Fall 2008

Window: The Magazine of Western Washington University, 2008, Volume 01, Issue 01

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Bruce Shepard Eyes Western’s Future
Page 6

Fish Stories and River Stewards
Page 9

Care and Feeding of Rowing Champions
Page 12
Look through your Window to see what's great about Western

Since becoming the president of Western Washington University Sept. 1, I've been delighted to meet so many of you, members of the Western family. Traveling the state, I have been privileged to talk with and learn from alumni, donors, students and their families, lawmakers, newspaper editorial boards, and others. My wife, Cyndie, and I enjoyed helping some of your sons and daughters move into their new homes on campus with the start of fall quarter.

What I've learned so far is that Western is valued for excellence — excellence measured by the quality of the learning that our alumni demonstrate on the job, in graduate schools and as members of your communities.

I can't help but be proud to be affiliated with a university with such an excellent reputation. You'll be proud, too, when you meet some of the members of your Western family who are highlighted here in the new Window magazine. We've given our old Window on Western alumni publication a new look, with stories about amazing people with whom you share a Western connection, from a Huxley grad who is responsible for the operations of an international airport to a group of student-athletes who won an unprecedented four consecutive rowing titles.

These stories also demonstrate some of the reasons why we're known as the finest master's-granting public university in the Pacific Northwest. But I've also learned from you that we strive to be even better.

Count me in: I was drawn to Western in part because of your stated goal of becoming the best public university of its kind in the nation. But we won't get there by striving to be the state's third research university — though our undergraduates routinely receive much better research experience than their "Big U" counterparts. We will get there by sticking to our core mission of academic excellence in the liberal arts, providing top-notch faculty, superior learning facilities and creative, student-involving research.

I haven't been just listening to people the past few months. I also have been recording my thoughts. See for yourself by visiting my Web site at www.wwu.edu/president and read my Stakeholder Survey. Please be sure to share your own thoughts. Is Western fulfilling its promise? Where would you like to see us in the future?

Leadership in complex situations begins by asking questions, not just giving answers. That is the way we'll figure out what our next steps are. If you want to know who I am as president, there's no more fundamental point: I have questions, you have answers.

In the meantime, I hope this inaugural edition of the Window magazine encourages you to reflect on your special connection with Western. And tell me about those reflections. I can be reached at president@wwu.edu.

Bruce Shepard
Meet the New President:
Since taking office Sept. 1, Bruce Shepard has been thinking about the big questions...........6

Get in the boat:
WWU’s women’s rowing team has accomplished what no other NCAA rowing team has: four national titles in a row..........................12

Prepared for take-off:
Sea-Tac boss and Western alum Mark Reis hopes you have a pleasant flight.................................16

Class notes:
Did your former classmates turn their snowboarding lifestyle into a business?...................22

Alumni.......................................................18

Weddings................................................22

Obituaries..............................................22
Students Give to Western in Honor of Those Who Touched Their Lives

In June, graduating seniors were given the chance to celebrate their graduations with a gift to Western in honor of their favorite professors, staff members or coaches. During the first ever Senior Giving Campaign, 70 students made gifts totaling more than $2,000 to enrich departments and programs on campus. The “thank you” that came along with those donations was an added benefit for those who play such an important role in the lives of students.

To learn more about the Senior Giving Program or the Graduation Celebration, contact Amber Asbjornsen, director of annual giving, at 360.650.3616 or Amber.Asbjornsen@wwu.edu.

Western Washington University Honorees:

Kristin Anderson, Sociology
Amber Asbjornsen, WWU Foundation
Andy Bach, Environmental Studies
Andrew Bourdreaux, Physics/Astronomy
Karen Box, Human Services and Rehabilitation
Carol Brach, Journalism
Karen Bradley, Sociology
Lorraine Brilla, PEHR
Penelope Britton, Communication
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William K.B. Stoever, Liberal Studies
Eric Kean, Math
Robert Keller, Extended Ed and Summer Programs
Kathleen Knutzen, Humanities and Social Sciences
John Krieg, Economics
Kristen Larson, Physics/Astronomy

WWU graduate Lauren McKnew ('08) with Geology professor Pete Stelling. Lauren made a gift to Western in honor of Dr. Stelling at a Senior Giving booth during the Graduation Celebration in June. “Pete’s enthusiasm for geology is contagious,” she says. “Science doesn’t come naturally to me, but Pete took the time to explain the material and make it fun.”

Honor Roll of Donors

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Western Washington University Foundation

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE
As president of Western’s Students for Renewable Energy, Rose Woofenden is something of a student spokeswoman for green energy issues at Western.

Rose Woofenden didn’t talk much about being a pioneer in the sustainability movement when she was one of seven kids growing up in a family living “off the grid” on Guemes Island.

Back then, she says, no one knew what it meant to live off the grid, or without relying on public utilities. To Woofenden, it sometimes meant she couldn’t do laundry on a rainy day, because her parents didn’t have a clothes dryer like everyone else.

“Now, I see the choices they made and understand why they made them,” says Woofenden, 22. “Then, it was ‘Come on. This is really inconvenient.’”

Her parents were modern homesteaders, vowing to use only the power they could glean from the sun, wind and wood on their property — except for occasional supplements of propane.

That meant heating water through a coil in the wood stove, checking the solar- and wind-powered batteries before turning on the washing machine and waiting for the sun to come out to dry clothes on the line.

But fast-forward a decade or so, and it turns out Woofenden’s childhood is hip.

Here is Rose Woofenden’s advice for those of us who want to stay plugged in but use less energy.

- Insulate, insulate, insulate windows, walls, ceilings, water heaters and other places that let energy escape.

- Consider turning down your hot water heater. Why heat the water only to mix it with cold when you take a shower? Many dishwashers and washing machines come equipped with heaters to raise the water temperature anyway.

- Turn off — really turn off — your appliances. Televisions, computers, ovens, stereos and other appliances still pull a bit of electricity even when they’re turned off. Unplug them or get a power strip with a switch to turn them all the way off at the source.

- Think twice about buying new items, even if they’re energy efficient. For example, it takes a substantial amount of energy to manufacture a new hybrid car. An old junker that was new in the first Bush administration may be a better bet — if it gets good gas mileage.

- Carbon offset programs allow people to pay money toward renewable energy projects to offset the carbon emissions of their own energy consumption. If you participate in one, don’t stop there. Making a real difference in climate change, Woofenden says, will mean changing the way we live and how much energy we use.

“It was sort of something, as a kid, I didn’t necessarily bring up in conversation,” she says. “Now, it’s one of those things where if someone finds out, they say, ‘That’s really impressive.’”

Woofenden is actually an Environmental Education major who hopes to work in experiential outdoor education after graduation. But her nuts-and-bolts knowledge of how sustainability works keeps drawing her back to energy issues.

She has worked part-time with a renewable energy consulting firm and also as a student leader as president of Students for Renewable Energy.

The student group just spearheaded a demonstration project to install solar panels on the roof of Viking Union, generating a tiny amount of solar energy, but not enough to make a noticeable dent in the amount of energy the university needs to buy. The university now buys all its electricity from renewable power sources, but Woofenden hopes someday Western will produce much more of its own power.

“There’s something inherently valuable about doing it yourself and taking responsibility for your own needs,” she says, “rather than spending money and getting energy somewhere else.”
As Western Washington University – and higher education in general – face steeper challenges, new WWU President Bruce Shepard says it's time to ask ourselves the tough questions.

Bruce Shepard learned about the transformative power of education from his father.

The Shepards were a family of agricultural workers in California, but Bill Shepard had different ambitions. "So he went down to a public university," his son remembers, "paid about $25 per semester in fees and pumped gas to cover his college expenses."

Shepard's father, the first in his family to attend college, went on to earn a doctorate and had a successful academic career, serving as Dean of Students at the University of California, Berkeley and later as a dean for the entire University of California system.

"His two sons, my brother and I, have followed his example – learning the value of education," says Shepard, who succeeded Karen W. Morse Sept. 1 to become Western Washington University's 13th president. "Education does transform lives and leads to brighter futures for individuals, for their families and for future generations."

Meanwhile, higher education faces its own period of transformation, Shepard says, as more and more people seek to change their futures the way Bill Shepard's college degree changed his. Determining the road ahead will likely require asking a lot of questions, he says. "Not just any questions. They have to be questions that make us uneasy, that make us squirm a bit."

Those are exactly the kinds of questions Shepard loves to ask.

Growing up, Shepard thrived in the questions of math and science, teaching himself calculus when other kids were becoming acquainted with algebra. He planned to study pre-med in college, hoping to channel these skills into a career that made a difference.

One problem: Analytical chemistry bored him to tears. The more interesting questions, he began to feel, weren't the ones that he could answer with only the right formula and a calculator.

"Once I arrived at college, like many students, my eyes were opened to other possibilities," he says. "It was the '60s, and politics was in the air."
So began Shepard’s lifelong interest in politics, social sciences and "squishy problems."

Like his father, Shepard took to life in academia. He earned bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in political science from the University of California, Riverside. He spent 23 years at Oregon State University, earning tenure as a faculty member in the Department of Political Science before moving into university administration. From 1995 to 2001, Shepard served as provost at Eastern Oregon University, and then as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay from November 2001 through June 2008.

Shepard’s family includes two sons from his first marriage. One of his sons committed suicide about six years ago while he was working toward his doctorate. Since then, Shepard says, he often has spoken out about the importance of recognizing and treating depression.

“He was a brilliant guy. He was a social leader of all the grad students,” Shepard told the Western Front. “His brain was so powerful, it would not let him see he was seriously sick. Nobody saw the symptoms.”

Bruce is married to Cyndie Shepard, who founded the award-winning Phuture Phoenix Program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, which encourages students to graduate from high school and move on to higher education.

When approached about becoming president of Western, he was fascinated by hopes that Western could rise from

Continued on Page 8
being the top public master's-granting university in the Pacific Northwest to the best of its type in the nation.

"That's a very powerful vision and one that attracted me because I found that it's an aspiration widely shared on campus. It's where people want to go — recognizing it's going to take a lot of hard work. I'm very excited about what the future holds for Western."

Since August, Shepard has been part of a fast-track process to learn all he can about Western from its people. He has visited with hundreds of alumni, donors, incoming students and their families, faculty, staff, newspaper editorial boards, legislators, community leaders and the Governor. On campus, he plans to meet with every separate department and office to better grasp their roles and needs. He wants to gain the best possible understanding of where Western is and the collective vision of where it can go.

Defining Western's future will be a collaborative and continuing effort, he says. As president, he doesn't want to be the man with the answers. He's the coach, he says, not the referee.

"I believe groups of people together can come up with much better answers than any single individual can," he says. "If you want to know who I am as president, there is no more fundamental point — I ask the questions, you have answers."

Shepard arrives as Western faces many changes — from the first academic year operating under a faculty union contract to plans to expand the campus to the Bellingham waterfront. Meanwhile, enrollment continues to climb in the face of dwindling state funding.

As Western changes with the times, however, Shepard believes the university must remain true to its heritage as a liberal arts university.

"The 'liberal' in liberal arts has nothing to do with politics. It means 'liberating,'" he says, echoing the saying that education can liberate us from the tyranny of our own experience.

And he's not just talking about the economic liberty his family experienced when his father earned his university degrees.

"We all have norms, values and assumptions that we have come by through informal means and often without realizing it," he says. "We cannot operate as human beings without those, but they need to be critically examined."

Shepard believes that a liberal arts education is also increasingly important to our society and democracy. "We are preparing our students for careers that have not even yet been invented. We are preparing them to address societal problems that we do not yet know about. If you give people just specialized knowledge, techniques, skills, those can quickly become outmoded."

"So what we have to give people are the habits of looking at problems from a variety of perspectives, and the skills of problem solving and critical thinking. That's what will allow our students to be successful. And those are the hallmarks of a liberal arts education."

Higher education is going through a period of significant change as well, with calls for greater affordability, accountability and access. The fastest-growing populations of prospective students will be among people of color.

But times of change in higher education are often harbingers of greater access. He cites two examples: the establishment of land-grant universities by the Morrill Act of 1862 and the GI Bill after World War II.

"The comfortable private colleges didn't want the land grant act establishing all these public universities, and the public universities after World War II didn't want all those GIs unsettling their comfortable campuses," he says, adding that both changes dramatically improved and opened up access to higher education in America.

"The past changes in higher education teach us that we need to step outside our comfortable niches and understand the transformation taking place," he says. "We are the status quo in a time when change is being demanded."

**COFFEE ROASTING...**

When Bruce Shepard became chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, he soon discovered there was one important missing ingredient.

"I'm just your typical person from the Northwest — I like a good cup of coffee or a latte. And I ended up in the Midwest, which has many wonderful virtues, but there was not anything served on campus that I would've called coffee."

"To fill that void I started ordering green beans on the Internet and then a little coffee roaster and every week I would roast my own cup of coffee. It's a lot of fun — something like wine. You can work your way around the world trying different beans and come to appreciate the subtle differences."

"So for Cyndie and me it's a morning ritual. I will make us each a latte and then a second while we sit and talk about the day ahead."
Rosie Cullinane, above, picks through her collection of hand-tied flies. She and other students in the fly-fishing class work on them during lectures about stream ecology and conservation ethics. Tom Graham, bottom left, and Rowan Yerxa practice casting on Squalicum Lake.

By Mary Lane Gallagher

Her feet planted in sodden felt-soled boots, Rosie Cullinane sweeps her fishing rod over her head, orange line arcing above the creek rushing high and loud with snowmelt. Cullinane won’t be graded on whether she catches a fish on today’s field trip with her class, “The Art, Science and Ethics of Flyfishing,” but she is eager to see if the casting techniques she learned on the lawn in front of Old Main will tempt a rainbow trout onto her hook.

“You have to take a look around,” explains Cullinane. “You have to get to know your environment before you dive right in.”

The 46-year-old Fairhaven College student maneuvers her hand-tied elk hair caddis toward a spot she hopes a trout might rest: hovering in an eddy away from the creek’s fastest current.

Three weeks into the summer class taught by Leo Bodensteiner, associate professor of Environmental Sciences, Cullinane and the other students have been schooled in the art of casting and fly tying, the science of identifying insects and fish, and the ethics of watershed stewardship.

“What we’re learning is really ecology through the window of fly-fishing,” Cullinane says. “They’re teaching us to fly-fish, but they’re also teaching us to be stewards of the river.”

In the five years Bodensteiner and summer session lecturer Steve Meyer have offered the class at Western, it has drawn students from majors throughout

Continued on Page 11
"The Art, Science and Ethics of Flyfishing" is a summer class open to the public. Here's a look at the course itself.

- Week one: Introduction to fly-fishing equipment, knots and casting; field trip to Squalicum Lake for casting practice; screening of "A River Runs Through It;" discussion of fish identification and fishing regulations.
- Week two: Discussions of fish, food webs and stream structures; bug collecting along Chuckanut Creek; learning how to tie a "woolly bugger."
- Week three: Field trips to Whatcom Creek and the Nooksack River watershed; learning how to tie an "elkhair caddis."
- Week four: Discussions of the ethics of habitat conservation and stream restoration; learning to tie a "pheasant tail nymph;" three-day field trip to the Hozomeen campground on the Upper Skagit River.

"We're looking to make conservationists," says Associate Professor Leo Bodensteiner, above left, with student Carolyn Kinkade at Clearwater Creek in the Mount Baker Foothills. "We want them to love streams."
Continued from Page 9

campus, Bodensteiner says. About half come from Huxley College of the Environment, and the junior-level course offers some important hands-on illustrations of scientific concepts like hydrology, watershed dynamics and aquatic food chains.

But Bodensteiner and Meyer aren’t just looking for another way to teach scientific fundamentals.

“We’re looking to make conservationists,” Bodensteiner says. “If people don’t take an interest in streams, (streams) just go away. We want them to love streams.”

Historically, Bodensteiner says, fishers and hunters have been strong advocates for conservation. But as more people live in cities, fewer of us are spending time in the wilderness, he says.

Out of sight, out of mind, he worries.

“Even if you don’t need the stream to provide fishing opportunities,” Bodensteiner says, “you still need the stream.”

Which is why the four-week course is big on science but just as big on lore. When students aren’t listening to lectures on entomology, tying flies all the while, they’re watching films like “A River Runs Through It” to tempt them with the romance and beauty of the sport.

Their final project is an oral report on a fly-fishing river, delivered around a campfire along the banks of the Upper Skagit, where the class winds up with a three-day fishing trip. Students learn about a river’s ecology and history and what kinds of fish are found there.

By the end of the trip, Meyer says, students have learned about more than a dozen places waiting for them to explore with their fishing gear and new skills. He hopes it’s as inspiring as showing a Warren Miller movie in October to a bunch of skiers and snowboarders.

Cullinane hopes the end of her fly-fishing class is really a beginning.

“I’m so hooked on this,” she says, the orange fly-fishing line pooling at her feet. “I can see myself doing this for a lifetime.”

Besides, she says, “I do want to catch a fish one day.”

“The Art Science and Ethics of Flyfishing” is funded through a variety of sources in addition to tuition. Students receive fly fishing gear including rods, reels, boots and fly-tying supplies, thanks to help from businesses and organizations such as Fred Meyer, Patagonia, Fourth Corner Flyfishers, Sage Manufacturing, the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and the Liam Wood Flyfishers and River Guardians School.

Western Libraries keeps a collection of rare and popular books about American fly-fishing, thanks to former WWU provost and faculty member Paul and Mary Ann (76) Ford, including works exploring the spiritual, sociological and aesthetic aspects of the sport in America. Learn more at www.library.wwu.edu/special-collections and click on “Paul and Mary Ann Ford Fly Fishing Collection.”
Fueled by FRIENDSHIP

Winning gets better each time: “We want to see what we can do together,” says Maria Gilbert, team captain, in the center of the top row, above, holding the NCAA Division II championship trophy behind her teammates. “We want to perfect it together.”
Gut-wrenching workouts are easier when your best friends are in the same boat

It was the gorgeousness of rowing that first appealed to Metta Gilbert.

She loves the peaceful, rhythmic sound of the oarlocks clinking with each stroke, the water sluicing past the shell during early morning practices at Lake Samish. The Exercise and Sport Science major, trained to appreciate the strength and grace of bodies at work, enjoys the perfect synchronicity of eight women rowing like one trusty machine.

And with four straight national titles, Western's women's rowing team could be called one of the best, trustiest machines ever in the sport. Both the four- and eight-woman boats decisively won their title races this year. The varsity eight and varsity four have not lost to another Division II opponent since May 2004 and routinely trounce Division I programs with bigger pockets. And no other collegiate rowing team in any NCAA division has ever won four national titles in a row.

The record is impressive, to be sure. But what Gilbert loves about the sport now isn't what her team accomplished, but who her team was made of.

"There's not a whole lot of glamour to the sport," says Gilbert, 22. "It's a brutal seven-minute sprint. You feel like you're going to die at the end of it. It would be ridiculous for us to do that for the spectators. We're doing it for ourselves. We want to see what we can do together. We want to perfect it together."

Longtime head coach John Fuchs ('88) gives a lot of the credit to the core group of 2008 seniors, Staci Reynolds, Samantha Marikis, Amelia Whitcomb and Gilbert, who were with the team all four years — and for all four championships.

"Having met the best friends of my life really made the sport easy for me," says Gilbert, last year's team captain, who ferried her teammates to early morning practices at Lake Samish in her parents' minivan.

Each year, the friendships have gotten stronger in the varsity eight boat, says Reynolds.

"This year was probably the best year yet," she says. Reynolds is so serious about getting in the best shape possible that she won't listen to music when she runs because it would distract her from thinking about how fast she's running. But she's serious about friendship, too. She hated not recognizing the faces of first-year novice rowers in the dark first months of morning practice.

So potlucks began as an important way for team members to get to know each other. When you have to go to bed at 9 p.m. your freshman year, at least you can hang out with others who've chosen to follow such an upside-down lifestyle.

Besides, says Gilbert, "our team is infamous for loving to eat."

But more importantly, food was the means by which they built their bodies - and their friendships. And those friendships built the team.

"There are a lot of issues around food, especially with females and especially with athletes," Gilbert says. "We all kind of stick with one another in a commitment to good nutrition, especially when we start competing and training pretty hard."

At the height of racing season, competitive rowers consume about three times as much food as their non-racing classmates, yet every pound in the boat is one more pound they have to push the length of a 2,000-meter race. Every bite has to count if
they’re going to have the energy to endure their seven minutes of pain on race days.

So the team channeled their love of food into weekly pot-luck gatherings. They swapped recipes and ideas for how to get the most out of what they put in their bodies. They even wrote a cookbook for assistant coach Karla Landis (’03), who passed along some team favorites found here.

They also fixed their own meals before races, staying in hotel rooms with kitchens and pooling their dinner money. That way no one had to worry that the dinner prepared by a stranger would sit badly in her stomach during the race the next day.

“We had one vegetarian on the team,” Reynolds says. “We all made sure she was taken care of.”

The lifestyle of competitive rowing drew their friendships even closer.

Whitcomb jokes that she was dating “Bob” all four years.

“We have a boat named Bob,” she says.

(continued from Page 13)

Granola

SUBMITTED BY STACI REYNOLDS

6 CUPS OATS
1/2 CUP SUNFLOWER SEEDS
1/2 CUP SLICED ALMONDS
1/2 CUP FLAXSEED MEAL
1/2 CUP SESAME SEEDS
1 TABLESPOON CINNAMON
1 TEASPOON SALT
1/2 CUP HONEY, WARMELED WITH 2 TABLESPOONS CANOLA OIL
1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR

COMBINE ALL DRY INGREDIENTS. MIX IN WARMED HONEY AND OIL. BAKE AT 250 DEGREES FOR 30 MINUTES. STIRRING EVERY 10 MINUTES. TURN OFF OVEN AND LET DRY UNTIL COOL. STORE IN SEALED PLASTIC BAG.
A WWU Industrial Design professor knows a better bicycle would mean a better life for Uganda's 'boda-bodas,' who carry the country's people and cargo on two wheels.

When Jason Morris, assistant professor of Industrial Design, saw photos of the rickety bicycles pedicab operators in the Ugandan town of Hoima used to shuttle clients and cargo, he knew he could do better.

"My first thought was, how old are these bikes?" says Morris, a cyclist himself. The design looked like it was from World War I — and he later learned it was.

"It's like riding around on Model T's in the year 2008," Morris says.

The bikes, ridden by "boda-bodas," are a primary source of transportation for most Ugandans. Cars and gas are so expensive that automobile ownership is prohibitive. So people and cargo are ferried around on bicycles.

"It's a profession for many young, poor Ugandan men," Morris says.

The problem is that they use ancient bikes. "Even the newer bikes imported from India are of the design common to touring bikes in Europe 75 years ago," says Morris. "They're not built to carry cargo."

Two years ago, Morris's mother — an Anglican minister doing mission work in Uganda — formed a design team made up of five local boda-bodas, who gathered regularly for lunch and discussed the ideas Morris had for a new bike design: sturdier, simple to maintain, and rugged enough to carry cargo. Slowly, the team refined Morris's initial design.

In the spring of 2007, Morris used research funding to get the prototype built by a Seattle frame builder, and that summer he took it to Uganda, courtesy of a summer research grant and funding available through WWU's College of Sciences and Technology.

The reaction to the prototype was even more effusive than Morris had hoped.

"The guys were so excited," he says. "They had been telling everyone who would listen that they were helping design a new bike that was going to come from the States, and nobody believed them. Then one day, there they were, riding it around town and waving to everyone. It was just awesome."

Morris's prototype utilizes a fairly standard front end with a customized, reinforced rear end for carrying cargo, complete with a smaller rear tire and rim commonly used on BMX bikes.

Morris stayed in Uganda for three weeks, helping lead clinics on bike repair, filming a bicycle-safety video, and meeting with faculty at Kampala's Kyambogo University, who hope to start the country's first program in industrial design.

To thank the Ugandans for consulting on the bike's design, Morris gave each design team member a toolbox full of bicycle tools and tools for their machines.

"They could use those tools to help other people in their community work on their bikes, fix flats and oil chains," says Morris. "They owned no tools and were so excited about the gifts that they immediately sent someone to the radio station and brought back a reporter to spread the news."

Morris's goal is to get these bikes manufactured and to the boda-bodas at the same price for which they are buying their inefficient, outdated bikes now.

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Morris's goal is to get these bikes manufactured and to the boda-bodas at the same price for which they are buying their inefficient, outdated bikes now.

He continues to publicize the project and is working on a short documentary about it. He also recently presented the project at a national conference of the Industrial Designers Society of America.

"It could be an incredible micro-enterprise for some company," Morris says. The application for the design patent has been sent.

"We'll see where this next step takes us," he says.
The secret to running the busiest airport in the Pacific Northwest is a lot like the secret to traveling through it on the day before Thanksgiving.

Keep thinking about the destination, and don’t get derailed by little hassles along the way.

“I just accept the fact that every day brings a new set of challenges,” says Mark Reis (75), in his glass-walled office with a commanding view of the South Terminal and airfield at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

“Not much walks in this door that’s run of the mill,” says Reis, the Port of Seattle’s managing director of aviation. “People come in often to talk about problems. If I communicate stress, I’m not helping them.”

It’s a skill Reis learned more than three decades ago as an Environmental Education student at Huxley College of the Environment. Throughout his coursework, he says, he was taught to see the big picture.

“That’s what environmental education is all about,” he says, “recognizing the interconnectedness of things.”

Reis, who also earned a master’s degree in public administration from Harvard University, remains connected to Western as a member of Huxley’s Associates Board.

A typical workday for Reis is what he calls a “daily jigsaw” of interconnectedness. An average of 100,000 passengers - enough to fill a city the size of Bellevue - come through the airport each day. A total of 20,000 people work there. Forty-one airlines, themselves facing an uncertain economic climate amid increasing competition, fuel costs and security regulations, take off and land planes an average of about 759 times a day.

With an operation so huge, Reis says he “presides” over the airport rather than manages it. He relies on a staff of a dozen senior aviation managers to handle the day-to-day operations.

“You certainly don’t want to get in their way or do the job for them, because they’re very capable,” Reis says.

The Transportation Safety Administration, which has kept airports on heightened security alert since Sept. 11, 2001, issues new security rules almost every day. Sea-Tac has its own police and fire departments, in addition to more restaurants and stores than many small towns. A sophisticated laser system directs baggage along 13 miles of conveyor belts while herds of itinerant goats keep the grass trimmed near the runways.

Reis must also predict how the forces at play outside of the airport could eventually sweep through the terminals: new rules from Congress and federal regulatory agencies, the economic troubles of the airplane industry and the political clout of neighboring cities and community groups are all woven into the airport’s future. He’s responsible for “making sure we’re focusing on new opportunities and anticipating – and steering to avoid – potholes,” he says.

Reis compares the lessons he’s learned about crisis management to the experience of watching a river rise and fall over the years.

“You become less reactive to any particular rises, because you’ve seen variations on the theme before,” he says. “You’re able to see the big picture and see longer-term trends, the more experience you have. I think that’s certainly true for me.”

Few workdays have been typical in the four years Reis has served as the port’s top airport executive. The airport is nearing the end of a $4.5 billion in construction projects, including the new Central Terminal that opened in 2005, an all-weather runway set to open this month and a light-rail system set to open next year, connecting the airport and downtown Seattle.

The completion of the runway, the most visible and controversial of the recent construction projects, is a major milestone. The work was delayed for years through state and federal court battles, largely over environmental concerns over nearby wetlands. The final project involved moving 16 million cubic feet of dirt to build an embankment to support the runway - and the restoration of dozens of acres of wetlands both at the airport and at a mitigation area in Auburn.
The end result, Reis says, will be fewer flight delays in cloudy weather, which restricts the airport to just one runway about 44 percent of the time now. Reducing flight delays will become increasingly important, Reis says.

"I don't think the general concerns about security are going away any time soon," he says. "We're looking for ways to decrease the hassle factor."

That includes more automated kiosks to cut down on the number of people standing in line to check in. And a new luggage handling system sends bags through a maze of 13 miles of automated conveyor belts, delivering them from the check-in counter, through security screening machines, and on to planes in an average of 13 minutes. The system was under construction when the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 happened, Reis says, so it had to be redesigned almost from scratch to accommodate new security equipment.

New systems and machines aren't the only things that can make flying easier. "Every day, almost everybody at the airport has an opportunity to make the traveling experience better," Reis says. "Every day, we have the opportunity to contribute to the public good. Helping people do that is what makes the job so much fun."

SEA-TAC BY THE NUMBERS


9 – PERCENTAGE OF 2007 FLIGHTS FROM SEA-TAC THAT WENT TO PORTLAND, ORE., THE MOST POPULAR FLIGHT DESTINATION THAT YEAR, FOLLOWED BY SPOKANE AT 5.7 PERCENT AND LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT 4.2 PERCENT.

1 IN 3 – PORTION OF ALL 2007 DOMESTIC LANDINGS AT SEA-TAC THAT WERE ALASKA AIRLINES FLIGHTS.


SOURCE: SEATTLE-TACOMA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.
On the Porch with Deborah DeWees:

Culture of Service Changes the World

Western is an impressive place. Not just for the top-notch education provided, or the cutting edge research by our faculty, or the caliber of our students, or even the breathtaking location. It is what can be found underpinning the campus culture: volunteerism. You'll find it among the students, alumni, staff, and faculty; on-campus and off; locally, nationally and internationally; young and old; individually and in groups. The Peace Corps recognizes this and ranked Western third in the nation among medium-sized universities for producing the most alumni volunteers.

Throughout this issue of Window you'll learn about students who volunteer to find ways for Western to reduce its carbon footprint. You'll see how Kelly Vosilus ('06) chose to attend Western because of the close affiliation with the Peace Corps in order to fulfill her lifelong dream of service.

Discover what service means to Jesse Moore ('05), a young alumnus who pounded the pavement for Democratic President-elect Barack Obama, and to Rosie Hansena ('77), now in her 80s, who has been doing the same for the GOP since her days as a young mother in the 1950s. Follow Industrial Design faculty member Jason Morris to Uganda as he finds a way to improve a primary means of transportation.

I wish we had hundreds of pages to devote to highlighting our alumni, faculty, staff and students who are making differences in visible and invisible, humble and very public ways. Individually all are incredible, and collectively they're making great changes in our communities and our world.

I am regularly asked if there are direct ways that alumni can volunteer and help Western. The answer is yes. There are many opportunities to get involved such as welcoming incoming students, helping with graduation, mentoring and serving on university advisory boards. If you're interested, please get in touch and we can find a place for you to accomplish things you're passionate about. Because as I mentioned, Western is an impressive place worth getting passionate about.

The Peace Corps ranked Western third in the nation among medium-sized universities for producing the most alumni volunteers.

Deborah DeWees, Executive Director
Western Alumni Association

Kelly Vosilus ('06) chose to attend Western because of the close affiliation with the Peace Corps in order to fulfill her lifelong dream of service.

Before the Peace Corps took Kelly Vosilus ('06) to Azerbaijan, it brought her to Western.

Vosilus, of Lansing, Kansas, was researching colleges in her mother's home state of Washington when she learned Western Washington University had a Peace Corps recruiter right on campus.

If the Peace Corps was that interested in Western, Vosilus decided, she was too. Maybe the Peace Corps knew where to find the kind of people Vosilus wanted to go to school with: those who "cared about their communities and the world," Vosilus says, "as well as those who gave their time to others and volunteered."

That was where Vosilus wanted to be, too. Since age 12 she had nurtured a dream of joining the Peace Corps.
World Service First Brought Her to Western

and serving alongside people of another country on the other side of the world.

Her first encounter with the Peace Corps was during an information fair the beginning of her freshman year.

“I stumbled upon the Peace Corps recruiter,” Vosilus says, “and every fall after that I sought her out at the fair and asked her what I needed to do at Western to become a Peace Corps volunteer.”

Meanwhile, she spent time making a difference closer to home.

“I tried to volunteer as much as I could,” she says, “including at the Lighthouse Mission and serving meals to the homeless downtown with the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry.”

Soon after graduating in August 2006 with a degree in English Literature, Vosilus was accepted into the Peace Corps and assigned to the former Soviet republic of Azerbaijan, located west of the Caspian Sea and sharing borders with Russia, Georgia, Armenia and Iran.

She arrived in late June 2007 for 11 weeks of language, medical and safety training. She also got a lesson in how small the world can be for Western graduates when she met fellow Peace Corps volunteers Nick Morton (’03) and his wife, Dana Carr (’04).

“We had attended Western together but didn’t know each other,” Vosilus says.

Vosilus is now living in a village in the northeastern part of Azerbaijan creating youth programs for 15- to 24-year-olds, preparing them with life skills to help them continue with schooling or work.

She stays busy running camps, meetings and classes. She often helps villagers with their English and computer skills and has created programs examining environmental and health issues.

One small experience can snowball into a much larger impact. “I trained a village member to read a diabetic monitor,” Vosilus says of donated equipment that included English-only directions. “He was then able to help his mother-in-law and then also trained other villagers to help with the growing problem of diabetes in our area.”

Living and working in Azerbaijan, where she’ll stay until September 2009, has been one of the best and biggest surprises of her life, she says.

“I’ve been welcomed warmly by the people of this wonderful country and do what I can to help them,” she says.
A Life-Changing Decision to Volunteer
Story by Stacee Sledge

Jesse Moore ('05) took a bit of a gamble last January and headed to Las Vegas to volunteer for the Barack Obama campaign.

Moore hedged his bets at first, taking an unpaid leave of absence with plans to return to his job as a multicultural outreach advisor for Western's Office of Admissions.

"I flew to Las Vegas and threw myself into the fray," Moore said.

The whirlwind was immediate, as Moore spent three weeks of 17-hour days canvassing door to door, working to sway caucus voters to Obama's camp, and recruiting, scheduling and training volunteers on how to get out the vote in their precincts and win their caucuses.

It was soon clear that this one-time volunteer stint would turn into a career change. Moore came home to Seattle after the Nevada caucus and soon became a staffer for the Obama campaign in Washington state. In Seattle, he organized and trained voter protection attorneys and helped to schedule and assist surrogates like U.S. Rep. Adam Smith and Sen. John Kerry while they were in town.

"It has been exhausting, inspiring and certainly life-altering. There are no days off, most workdays are at least 15 hours long, and the pace is like nothing I've ever experienced."

He then crisscrossed the country, serving as field director from Texas to Indiana to North Carolina. Each job challenged, fulfilled and somehow energized Moore enough – despite little sleep and lots of stress – to keep him wanting to continue.

"There was never a big decision to leave Western," he says. "They just kept hiring me, one state at a time."

Moore proudly lists his accomplishments with the Obama campaign: "I've had the honor of registering 60-year-old, first-time voters and helping folks register who never learned to read but have been inspired to try again by listening to Sen. Obama."

He's also moved from behind the scenes at the campaign, sometimes giving warm-up speeches for the senator, stressing the importance of community involvement.

"It has been exhausting, inspiring and certainly life-altering," Moore says. "There are no days off, most workdays are at least 15 hours long, and the pace is like nothing I've ever experienced. Still, it feels worth it on a daily basis."

In some ways, Moore's work with the Obama campaign is a continuation of his work at Western. "I worked hard to weave empowerment and pluralism into our university message and helped to revise our publications and letters to prospective students," he said.

After so many months of non-stop work at breakneck speed, what are Moore's plans for after the election?

He mentions searching for a job and looking for somewhere to live.

But whatever his plans, he says, "I can assure you sleeping will be involved, as will hugging my mom."
Rosalie Hansen has been volunteering for political causes, such as a recent stint at the Republican Party booth at the Northwest Washington Fair, above, since she's been old enough to vote.

**Political Action is a Family Value**

Story by Stacee Sledge

Rosalie Hansen ('77), now 83, has always been deft at juggling responsibilities as she raised five children and worked as a nurse while earning a college degree.

But she's always found time to volunteer for Republican candidates and causes.

Volunteering fills Hansen with pride, satisfaction and a feeling of serving her country.

"All my life I’ve been interested and concerned with political issues," she says. "And I wanted my kids to also take an interest — whether they voted my way or made different choices."

Her service as a political foot-soldier started more than a half-century ago with Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"Ike was my guy," Hansen says with a smile.

Back then, Hansen, her husband, Ray, and their five children were living in north Seattle. After a day working as a nurse for the Seattle Health Department, she would pile the kids in the car and they'd pass out Republican literature "to anyone who would take it," she says, laughing.

Precinct Committeewoman for Seattle's 45th District, worked in the election booth and was a yard sign distributor.

"All through the years I was doing something, whenever I could, with and for the Republicans," she says.

Meanwhile, Hansen went back to school at age 50, studying nights at her dining room table to earn her degree in Human Services from Woodring College of Education to further her career as an occupational health nurse for the General Services Administration.

Now retired and living in Ferndale, Hansen is more involved locally, volunteering at the Republican booth at the Northwest Washington Fair, attending Republican Party events and giving small donations to Republican candidates.

“She inspired much of my family to be interested in politics,” says Frye, adding that her sister is following in her mother's footsteps by volunteering for Republican candidates.

And just like those long-ago Eisenhower campaign volunteer days, Hansen still involves the young ones, bringing her grandchildren along when she volunteers at the Northwest Washington Fair.

"It's fun," she says. "I'm not as agile as I used to be, but I do what I can."

"The kids thought it was great," Hansen remembers. "They'd be waving American flags, very proud."

Hansen put her kids to work in several campaigns, says daughter Laurie Frye.

"I remember stapling packets together for the Nixon campaign against Kennedy and handing out yard signs for candidates such as Dan Evans, Ralph Munro and Dick Marquardt," Frye says.

Hansen also served as a Republican Precinct Committeewoman for Seattle's 45th District, worked in the election booth and was a yard sign distributor.

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Class Notes

Weddings

2000's

Tristan Nicholas and Scott Symons (00) on Oct. 6, 2007, in Marysville.
Heidi Haynes (01) and Daniel Morris (01) on Dec. 29, 2007, in Kennewen.
Genelle Gail LeRoue (01) and Michael Law Olmstead on Aug. 4, 2007.
Brandi Riel (01) and Jared Krause on June 30, 2007, in Moxee.
Hillary Nightingale Smith (01) and Morgan James Omdal on July 28, 2007, in Bellingham.
Erika Gabrielson (02) and Ben Bardill (03) on Aug. 18, 2007, in Walla Walla.
Michelle Gingell and Andrew David Block (02) on Aug. 11, 2007 in Walla Walla.
Mary King (02) and Steven Parsley on June 30, 2007, at Lake Chelan.
Heather Britt Lentz and Paul Ambrose Hunter (02) on Aug. 3, 2007, in Isle of Palms, S.C.
Mary Norris (02) and Phillip Nordwall (07) on July 17, 2004.
Sara Billington (02) and Michael Top (03) on Aug. 3, 2007, in Maui, Hawaii.
Ken Plagge on Sept. 15, 2007, in Mount Vernon.
Kya Mary Mathews (06) and Robert Charles Walters (06) on Jan. 19, 2008, in Placencia, Belize.
Krista Marie Brown (03) and Jonathan Lee Frolander on July 30, 2007, in Mount Vernon.
Mary Norris (03) and Robert Lambert on Nov. 9, 2007, in Maui, Hawaii.
Sinead Fitzpatrick (03) and Colby Plagge on Sept. 15, 2007, in Mount Vernon.
Laura Jans (03) and Charlie Cabe (03) on Aug. 25, 2007, in Bellingham.
Erika Jewett (03) and Blake Skoukas (06) on Aug. 25, 2007.
Nadia Koreen Markie and Ryan Dee Mahoney (03) on Aug. 25, 2007, in Anacortes.
Tanya Marie Ollivier and Mark William Biscomb (03) on Feb. 9, 2008, in Puyallup.
Ariele Page (03) and Matt Landstrom on March 1, 2008, in Port Townsend.
Chiara Rosanne Sather (03) and Matthew Damien Klotz on Sept. 15, 2007, in Port Townsend.
Tara Lyn Trot (03) and Jonathan Paul Schupbach on Aug. 11, 2007, in Las Vegas.
Melissa Van Vliet (03) and Kenneth Parriott on Feb. 23, 2008, in Cathlamet.
Karissa Barker (04) and Adam Brown on July 27, 2007, in Lynden.
Meghan K. Dewey (04) and Kevin P. Shaffer (05) on Aug. 3, 2008.
Kathryn Dosey (04) and Nicholas Oswood (04) on July 22, 2007, in Bellevue.
Magon May (04) and Mark Hamilton (04) on Sept. 8, 2007, in Bow.
Kathy Michael Rogers (04) and Seth Aaron Wallace on Aug. 1, 2007, in Kauai, Hawaii.
Kjersti Svendsen (04) and Justin Lopez on July 28, 2007, in La Conner.
Tara Renee Dow (05) and Christopher Jensen on Sept. 1, 2007, in Mount Vernon.
Laura Fullner (05) and Michael Grennan (05) on June 30, 2007, in Lynden.
Christine Anne Funk (05) and Levi Nichols Markowsky (06) on Oct. 21, 2007, in Maui, Hawaii.
Lisa Marie Predovich (05) and Todd Michael Frazer on July 14, 2007, in Tacoma.
Angela Stillwell (05) and Ryan Hintz (05) on Sept. 2, 2007, in Woodinville.
Sarah Case (06) and Chris Eldridge (07) on April 5, 2008, in Renton.
Bevin Donohue (06) and Mark Graham (06) on Aug. 17, 2007, in Sequim.
Audrey Harrison (06) and John Welch (07) on Oct. 13, 2007, in Mount Vernon.
Amber Morin (06) and Robert Charles Walters (06) on Jan. 19, 2008, in Mount Vernon.
Amanda Marie Peacock (06) and John Charles Potter (06) on Aug. 10, 2007, in Bellingham.
Whitney Persch (06) and Matthew Goodwin (06) on Aug. 24, 2007, in Seattle.
Stephanie Sinclair (06) and Brett Vanvoorhis on June 22, 2007, in Blaine.
Alixandra Hall (07) and Garrison Marr (07) on July 19, 2007, in Bellingham.
Traci Harstad (07) and Chad Stark (09) on Feb. 19, 2008, in Whidbey, B.C.
Morgan Luce (07) and Thomas Lingl-bloom on Aug. 11, 2007, in Bellingham.
Marie Schott (07) and Jason Kerrone on Oct. 27, 2007, in Palmer, Alaska.
Tisha Goodman (08) and Ryan Schutte on Aug. 25, 2007, in Bow.
Karen Harris (08) and Derek Illman on Aug. 11, 2007, in Seattle.
Holly Jergenson (08) and Kerek Rubino on April 12, 2008, in Silverdale.
Breia Lewis and Sean Salsbery (08) on Sept. 1, 2007, in Lynden.

1990s

Lisa Marie Forsyth (91) and Mark Conran on July 7, 2007 in Bay View.
Julie Neff (96) and David Burkhart on Aug. 4, 2007, in Hope, Idaho.
Leah Christine Smith (98) and Terry Lynn Clayberg on July 28, 2007, in Bay View.
Allison Dana Ray (97) and Barrett Allin Hanson on Feb. 17, 2007, in Aberdeen.
Christine Taylor (95) and Justin Fugleberg on Aug. 4, 2007, in Ridgefield.
Jennie Renae Worquim (93) and John Paul Colgan on Nov. 17, 2007, in Olympia.
Fritzie Ann Venezuela (99) and Ryan Elton on Sept. 8, 2007, in Bellingham.

Obituaries

1937 - Howard Wilder, 104, who in 1923 helped Western win its first conference football championship under coach Sam Carver and who later went on to teach, work in the lumber business and own a Mount Vernon grocery store, on April 17, 2008, in Shelton.
1940 - Donna F. Stevens, 87, a WAVES during World War II, serving as one of the first female "radiomen" and later working for the Social Security Administration, on Feb. 4, 2008, in Seattle.
1942 - Helen DeVries, 84, who spent 35 years in the Washington State Legislature, on Jan. 27, 2008.
1949 - Larry Eugene Prigg, 82, a retired teacher, trumpet and jazz aficionado, on May 1, 2008, in Snohomish.
1960 - Burton LeRoy Hormann, 81, a retired teacher and principal, on March 30, 2008, in Lynden.
1960 - Bobby R. Lockhart, 80, a retired teacher, trumpeter and jazz musician, on March 14, 2008, in Seattle.
1962 - Edward Norman Nelson, 80, professor emeritus at Oral Roberts University, on June 8, 2008.
1970 - John Sevier Warden, 95, on July 21, 2006. He taught music in Bellingham schools for 50 years and continued to volunteer in school and church music programs and in the Bellingham High School Alumni Band after his retirement. Royal Pennewell, 85, a retired math teacher at Interlake High School in Bellevue and Bellevue Community College, on July 24, 2008.
Business Casual

By John Thompson

Entrepreneurial brothers Dan (left) and Brendan Reid.

Brothers Dan and Brendan Reid admit their studies took second place to snowboarding during winter quarters at WWU.

Snowboarding instead of studying doesn’t sound like a quality career-building experience, but it inspired Brendan ’01, and Dan (a former Western student who earned a marketing degree at University of Hawaii at Manoa) to combine their love of the boarding lifestyle with some business acumen to launch Casual Industrees, an up-and-coming clothing line.

“We started the company with returned damage deposits from a cabin we rented (on Mount Baker), the winter of the world-record snowfall,” says Brendan, who majored in Environmental Studies/Marketing. “We would go to school during the summers and cram the fall to take off winter quarter and do nothing but snowboard. It was paradise.”

It’s a paradise the brothers have tried to hang on to as they’ve built Casual Industrees from their humble beginnings in the basement of their Aki Beach home with a single customer, the Mount Baker Snowboard Shop in Glacier, to a national player with high-profile clients such as Nordstrom and Zumiez.

The Reid brothers recently talked about making a living — and a life — in the clothing business.

Q: What did you learn while riding Sticky Wicket, The Canyon, and Honkons on top of Mount Baker that has made its way into Casual Industrees’ business model and clothing line?

Dan: Back then we used to live off $500 a month and we rode seven days a week — trying to work a normal job after that seemed pointless. Riding pow (powder) is like living the millionaire lifestyle and being a superhero anything is possible and it’s pure satisfaction all day long. All the money in the world can’t buy you that feeling.

So we started a clothing company to support that lifestyle, and then Casual turned into the 9-to-5 job we were trying to avoid. But at least we can take a day off when the snow conditions are really good.

Q: Dan, how long were you at WWU before heading to Hawaii?

Dan: I went to Western for five quarters, and during that time took advantage of the great international and national exchange programs that Western had to offer. These exchanges took me to Vienna, Austria, where I was introduced to international business and to Europe right before the EU came into existence; and to Hawaii, where I was introduced to marketing and learned how to surf, which changed the way I looked at the mountain.

Q: The focus of Casual’s line, and its whole initial reason for being, was local, local, local. So what is it about the local scene that has translated to national retail success with the likes of Nordstrom and Zumiez?

Brendan: You always see people identifying with L.A., San Francisco, (heart) New York shirts, etc. — and ironically here we were on the top of the West — in one of the most beautiful areas in the world — without any representation. The flannel shirt was dead, and we thought that local uniqueness would have broad appeal because so much of the industry has these kinds of billboard-oriented logos.

Dan: How we live in the winter in the Northwest is a lifestyle everyone who rides wants to experience, for sure. Baker has become the mythic “El Dorado” for snowboarding, and the entire scene wants to be connected to it. It’s one of the last places that is still core and real.

I think people from everywhere can identify with elements of the lifestyle we showcase through Casual. Everyone everywhere likes to have a good time and get the most out of life, and if you create imagery that reminds them of those moments, then you are recreating that moment for them, and who doesn’t want to support that?

1959 — William K. Longwell, 71, a retired middle and high school teacher in Renton who led the effort to build 16 miles of trails on Tiger Mountain, on Nov. 28, 2007. Jon Spack, 70, a retired teacher in Tacoma schools who was also a violinist in the Tacoma Symphony, a professional painter and chief arranger of the Fine Arts Show at the Western Washington Fair in Puyallup, on June 29, 2008. Arnold Young, 73, a retired high school track coach and a member of the Washington State Track and Field Coaches Hall of Fame, on Aug. 11, 2008.


1973 — Betty M. Everett, 81, a homemaker who earned her degree after raising her children, on Dec. 24, 2007, in Ferndale. Virginia Rae Alen, 68, a school and university administrator and ceramic artist, on April 8, 2008.

1974 — Teresa Irene (Scherman) Fedorczyk, 65, who taught baton twirling in the Kirkland area, on May 5, 2008.

1975 — Jon Milton Lantz, 60, who worked as a Boeing machinist, veteran’s advisor and Army National Guardsman, on July 15, 2008.


1979 — Linda S. (Worden) Moon, 51, head of the Family Court investigations unit of Snohomish County Superior Court, on March 6, 2008. Carl Batchelor, 62, a land-use planner and consultant who also had been a planning instructor at Western and a board member for the Whatcom Land Trust, on May 16, 2008.


1982 — Janice B. (Swope) Solberg, 74, a retired teacher in Western Washington Fair in Puyallup.

1983 — Nancy C. Mooers, 74, a retired teacher at Western, on July 13, 2008.
I r; But until she became involved in elite Tracy Lee Tackett's life. So has cerebral palsy. Rowing has always been part of Tackett's mild form of cerebral palsy says Tackett. "My entire life, I had been limited." 

"I asked what type of disability the person had to have because there was a chance that I might qualify," she says. The boat brought home a bronze medal, and she was asked to try out again last year in preparation for the Paralympics. Tackett and about 200 other U.S. athletes lived in the Olympic Village in September, participating in an opening ceremony just like that of the Summer Olympic Games. "As we entered the stadium I was overwhelmed," Tackett wrote in an updated letter. "The stadium was absolutely packed, and when they announced the United States of America, the roar of the crowd was incredible. Here I was representing my country in front of thousands who were cheering for us. I will never forget that feeling as long as I live."
Class Notes

1941 - R.A. Long High School's basketball court is now named after Joe Moses, who coached the Longview high school's team from 1946 to 1957, winning seven league titles. "I'm kinda lucky to have a gym named after me while I'm still alive," Moses, 93, is quoted as saying in the Longview Daily News. "I figured I'd have to die first."

1959 - Jack deKrubber was inducted into the Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Dekrubber coached high school boys basketball for 18 years, including 15 at Snohomish, where his team won a state championship in 1970.

1962 - Terry Slotemaker teaches a course on Anacortes history at Anacortes Senior College, a volunteer-run program for students age 50 and older.

1967 - Linda Cowan retired after 11 years as superintendent of the Auburn School District.

1971 - Linda Woiwod, Skagit Valley College's dean of student services, was named Educator of the Year by the Washington State Community and Technical College Women's Council. Rick Tremaine was promoted to executive vice president of Business Bank of Skagit County and Whatcom County.

1972 - State Rep. Dean Takko of Longview was selected as vice chair of the House Committee on Local Government. He also serves as the assistant majority whip. Sue Beeson retired as principal of Hazen High School in Renton. Cheryn Weiser helped form the Island County Climate Change Coalition.

1973 - Sam Green is Washington state's first Poet Laureate. Green travels the state holding readings and workshops at schools, libraries, service clubs, community centers and other venues advocating poetry literacy. Blacksmith Paul Thorne was filmed at his South Fidalgo Island studio for an episode of the History Channel's "Modern Marvels." Crews filmed Thorne forging an American colonial-style ax head. He was previously featured as a blacksmith on a Viking ship project in an episode of the Discovery Channel's "Big Build." Mark W. Nelson has been promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of Columbia Bank.

1974 - Calvin K. Knight has become president and chief operating officer of Swedish Medical Center.

1975 - Steve Lancaster became the director of development services for Mercer Island.

1976 - Gary Luke was promoted to president and publisher of Sasquatch Books in Seattle.

1978 - Sylvia Spady-Viney recently earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland's school of social work - all while mothering two young grandchildren and working full time as a social worker for Prince George's County. "When I think about it," she told the Washington Post in June, "I even astonish myself." Spady-Viney teared up during the graduation ceremony; it was her first. She had been too pregnant to drive to her commencement ceremony at Western, she told the paper, and couldn't find anyone to drive her there. Ruby Gubatayao, a Tsimshian elder, lives at the Sitka Pioneers Home, where she recently gave a talk about her world travels. Elementary school teacher Jerry Finkbonner recently won the Ferndale Record-Journal's Golden Apple Award for his service in the Ferndale School District.

1979 - Dean Olmstead became president of satellite services for EchoStar Holding Corporation, a company that operates satellite services and digital entertainment businesses. Kurt Creager became director of Arizona State University's Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family, which develops affordable and sustainable housing, including a demonstration project on the Navajo Nation. Reg Akright was named 2008 Artist of the Year by the Arts Council of Snohomish County.

1980 - Rick Jones became the new superintendent of the North Kitsap School District.

1981 - Phil Hummel became a vice president for the Zellman Group LLC, which specializes in loss prevention in retail and hospitality businesses. Dave Hillier joined the business training company Evergreen Team Concepts as an enrollment director.


1984 - Everett Community College business instructor Lynne Munoz became director of the college's School of Business Design, a program intended to give students the experience of designing, owning and operating a small business. Annmarie Powers-Vance's new novel, "According to his Deeds," is available from SynergyBooks.com and print-on-demand publisher Terri Maupin is vice president of finance and controller for Blue Nile Inc., an online jewelry retailer. Todd N. Tkachuk joined the board of directors of Alternative Construction Technologies Inc., a company that makes structural panels for buildings.

1985 - Paula J. Henry became senior vice president of the Rocky Mountain division of the railway company Geneseo & Wyoming Inc. Ralph Dawes, a faculty member at Wenatchee Valley Technical College Women's Counseling Center notes, e-mail Mary.Gallagher@wwu.edu.

1987 - Timothy R. Miller became chief operating officer of Skagit Valley Bank of Skagit County.

2008 - Scott D. Silver, 53, an adjunct professor in the Department of Communication, on April 18, 2008. The Scott Silver Communication Educator Award will recognize excellent adjunct faculty members, teaching assistants and instructors' assistants.


2009 - R.A. Long High School's basketball court is now named after Joe Moses, who coached the Longview high school's team from 1946 to 1957, winning seven league titles. "I'm kinda lucky to have a gym named after me while I'm still alive," Moses, 93, is quoted as saying in the Longview Daily News. "I figured I'd have to die first."

2010 - Jack deKrubber was inducted into the Washington Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Dekrubber coached high school boys basketball for 18 years, including 15 at Snohomish, where his team won a state championship in 1970.

2012 - Terry Slotemaker teaches a course on Anacortes history at Anacortes Senior College, a volunteer-run program for students age 50 and older.

2017 - Linda Cowan retired after 11 years as superintendent of the Auburn School District.

2018 - Linda Woiwod, Skagit Valley College's dean of student services, was named Educator of the Year by the Washington State Community and Technical College Women's Council. Rick Tremaine was promoted to executive vice president of Business Bank of Skagit County and Whatcom County.

2019 - State Rep. Dean Takko of Longview was selected as vice chair of the House Committee on Local Government. He also serves as the assistant majority whip. Sue Beeson retired as principal of Hazen High School in Renton. Cheryn Weiser helped form the Island County Climate Change Coalition.

2020 - Sam Green is Washington state's first Poet Laureate. Green travels the state holding readings and workshops at schools, libraries, service clubs, community centers and other venues advocating poetry literacy. Blacksmith Paul Thorne was filmed at his South Fidalgo Island studio for an episode of the History Channel's "Modern Marvels." Crews filmed Thorne forging an American colonial-style ax head. He was previously featured as a blacksmith on a Viking ship project in an episode of the Discovery Channel's "Big Build." Mark W. Nelson has been promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer of Columbia Bank.

2021 - Calvin K. Knight has become president and chief operating officer of Swedish Medical Center.

2022 - Steve Lancaster became the director of development services for Mercer Island.

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2024 - Sylvia Spady-Viney recently earned a master's degree from the University of Maryland's school of social work - all while mothering two young grandchildren and working full time as a social worker for Prince George's County. "When I think about it," she told the Washington Post in June, "I even astonish myself." Spady-Viney teared up during the graduation ceremony; it was her first. She had been too pregnant to drive to her commencement ceremony at Western, she told the paper, and couldn't find anyone to drive her there. Ruby Gubatayao, a Tsimshian elder, lives at the Sitka Pioneers Home, where she recently gave a talk about her world travels. Elementary school teacher Jerry Finkbonner recently won the Ferndale Record-Journal's Golden Apple Award for his service in the Ferndale School District.

2025 - Dean Olmstead became president of satellite services for EchoStar Holding Corporation, a company that operates satellite services and digital entertainment businesses. Kurt Creager became director of Arizona State University's Stardust Center for Affordable Homes and the Family, which develops affordable and sustainable housing, including a demonstration project on the Navajo Nation. Reg Akright was named 2008 Artist of the Year by the Arts Council of Snohomish County.
College, was invited to the Oxford Round Table at England's Oxford University in 2007 to present his paper examining the effect of climate change on the Columbia River and its potential impact on agriculture, electricity and salmon. A captain in the Kent Fire Department, Kyle Ohashi became the department's public information officer. Karl Ostheller became superintendent of the lone School District.

Jo Levin stepped down as Everett High School's athletic director and continues to teach physical education at the school.


Michelle McGovern Ahern owns the Outlook Inn Bed and Breakfast on Flathead Lake in Somers, Mont.


1988 – Lisa Patrick joined the faculty at Ohio Wesleyan University as an instructor in education.

1989 – Betsy Gottschalk, a teacher at Assumption Catholic School in Bellingham, was named Washington state Teacher of the Year by the Glider Lehrman Institute of American History. Keith Higman was promoted to director of the Island County Health Department. Bill Roe, assistant track coach at Western and president of USA Track & Field, traveled to Beijing for the 2008 Olympics.

1990 – Daniel Havens became vice president of sales for Nirvanix, an Internet storage company based in San Diego. Allison Deg co-founded the Madrona Mind-Body Institute at Fort Worden State Park, offering yoga, Pilates, dance and other movement classes.

1991 – College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, Calif., has named Paul Wickline chair of the theater department, where he'll also produce the college's student theater season.

1992 – Kevin Jackson, an executive editor at ESPN's Web site, spoke at Peninsula College's graduation in June. Becky Skagg was promoted to vice president of strategy and consumer insights at Haggen Inc. Diamond Morris is artistic director and chief operating officer of the Skagit River Shakespeare Festival.

1993 – Allis, a Kirkland-based Web management company founded by three Western graduates, was named one of the best medium-sized companies to work for by Washington CEO magazine. CEO Richard Law ('93 and '95) founded the company with Ethan Yarbrough ('92 and '98) and Ken Efta ('96). Rob Allen, an economic development specialist for Pierce County, received the John Cordrey Achievement Award from the Council for Community and Economic Research.

1994 – Vini Samuel, who stepped down from the Montesano City Council after nine years to spend more time with her family and her new law practice, was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Erin Middlewood and her colleague Stephanie Rice ('96) won a national award from the Society of Professional Journalists for their investigation of the state's child care licensing system. The three-day series for The (Vancouver) Columbian was named the best investigative series among mid-sized papers in the nation.

John Nutter joined the Port Angeles Police Department. He worked for nine years in finance at Olympic Medical Center before becoming a police officer.

Timothy Bartlett became a broker at Bell-Anderson Insurance in Yakima. Mark Favro became information technology director for North Coast Credit Union.

1995 – Julie Jefferson was named regional manager of Indian Policy and Support Services for the Department of Social and Health Services. A teacher at Ferndale's Clearview High School, Rob Slater served as director of the Skagit River Shakespeare Festival and directing a summer production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream," whose cast included four of Slater's children – and himself. Slater also recently won a $200,000 grant for Clearview, funding a freshman transition program, an AmeriCorps volunteer and more counseling services for the school. Paul DePrey was named superintendent of the National Park Service's USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu.


He also plays drums in his band, "Police Teeth," and works on refurbishing his house in a Mexican fishing village.

Heidi Shellhorn received a grant from the Fund for Teachers to travel in Spain and Portugal and now incorporates lessons from the region's art, history and culture into her third-grade classroom in Houston.

John Hubert, a financial adviser for Citi Smith Barney, won the President's Volunteer Service Silver Award for his volunteer work.

1997 – Cesar Dominguez, associate pastor of Yakima Foursquare Church, will be senior pastor of a new church preparing to launch this fall, Franklin Hill Foursquare Church. His wife, Lisa Dominguez ('96) will lead the new church's music ministry. Kevin Ardt, a general accounting manager for Haggen Inc., graduated from the Food Industry Management Program at the University of Southern California. Ardt was also named student of the year.

Stephanie Rice ('96) will lead the new church's music ministry. Kevin Ardt, a general accounting manager for Haggen Inc., graduated from the Food Industry Management Program at the University of Southern California. Ardt was also named student of the year.

1998 – The late Becky Fauer was memorialized with "Compass Rose," a pebble-and-tile mosaic in Grand Avenue Park in Everett. Fauer, who worked in the city of Everett's planning department, died of viral encephalitis Feb. 6, 2006.

Ray Kubista joined Cascadia Community College in bothell as director of community education.


2000 – Cory Calhoun's talent for writing anagrams was featured in a short documentary, "Art Magna," which was shown on the PBS documentary series "P.O.V." Calhoun rearranged Shakespeare's "To be or not to be: that is the question, whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune..." into "In one of the Bard's best-thought-of tragedies, our insistent hero, Hamlet, queries on our insistent hero, Hamlet, questions on two fronts about how life turns rotten..."

Heather Cavanaugh became the communications director for the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation. Justin Hall co-founded Voxus, a Gig Harbor-based public relations firm working with emerging technology companies. After a tour of duty in Kuwait with the U.S. Naval Reserve, Larry Tellinghuisen returned to Kitsap Bank as vice president and commercial loan officer in the bank's Poulsbo branch.

Darryn Hewson was named the Bellingham office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The Rev. Darryn Hewson was appointed the new pastor of
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 coursework and Kim Kirk was named head coach of Sehome High School's girls' basketball team. Kyle Stemmer joined the consulting division of Parity Corp. in Bothell, which provides software to food and beverage manufacturers. Lars Simkins became visual effects supervisor at Hand Crank Films, in Fairhaven, handling advanced motion graphics for commercials and corporate videos. Mike Sager joined general contractor Lease Crutcher Lewis as a project engineer. Lena Bagwell became a sales associate with Coldwell Banker Miller-Arason in Bellingham.

2006 - Phil Aucuncius became a graphic designer at CCG Inc., a marketing, advertising, design and public relations firm in Bellingham. Teresa Carpenter joined Mindfly Web Design and Development to edit Neighbor­hoodKids.com, a Web site providing resources for families in Whatcom County. Zack Nordwell of Moss Adams LLP has passed the CPA exam. Susan Rosenberry became editor of the Record-Journal newspaper in Torrington. Kristi Hennessy was promoted to controller of Business Bank, whose headquarters are in Bellingham. Owen Wagenhals, owner of Anchor Appraisal of Puget Sound, was recently named "Best Young Entrepreneur" by the Federal Way Chamber of Commerce. Megan Gentry is teaching English and life skills in Malawi for the Peace Corps. She's also looking for used wedding dresses to give to young women at the school. Those with dresses to donate may e-mail Gentry's dad, Mike, at gentrym@auble.com. Paul Shanahan was named half-time principal of Echo Lake Elementary School in Shoreline. Jason Sholy was named principal of Sidney Glen Elementary School in Port Orchard. Golf pro Tim Feenstra placed third in May's Washington Open Invitational.

2007 - Kelsea Peterman joined her sister Amber on a two-week bicycle trip in June to raise more than $4,500 for the China Economist, an academic and multicultural programs, student clubs, the arts, athletics, and more. More information about ways to support WWU through the Foundation and a full list of this year's donors is available by going to www.foundation.wwu.edu and clicking on "Honor Roll of Support."

THANK YOU, DONORS
Thousands of you showed your support for Western during the 2007-2008 fiscal year by contributing more than $5.9 million through the Western Washington University Foundation, providing critical support for scholarships, academic and multicultural programs, student clubs, the arts, athletics, and more. More information about ways to support WWU through the Foundation and a full list of this year's donors is available by going to www.foundation.wwu.edu and clicking on "Honor Roll of Support."

who have fistula, a childbirth injury that can be successfully treated with surgery. Esther Skelton, a manager at Foothills Toyota in Burlington, won a trip to Japan from Toyota after winning a national competition among dealerships. Claire Norton joined GenPrime Inc. in Spokane as a research technician. Sunny Beaman became the marketing coordinator for Icicle Creek Engineers in Issaquah. After six years in the U.S. Marine Corps, Robert J. Toyer joined Toyer Financial Corp. in Everett as an associate. Larson Gross hired Kristen Visser as a staff accountant in the company's Bellingham office. Josh Bennett started the construction company Bellingham Deck and Dock. Isaac Bonnell writes for the Bellingham Business Journal. Jennifer Reing took over the principal of Stevens Elementary School in Seattle. Derrick Pacheco is a sports writer for the Columbia Basin Herald. Bryan O'Donnell is the new assistant principal at Stevens Middle School in the Port Angeles School District. Claire Walton joined the Whidbey County Umpires Association as a softball umpire.

2008 - Liz Theaker was hired as the director of the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum, where she'll oversee the renovation of the 116-year-old mansion that houses the museum. Bryan Kriseck is operations director for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane. Lukas Henne became an accountant at Varner & Hennessy in Bellingham. Kelly Jones became a staff writer for the North Kitsap Herald. Kristi Phl joined the Stanwood-Camano News as a general assignment reporter. Larson Gross hired Megan Johnson as a staff accountant in the company's Bellingham office. Amy Senff became a special assistant to the company's Bellingham office. Amy Senff became a special assistant to the company's Bellingham office. Amy Senff became a special assistant to the company's Bellingham office. Amy Senff became a special assistant to the company's Bellingham office. Amy Senff became a special assistant to the company's Bellingham office.
"I was always fascinated by Western's campus at night," says photographer Mark Malijan, a senior from Lynnwood who took this photo Nov. 7, 2007, capturing the warm glow of incandescent lights reflecting off the wet bricks of Red Square.

Malijan carries his camera the way other students carry their iPods and cell phones. "I actually feel weird when I don't have it," he says. "The thought of losing a sweet moment in time is too dreadful not to lug it around with me."

Malijan has been interested in photography since high school but got serious about it during his sophomore year at Western while shooting for The Planet, Western's environmental journalism magazine. Since then, he's shot for student and commercial publications, founded Western's student chapter of the National Press Photographers Association and won several awards for his photography.

"During one of my classes of visual journalism, Assistant Professor John Harris said that you're not going to make everybody happy with every choice you make, but you need to have a reason for why you made those choices. You have to ask the questions: Why use this lens? Why shoot from this angle?"

"Once I started answering these questions, I could start adding depth and personality to my work," he says. "Answering these questions on a daily basis allowed me to find the reasons behind my work and what I want to portray to others within my photographs."

Being able to justify your choices, he adds, is also a good philosophy for life.
Andi and Dan Contreras met at Western in 1994. They now live in Mill Creek with their two boys Ryan, 6, and Cameron, 3.

Andi & Dan Contreras

Andi
College of Arts & Sciences '96
Stay at Home Mom Extraordinaire

Lived in Fairhaven and Higginson halls

Volunteered as a student to assist adults with disabilities; currently volunteers for the PTA and at Silver Firs Elementary School

“Western played a large role in the development of who I am today. Staying connected reminds me how hard I’ve worked to get here.”

Member since 1998

Dan
Fairhaven College '97
Staffing Consultant, Microsoft Corp.

Lived in Gamma and Nash halls

Volunteered as a DJ for KUGS while at Western; currently volunteers as assistant cross country coach at Redmond High School

“I joined the Western Alumni Association because I have pride in the university and I believe in supporting the institution that helped me shape the person I am today.”

Member since 1998

Membership Matters!
Fish Tales

Western Washington University's class, "The Art, Science and Ethics of Flyfishing," encourages students to get their feet wet learning about watershed ecology. Instructors also hope the summer class, which includes a final project delivered around a campfire on the Upper Skagit, sparks a lifelong love of wild rivers and streams.

See Page 9.