing computer disks instead of covered dishes.

Kelly Guise ’91, a member of Western’s Alumni Board, served as coordinator for the first-ever alumni event at Microsoft and led the charge to get other Western graduates involved in supporting their university.

Nearly 160 Western graduates are employed by the software giant. As part of Microsoft’s Annual Corporate Giving Program, employees may purchase software at wholesale prices for charitable gift-giving purposes. In turn, the company matches each gift one-for-one, whether it is software, cash or Microsoft stock. The match translates into increased recognition for donors.

A memorial service was held at Fairhaven United Church of Christ, Seattle.

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From the Foundation

Mass Software Foundation grant benefits computerized writing lab

A $51,000 Western Foundation grant, and software contributions from Western alumni employed at Microsoft, are creating an advanced computer-assisted writing laboratory.

The lab, which will be fully operational in Fall 1994, will primarily be used for advanced courses in English education, creative writing, technical writing and desk-top publishing. A writing lab, open since 1986, will continue to serve first-year composition students during the day and be open for general University use at night.

Primary funding came from unrestricted gifts of alumni and friends to The Presidents Club and Annual Fund.

President’s Club drive successful

December 7 marked the “Victory Celebration” for The Presidents Club Campaign which began less than two years ago. A new record of 427 members was set. During the campaign, over $75,000 was pledged. Currently, the club has 105 first-time donors.

On October 21, flanked by jersey-clad team captains and a very “official” looking president Karen Morse, alumni Frank “Moose” Zurline signaled the start of the 1993-94 campaign at a football-themed kickoff breakfast. Zurline was joined by more than 30 local volunteers in an effort to recruit new members to the group.

“We wanted to make this year’s campaign fun for everyone,” said Zurline. “The football theme fit perfectly with the spirit of the year, and also provided a perfect opportunity for us to rally support for Western. And the competition between teams wasn’t bad either — especially when it translated into more private support.”

Previously, there were three membership categories:.

- Annual Membership: $1,000 annually;
- Lifetime Membership: $25,000 cumulative giving;
- Benefactor Membership: $100,000 cumulative contributions.

This year, two new categories have been created to expand donor options:
- Young Associates Membership is available to persons 39 years of age or younger who contribute a minimum of $500 annually to Western. They may renew their participation annually until reaching 40, at which time the regular Annual Membership contribution level applies ($1,000 a year).
- Honor Council Membership is open to individuals or corporations whose annual personal support total $5,000 or more during the current year.

In 1992-93, Presidents Club members made a dramatic impact in the quality and diversity of Western’s programs with more than $1.6 million in private gifts. Donors may designate their support for the college, department or program of their choice, and 100 percent of each gift goes directly to support the program selected by the donor.

For more information on The Presidents Club call (206) 650-3027.

Foundation grant benefits computerized writing lab
Viking sports: a season of sadness, success

Western’s annual Athletic Hall of Fame ceremonies were touched by sadness as faculty member, football coach and athletic administrator Boyle Long died two weeks before his induction. His partner with Long were football wide receiver Hoot Gier and track and cross-country coach (1973-87), Vernacchia retired from coaching in 1987. He will use a statue to remember many a “Stop the War” sign, not to mention murals on every wall of his room.

Fall class is best prepared, most diverse

Western’s entering class of fall 1993 was the most academically prepared and educationally diverse in University history.

With an average 3.5 grade point average (GPA), the new freshman class includes eight National Merit finalists. About 25 percent of enrolled transfer freshmen came directly from a Washington state community college with an approved academic transfer associate degree.

Students of color comprise 17 percent of the entering freshman class and 11.5 percent of the University’s total student body. The number of students of color attending Western has increased from 475 in 1984 to 1,184 in 1993.

“While we certainly are honored to enroll the most academically prepared and ethnically diverse class in Western’s history,” says admissions director Karen Copetas, “denying access to capable students is not a pleasant task. What we are seeing is an increasing level of excellence among applicants.”

Applications from students with a 3.5 GPA or better have risen sharply recently while applications from students with a lower average have dropped.

Until 1989, Western had a minimum requirement of a 2.5 GPA for freshmen and a 2.0 for transfers. Students meeting those criteria were admitted on the basis of the postmarks on their applications, a system criticized for denying access to highly qualified students.

“Alumni and parents of prospective students sometimes are concerned about the increasingly competitive selection process,” Copetas says.

“Undoubtedly, some worthy students will not be at Western this fall and some who are here will not be successful. But selection criteria of GPA plus assessment of special talent and other individual factors which would contribute to academic success — appears the most reasonable and fair method of selection.”

New Trustee Named: Gov. Michael Lowry has named Seattle attorney Grace Tsuang Yuan, 30, to Western’s board of trustees. Yuan has a practice in municipal, land use, and education law. She currently serves as the general counsel for the King County School Coalition and as special counsel for other Western Washington school districts. A graduate of the Yale Law School and Brown University, she presently serves as vice president of the Asian Bar Association of Washington and on the Washington Council of School Attorneys board.

National Bravos: Every performance from the inaugural Bellingham Festival of Music was repeated this fall on National Public Radio’s Performance Today. Plans are underway for an expanded 1994 festival which could include for-credit institutes, master classes, inclusion of more vocal music, and outdoor performances. Western’s 1993 production of La Bohème placed third in the National Opera Association competition.

And More Kudos: Western’s debate team is ranked second in the nation after winning the national title at the University of Oregon Invitational, the largest debate tournament in the country. The victory moved Western up from 12th place to 10th place in the country. Western’s entering class of fall 1993 was the most academically prepared and ethnically diverse in University history.

New Manufacturing Management Degree: The Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a unique degree program at Western — the first of its kind in the state — in manufacturing management. The bachelor of science program integrates study in production and operations, human resource management and engineering technology. It requires at least one six-month internship that includes time on the factory floor as well as assisting management. For more information, contact Professors Peter Haug (206) 650-4807 or Mark Springer (206) 650-4806.

Shakespeare Summer Tour: For the 15th year, Dr. Arthur Solomon will lead Shakespeare enthusiasts on a two-week tour of England which is also a four-credit class through the communication department in collaboration with the University of Birmingham (England). Cost of the July 2-17 tour is approximately $2,600. Contact: Shakespeare at Stratford, Department of Communication, Mail Stop 9102, (206) 650-3870.
The race is on:
For Alumni Club membership that is.

Will your grad year win?
To add a bit of challenge to this year’s membership drive we are urging graduating classes to compete to see which year can be the most represented among Alumni Club members. The prize is knowing that your class has bested the rest.

Of course, it’s a race nobody loses: Alumni Club members enjoy discounts, special events and access to University facilities. It’s a winning idea: the Alumni Association has grown from 450 in 1982 to over 5,000 a decade later. More than 350 alumni have joined as Life Members.

Single memberships are $25 yearly; joint memberships, $40; Life Memberships, $500 single and $650 duo. So write your check today and mail it, with your mailing label below, to Alumni House, Mail Stop 9199 or call 1-800-676-6885 for more information.

Be a winner! Join the club and swell your class total while you support your Alumni Association, and Western.