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Window: The Magazine of Western Washington University, 2009, Volume 01, Issue 02

Mary Lane Gallagher

Western Washington University, Mary.Gallagher@wwu.edu

Office of University Communications and Marketing, Western Washington University

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WINDOW

A red car is shown from a low angle, with a large, stylized white 'W' graphic on its side. The car is positioned in the lower half of the frame, and the 'W' graphic is a prominent feature. The background is a clear blue sky.

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2009

100 mpg

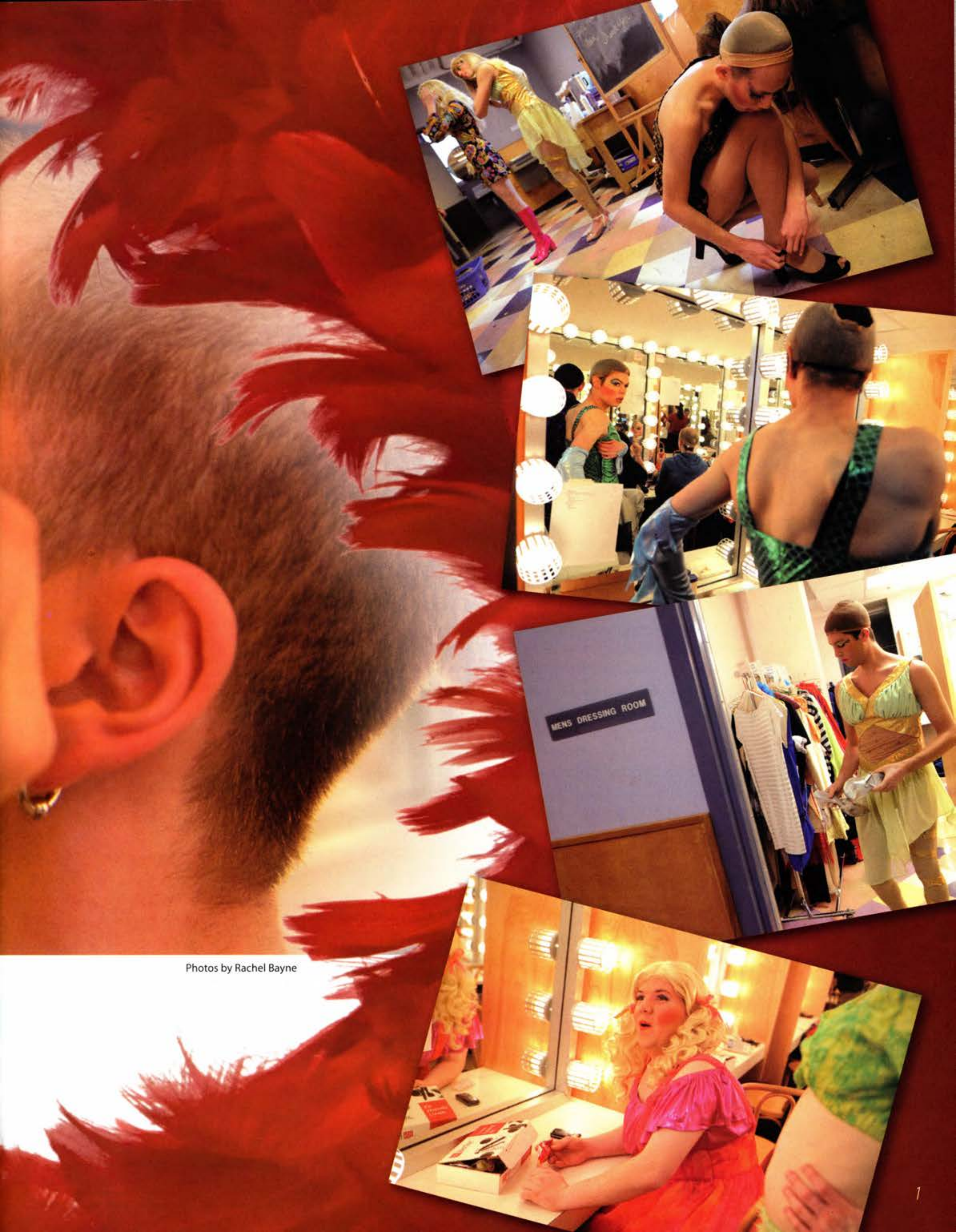
The Race to Build the Car of the Future



La Cage aux Folles

Oooo, La La! Precise lines of liquid eyeliner help prepare construction foreman and Theatre Arts major Perry Lewis, above, for his role as a drag queen in WWU's student production of "La Cage aux Folles." Lewis and about 60 other student actors and crew members learned the inner workings of musical theatre by staging the lavish production in March. The department puts on a musical at least once a year, says Associate Professor Deb Currier, who directed the play. "The big musicals are really where the most work is for graduates," she says. "So much training goes on through the rehearsal process. Our season productions really are our laboratory for our curriculum." The actors received additional training in a day-long "drag camp" where they learned how to strut in heels, rock a feather boa and apply makeup with enough skill to transform a construction foreman into a walking, singing homage to Angelina Jolie.

See more photos from the production at Window online: www.wwu.edu/window



Photos by Rachel Bayne



Photo by Martin Waidelich

Western's
increasing
diversity
supports
a strong,
dynamic
campus
culture

Message from the President

If it's been a few years since you've walked around Western's campus, you need to know about an important change that's taking place.

Not the newer buildings. I am talking about the diversification of our campus community. We have said for years that Western is committed to creating a community that values a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, identities and opinions. Diversity contributes to academic excellence. It is extremely exciting for me to lead a campus that is realizing those values in multiple ways.

One of the most obvious manifestations of diversity is the significant increase we see in the number of students of color on campus, as well as their leadership contributions to our campus community. This school year, more than 18 percent of our students report their racial or ethnic identity as Black/African American, Hispanic, Asian American or Native American.

This is a significant change that even recent graduates might notice. Ethnic minority students made up a little more than 13 percent of the student body in fall 2000.

In addition, many other Western students are proud of their cultural heritage in groups that don't appear in the ethnic categories listed above. In fact, 18 percent of our new students indicate language fluency in at least one language other than English, from throughout the world.

Our campus community deserves to be very proud of the strides we've made in the diversity of our students – in terms of numbers, campus culture and leadership opportunities. But the job is far from done.

Today, almost one third of the students in Washington's public high schools are students of color. Yet, the composition of students graduating from high school is much less diverse. And, the ranks of educators in K-12 are even less diverse.

So meeting the state's need for more college graduates means we must strengthen our "pipeline" efforts and reach out to students in our communities whose numbers have not been well represented, or well-served, by universities in the past.

Our state's political, economic and cultural wealth is best measured by the developed talent of its people. And solving the challenges our society faces today will require the fully developed talent of everyone.

President Bruce Shepard



Window

The magazine of Western Washington University

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Editor

Mary Lane Gallagher
Mary.Gallagher@wwu.edu

Contributing writers

Matthew Anderson ('06), Zoe Fraley ('05),
John Thompson

Photographers

Rachel Bayne, Niki Desautels, Howard Korn,
Josie Liming, Mark Malijan, Martin Waidelich

Graphic Design/Production

Shona Fahland, WWU Publishing Services

Editorial Advisory Board

Mark Bagley, Senior Director,
Western Washington University Foundation

Stephanie Bowers, Vice President,
University Advancement

Sherry Burkey, Associate Vice President,
University Relations

Paul Cocke, Director, University Communications

Karen Copetas, Director, Admissions and
Enrollment Planning

Deborah DeWees, Executive Director, Alumni
Association

Shearlean Duke, Associate Professor and Chair,
Journalism Department

Laurie Rossman ('86), Communications and Marketing
Coordinator, Alumni Association

Steve Swan, Vice President, University Relations

John Thompson, Assistant Director,
University Communications

Sheila Webb, Assistant Professor, Journalism

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University Communications, 516 High St.,
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Send change-of-address requests to:
Western Washington University
University Advancement – Constituent Records
Old Main 430, MS 9030
Bellingham, WA 98225
or e-mail alumni@wwu.edu

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WINDOW

THE MAGAZINE OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

SPRING 2009



Future Builders: Students Jonathon Ide, right, and Sam Cullison discuss the power plant in Viking 45, WWU students' entry in the Progressive Automotive X-Prize, an international competition to build a 100 mpg car.

The Race to Build a 100 mpg Car

Two teams with Viking ties are in a worldwide contest to create the next generation of ultra-fuel-efficient cars — and take home a \$10-million prize 14

Ooo, La-la!

Behind the scenes at "La Cage aux Folles" Inside Cover

Living Building

A look inside the green construction features of Western's newest building 7

Business Class

Young Alumnus of the Year, Jonathan (Min-wook) Main ('94), builds businesses on both coasts 8

Green House Master

WWU alum Dan Beard ('66) helps the U.S. House of Representatives go green 10

Gift of Words

Washington state's first-ever Poet Laureate is a Western alum 12

Death Cab for Cutie Comes Back to the 'Ham

On the eve of a hometown concert, Nick Harmer talks about the hot band's WWU roots 18

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On the cover: Don't let the red fool you — Craig Henderson ('80) and Bill Green ('79) built the Avion to get an ultra-green 100 miles per gallon.

www.wwu.edu/window

WWU Philosophers

named with the best in the business

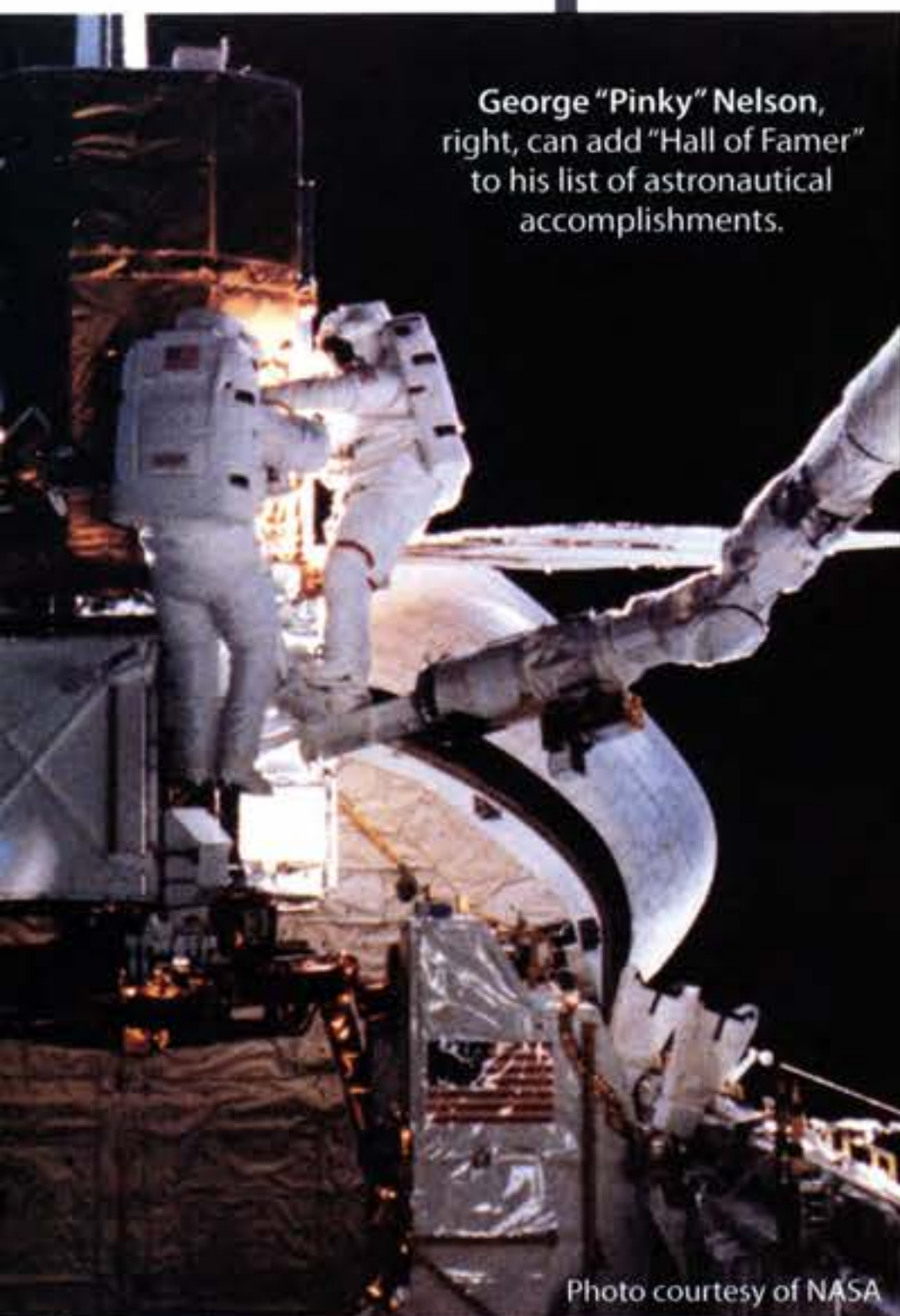
Western Washington University's Philosophy Department got an important note of recognition recently from The Philosophical Gourmet, a respected semi-annual report of the academic field of philosophy.

The report, which ranks Ph.D. programs in philosophy, mentioned just a few undergraduate programs worth looking at, too.

"Among schools that do not offer the Ph.D. or M.A. in philosophy, those with the best philosophy faculties would probably include: Amherst College,

California Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College, Reed College, University of Vermont, Western Washington University and Wellesley College," wrote report editor Brian Leiter, the director of the Center for Law, Philosophy and Human Values at the University of Chicago.

"This is definitely a huge honor for our department, and we're all really excited about it," says **Ryan Wasserman** ('99), an associate professor of philosophy at WWU. "Everyone in our profession will be reading this and taking it seriously."



George "Pinky" Nelson, right, can add "Hall of Famer" to his list of astronautical accomplishments.

Photo courtesy of NASA

Science ed director gets a spot in the Astronaut Hall of Fame.

During his 247 orbits of the Earth, WWU's George "Pinky" Nelson racked up a few firsts.

Nelson was the first astronaut to repair a satellite in orbit, and he was the first – and only – American astronaut allowed to try out a Russian jetpack.

Now, he's the first WWU faculty member in NASA's Astronaut Hall of Fame. His May induction put him alongside legends such as John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Alan Shepard and Sally Ride.

"It's a special honor because the voting is done by our peers, the astronauts who have already been inducted," Nelson says. "We are being recognized not only for our work in space, but just as much

for the things we did on the ground to support the program. It's very gratifying."

Nelson served as a mission specialist on three Space Shuttle flights, including the first mission after the Challenger disaster. He is also one of only four Space Shuttle astronauts to fly un tethered in space using NASA's Manned Maneuvering Unit.

These days, Nelson is Earth-bound, directing Western's highly regarded Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Program. His work with the North Cascades and Olympic Science Partnership has helped boost science test scores in the state, enabling the next generation of astronauts to soar to new heights.

Can this beautiful flower help beat liver cancer?

The next weapon in the battle against liver cancer may be found in the fruits of the fragrant ylang-ylang tree.

But the problem is the chemical compound that's shown promise in lab tests can only be found in small quantities in nature.

So WWU Chemistry Professor James Vyvyan and his students are working to find a way to synthesize larger quantities of the compound, cananodine.

Parts of the *Cananga odorata* (ylang-ylang) tree have been used in Asian folk

medicine for centuries for maladies such as high blood pressure and skin problems. And its delicately fragrant essential oils are used in commercial products from shampoo to perfume.

But now, in-vitro testing of the compound has shown activity against two types of liver cancer cells.

Synthesizing the compound is an important step toward learning whether cananodine really can play a role in treating liver cancer, which is now very dif-



Photo by Forest and Kim Starr

ficult to treat. Most chemotherapies for liver cancer don't seem to increase survival times.

Vyvyan and his students are helped along by a \$204,473 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Green cleaning tips from the pros

For the past dozen years, Western's team of academic custodians have made it a priority to clean the campus without polluting the planet.

The cleaning team recently earned an honorable mention for green cleaning and sustainability programs in the national Green Cleaning Award for Schools and Universities.

For those of us who only have to clean one house instead of hundreds of classrooms, department supervisor Michael Smith recently shared a few green home-cleaning tips:

- **Use microfiber cleaning cloths.** Microfiber is made from synthetic fibers split 90,000 times per square inch, which makes them great for grabbing dirt, Smith says. They also absorb seven to 10 times their weight in water and can be washed hundreds of times. More importantly, dampened "micro" cloths can replace many chemical-based cleaning products. "It's saving us a lot of money," Smith says, "and it's better for the environment."
- **Read the labels on cleaning products.** Look for nature-based ingredients, such as citrus or soy, while avoiding bleaches and petrochemicals such as butyls, benzene or ammonia.
- **Containers matter.** Smith recommends buying concentrated products, mixed with water in your own bucket or spray bottle, to cut down on the amount of disposable containers going into the recycling bin or landfill.
- **Look for a vacuum with some muscle.** Vacuums built for commercial settings are a lot better than home vacuums at picking up dirt and keeping it out of the air, Smith says.
- **Beware of bleach.** We've come to associate the smell of bleach with the smell of a clean house. But what we're really smelling is harmful hypochlorite, Smith says. Bleach is an environmental pollutant and should be avoided, he says.



BEEP Helps Kids Know When Time's Up

WWU Industrial Design major Justin Lund is winning design acclaim for BEEP, a timer designed to remind kids computer time is over.

BEEP, whose prototype won a Gold Award at this year's Northwest Design Invitational, perches on the back of a laptop screen and plugs into its USB port. BEEP's digital eyes are wide open at first. After 15 minutes, BEEP starts to get antsy, looking around the room and letting youngsters know they're halfway through their computer time.

At 25 minutes, BEEP's eyes start looking sleepy and at 30 minutes, he falls asleep – and so does the computer.

Lund got the idea for BEEP after joining his class in developing products for healthy computing for Allsop Inc. Negotiations over computer time with his 6-year-old daughter, Vega, also provided some inspiration, Lund says.

"Teaching children how to cope with change is very important," he says. "And warning them when change is about to occur is one of the best tools parents and educators can use."

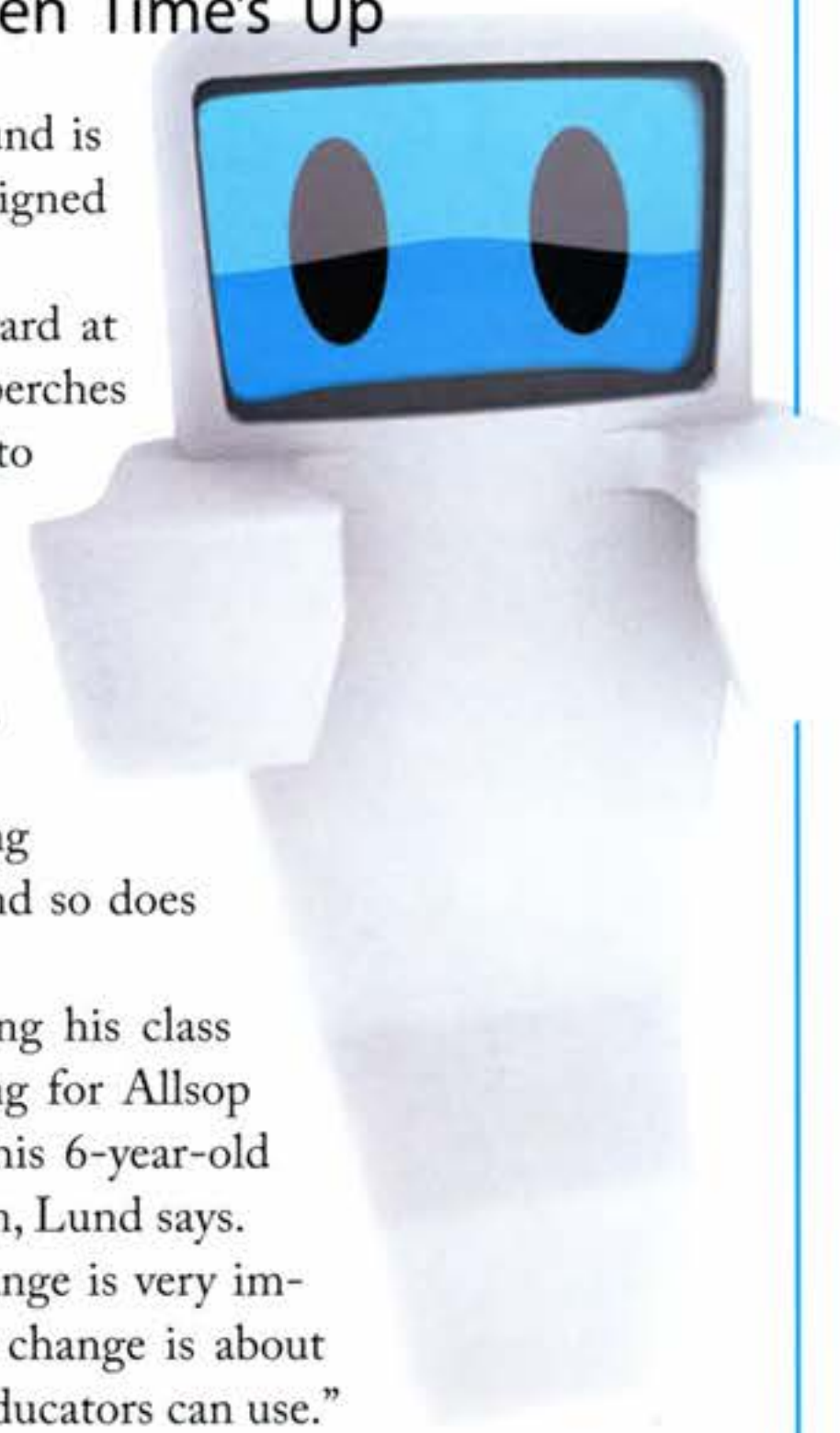


Photo courtesy of Justin Lund

Shaken, but will it stir? WWU geologist studies newly discovered quake fault

Photo by Bill McKay

An earthquake fault north of Bellingham, discovered only four years ago, has caught the attention of WWU Geology Professor Liz Schermer now that scientists know it rumbled three times in the past 7,500 years – and could start shaking again.

Schermer and graduate students are working with the U.S. Geological Survey to examine the Boulder Creek Fault, located in the Kendall area in northern Whatcom County. How long is it? How does it make the ground move when it ruptures?

In short, how much do we have to worry about it?

Discovered by the USGS in 2005, the fault might have produced temblors stronger than the '94 Northridge quake in Southern California. A large quake on the Boulder Creek Fault, located about 25 miles east of Bellingham along the Mount Baker Highway, could have disastrous consequences in western Whatcom County and lower British Columbia.

Schermer, who received her Ph.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, also wonders whether the Boulder Creek Fault connects to another newly discovered fault beneath the coast of Whatcom County.

If so, that could make things even more interesting.

"If the Boulder Creek fault runs all the way across the county, it would be a larger, more extensive fault system that anyone had anticipated," Schermer says.

Your *gift* makes a difference



Hannah Higgins

Manufacturing Engineering
Technology major

Environmental Policy minor

Student member,
Board of Trustees

World explorer

Youth mentor

Scholarship recipient

Photo by Mark Malijan

'Money is time' for Hannah Higgins, scholarship recipient

Without scholarship support, I would have to work full-time in the summer and 31 hours a week during the academic year to pay for tuition, books, fees, rent and food. But thanks to scholarships, I only have to work 12 hours a week to make ends meet.

What do I do with those extra 19 hours?

Two years ago, I was able to study in Iceland and learn about renewable technologies from some of the world's leading geothermic and hydroelectric power experts.

I spent last summer in the San Juans on board the tall ship Lady Washington to work with at-risk youth, teaching them how to sail an 18th century ship.

This year, I'm working with Engineers Without Borders to solve water contamination issues in the small community of Chisec in Guatemala.

In the business world, we hear that time is money. I suggest that in the life of a college student, money is time.

Learn more at www.foundation.wvu.edu

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Academic Instructional Center

Western's new flagship for green construction



The AIC, located south of the Communications Facility, is the new home of the Psychology Department and the Communications Sciences and Disorders Department and clinics. With general university classrooms, lecture halls and computer labs, the 120,000-square-foot, \$50-million two-wing center includes many Earth-friendly features.

Photos 1, 2 and 4 by Matthew Anderson
Photo 3 by David Scherrer

Natural ventilation

(1) Differences in air pressure encourage air to flow from one part of the building to another.

Constant adjustments

(2) Radiant panels in offices, classrooms and restrooms circulate already heated water to boost local heat when necessary. Trickle vents behind the panels can bring in air from outside when small temperature adjustments are needed.

Keeping it cool

(3) and (4) A solar shading system of stainless steel mesh and louvers on the building's exterior, along with exposed concrete (1) throughout the building, keep the AIC from getting too hot. The shades prevent too much sunlight from entering through the massive windows, while the concrete inside slowly absorbs heat during the day and releases it at night.



Smart Money

By Mary Lane Gallagher

WWU's Young Alumnus of the Year leverages a career in international shipping into a life as an investor and business adviser

Jonathan (Min-Wook) Main ('94) carries two cell phones. And today, both their batteries are dead.

It's easy to understand why Main's cell phones sometimes have trouble keeping up. The International Business graduate maintains a bicoastal career when he's not traveling to Asia or Europe on business.

And when he's not orchestrating his far-flung business dealings, he's draining his cell phone batteries researching new angel investment opportunities or talking strategy with business owners hungry for advice.

Main, 36, was selected as Western's Young Alumnus of the Year for his success in building both businesses and relationships. A self-described "serial entrepreneur," Main is the owner and managing director of his own investment company, the SARAME Corp., as well as chief operating officer of the Pennsylvania-based Carbon Nanoprobes Inc., one of SARAME's portfolio companies, where he's helping the young CEO build the operation.

Carbon Nanoprobes builds carbon nanotube tips, which enable atomic force microscopes to take three-dimensional, digital images of very, very small things. How small is a nanotube tip? Imagine a strand of human hair, Main says, then imagine splitting it 10,000 times.

Carbon nanotubes will play a critical role in the emerging field of nanotechnology, Main says.

"As transistors and computer chips get smaller and smaller, we have to have an imaging device to look at them," Main says. "Nano is the next-level generation that everything's moving to, but we can't move to it until we can image it and see it."

He first became familiar with Carbon Nanoprobes as an early-round angel investor. But CEO Brian Ruby soon realized that Main's business know-how was as valuable as his investment capital and

asked Main to join the company as a full-time executive.

Main is also a mentor to Ruby, 25.

"Jonathan's old enough to have some real experience, but young enough to understand how to work with a 25-year-old," Ruby says. "You have to have a lot of patience to work with somebody you know is going to probably make certain mistakes you probably made."

Main built his own business knowledge through several years in the international logistics and shipping industry. After helping to build other companies and watch them be sold and profit someone else, he decided he wanted to build his own companies.

So by his late 20s, Main participated in a management buyout of the company he worked for, Kamino International Logistics. He later introduced a Southern California capital company to the firm and played a key role in buying out the firm's remaining investors. He liquidated his position in 2008 – prior to the economic tsunami that has hammered the transportation industry.

Meanwhile, Main began aggressively building his own investment company in the early 2000s through real estate investments. Today, his portfolio includes businesses in technology, life sciences and professional services.

He's also a member of the Seattle chapter of the Keiretsu Forum, a large and influential network of accredited angel investors who provide early money and advice to promising start-ups.

Despite the troubles in the economy, Main says now is actually a pretty good time to be an investor.

"As bad as the market is, for investors everything's on sale," he says.

It's also true in angel investing, where the risks are always higher with a promising, but unproven, company. But the potential for rewards may be greater in a time when financing is hard to get. What might have been simply a financial investment two years ago might now be a chance for better terms and valuations or even executive or board positions, he says.

Sarah O'Brien Parker, CEO of Spacecraft Clothing, first met Main years ago when he worked in the logistics industry. Like Ruby, she also counts Main among her mentors.

There hasn't been a question that Main couldn't answer, Parker says, even if he couldn't answer right away.

Main is interested not only in business, but in the people who make up the business – what drives them and interests them, Parker says.

"Jonathan doesn't judge people based on experience, because he sees that everyone has something to offer," she says. "I know I'm not the only phone call he is answering right before he boards the plane."

Photo by Niki Desautels



2008 WWU Alumni of the Year

Read more at www.wwu.edu/window

Bicoastal commuter:

Jonathan Main pauses at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport before hopping on an early morning flight to Philly for his job as the COO of a nanotechnology company.

Jonathan (Min-Wook) Main

Occupation:

Owner and Managing Director,
SARAME Corporate Holdings

Chief Operating Officer, Carbon
Nanoprobes Inc.

Independent investor

Business consultant

Education:

Western Washington University,
B.A., International Business, 1994

Studied abroad in London, England,
and Kobe, Japan

Yonsei University, Seoul, South
Korea, graduate work, international
political science

Internships:

Port of Seattle

Washington State Department of
Community Trade and Economic
Development

U.S. Commerce Department,
security and press team for Secretary
Ron Brown

American Chamber of Commerce
in Korea

Giving back:

Visits WWU International Business
Club at least once a year and
encourages students to aggressively
pursue internships, study abroad
programs and other opportunities
that will help give them a
competitive edge in the marketplace.

**Frank "Moose" ('50) and Vi Zurline,
Larry "Go Vikings!" Taylor Alumni
Service Award.**

"Moose" Zurline learned a lot of important
life lessons on Western's football and
basketball teams in the 1940s, and he
and his wife, Vi, have supported Western
athletics ever since. The Zurlines, now
retired, have funded many scholarships for
Western student athletes.

**John Wolfe ('74), College of Business
and Economics Distinguished Alumnus**

A leading white-collar criminal defense
attorney in the Puget Sound region and a
member of the CBE Dean's Advisory Board.

**Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus ('74), Fairhaven
College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Distinguished Alumna**

President of the Central Conference of
American Rabbis, an organization of 1,800
Reform rabbis.

**Steven Arnold ('79, '81), College of Fine
and Performing Arts Distinguished
Alumnus**

A motion picture art director whose work
can be seen in "Bewitched," "Van Helsing,"
"Solaris," "Spider-Man," "Unbreakable," "Get
Shorty" and "Face/Off."

**Kevin Jackson ('92), College of
Humanities and Social Sciences
Distinguished Alumnus**

Four-time Emmy Award-winning vice
president and executive editor for
ESPN.com.

**Mike Town ('84, '85), Huxley College
of the Environment Distinguished
Alumnus**

An environmental science teacher
who spearheaded a grassroots effort
to establish the 106,000-acre Wild Sky
Wilderness.

**Kathleen Grega Digges ('71), College of
Sciences and Technology Distinguished
Alumna**

A physician in Northern Virginia whose
financial support established four
endowments in the Geology Department,
including one creating a field trip
program.

**Ronald H. LaFayette ('69, '71), Woodring
College of Education Distinguished
Alumnus**

President of North Seattle Community
College who has played a critical role
in creating pathways for nontraditional
students to become teachers.

**Bill Kalenius ('74), Alumni Community
Service Recognition**

The driving force behind the volunteer-run
Vancouver Lake Crew program, who rallied
the community to help the club recover
from a destructive tornado in early 2008.

**The Bowman-Frazier Family, Legacy
Family of the Year**

Jack Bowman ('54) and his wife, JoAnne,
head a family with eight decades of
Western alums whose contributions to
academics support student leadership
development activities.

GREEN HOUSE

By Mary Lane Gallagher

If Dan Beard ('66) ever takes you on a tour of his House, don't be surprised if he spends a lot of time talking trash.

Since becoming Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2007, Beard has spearheaded the Green the Capitol initiative, a massive effort to make the nation's largest legislative body friendlier to the Earth.

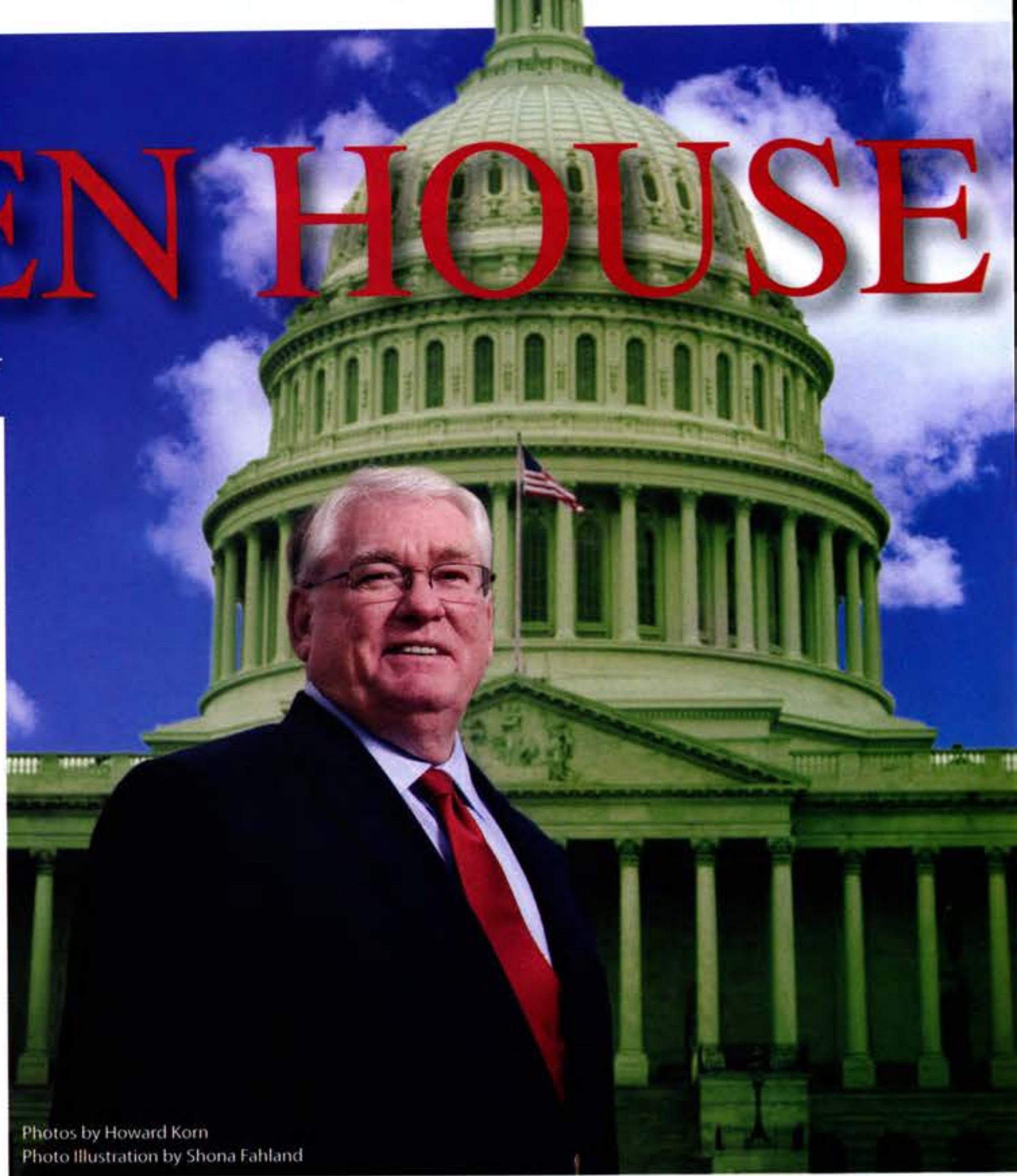
As CAO, Beard is the non-partisan executive in charge of most of the behind-the-scenes logistics that keep the House running, from computers that process more than 1 million constituent e-mails each day, to electricity to light the Capitol Dome, to food for late-night budget sessions.

But these days, Beard and his staff must also protect the planet while running the House.

"The Speaker has made a commitment to running this institution in a different way," says Beard.

So far, they've reduced the "carbon footprint" of the House's operations by 74 percent. And Beard's staff has taken on the challenge of cutting the House's energy consumption in half by 2017.

But Green the Capitol has already changed the way the House eats, cleans and gets around.



Photos by Howard Korn
Photo Illustration by Shona Fahland

With about 8 million square feet of office space, the House is massive enough that aggressive greening efforts by themselves can keep thousands of tons of greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere.

But lawmakers also hope the Green the Capitol program can provide an eloquent example for other large institutions to reduce their impact on the Earth.

"We're slowly trying to change the ethics of how we do business here," says Beard, who recently road tested an all-electric truck he may add to the House's delivery fleet.

"All of our electricity comes from wind power projects," he says. "All of our heating and cooling needs are met by natural gas as opposed to coal."

Greening the Capitol by the numbers so far

- 74** percent reduction in the House of Representatives' carbon footprint.
- 1.1** million kilowatt hours saved by replacing 10,000 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- 101** U.S. households that can be powered for one year with the electricity saved by those light bulbs alone.
- 4** million gallons of water conserved since January 2008 by using more environmentally friendly paper products.
- 25,000** dollars saved annually by replacing 84 vending machines with more efficient models.
- 12,500** pounds of office supplies recycled instead of thrown away by outgoing House members.
- 100,000** plastic water bottles kept out of landfills or recycling bins after the House switched to compostable water bottles.

Think it's hard for your house to go green?

Dan Beard is in charge of greening the U.S. House of Representatives.

They've also replaced 10,000 incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents, saving 1.1 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

And you won't find plastic or Styrofoam in House cafeterias anymore. All food containers and utensils – even disposable water bottles – are now compostable. More than 880,000 tons of waste was diverted from landfills to compost facilities last year.

In all, the House has reduced its carbon output by more than 91 tons so far, Beard says.

Their original goal was to reduce the House's carbon output to nothing, which they achieved with the help of purchasing carbon offset credits. But purchasing credits, which fund efforts elsewhere to remove carbon from the atmosphere, can be controversial because it's hard to verify that they're really making a difference. Plus, without a widely accepted, formal definition of "carbon neutral," it's a difficult standard to prove, says Jeff Ventura, the House's spokesperson.

So while the House has shelved the goal of going carbon neutral – and dropped plans to buy more carbon offsets – they're going to press on toward the goal of cutting energy consumption in half by 2017.

It's a formidable job, given the scale of the House's operations and the age and size of its buildings. And the task can get really tricky when, as Beard puts it, "I have 441 bosses: 435 Members of Congress and six delegates from territories. And you don't get here unless you're a Type A, take-charge kind of personality."

Try telling lawmakers from the Coal Belt, for example, that the Capitol Power Plant should use only natural gas instead of a mixture of gas and coal to heat and

cool the House. And the formidable cost of designing and installing energy efficient lighting for the Capitol Dome raised some eyebrows, though Beard's staff estimates the project will reduce energy costs by 75 percent.

"Politics is the blood sport of this institution," Beard says.

"I think everyone would agree that they want to decrease the impact we have on the environment and operate in an environmentally sensitive manner.

"Sometimes," he says diplomatically, "people disagree with the approach."

But making sustainable living part of the common experience of working at the U.S. Capitol can have far-reaching effects, Beard thinks.

That's why that trash is so important.

"Everyone who comes here is touched by the greening movement through our food service operation," he says. "Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, liberals, we all meet there and we all do the same thing every day. If you touch people enough, you're going to change attitudes and opinions.

"That, to me," he says, "is one of the most interesting things."

A good start at Western

Beard got his education in politics during his years working in Washington, D.C., including time as a congressional staffer working on environmental issues. He's also held top management positions with the Bureau of Reclamations and the Audubon Society.

But he got his start in environmentalism as a Geology major at Western. One of his first classes was about weather and climate, he says, and he was hooked. But it was his close relationships with his professors, including emeritus Professor Bob Monahan and Environmental Studies Professor Debnath Mookherjee, that provided the foundation for his education.

"When I got out and began to start a career, I saw I got as good or better an education than people who went to larger, bigger-name institutions, primarily because I got to know my professors," he says. "I got a lot of quality learning time and attention."

Beard was born and raised in Bellingham and still returns to Whatcom County twice a year to see his many relatives.

"I make sure one of those visits," he says, "is in August."

Below: As Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, **Dan Beard** ('66) is in charge of the staff that coordinates the logistics for the nation's largest legislative body.



POETRY'S ROAD WARRIOR

Sam Green, Washington's first Poet Laureate, is the state's advocate for literacy of the heart

By Mary Lane Gallagher



Photo by Josie Liming



Poetry reading: Sam Green ('73, '81) talks with students and others gathered recently in the Wilson Library Skybridge. Being the Poet Laureate, he says, is like being the union rep for all of the state's poets.

- Learn more about Sam Green:
www.washingtonpoetlaureate.org
- Watch videos of Green reading his poetry:
www.wvu.edu/window



Reading his poetry in the sunlit Skybridge in Western's Wilson Library, Washington State Poet Laureate **Sam Green** ('73, '81) touches his words as they enter the room. Some words he taps in the air with his forefinger, as if gently touching the forehead of a child. Others he slices with his hand, pinky first, demarcating the before and after. He swings some aside with the crisp wag of a finger, snapping them into place.

Since becoming the state's poetic road-warrior-in-chief in 2007, Green, 60, has logged hundreds of miles to appear in readings like this, crisscrossing the state promoting poetry in schools, universities, hospitals, Rotary clubs, libraries, book clubs, arts festivals, government meetings and public events.

The state's first-ever Poet Laureate coaxes verse out of giggly school children and shy teenagers and talks to community groups about the importance of literacy – not just literacy of language, he says, but literacy of the heart.

"How do you speak about who you are," he asks, "without the tools of language?"

It would be too presumptuous to insist, Green says, that everyone should read poetry. But he'll tell you what you're missing if you don't:

It's not just that you'd miss the poems that speak to you, that help you understand the perspective of another human. You'd also miss the poems that speak for you, that reach inside you and communicate exactly what you're feeling, even if you haven't – or couldn't – organize your thoughts yourself.

Green loved poetry by the time he was 4, listening to the poems and ballads his father recited in their home in Skagit County. But when Green read W.B. Yeats' "Lake Isle of Innisfree," the youngster understood Yeats' longing to run away and live on an island somewhere.

"I thought, this guy's reading my mind. And he's been dead since 1939."

But though he was an advanced reader as a child, Green was no scholar. He was the bored kid who acted up in class, he says. When he finally focused enough to apply to college – encouraged in part by nearly 15 months with the Coast Guard in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War and a crushed leg from a motorcycle accident – Western turned him down because of his lackluster grades. But he transferred after almost two years of study at Highline Community College and went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Western.

It was at Western in the 1970s where Green became certain he wanted to be a poet. As editor of "Jeopardy," Western's literary magazine, Green says he became initiated into the community of writers. "I began to understand," he says, "that writers were people living a life, trying to publish their work. I liked feeling a part of that family."

He studied with English Professor Robert Huff, a "fine poet," Green says, who taught him that becoming a poet was "a life choice, not an academic choice."

Green has lived that life choice for decades, mostly in obscurity. He's split his time between teaching as a visiting poet in public schools and various colleges and universities

(he has been at Seattle University since 2001) and living on Waldron Island in a log cabin whose Douglas fir logs Green stripped by hand. He works alongside his wife,

"How do you speak about who you are without the tools of language?"

Sally, at their Brooding Heron Press, whose mechanical heart is a 100-year-old letter press in their living room. Sally sets the lead type; Green hand-binds the cloth-covered books. They accept manuscripts from poets all over.

It's an austere life, says **Chuck Luckmann** ('96), an English instructor at Skagit Valley College who works with Green through the Skagit River Poetry Festival.

Green's work finds the sacred in the everyday, Luckmann says, from the act of killing a wasp's nest to watching the light transform the wing of a dragonfly.

"His poems are a blessing to the ordinary," Luckmann says, "and the extraordinary here in the Northwest."

Tulip Field, MacLean Road, Skagit Valley

If there were a single word
for the color of these tulips,
it would have to contain
the bright swirl of my
mother's favorite
skirt. She square-danced in
it for years until
some inner joy faded faster
than the fabric.

It would need to have the scarlet
of a single maple leaf
caught in a spider's web between
two trees in the orchard
my wife & I planted
together. And the splendor
of an apple
polished on the wool
of a Pendleton
shirt my grandfather left
a little wear in before he died.

I say red & want to hold it
with my tongue longer
than teeth
& gums will let me –
skirt & leaf, apple & shirt –
and no lexicon to help me.

Postcard: October 18/01, NYC

On the subway an old
Polish man takes me in charge,
rides two stops past his own
to make certain I find
the right place to get off.
When I try
to thank him, he shakes his head
no, forget it. No one, he says,
should be lost when
someone else
knows the way.

Future Wheels

Story by John Thompson

One WWU team has proven we can travel at 100 mpg. Another is working on it. Both are battling for a \$10 million prize. The winner? Tomorrow's cars.

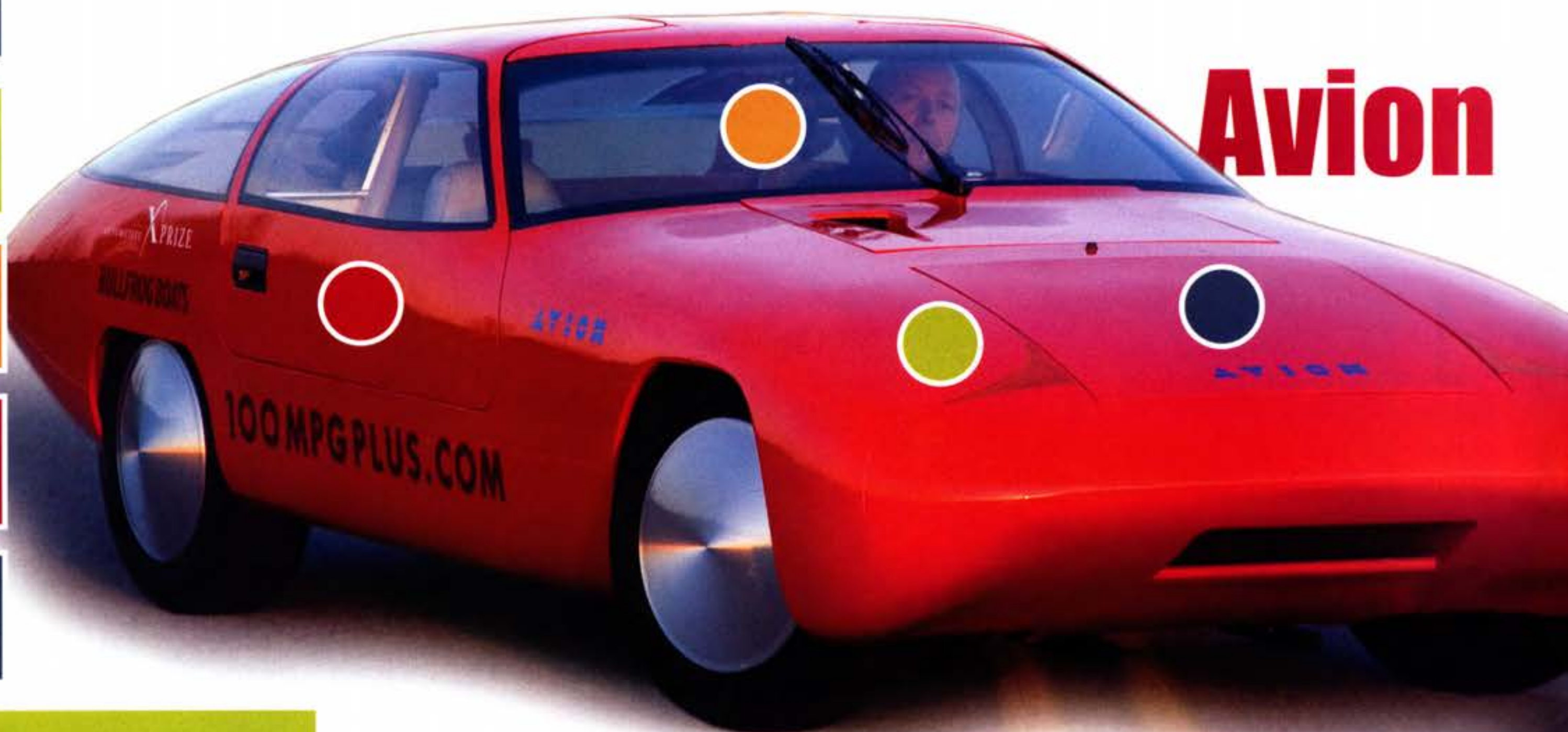


Photo by Martin Waidelich
Photo editing by Shona Fahland



World record holder at more than 103 mpg, achieved on a trip from the U.S.-Mexico border to Blaine.



Gull wing doors open up instead of out.



Headlights remain hidden in a "popout" section that retracts into the hood when not in use to retain aerodynamic efficiency.



Avion I is powered by a 1,300 cc VW Rabbit diesel engine; the new Avion II will be powered by a 3-cylinder turbo diesel engine that is cleaner, quieter and more efficient than the older engine.

Learn more:

Progressive Automotive X-Prize • www.progressiveautoxprize.org

Avion • www.100mpgplus.com

WWU Vehicle Research Institute's X-Prize team • wwuxprize.blogspot.com • WWUXprize@gmail.com

As the world continues to wrestle with greenhouse-gas emissions and a staggering dependence on oil, a pair of local teams – one made up of WWU students and the other helmed by a pair of alums – are competing in a \$10 million worldwide contest to build a market-ready car that gets 100 miles per gallon.

Western's student team, part of the Engineering Technology Department's pioneering Vehicle Research Institute, is one of only three university-sponsored teams worldwide competing in the Progressive Automotive X-Prize. The others are Cornell University and a polytechnic university in Helsinki.

Then there's a team of two VRI alums, whose futuristic two-seater has already proven 100 mpg is a realistic goal.

The goal of the competition is to bring together the most innovative minds in the automotive industry to upend what we believe is possible when it comes to fuel efficiency. The X-Prize isn't about building a toy for eccentric billionaires. The winner of the X-Prize crown will be a super-fuel-efficient vehicle safe enough, functional enough and cheap enough to attract mass-market car buyers.

Just because we haven't yet seen such a car out of the automotive industry doesn't mean it can't be done, says Tyler Sabin, 24, who's helping to build Viking 45, the gas-electric hybrid that will be the Vehicle Research Institute's entry into the competition.

"If undergraduate guys like us can make a 100-mpg car, the big guys have no excuse," says Sabin, a junior from Renton.

In a way, the X-Prize competition was made for the VRI, whose students have built dozens of alternative-fueled vehicles for competitions and road races.

But this competition is drawing students from across campus, says VRI Director and Associate Professor of Engineering Technology **Eric Leonhardt** ('95).

"Not only do we have the students working on the actual vehicle, but we've involved students from the College of Business and Economics to work on the team's business plan and on marketing, and we've worked with the Industrial Design program on coming up with a look for the vehicle," Leonhardt says. "The X-Prize is an incredible opportunity for the students involved on the team and for WWU as a whole."

Continued on Page 16

Composite wheels and low rolling-resistance tires help improve efficiency

Composite energy-absorbing structure can survive a 20-g impact.

Composite side-impact beams help the car exceed federal motor vehicle safety standards while allowing it to remain under a total gross vehicle weight of 1,400 pounds.

Vehicle offers both electric and hybrid drive-train options; it can run on only gasoline or electricity, or a hybrid of both.

Viking45

Photo courtesy WWU Vehicle Research Institute
Photo editing by Shona Fahland

Brent Wise, the student leader of the X-Prize team, says the contest is more than a great opportunity for student auto-makers. It affords the chance for a rapid leap in the development of highly fuel-efficient vehicles.

"Hopefully these teams will come together with their technology and create something better than any of them could have done alone," says Wise, a junior from Lake Stevens. "Even if they don't win the prize, I hope the teams continue pursuing the technology and innovations they are bringing to this competition so that one day soon I might see their ideas in my driveway."

Competitors range from India's giant Tata Motors to small one- or two-person operations, such as that of the Avion, the

other Bellingham team made up of **Craig Henderson** ('80) and **Bill Green** ('79).

But don't underestimate the small, two-person operation. The Avion, a 1,400-pound, cherry-red, teardrop-shaped blur that looks like something out of *Speed Racer*, owns the Guinness World Record for gas mileage, having gone 1,700 miles from Mexico to Canada at an average of 103.7 miles per gallon, according to the folks at Guinness.

The days of crawling over cars at the VRI as an undergrad in the late '70s set a course for both Henderson and Green that propelled them into their careers: Henderson as the owner of Bullfrog Boats, a Bellingham-based manufacturer of dinghies and small boats, and Green as an associate professor

of Industrial Design at Virginia Tech.

"I came to Western thinking I was going to graduate and become a biology teacher, but as I got into the VRI, I knew I had found a home. I went from having to study to *wanting* to study – they used to have to kick us out of the garage at night, but most of us would just sneak back in and keep working," Henderson says with a laugh.

"The faculty made it an incredible experience, and their knowledge and ability to impart that knowledge was amazing," he says. "And they were incredibly hands on. I remember participating in a car rally to Detroit with Clyde Hackler, the department chair, and Dr. (Michael) Seal ('66), the VRI's founder. They were always there, always around, because they loved it as much as we did."

That same foundation of knowledge gleaned from hours under the hood at the VRI led years later to the Avion.

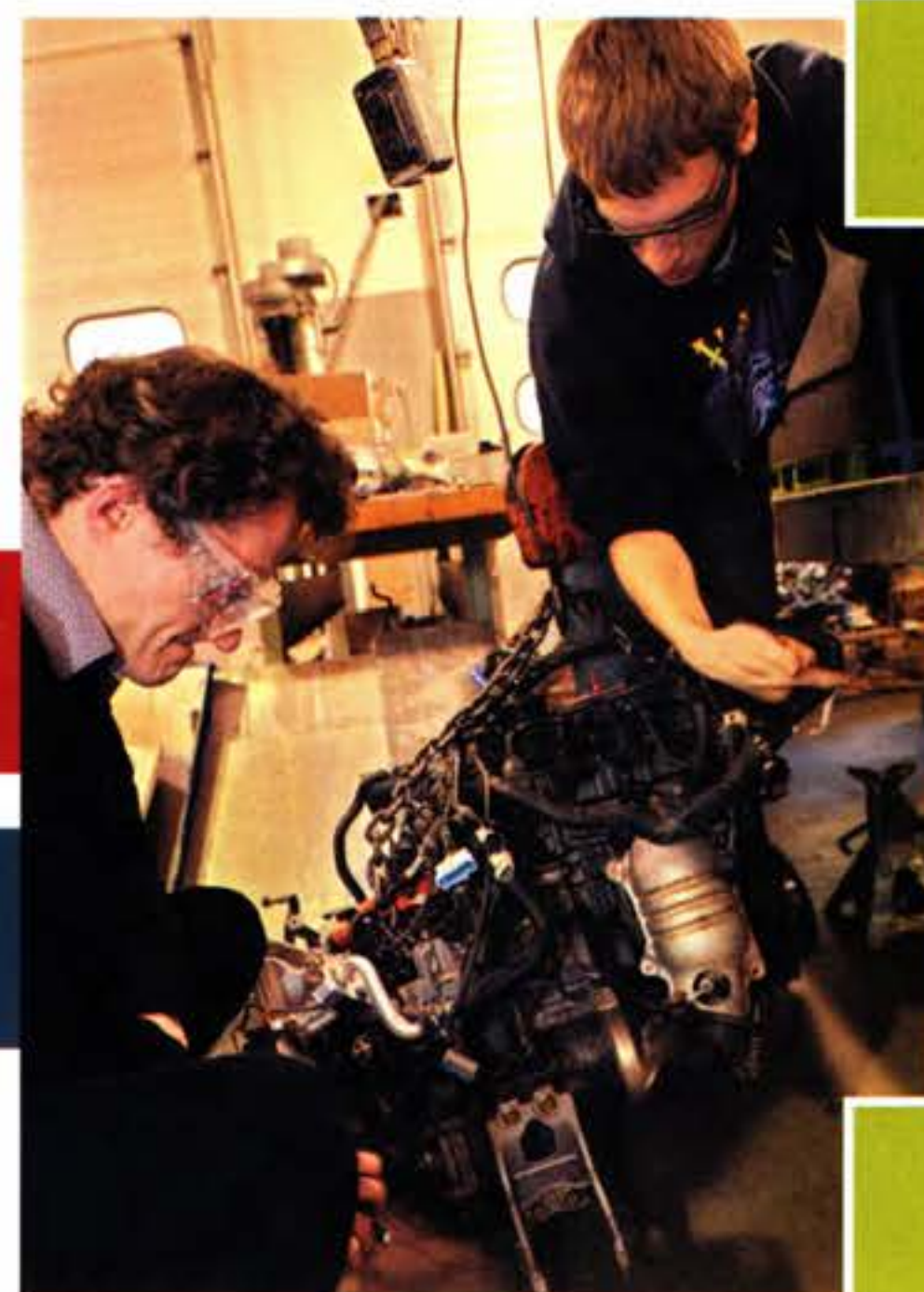
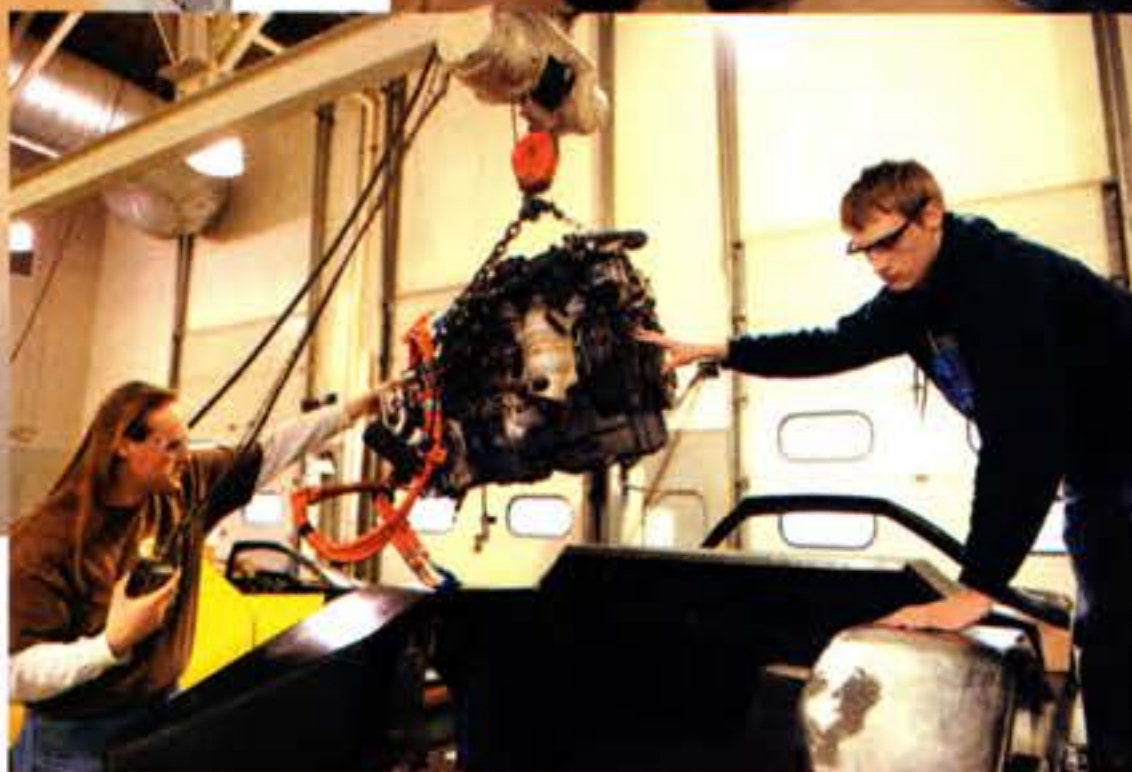
"I think we could win the X-Prize," says Henderson. "And if we don't, we're

Avion:

www.100mpgplus.com

Clockwise from left, **Craig Henderson** ('80) shows off the undulating curves of his Avion ultra-fuel-efficient car. Avion II is in the works in Henderson's North Bellingham workshop. Henderson shows a model of Avion II. Henderson and dog, Jazz, take a break after driving around rural Whatcom County.





VRI X-Prize Team:

www.wxprize.blogspot.com

WWUXprize@gmail.com

Clockwise from top left, student Tyler Sabin shapes a mold for a roll bar. Trevor Wunn, works out an equation on a broken-down pizza box. VRI Director Eric Leonhardt ('95) consults with Leif Olsen. Jonathon Ide and Olsen lower a power plant into a car body.

sure going to have fun and stir things up, and see how it goes.”

The reality is, both teams may be long shots to win the competition. Both Leonhardt and Henderson agree that the current X-Prize rules favor battery-powered cars over hybrids like Viking 45 or super-efficient non-hybrids like the Avion. But that won't stop them from competing – and for lobbying to level the playing field before the first major judging events in September.

“The thing is, you have to use electricity to recharge those batteries,” says Leonhardt. “And where is that electricity coming from? Back East, probably a coal-fired power plant. In most parts of

the country, our hybrid is cleaner than any electric car.”

Henderson hopes the new version of the Avion will be ready when the inaugural events begin this summer in New York City; the competition will include a series of race stages in 2010 starting on the East Coast and working west, testing each car's fuel efficiency, speed and emissions. If the new version of the Avion isn't finished, Henderson says he'll race the current world-record holder.

“We hope to launch a business selling the new version of the Avion as a kit car, and winning the X-Prize would be a great step in that regard,” he says. “If nothing else, it will be fabulous exposure.”

And when he gets there, Henderson will know the competition well. The body molds used to build Viking 45, the VRI X-Prize car, were built 25 years ago by a fresh-faced undergrad named Craig Henderson.

“I've always said the most valuable things built at the VRI are its graduates,” says Henderson. “It's a club you never really lose your membership in.”

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE



Online:

Visit Death Cab for Cutie's official band web site at www.deathcabforcutie.com

Go to www.wvu.edu/window for:

- Nick Harmer's Bellingham haunts.
- A photo gallery of the band's Mount Baker Theatre show.
- Harmer's advice to current WWU students who want to be rock stars.

Never listened to Death Cab for Cutie? Download these:

- "The Sound of Settling" and "Title and Registration" from "Transatlanticism"
- "I Will Follow You Into the Dark" from "Plans"
- "I Will Possess Your Heart" from "Narrow Stairs"



Know your Death Cab:

Three things every WWU alum should know about Death Cab for Cutie:

- The band references Bellingham streets Railroad and Holly in the song "A Movie Script Ending," from "The Photo Album."
- Their songs have an intimate feel, with personal, poetic lyrics (usually written by Gibbard) and a layered, instrumental sound that ranges from upbeat and sunny to aggressive and moody.
- Lead singer and guitarist Ben Gibbard is also the singer for the popular group The Postal Service, whose song "Such Great Heights" has been featured on many TV shows and ads.

Photos by
Mark Malijan

Death Cab for Cutie returns to Bellingham to rock the Mount Baker Theatre

By Zoe Fraley ('05)

A lot has changed for Death Cab for Cutie since its members met at Western Washington University more than 10 years ago: They've traded Red Square for international tours, Grammy nominations and legions of screaming fans.

But Death Cab never forgot its Western roots. One of the band's two April sold-out shows at the Mount Baker Theatre was reserved for WWU students. And judging by the crowd that screamed itself hoarse that night, students haven't forgotten Death Cab for Cutie, either.

"Why has it been, like, five years since we've played here? What's wrong with us?" lead singer and guitarist **Ben Gibbard** ('98) asked the crowd. "It feels good to be back in this town."

Bassist **Nick Harmer** ('98) credits the sleepy peacefulness of Bellingham for part of the band's success.

"We had the time and space to explore music and do it in a way that there weren't a lot of eyes and pressure on us," Harmer says. "We were really content making music in a small city."

Western's student programs helped bring together the guys who would eventually make the world swoon with their music.

"I was really, really involved with campus stuff," he says. "When I first arrived on campus, right away I walked into Associated Students Productions and started volunteering."

Harmer booked shows for Western, working for the same program that would just a few years later bring his own band back to town.

"My memories and experiences at Western are almost too many to mention," he says. "Western was a really fantastic place for us to form as a band."

It was through booking that Harmer met Gibbard, who was then in a band called Pinwheel, and the two became friends and roommates. Through school, they came together with guitarist and instrumentalist **Chris Walla** ('97) as well as their former drummer, **Nathan Good** ('99), whose spot is now filled capably by Jason McGerr.

During the band's April 22 show, Gibbard reminisced about the day they sat on their porch on Gladstone and tried to figure out if they should cut 500 or 1,000 copies of their album, "Something About Airplanes." A thousand seemed like so many. But nervously, they did it.

"Airplanes" went on to be a break-out hit, catching the attention of many more than 1,000 people. By 2009, the album had been played nearly 3 million times on the global online music service Web site Last.fm.

With the 2005 album, "Plans," the band measured sales in the millions as they hit platinum. They received a Grammy nomination for Best Alternative Music Album and put out the chart-topping single, "Soul Meets Body."

It was official. The band was big, and with their latest critically acclaimed album, "Narrow Stairs," they're poised to get even bigger.

But whether they were performing on "Saturday Night Live" or playing a show in Japan, the band never forgot the campus where they got their start.

"In the middle of it all, I still feel like we're four guys trying to pay the rent. I can still see us as four college students," says Harmer, who majored in English.

"There are moments when I can feel the amount of travel and time and wisdom after the last 10 years," he says.

"Then I feel like I've just been on this extended vacation and I've fallen behind in my classes."

Harmer says they were thrilled to perform at Mount Baker Theatre, a venue they'd never played but had always been fond of.

"It seemed really great to do," Harmer says. "To extend that to the students, it was a no-brainer."

The return to Bellingham was a homecoming of sorts for the band members, a chance to get their feet on solid, familiar ground. Harmer was excited to see his old haunts, meet up with old advisers and teachers who helped him at Western and visit old roommates and friends.

"There's really a sense of tranquility up in Bellingham. It's a nice place for a lot of introspection," he says. "It does have this real foundational feeling of bedrock. When I do go back, it provides a really good sense of how I've changed. I can stand in Red Square and think about how time has passed and where I've changed and where I've stayed the same."

Appropriately enough, the band ended both shows with a crescendoing, heartfelt performance of "Transatlanticism," a song about the birth of an ocean that separates two people. As in the song, the world will likely swallow up the band once more as they hit the road for more shows, and likely more acclaim.

But for those two days in April, the band that calls Bellingham home was just a few steps away from Red Square once more, and it was lovely.

Zoe Fraley is a reporter for The Bellingham Herald. If forced to pick a favorite Death Cab song, it would have to be "Transatlanticism."

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Stories by
Mary Lane Gallagher

Photos by Josie Liming



Gracie, 2, above, gets a first glimpse of her Life Book, created by WWU Human Services students. The books, filled with photos and family information, are meant to help adopted youngsters fill in the holes of their earliest childhood memories.

WWU junior Clint Richmond had never seen a foster child's case file until he was assigned to tell a child's life story for his class in Human Development and Human Services.

The file's stark, clinical details of how the family frayed so badly that the boy was placed in foster care took Richmond's breath away.

Then he met the little boy and his adoptive family, whose effusive love took his breath away, too.

How could a kid live through so much, Richmond wondered, and still be a "normal" kid?

But the little boy had a more important question for Richmond: "If you could be a dinosaur, which one would you be?"

That was how an 8-year-old boy helped teach Richmond, a 22-year-old college student, about resiliency.

"I had a blast hanging out with him," Richmond says. "He's so friendly."

Richmond was one of several WWU students building Life Books this winter, chronicling the early lives of foster



"This is her story" The best grade WWU students Cameron Harsh and Mikel Townsley got this year came in the form of shrieks of joy from 3-year-old Sadie (see picture, left).

"I could fail all my other classes and be perfectly happy," Harsh, 22, of Seattle, said soon after showing Sadie the Life Book he and Townsley made for her.

The two Human Services majors made the Life Book to help illustrate the concepts they were learning in Assistant Professor John Korsmo's Human Development and Human Services class.



Each Life Book tells the story of one child, and illuminates WWU students' classroom learning



kids before their adoptions. Students in Assistant Professor John Korsmo's Human Development and Human Services class have created the books for the past three years as a service learning project with the Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

The class is one of Woodring College of Education's foundational courses for Human Services majors. By exploring what Korsmo calls, "human ecology, how people develop within the context of their surroundings," he helps students begin to see how human services agencies can influence the developing lives of children and adults.

The assignment also brings to life the concepts students are learning in class: resiliency, attachment, social and emotional development, and the interplay between nature and nurture.

"Students use the Life Book project as a case study," Korsmo says, "examining the development of the books' recipients as well as his or her biological and adoptive families in relation to what they are reading about and discussing in class."

But it's much more than an intellectual exercise. The assignment gives students a preview of the emotionally difficult information they'll be dealing with in their careers in the human services field, such as counseling, program development and case management.

Plus, Korsmo says, "It has a happy ending. The children are being adopted into a loving family."

Before starting the project, the students sign a confidentiality agreement with the Division of Children and Family Services and undergo a Washington State Patrol background check so they can be granted access to the confidential files. While scanning the files, the students search for tidbits that will help young children understand their past, anything from birth certificates and medical information about developmental milestones or biological relatives to notes from favorite childhood caregivers.

At the end of the term, students bring their projects and a pot luck dish to a break room at the DCFS office in Bellingham to present the books to the

kids and adoptive families.

Miriam Burger's soon-to-be adopted daughter, Gracie, 2, was delighted with her book, fascinated by the pictures of herself as a baby.

"She was a snuggler from the word 'go,'" Burger says, looking at a newborn picture of Gracie, who has been Burger's foster daughter since the day she was born.

Burger, who has adopted two other children and fostered about 50 children over the past decade, knows how important books like this are. Her two older children are also adopted. Her son, adopted at 16 months, is disappointed he doesn't have baby pictures from his first year. And her daughter, adopted when she was just days old, sometimes asks what her biological mother looks like.

"She asks, 'Do you think I look like her?'" Burger says. "They wonder about that."

So far, the WWU students have made Life Books for almost 100 Whatcom County adopted children.

Continued on Page 22

Sadie, who could barely fit the scrapbook in her lap, flipped through the colorful pages of photos again and again, pointing at pictures of herself.

"It's amazing how much they put into it," says Shawn Doyle, who with his wife is adopting Sadie.

The book will help the couple explain Sadie's adoption, Doyle says.

The state "gave us a five-pound thing of paperwork," he says. "Having this, with pictures, will be easier for her to understand what's going on."

Knowing that a little girl would be looking at the book, perhaps for years, put a little pressure on the students, says Townsley, 23, from Sequim. She wasn't worried about the grade; she wanted it to be good enough for Sadie and the Doyles.

"It's hard to do enough," Townsley says. "This is her life. This is her history. That is more important than any grade."





Continued from Page 21

State law requires all children adopted through DCFS get Life Books, but adoption workers are too busy seeing families through the adoption process to put the books together, says Yvonne Lewis ('96), an adoption worker for DCFS in Bellingham.

"It's something everyone always wanted to do," Lewis says, "but we haven't had time to do it."

Adoptive parents get a copy of the child's DCFS file, the "nitty-gritty," Lewis says. But Life Books are for the kids themselves.

Kids who get bounced around in foster care usually don't have a shoebox full of family photographs they can paw

through to look for family resemblances or for confirmation of fuzzy childhood memories.

"In a simple way, the books help affirm life experiences kids might remember and be confused about," Lewis says.

Now that he's finished with the project, Richmond finds himself wondering about the little boy and his family.

"You know so much about these kids, it's hard not to wonder," he says. "It's like you jumped into the middle of a mystery and you don't know how it's going to turn out."



Claire Robinson, left, watches as Gracie, 2, flips through her book.



Sadie, right, squealed when she first saw her Life Book.

Syllabus

Life Books are a central project in "Human Development and Human Services," an upper-division course that provides a birth-to-death exploration of topics in human development. Here is a weekly schedule:

| WEEK | |
|------|---|
| 1 | Orientation of lifespan development; introduction to the Division of Child and Family Services; overview of Life Books project. |
| 2 | Genetic and environmental influences; prenatal development and birth. |
| 3 | Theories of human development. |
| 4 | Health and physical development; perception. |
| 5 | Cognition, memory and information processing. |
| 6 | Intelligence and creativity; language and education. |
| 7 | Self and personality; gender roles and sexuality. |
| 8 | Social cognition; moral development. |
| 9 | Family influence on development; death, dying and grief. |
| 10 | Review of lifespan development; presenting Life Books to families. |



Assistant Professor John Korsmo's students create the Life Books using scrapbooking materials donated to DCFS. Those with materials they'd like to contribute to the effort may contact Korsmo at John.Korsmo@wwu.edu.



Photos by Mark Malijan

Deborah DeWees,
Executive Director
Western Alumni Association



Help new grads and each other: Join our alumni network

The weight of the troubles in our economy hit home with me recently when Rashad, a bright and hard-working Western senior who works with us in the Alumni office, told me about his worries.

"I am looking hard for a job, but so far haven't got a single offer," he said. "I don't know what to do."

While I didn't profess to have *the* answer, I did have *one*: Join the Western Alumni community. Start networking and build connections on the Alumni Association's LinkedIn and Facebook sites, talk to your professors about the contacts they have made, ask them to make an introduction.

To me, Rashad's look of hope said it all.

The volatile economy is sobering: People are losing jobs, recent grads are struggling to find employment, students are experiencing tuition increases and our educational system is facing large budget cuts that could impact services.

You have shared your concerns with us, so we are shifting our focus and presenting you with more relevant information on what impacts your life. Our Web site is being redeveloped to offer enhanced networking and member services to facilitate communication among alumni. We are creating a community that cares, because right now that is perhaps the most important service we can provide.

We are organizing a call to action, a race to see how the Western community can support students and alumni who are looking for opportunities. Do what you can: Volunteer to speak with a class. Become a mentor. Donate to a scholarship. Think about Western when you are making your next hiring decision.

Stay connected and get involved. Demonstrate how alumni can impact the future of others. And be part of the growing network of alumni that graduates like Rashad count on now and in the future.

KEEP UP WITH WWU IN THE NEWS

Western Weekly for Dec. 3



WESTERN
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Weekly

Alaska treks

Biological faculty member Eric DeWitt, right, completes his fourth trip to Alaska this past summer as part of a five-year program funded by the National Science Foundation to research the effects of climate change. For a complete multimedia presentation of his time in the Office of University Communications, visit www.wwu.edu/communications, including audio interviews, still photos, and video, click here.



The New York Times

LA Auto show for 22 competitors, the Automotive X Prize is an It isn't quite like winning the lottery (or even "Tag Chet") but there are definitely good news for some involved contestants on Wednesday at the Los Angeles auto show. The Progressive Insurance Automotive X Prize announced the first 22 competitors granted registered team status. They had cleared the first hurdle in a quest to win the \$10 million prize for designing a clean and sophisticated car of the future.

While the old saying "Apters 24" has already received a measure of success, some of the other contenders have already taken a hit. But they still have extra interesting ideas. Apters Industries claims to be able to capture much better increase fuel economy, drive or working on a golfing diesel car. And students at Western Washington University have taken care of themselves from localities.

Did you know?
WWU was chartered Feb. 24, 1893, 117 years before the current and Parkview merged to create Bellingham Dec. 28, 1903.

Coming later

Dec. 4-6



Fall Into Dance

Western Weekly

What's in your in-box? If it's not the latest news from WWU, it may be time to get in touch. Western Weekly and Western Wire both provide news for and about WWU alumni, faculty and students. Sign up for either one by providing us your e-mail address.

Western Weekly has free links to news stories about the university from newspapers, magazines and blogs nationwide.

Sign up at news.wwu.edu, click on "Feedback" then "Subscribe to Publications" or to see previous editions click on "Publications," then "Western Today."

Western Wire

Western Wire's eNewsletters report the latest news and research from each of WWU's seven colleges. Recent editions have included updates on the Outback Farm, an inside look at the prestigious Bond Children's Literature Conference and an exploration of students' work with the VRI.

Sign up for Western Wire by visiting wwualumni.com to "Update your information" and give us your e-mail address.



Weddings

2000s

Jamie Strand ('00) and Andrea Roscini on June 1, 2008, in Umbertide, Italy.

Cortney Woollett ('00) and Tim Tassone on Sept. 13, 2008, in Wenatchee.

Elizabeth Anne Lunt ('01) and Chris Clousing on June 21, 2008, in Malaga.

Heather Ann Haslip ('02) and Jason Philip Moses on Aug. 16, 2008, in Mount Vernon.

Melissa Youmans ('02) and Michael Barnes on Nov. 8, 2008, in Hoquiam.

Gillian Fraser Guthrie ('03) and **Christopher Linden Ward** ('08) on July 19, 2008, in Leavenworth.

Lisa Marie Hanson ('04) and Tyler James Hartanov on May 25, 2008, in Spokane.

Leise Woltring ('04) and Bryan Gunkel on July 26, 2008, in Plain.

Linnea Marie Lusier ('05) and Morgan Wolff on March 29, 2008, in Everett.

Shara Smith ('05) and William Juenemann on Oct. 4, 2008, in Lynden.

Laura Dowd ('06) and **Matthew Plude** ('06) on July 19, 2008, in Mercer Island.

Courtney Jaynes ('06) and **Luke Tiffany** ('06) on June 14, 2008, in Wenatchee.

Jennifer Lee Moser ('07) and **Adam Ross Johnson** ('07) on May 31, 2008, in Mount Vernon.

Melanie Rose Clark and **Cory John Kollmeyer** ('07) on Sept. 20, 2008, in Ferndale.

Katy Murphy ('08) and Steve Erickson on June 7, 2008, in Plain.

1990s

Shannon Watts ('90) and Michael McQuaid Jr., on Sept. 6, 2008, in Seattle.

Joanne Bottenberg ('96) and Austin Sheely on May 10, 2008, in Snoqualmie Pass.

Angela Marcella Ferguson ('97) and Eric Scott Enderberg on Aug. 30, 2008, in Mount Vernon.

1980s

Laura Diehl and **Doug Price** ('87) on March 12, 2008, in Hanalei Bay, Hawaii.

1960s

Marilyn (Murphy) Grindley ('64) and **Doug Simpson** ('61) on Sept. 16, 2008, on Orcas Island.

Obituaries

1927 – Gunhilde E. Tucker, 101, a former elementary school teacher who loved to travel, read and grow flowers, on Nov. 22, 2008.

1928 – Sarah Adelaide Dale, 102, a retired teacher and county supervisor for Fairfax County, Va., on Nov. 5, 2008. She recently was honored as the oldest living graduate of Western.

1931 – Thelma Marie Shorkley Fredlund, 97, a musician, on March 14, 2008. **Irene Cecelia Dickson Hayton**, 96, a retired teacher, on Oct. 31, 2008, in Mount Vernon.

1934 – Wilfred Edwin Gunderson, 94, a retired teacher, librarian and school district administrator, on Nov. 3, 2008.

1937 – Dorothy Helen Biery, 94, a homemaker, on Feb. 12, 2009, in Kendall.

1938 – Claire vg Thomas, 91, an accomplished pianist and organist, church music director and community leader, on Oct. 13, 2008, in Lynden. Mrs. Thomas helped found the Lynden Pioneer Museum and Whatcom Symphony Orchestra.

1944 – Margaret Anne Heinzen, 85, a retired teacher, on Jan. 13, 2009.

1946 – Lois R. Mead, 86, on Dec. 2, 2008.

1948 – Hazel Alice Brown, 85, a band teacher who directed a Salvation Army Band for 65 years, on Nov. 22, 2008, in Bellingham. **Gloria C. Evans**, 81, a retired psychology professor and international student advisor at Swarthmore College, on Dec. 25, 2008.

1951 – Robert H. Bartholick, 82, a veteran and retired teacher, on Jan. 7, 2009, in Burien. **Walter Henry Ewing**, 84, a veteran and retired teacher and football and track coach, on Dec. 6, 2008. **Jerry N. Waddell**, 81, who worked in education finance, on Nov. 26, 2008.

1954 – Marion J. Bogdanovich, 79, a veteran and retired public school administrator, on May 14, 2008, in Seattle. **Donald "Spud" Walley**, 83, a retired teacher and coach and a former mayor of Sedro-Woolley, on March 4, 2009.

1956 – Robert "Jerry" Johnson, 77, who worked in the water works industry, on Jan. 29, 2009. **Janet Arlene Wilson**, 73, a former teacher and full-time mother and community volunteer, on Aug. 28, 2008, in Mount Vernon. **John A. Ziemba**, 96, a World War II pilot and former teacher, on Oct. 16, 2008.

1958 – Iris "Ike" M. Johnson, 79, a retired high school teacher and college instructor and active church volunteer, on Oct. 19, 2008, in El Paso, Texas. **Ron Lee**, 75, a veteran and retired high school teacher, on Dec. 15, 2008.

1959 – Cathy Harkleroad, 71, a retired head sports trainer for Bellevue Community College, on Sept. 27, 2008. **Jeanne McCormick**, 71, a retired primary and special education teacher, on Sept. 2, 2008, in Yakima.

1960 – Robert K. Ramberg, 73, a retired teacher, baseball coach and director of traffic safety, on Dec. 3, 2008, in Everett. **Gene Raymond Rorvig**, 72, a former teacher, aluminum worker and insurance agent, on Jan. 21, 2009, in Bellingham.

1962 – Joel David Everett, 68, an anesthesiologist and expert skier, on Oct. 1, 2008.

1963 – Gary Moore, 68, a retired teacher and head football coach who was named State Coach of the Year in 1984, on Sept. 11, 2008. **Bob Timmons**, 82, a veteran, retired teacher and avid boater, on Nov. 3, 2008, in Bremerton.

1964 – Lyle Alan Nichols, 67, a retired teacher, on Sept. 29, 2008. **Beatrice Moores Rusch**, 83, a retired teacher, on March 19, 2009, in Bellingham. **Annett Eleanor Vernon**, 73, a retired teacher, on Aug. 28, 2008.

1965 – Richard Joseph Hess, 82, a retired woodshop and mechanical drawing teacher, on Jan. 30, 2009.

1966 – Dianne Lee (Maddox) McLachlan, 64, a retired director of information technology, on Oct. 28, 2008, in San Diego.

1967 – Virginia Louise Murphy, 91, a retired math and science teacher, on Dec. 9, 2008 in Bellingham. **Margaret "Peggy" Trott**, 90, on Feb. 9, 2009.

1968 – Martin Eugene Bowes, 63, who worked for the Department of Social and Health Services, on Dec. 7, 2008, in Bremerton. **Lawrence Harold Sund**, 63, a veteran and avid world traveler who worked for a dental supply company, on Jan. 8, 2009.

Ben Dragavon's MLS debut was for a hometown team

Ben Dragavon ('07) made his Major League Soccer debut April 11 when he took to the field for the Seattle Sounders FC. Dragavon, a backup keeper for the MLS assigned to Seattle that week, jumped in for Sounders goalie Kasey Keller, who was ejected from the game for a red card while back-up goalie Chris Eylander was still recovering from a knee injury. Playing before 28,746 fans at Qwest Field, Dragavon made a great save against the Kansas City Wizards, but later let through the only goal of the game.

"That second shot, I'll be having nightmares on that one," he told the seattlepi.com. "I'd love to have it back for sure." Dragavon, whose 18 shutouts at Western remains a record, loved the chance to help the Sounders' inaugural season. "I think it's a little bit more special for me because I am from the area and have a lot of support around the community," he said. "It's been absolutely incredible."

Photo by Mark Harrison/The Seattle Times



In the Hunt: Heidi Young ('04, '05) helps lead a search team at Microsoft

Photo by Niki Desautels



The brains behind the '10 blue links'

By Mary Lane Gallagher

Heidi Young ('04, '05) wants to help you find stuff. And she doesn't mind getting in a good fight to do it, either.

So it's probably a good thing she's working for Microsoft's search program, which is hunkering down to gain on Google's dominance as the search engine of choice.

Young, who double-majored in Math and Computer Science before earning a master's degree in the latter, was already fascinated with search engines when she joined Microsoft about four years ago.

"I really wanted to work for the company that was behind" Young says. "I love the fight we're in with Google."

Young now leads a team of about a dozen people tasked with "relevancy," or making sure the "10 blue links" that appear on the search results screen are really what the user had in mind. For example, does someone who types "Jaguar" in the search box want to learn more about luxury sports cars? Big cats that stalk their prey? A football team in Jacksonville, Fla.?

If the jaguar-searching public tends to click on sports cars, Young and her colleagues can train the search engine to put more of those results on the first page. But then where would all the people go who are looking for the big cats and football tickets? To another search engine – probably to Google.

"If you tailor a search engine too much, we can be in trouble," she says.

If search engines knew more about the searchers, what they've clicked on in previous searches, for example, or even demographic information stored on their computers, searches could produce much more meaningful results, Young says.

But Young knows many consumers are reluctant to serve up personal information; she suspects it will be an option for people who want a more personalized search experience.

For now, Young has been helping Microsoft re-imagine its search engine, scheduled to launch in June.

The look of the new engine will be different from the "10 blue link experience," Young says, but not too different. Tests found that users were turned off by a search engine that was radically different from what they were used to, she says.

Young says her team is already making some headway on Google when it comes to their specialty: relevancy.

"We are right behind them in our trials," she says. "In some types of queries, we perform better. In four years' time, we've made up so much ground."

1969 – **Gary A. Boe**, 61, on Dec. 24, 2008. **John Robert Rowan**, 64, a retired special education teacher, commercial salmon fisher and drag racer, on Dec. 3, 2008. **Janice Kay Wilson**, 61, on March 14, 2009, in Lafayette, Colo.

1970 – **David Harry Jones**, 61, a retired respiratory therapist and environmental advocate, on Dec. 3, 2008. **Richard Thurman Muir**, 65, a seafood sales executive, on April 6, 2009, in Edmonds.

1971 – **Ernest B. Benson**, 65, on Feb. 14, 2009, in Bellingham. **Karen Sue DelGrosso Hall**, 59, a retired home economics teacher, on Dec. 10, 2008. **David Heller**, 60, a retired activities director, on Dec. 15, 2008, in Sumner. **Carolann Mostrom Paydar**, 59, a vocational counselor, on Dec. 1, 2008. **Stephen F. Schneider**, 61, a lawyer and outdoorsman, on Dec. 5, 2008.

1972 – **Richard L. Weaver**, 59, a purchasing agent and avid gardener, on Jan. 6, 2009.

1973 – **Marilou Orr**, 78, an adventurous traveler, on Nov. 9, 2008, in Bellingham.

1974 – **Gary Jensen**, 63, a retired teacher, on Feb. 11, 2008. **Stewart Oral Ness**, 69, a retired engineering equipment operator for the Mt. Baker Snoqualmie Forest Service road crew, on Sept. 11, 2008.

1977 – **Daniel V. Thayer**, 64, former chief of environmental services for the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs, on Feb. 2, 2009, in Bremerton.

1978 – **Steven Edward Adams**, 61, a Vietnam veteran and passionate advocate for other veterans, on Nov. 30, 2008, in Bellingham.

1980 – **Dolores May Estell**, 78, an accomplished doll maker, on Aug. 16, 2008, in Mount Vernon.

1984 – **Stephen Peter Elich**, 55, a fisher who had most recently worked at the ARC of Whatcom County, on Nov. 9, 2008. **Richard J. Schauer**, 50, who worked for Alaska Airlines, on Feb. 8, 2009.

1986 – **Allison Clark**, 45, an active businesswoman and volunteer in the Sedro-Woolley community, on Jan. 16, 2009. **Darrell Wayne Locke**, 50, an electronics engineer, Marine Corps veteran and black belt in karate, on Feb. 20, 2009.

Class Notes

1995 – **Kristin M. Haugen**, 35, who worked in the audiology department at Seattle Children's Hospital and was an accomplished athlete, on Jan. 2, 2009.

1997 – **Rhonda Carol Weir**, 54, an English teacher and rare book dealer, on March 23, 2009.

1996 – **Alexandra Fimiani Hodson**, 34, a wife, mother and loyal friend, on Aug. 19, 2008, in Seattle.

1999 – **Erik T. Konstad**, 50, a Navy veteran who later served as a Civil Air Patrol squadron leader, on Sept. 9, 2008, in Lynden.

2001 – **Justin Jennings Cottrell**, 33, a teacher, on Feb. 14, 2009, in Kellogg, Idaho.

2008 – **Daniel Joseph Rupe**, 23, a medical equipment representative, on Dec. 10, 2008.

Faculty and Staff

Penelope Jean "Penny" Britton, 67, an instructor in the Communication Department, on Dec. 30, 2008, in Anacortes. Mrs. Britton was also a 1989 graduate of Western.

Wallace Heath, 76, who taught in the Biology Department from 1962 to 1968, on March 4, 2009. Dr. Heath also helped develop aquaculture education programs at Lummi Nation.

Allen Herrick, 62, who worked at Western from 1971 to 1990, on Feb. 25, 2009.

Franklin Raney, 88, who taught in the Geography Department from 1966 to 1986, on April 13, 2009.

Rochelle Sandeen, 57, an office assistant in the Biology Department who was also president of the Indigenous Studies Foundation/Honor Day, on April 9, 2009.

Stewart Van Wingerden, 87, a retired professor of education who also helped create Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, on Oct. 15, 2008. Dr. Van Wingerden was also a 1949 graduate of Western.

Evelyn Montgomery (Hinds Wellman) Von Barga, 97, who taught music education at Western, on Feb. 4, 2009. Mrs. Von Barga also earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Western, along with three teaching certificates.

Class Notes

1960 – **Charles Stutz**, retired from Eastman Kodak Co., runs a modeling agency in Fresno, Calif.

1969 – **Michael Hook** became vice president, credit administration officer for Northrim Bank, which is based in Anchorage.



Though he's moved back to the U.S., Wesakania continues to support Eco-Garden, an agriculture, feeding and education program in Kenya.

An ag-minded Kenyan grad returns to the U.S. and a garden of friends

Soon after **Wanambisi Edward Wesakania** ('04, '06) graduated from Western, he said goodbye to his friends in Whatcom and Skagit counties to move back to rural Kenya and put his environmental science degrees to work.

But Wesakania's friends didn't forget him.

Wesakania began fulfilling his dreams of teaching Kenyans about organic gardening and sustainability, starting a library with 4,000 books donated from Washington state friends and running an early childhood education and feeding program for orphaned children.

Then much to his surprise, Wesakania's application was approved to immigrate to the U.S. with his wife, Lucy, and six children. He wanted to move to the U.S. to provide the best educational opportunities for his children, he says, but was reluctant to leave behind the community programs he had worked so hard to establish.

"I think it was the hardest moment

of my life," Wesakania said, "making that decision to stay or leave."

Then violence broke out over the country's contested presidential election in late 2007. Wesakania's neighbor was killed in his own home in a case of mistaken identity, a terrifying ordeal that solidified their decision to leave.

"My youngest son was asking, 'When are we moving away from here?'" Wesakania remembers. "He had never heard gunshots before."

So Wesakania's friends in Whatcom and Skagit counties sprung into action, collecting money and frequent flier miles to help the large family make the trip to Washington state. Wesakania had developed a wide circle of friends during his studies at Skagit Valley College and at WWU's Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies and Huxley College of the Environment.

Friends – and their friends, church groups and co-workers – raised \$12,000 to pay for the visas, medical exams and other expenses for the families, and 650,000 air miles for the tickets.

The family now lives in Stanwood with a close friend while they re-establish them-

selves here. Wesakania works part-time as a research assistant at Washington State University Extension in Mount Vernon. He hopes to continue his sustainable gardening work in the U.S. while his older brother oversees the Eco-Garden Kenya project in Africa.

Meanwhile, his children, now ranging in age from 5 to 22, are enrolled in local schools, and Lucy is working toward her GED.

When Wesakania first came to Washington state seven years ago, he got help from his whole village to scrape together the air fare to come, he says. He calls the community effort in the U.S. to bring the rest of his family here "a miracle."

"I believe it was meant to be for me to be here with my kids," he says.

Learn more about Eco-Garden:
Wanambisi@yahoo.com

1971 – **Dale Yoder** was named laboratory technical director of Mayes Testing Engineers Inc., a testing and inspection agency with more than 130 employees. **Robert A. Barry** retired as a high school teacher and staff development specialist to become an associate professor in the Graduate School of Education at Marylhurst University in Portland, Ore.

1973 – **John Q. Easton** was nominated by President Barack Obama to be director of the Institute of Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education. Easton most recently served as executive director of the Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago. **Linda Williams** retired as director of special education and federal programs at the Port Angeles School District.

1974 – Attorney **Paul Cosgrove** became vice chair of the national board of directors for State Law Resources, Inc. and will oversee the referral network's marketing committee. **Jorge Ruiz Chacon** is a natural healer counseling Hispanic families in Chelan County. He also serves on the state's Commission on Hispanic Affairs. **Bev McKissick** didn't stop working as a librarian at

Kendall Elementary School despite terminal bone cancer. Co-workers have rallied around her. "I wish everybody had this kind of opportunity for affirmation in their life," she told The Bellingham Herald. "It's kind of like having your funeral before you die."

1975 – **Thomas Moak**, in his 12th year on the Kennewick City Council, was elected mayor of the city. **Jorgann Simonsen** became manager of accounting operations for the Port of Tacoma.

1976 – **Scott Richardson** became chairman of the board for the Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also the owner of State Street Insurance.

1977 – **Craig Cole** is chairman of the University of Washington Board of Regents. **Dan Newell** joined the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as director of secondary education. He most recently worked as principal of Blaine High School. **Terri McMahan** was named Northwest District Athletic Director of the year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education. McMahan re-

cently retired as director of athletics for Edmonds School District.

1978 – **Steve Hubble** retired as a colonel from the Marine Corps and became chief operations officer for Magnesium Products Group, Inc. in Vista, Calif. His wife, **Varryl (Hubbard) Hubble** works for Ameriprise Financial in Carlsbad, Calif. **Mike Gallagher** became principal of Kamiak High School.

1979 – **Margaret Willson** is international director of Bahia Street, a Seattle-based non-profit organization she helped establish which provides educational and emotional assistance to young girls in Salvador, Brazil. **Anthony F. Chelte** became dean of the University of Little Rock College of Business.

1980 – **Linda Quinn** was named superintendent of the Ferndale School District. She previously served as a school administrator in Washington state and California, and was a "Principal in Residence" for the U.S. Department of Education.

1982 – **Edward Inch** became provost and vice president for academic affairs of Capital College in Bexley, Ohio. His

research work is international conflict and dispute resolution.

1983 – **Jon R. Mutchler**, house pianist at Semiahmoo Resort and a pastor in Ferndale, just released two CD's of solo piano music.

1984 – **Tom Tebb** became a regional director for the state Department of Ecology, based in Yakima. **Kathy Green** was named Woman of the Year in Ferndale for her volunteer work with the Ferndale High School Marching Band's Boosters.

1985 – **Ron Judd's** book, "The Winter Olympics: An Insider's Guide to the Legends, the Lore, and the Game" was published by The Mountaineers Books.

1987 – **Tanya Baumgart** is co-president of the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County.

1990 – **Dann Mead Smith** recently spent two weeks in Vietnam with the American Council of Young Political Leaders. Smith is president of the Washington Policy Center, a non-profit, non-partisan public policy think tank focusing on a wide variety of state issues.

Membership Matters

Class Notes

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1991 – Sculptor **Bob McDermott** has created three public sculptures in Whatcom County: Dirty Dan Harris in Fairhaven, "Vigil" in Blaine and Charles X. Larrabee in Fairhaven. **Paul Wickline** became chair of the theatre department at College of the Canyons in Santa Clarita, Calif.

1992 – **Shannon Harvey**, principal at Cascade Elementary School in Renton, was surprised by a \$25,000 check she received as the winner of the 2008 Milken National Education Award. **Brody Hanssen** was named to the executive advisory board of Noble Innovations Inc., which develops "green-conscious" technologies. Hanssen is chief financial officer for Chaffey Homes, supervising financial operations of five offices in Washington and Arizona.

1993 – **Hiro Yamamoto** is a chemist with Edge Analytical in Burlington. One of the founding members of Soundgarden, Yamamoto joined the cast of the Sudden Valley Barn Theatre's production of "Carnival" in April.

1994 – **Michael Schindler** often speaks about how to strengthen military families as author and founder of Operation Military Family. Through his consulting business Re-Use Consulting, **Dave Bennink** teaches others how to demolish buildings in order to salvage as much as possible, while doing it quickly enough to be a viable alternative to straight demolition. **Rick Reichert** became major gifts officer at The Evergreen State College. He also serves as vice president of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, South Sound Chapter. **Patrick Adams** has expanded his drug and alcohol counseling practice to include private clients. He works in Sequim.

1995 – **Rebecca Hover**, public information officer for the Snohomish County Sheriff's office, joined the Leadership Snohomish County leadership development program.

1996 – **Jason Jordan** was recently hired by the Port of Tacoma as senior environmental project manager. **Scott Rennie** became a osteopathic doctor at Columbia Valley Community Health in Wenatchee.

1997 – **Richard Duff** is an automotive body designer who helped design the exterior of the 2010 Buick LaCrosse luxury sedan. **Molly Foote** launched the non-profit Eppard Vision, devoted to strengthening community, expanding social awareness and promoting social responsibility. **Carla Powell** became a BodyFlow instructor at Evergreen Fitness Center in Port Townsend. **Clint Romag's** new novel "The Werewolf King" was recently published by iUniverse.com. **Steve Grichel** competed in the USA Track and Field National Club Cross Country Championships in Spokane.

1998 – **Jennifer Louie** is assistant concertmaster with the Ohio Light Opera and a violinist with the Gulf Coast Symphony, Macon Symphony and Tupelo Symphony. She has made two recordings: "Maytime" by Sigmund Romberg and "The Sorcerer" by Gilbert and Sullivan with the Ohio Light Opera. **Christine Jenkins** became director of sales for the Lakeway Inn and Conference Center in Bellingham.

1999 – **Braden Abraham** recently became associate artistic director for the Seattle Repertory Theatre. He previously directed "My Name is Rachel Corrie" at the Rep in 2007. **Chris Bange** performed his "Comedy/Magic Mayhem" as part of "SPF:3 Apply Liberally," an annual solo performance theatre festival in Seattle. **Amanda Segars** is a physician's assistant with Family HealthCare Network in Tulare County, Calif. Organist **Wade Dingman** is music director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bellingham. **Roy Shick** was named assistant athletic director for major gifts at University of Washington. **Amy (Summers) Akana** and **Dave Akana** both began working for the University of Oregon in Eugene. Amy is the housing judicial officer and Dave is the international affairs business manager.

2000 – **Steve McCarthy** opened his physical therapy and orthopedic and sports medicine practice in Washougal the same month his first child was born. "We're going to look back on this in a few years and laugh – and sleep," he told the Camas-Washougal Post Record.

2001 – **Andrew Cull** is chief executive officer of Remote Medical, the company he founded which provides emergency medical services and transportation around the world. **Scott Ellis** became principal of Blaine High School.

2002 – **Aaron and Jennifer Dawson** are new shareholders in the accounting firm of Opsahl, Dawson and Co. In Vancouver, Wash. **Aubri Keleman** has had to make a few sacrifices for her job as teen services and web coordinator for the Whatcom County Library System. She dyed her hair blue after teen readers met her challenge to post 400 comments to the library's Web site about their summer reading. Another summer, a similar challenge had her eating a scorpion. **Brian Scott Rudin** became the assistant wine maker at Caderetta of Walla Walla. **Brent Dixon** joined Absolute Life Chiropractic in Vancouver.

2003 – Accountant **Jennifer Weeks** joined Telgenhoff & Oetgen, P.S. in Lynden, after spending more than five years with the Washington State Department of Revenue.

2004 – **Matt Vance**, marketing coordinator for Industrial Credit Union, won two first-place marketing awards from the Washington Credit Union League for his work on an annual report and a

coordinated campaign. **Ryan Couture** recently moved to Las Vegas to join his family business: mixed martial arts. He works with his father, MMA star Ryan Couture, at the family gym and has so far won at least two amateur MMA bouts. **Elisabeth Britt** joined Loannetter as a licensed mortgage planner.

2005 – **Emily Krahn** became a press assistant with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. **Hillery Clark** became manager of the state institutional education program at Fircrest Residential Rehabilitation Center. **Kate Lebo** works at Richard Hugo House, a literary arts center in Seattle, and has had her poetry published in "Smartish Place," "Filter," "Knock" and the Seattle Public Library's "Lines on a Spine."

2006 – **Chris Walter** formed Wildfire Safe in Manson to help owners of homes and businesses in wildfire-prone areas prevent fire damage through healthy forestry practices, brush clearing, habitat enhancement and other methods. **Autumn Waite** became the public information officer and public educator for the Snohomish County Fire District No. 7. **Jason Sytsma** is a physical education and health teacher at St. Paul's Academy in Bellingham. **Alissa Thurman** is a city planner Hoquiam, her home town, where she also volunteers at the 7th St. Theatre. **Tiana Townsell** won the 2009 Miss Black Washington USA Scholarship Competition and will represent the state in the national competition in July in Washington, D.C. **Andrew Leese** joined his brother Randall to embark on a two-year, 25,000-mile, round-the-world bike ride to raise funds for orphans in India.

2007 – **Jillian Comrie** became the teacher of the Ecuador Youth Choir, a group of 15 youngsters ages 10 to 14, in Quito, Ecuador. **Kristen Visser** earned her CPA and became a staff accountant for the Larson Gross International Tax & Cross Border Services Team.

2008 – **Dan Parine** was selected coach of the boys' swim team at Squalicum High School in Bellingham. **Kevin Diers** finished his internship at Seattle Sound magazine and continues as their punk and metal correspondent. **Shane Simmons** joined the Seattle Seahawks for the three-day offseason minicamp this spring. He was released from the Raiders last year after four pre-season games.

Class Notes are compiled from published accounts, press releases and information submitted by alumni themselves. Notes are edited for style, clarity and length and are published as space allows. For more information, or to submit your own information for Class Notes, e-mail Mary.Gallagher@wwu.edu.

No head for thinking

It's easy to see why this impromptu artwork caught Marybeth Coghill's attention. Coghill, 20, was strolling along the brick walkway in front of the Fine Arts building last fall when she spotted the bent-wire sculpture of the headless man. A few passers-by peeked inside, checking out the wire infrastructure, she says. Others wondered if anyone was inside.

Coghill, a Studio Art – Photography major shooting this quarter for the student magazine "The Planet," often sees finished pieces and works-in-progress around the art building. But most aren't this big, she says, or placed right in the middle of the walkway.

She didn't know who did the sculpture, but the paint cans and tool box made Coghill think of "the workers we don't see at night, behind the scenes, taking care of the school."

That's what Patrick Newlin, a Studio Art major, was thinking, too, when he created the sculpture for a one-day project in Associate Art Professor Sebastian Mendes' class. The sculpture was sort of a hat-tip to the country's blue-collar workers, Newlin says.

"Most of the time," Newlin says, "people kind of take for granted all the people who hold our system together."



Photo by Marybeth Coghill



Mike Bahn grew up in Tacoma and now lives in Phoenix, Ariz., with his wife, Laura.

Mike Bahn '01

*Master of Science, Human Movement and Performance 2001
Strength & Conditioning Coordinator for the Phoenix Coyotes Hockey Club*

Lived off-campus in the Fairhaven neighborhood and rode the bus every day.

WWU Intercollegiate Ice Hockey team member three years (1998-2001), served as team president for two years and coached for one year after graduating from Western.

Is currently reading "Bowerman and The Men of Oregon," by Kenny Moore, a biography of the legendary University of Oregon track and field coach Bill Bowerman.

Loves the outdoors — skating, skiing, hiking, golfing, anything!

"I am a member of the WWU Alumni Association because much of my success is attributed to the life skills I developed at Western, skills that extend beyond an education."

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Photo by Mark Malijan

Hail that Cab

Death Cab for Cutie rocked a packed house this spring in a hometown show just for WWU students at the Mount Baker Theatre.

Nick Harmer, bassist for the world-famous band, talks about how the group got its start at Western.

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