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Money Smarts  p. 8
WWU leads in economics education

Brain Power  p. 14
Inside Western’s Neuroscience Program
Fifth graders Jorgey Mancillas, left, Devin Carlson and their classmates from Burlington’s Lucille Umbarger Elementary School wear 3-D glasses as they look at 3-D aerial photos of glaciers and other terrain during Associate Professor Scott Linneman’s geomorphology class.

All photos by Rachel Bayne
KIDS GET A GLIMPSE OF COLLEGE

Hundreds of fifth-graders paired up with WWU student mentors to visit classrooms and laboratories on campus Oct. 27 in Western's first Compass 2 Campus event, a program to get more kids thinking early about college with the help of mentors and role models to show them the importance of higher education.

"Research tells us mentorship is the key," says Cyndie Shepard, who brought the program to WWU when she moved here with her husband, WWU President Bruce Shepard. "Kids who are mentored or who have a significant adult in their lives have a better chance of success."

The Washington State Legislature established the program this year in hopes of increasing the number of low-income students, students of color and first-generation college students in higher education. The privately funded program will grow to cover fifth through 12th grades in selected schools.

See more photos at www.wwu.edu/window.
Learn more at www.wwu.edu/compass2campus.
Message from the President

So often I am impressed by the remarkable accomplishments of our Western community. A few of our alumni achievements—including Bill Wright’s historic golf prowess and Dave Bennink’s pioneering a new green deconstruction industry—are well chronicled on these pages. Or read about the exciting and potentially life-saving research being conducted at the university’s Behavioral Neuroscience Program.

More and more people are convinced of Western’s academic quality, buoyed as it is by our unswerving dedication to undergraduate education. It is readily apparent to me that Western offers the best public undergraduate education in the Pacific Northwest and among the best of both private and public colleges throughout the entire West. Our aim is to be even better, to stand out among public master’s-granting universities throughout the entire nation. How do we get there?

To get feedback on that and related questions, Western has begun an effort titled “100 Community Conversations.” The initiative, funded through the generosity of Jack and Jo Ann Bowman, is a way to engage alumni, parents, civic and business leaders, philanthropists and community members in talking about the future of WWU. Conversations will be held across Washington and in select out-of-state locations.

Why is this important to do now? Our world is changing. The global economy, climate change, increasing diversity of our cultures, technological innovation and advances are transforming the world around us. Western, like all higher education institutions, will have to transform to meet the needs of the state and the communities of people who make up the “public” in public education.

As a university community we are working very hard to discuss and comprehend the forces at work in our society and in higher education. With that knowledge we can even better lead Western to become the premier university of its kind in the nation. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me on this and other issues related to Western at my e-mail address, President@wwu.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Bruce Shepard
President Bruce Shepard
Get Ready
WWU threw open its doors to fifth-graders to encourage them to plan for college ........... Inside Cover

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On the cover: Bill Wright ('60) can still sink a putt like a champion. He's seen here at Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club in Blaine. Photo by Andy Bronson.
WWU SCIENTISTS’ NEW GOO CLEANS UP

It may look like black, brittle, freeze-dried ice cream, but a new material developed with the help of WWU researchers is a pollution-cleaning workhorse.

The lightweight, porous material called cobalt-molybdenum-sulfur chalcogel, seen here in this electron micrograph, can pull sulfur out of crude oil two times better than the catalyst thought to be the best available, according to research by scientists at WWU and Northwestern University published this spring in the scientific journal Nature Chemistry.

WWU graduate student Amy F. Gaudette (’07 and ’09) tested the new chalcogel to see how well it removes sulfur from crude oil. Finding better ways to get sulfur out of petroleum-based fuel is an important step in utilizing fuels such as gasoline more efficiently while producing fewer harmful emissions. Gaudette’s adviser, Chemistry Professor Mark Bussell, studies hydrodesulferization, the chemical process refineries use to remove sulfur from petroleum products.

The cobalt-molybdenum-sulfur chalcogel is also better than any other known material at removing mercury from polluted water, thanks in part to its very high surface area. One cubic centimeter of the stuff has a surface area of 10,000 square feet, about half the size of a football field, providing lots of space for the polluting molecules to stick to.

Supporting the NEXT GENERATION of Science and Math Teachers

A new $900,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will help WWU address the shortage of highly qualified math and science teachers in Washington state.

“We hope to attract the best possible people out there into becoming science and mathematics teachers by offering to help support their education – whether they are incoming students or professionals still working in their areas of expertise,” says George “Pinky” Nelson, director of WWU’s Science, Mathematics and Technology Education program and co-director of the grant.

The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program will provide 61 $10,000 scholarships to both undergraduates and professionals in science, technology, engineering and mathematics who want to become teachers. After graduation, scholarship recipients must commit to teaching math and science in a high-need school district for two years for each year they received the scholarship.

“Someone who has always wanted to teach and bring their science or mathematics knowledge, expertise and experience into the classroom would be a perfect fit for one of these scholarships,” says Bruce Larson, WWU professor of Secondary Education and the administrator for the grant.

In addition to scholarships, the grant gives freshmen and sophomores who are considering a career in math or science education a chance to work with summer school students in Whatcom County’s rural Mount Baker or Meridian school districts.

Why Western? The answer could score $2,000

Call it a next-generation scholarship essay.

WWU’s Office of Admissions is sponsoring a YouTube video contest offering three Western scholarships to the incoming freshmen whose video best answers the question, “Why Western?”

The three-minute video is a chance for prospective freshmen to showcase their creativity and tell their stories about what has attracted them to WWU, and why Western is the best place for them to learn and grow, says Kayle Walls (‘09), WWU admissions counselor.

The contest for scholarships ranging from $500 to $2,000 also reaches students where they are, Walls says. Many teens use social networking sites not only to connect with friends, but also as a vital source of information about the world, he says.

“By creating videos and sharing them with their friends, they are sharing excitement and information about Western virally with each other,” he says, “instead of hearing it from our office.”

Entries must be received by Jan. 31, 2010, and will be judged on their creativity, relevance to WWU and students’ abilities to express themselves.

They’ll also be judged on YouTube hits. See the entries roll in at www.youtube.com/whywestern. And learn more about the contest at admissions.wwu.edu/whywestern.
Western’s new provost is Catherine Riordan

Catherine A. Riordan became Western’s provost and vice president for Academic Affairs this fall.

As WWU’s new chief academic officer, Riordan oversees Western’s academic operations, including colleges, libraries, academic support services and graduate and undergraduate programs.

Over the course of her career Riordan has received awards for distinguished teaching, advising, research and service. She also was a Missouri Youth Initiative Kellogg Fellow and a visiting scholar at University College Dublin in Ireland.

Riordan came to Western from Central Michigan University, where she served as vice provost for Academic Affairs, responsible for strategic planning at the 27,000-student university.

She was also in charge of undergraduate curricula, academic program planning, assessment of student learning outcomes, faculty and department chair development, the honors and first year student programs, regional and specialized accreditation and a Department of Education grant to support academic decision making.

Riordan, who holds a doctorate in social psychology from the State University of New York at Albany, succeeds Dennis Murphy, who served as provost for two years following a distinguished career as dean of WWU’s College of Business and Economics.

Students Help a Guatemalan Village Tackle Water Pollution

A tiny Mayan community in Guatemala is working with students from WWU’s Engineers Without Borders club to build a place for residents to do their laundry without polluting the drinking water.

After traveling to Candelaria Camposanto last June to sample the water, scout out locations and talk to residents about what they need, students will spend this school year designing the laundry station and raising the $25,000 it will take to build it, says Miranda Savory, president of the club and a senior from Bothell.

Now, residents are washing their clothes in a spring that runs into a nearby river, Savory says. And the Guatemalan government has ordered the community to stop polluting the water or risk losing their land, she added.

The washing station will be a covered area with several wash basins and a filtering system to remove pollutants from the water that goes down the drain, Savory says.

“What’s really important about the project is it’s sustainable within their own community,” she says. “Anything we’re going to build there has to be locally bought so they’ll know how to fix it and they’ll know how to replace it.”

To learn more about the Guatemala Sustainability Project, contact Savory at ewb.wwu@gmail.com.

WWU students help design new Kitsap ferry

Ferry commuters on the Seattle-Bremerton run may have a new boat this spring, designed in part by WWU students.

WWU Engineering Technology students collaborated with All American Marine in Bellingham to help design a lightweight hydrofoil for a Kitsap Transit ferry now in production.

The hydrofoil is a T-shaped wing mounted to the hull of the ferry, producing lift and raising the boat’s hull to reduce drag and increase speed.

“Our goal is to cut the weight of the hydrofoil in half by using new composite materials that are lighter and stiffer than aluminum or stainless steel, which will increase efficiency and decrease fuel costs,” says Assistant Professor of Engineering Technology Nicole Larson, who leads the student team.

The students finished the project this summer with the help of a $25,000 grant from All American Marine and a $100,000 grant from Pacific International Engineering.

“This is the kind of research that our students take with them from the classroom into their careers,” said Larson. “It’s invaluable in that way, so we’ll keep pushing to do more collaborative work like this in the future.”

WWU NEWS

www.wwu.edu/window
You'd think a clown on a unicycle would be hard to miss. But not, apparently, while you’re chatting on a cell phone.

People talking on their cell phones are more than twice as oblivious as those not on their phones, according to a recent study conducted by Western Washington University Psychology Professor Ira Hyman.

In his research, Hyman documented real-world examples of people who were so distracted by their cell phones that they failed to see the bizarre occurrence of a unicycling clown passing them as they walked through Red Square. The study is published in an upcoming issue of the journal "Applied Cognitive Psychology."

“Just think of what this means when put into the context of driving safety,” Hyman says. "People should not drive while talking on a cell phone."

In Hyman’s study, just 25 percent of people talking on their cell phones saw the unicycling clown in his yellow and purple clown suit, red nose and floppy feet. However, more than half of people walking alone saw him, as did people listening to portable music players or walking in pairs.

“Cell phone use causes people to be oblivious to their surroundings while engaged in even a simple task such as walking,” Hyman says. “Cell phone users walk more slowly, change directions and weave more often and fail to notice interesting and novel objects. The effect appears to be caused by the distraction of a cell phone conversation, because people walking in pairs did not display the same range of problems.”

Another finding of the study, Hyman says, is that a person’s familiarity with the environment does not eliminate the effects of cell phone use on navigation.

WWU students get a boost and a ‘Thanks!’ from Shuksan Middle School

WWU student volunteers at Bellingham’s Shuksan Middle School help kids with everything from college-prep academics to community service projects.

And don’t think Shuksan hasn’t noticed. "The effort they’ve put in down here has been huge for our kids. I wouldn’t trade it for anything,” says Andrew Mark, Shuksan’s principal. “They’ve made a significant difference in the lives of our underserved students.”

Which is why Mark and other Shuksan administrators this year honored the WWU students with the school’s Volunteer of the Year award.

The students, who come to Shuksan through Woodring College of Education’s Service Learning Office, help out through three different programs.

Youth 4 R.E.A.L. (Relationship, Exploration, Action and Leadership) has WWU students mentor Shuksan kids as they explore their own interests through community service projects they design themselves. One group, for example, chose to build a Web site to educate their peers about the risks of joining a gang.

ALTO (A Latino Team Organization), started at the request of a handful of Shuksan kids, has members of WWU’s M.E.Ch.A. student club come to Shuksan to mentor about 30 kids and plan activities exploring their cultural heritage.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a program for middle-level students whose parents didn’t attend college. WWU students tutor Shuksan students to help them pass their academically challenging classes and prepare for college.

Both Western and Shuksan students benefit from the efforts at the school, says WWU student Jamie Daniels.

“Western students need to see how upbeat and energetic middle school students are, and need a reminder that there is more to life than the paycheck and the grade,” Daniels says. "Shuksan students need to see positive role models that have gone through difficult times and yet succeeded in school and life.”
A book-loving kid could get lost in WWU English Professor Nancy Johnson’s office.

Johnson, a children’s literature expert at WWU and director of the annual Children’s Literature Conference, works in a room lined floor-to-ceiling with enough children’s books to start her own library.

A grown-up book-loving kid herself, Johnson was a 2003 Newbery Medal judge and reviews children’s books for The Journal of Children’s Literature.

We gave her the impossible task of picking just five favorites. She snuck in two extras.

“All the Broken Pieces,” by Ann E. Burg. This novel written in free verse captures the heartache and secrets of Matt Pin, who was airlifted from war-torn Vietnam and adopted into a caring home. It offers an unforgettable perspective on the resilience of war and choices of blame and forgiveness. (Scholastic). Bonus tip: pair with Katherine Applegate’s “Home of the Brave.”


“Duck! Rabbit!” by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld. At first glance, this is a simple story about two animals yet repeated reading reveals a clever take on an optical illusion: Is it a duck or is it a rabbit? (Chronicle)

“The Hunger Games,” by Suzanne Collins. This provocative story for mature readers set in a postapocalyptic world evokes the question: What happens if we choose entertainment over humanity? (Scholastic) Bonus tip: read the sequel, “Catching Fire.”

“The Invention of Hugo Cabret,” by Brian Selznick. Set in Paris in the 1930’s, “Hugo Cabret” artfully blends narrative, illustration and cinematic technique to tell the story of a thief, a broken machine, a strange girl, a mean old man, and the secrets that tie them all together. A 2008 Caldecott Medal Winner. (Scholastic)
Teaching the value of a DOLLAR

WWU, a leader in Economics Education, helps teachers prevent the next financial meltdown.

By Mary Lane Gallagher

As director of economics education at Western, Pam Whalley knows new teachers graduating from WWU will need a strong knowledge of economic principles to teach those concepts to kids. To really make the lessons stick, they may need some chocolate chip cookies, too.

"And I strongly recommend you include some health-food cookies," she tells her students in Economics 446, Economics for the Teacher.

"My goal is to make sure our teachers have the background and the training when they leave Western to make economics come to life in the classroom," Whalley says.

Whalley, the director of WWU's Center for Economics Education, is one of the state's top experts in the subject. In addition to courses for pre-service teachers, Whalley also leads workshops around the state for teachers already in the classroom. And she is president of the Washington Council on Economics Education, housed at WWU's College of Business and Economics.

The cookies Whalley passes out in little baggies in Economics for the Teacher will help illustrate a simple method to get kids to develop the most important skill they need to navigate our increasingly complex economy: decision-making.

From high school dropouts and teen-age pregnancies to credit card debt and catastrophic mortgages, evidence abounds that people of all ages make bad economic decisions.

"But when was the last time someone sat you down and taught you how to make a good decision?" she asks the class.

So Whalley has the students decide which of four chocolate chip cookies is the best using a simple method that can also clarify more complicated choices, such as colleges, health plans, jobs and mortgages.

"The reality is, resources are scarce, so people have to make choices," Whalley says. "We want students to see that decisions have consequences. When we make a choice, we're giving up something."

If more people knew this, Whalley believes, perhaps we could have avoided the financial meltdown of the past two years.

"I think at its core is a failure of financial literacy," she says. "No one held guns to people's heads and said, 'You will take out these loans.' While there were fraudulent practices, we don't educate our populace about being wary of fraud."

While economics is included in the state learning requirements for social studies, it doesn't get much attention compared with literacy, math, science and other subjects on state-required tests.

"I'll have teachers tell me, 'I'll do this, but don't tell my principal,'" Whalley says. "It's like an underground movement."

In 2008, more than 600 teachers took one of Whalley's workshops, which are filled with ideas for all kinds of teachers to incorporate economics into their lesson plans.

Of course math teachers can use economics to bring a new relevancy to their classes, Whalley says, but so can English and history teachers.

"Think about all the stories that hinge on choices," she says. "And to really understand history, you have to understand the economic forces behind it. They can relate it to the real world."

So far, teachers from about 90 different classes have taken Whalley's courses through the center, and almost all say they use at least something from the workshops.

"My favorite is the French teacher," she says. "I had to ask. She teaches it on the 'dead' days: two days before Thanksgiving, homecoming week and before any break."

Whalley knows why that teacher makes the effort.

"There are fewer and fewer things that children have control over as they grow up these days," she says. "But if you give them control over their finances, they have control over their lives."
Even English Teachers: Pam Whalley, director of WWU's Center for Economics Education, teaches economics courses to hundreds of teachers each year.

“I'll have teachers tell me, 'I'll do this, but don't tell my principal.' It's like an underground movement.”

SEN. MURRAY PROMOTES FINANCIAL ED FUNDS

Sen. Patty Murray recently sponsored a bill that would provide funding to develop financial education models in both kindergarten through 12th grade and at the collegiate level.

The bill would provide $500,000 grants for public-private partnerships to develop new financial literacy projects. WWU's center already partners with several private sector groups, including U.S. Bank which funds scholarships for minority teachers to attend the workshops.

SYLLABUS: ECONOMICS FOR THE TEACHER

Economics 446 gives students a grounding in the moving parts of a market economy while providing them the tools to illustrate those concepts to students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Week 1:
Introduction: The state's Essential Academic Learning Requirements for economics, an introduction to the Council for Economic Education.

Week 2:
Investments, Decision Making and Opportunity Costs: Exercises include "What is a stock?" and figuring the cost of a college education. An introduction to economics education materials available on the Web.

Week 3:
Junior Achievement Training: All students must prepare and present a lesson in a K-12 classroom.

Week 4:
Opportunity Cost, the Production Possibility Frontier and Economic Systems: Exercises will include "Economies in Transition" and "The Bead Game."

Weeks 5 and 6:
Demand and Supply: Demand and supply curves, and reasons for changes in demand and supply.

Week 7:

Week 8:
Elasticity: Elasticity of demand and changes in revenue.

Week 9:
Government Intervention in Markets: Price ceilings and price floors.

Week 10:
Production and Costs, Competition and Monopoly: "Creative Toy Production" exercise.

Week 11:
International Trade and Externalities: Why people trade domestically and internationally.

www.wwu.edu/window
No one could beat Bill Wright ('60) and his putter the day he won the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship at Wellshire Golf Course in Denver 50 years ago.

After squeaking into the match-play portion of the tournament as the 63rd out of 64 qualifying players from public courses around the country, Wright began a puttering streak that would send him into the history books.

In 1959, no African-American golfer had ever won a United States Golf Association Championship title. But the growing crowd of spectators watching Wright birdie seven out of the first nine holes, round after round, sensed that this 23-year-old education major from Western was about to change that.

At one point, the noise from the crowd bothered Wright. He walked to the gallery after his semi-final opponent, a senior from Louisiana State University, was distracted during a critical shot.

"Some of you folks bothered him on that shot," Wright said, according to a USGA report at the time. "It was very unfair. Please give him a better break so he can play his regular game."

The son of two golf fanatics, Wright had been raised in Seattle to love the game in spite of the stubborn racism that remained in the sport's culture.

But Wright wasn't thinking about breaking down barriers when he sank that last birdie putt on the final 18th hole, defeating a former professional golfer from Florida to win the USGA championship for public golf course players. He was simply amazed at his own accomplishment and celebrated with a Singapore Sling delivered to him right there on the green by a clubhouse waitress who knew his favorite drink.

"I wasn't thinking about anything, but I just got through winning," he remembers.

Which may explain his reaction to a phone call from a reporter back home in Seattle. How did it feel, the reporter wanted to know, to be the first black man to win a USGA title?

"I slammed the phone down."

It was a momentary anger. Wright was the day's best golfer, but the first thing he was asked to talk about was not his skill, but the color of his skin.
But he soon composed himself. When the reporter called back, he was ready for the conversation.

"As time went on, I realized it was bigger and bigger," Wright says of the significance of his victory 50 years ago. "I knew how big it was."

Growing up in Seattle, Wright had been raised on golf. His parents were good friends with Charlie Sifford, the first African-American PGA golfer, who stayed at the Wrights' home while traveling. The Wrights played at Jefferson Park near their home and at other public courses around Seattle.

"It doesn't rain on the golf course," Bob Wright used to joke with his son. "You have to play in the rain around here."

Bob Wright, an accomplished golfer in his own right, made it to the Public Links championship four years after his son won it. But he struggled for years to become a member of one of the segregated, private golf clubs associated with Seattle's public courses; golfers needed to belong to such a club to establish a handicap needed to enter tournaments.

So Bob Wright knew the power of "you can't" when he took his son to watch a champion junior golfer at Jefferson Park one day.

"My dad said, 'Don't worry about it, you can't beat him anyway,'" Wright remembers. "I said, 'Just for that, within a year, I'm going to beat him.'"

Less than a year later, the younger Wright entered the city's junior championship tournament, shooting a 68. The next day, tournament officials sent him home, saying he couldn't continue because he didn't have a handicap.

"So I was pushed out of that," Wright says. "But still told my dad, 'I beat him.'"

But it was basketball that brought Bill Wright to Western. He had led his Franklin High School team to the state championships and caught the attention of Western basketball coach Bill McDonald, who recruited Wright to come to Bellingham.

The teenage Wright had actually dreamed of playing for the University of Washington, but the basketball coach there, Tippy Dye, wasn't interested in putting the first black player on his team, Wright remembers. So he came up to Western to play under coach Jack Hubbard and became a standout on the WWU team. He caught the attention of a sports reporter at the Bellingham Herald, who often wrote about Wright's basketball talent.

"And at the end (of the story) he would put, 'Wait until spring,' for golf season, Wright says.

Bill Wright made it to the USGA's Public Links championship in 1959, during his senior year at Western. Seattle's golf clubs were still segregated, so the future champion had to join a golf club in Portland,
Ore., to establish a handicap to get into the tournament.

It's hard for anyone born less than 40 years ago to understand the level of racism in sports during that era. Many colleges refused to field their athletes if there were any black players on the opposing team. Even Don Essig, the player from Louisiana State on whose behalf Wright asked the crowd to quiet down, had to call his university's officials for permission to play against Wright. It wasn't personal, Wright says, just something Essig had to do.

"That part of golf really doesn't exist that much anymore," Wright says 50 years later. He's standing at a podium at Semiahmoo Resort, speaking to a banquet room packed with top collegiate golfers the night before the NCAA Division II national tournament, hosted by WWU in spring 2009. Invited as a special guest, Wright had just received an official proclamation from USGA President Jim Vernon, recognizing his accomplishments.

Wright doesn't like to dwell on the roadblocks he experienced because of racism in the past. Most people know the history, he says, or they don't want to. But there's one story he does make sure to tell the nation's best Division II men's golfers on the eve of the national championship.

A year after winning the PubLinks championship, Wright brought home WWU's first national title in any sport when he won the NAIA men's golf championship, also the first African-American to do so.

Winning the PubLinks title in 1959 earned Wright an automatic spot in that year's U.S. Amateur championships. But his fellow PubLinks qualifiers didn't want to travel or play with him he says. Wright was practicing on the putting green alone when golfing legend Chick Evans walked up. Evans, the first player to win the U.S. Amateur and the U.S. Open the same year, was known not only for his skill on the fairway, but his sense of sportsmanship.

Evans told Wright he was looking for a player to round out a foursome.

"I understand why you're not playing," Evans told Wright. "Don't say anything more. I want you to go into the clubhouse and sit next to me."

So Wright joined Evans to play with a young up-and-comer named Jack Nicklaus, who won the U.S. Amateur that year, and Deane Beman, who won it the following year. Afterward, Wright sat next to Evans — at the head table.

"He had to be close to 80 years old," Wright remembers of Evans. "He understood the problem."

"Anytime a youngster tries me, I'm ready to play," he says.

Today, many of Wright's golf students are kids, hoping to get on the golf team. He'll often teach them for free. Though Tiger Woods has certainly smashed through most of the remaining racial barriers in golf, it's still difficult for anyone but the very wealthy to become accomplished in a sport that can cost $50 in green fees each time you play.

But it's a game he still loves.

"When you play golf, it makes you concentrate," he says. "You're not hitting anybody, you're not hurting anybody. You're not talking to anybody, except maybe to God. "You learn etiquette," he says. "You learn to be honest."
Jon Bale explains that the clear liquid he’s carefully dripping into a glass test tube in the laboratory contains neurotransmitters, the chemicals that allow brain cells to communicate with each other.

Working on a research project studying brain neurochemistry with Associate Professor of Psychology Janet Finlay, Bale is getting important research experience for a student who aspires to become a neurologist.

But Bale knows the real beneficiary of his long hours in the lab are people with schizophrenia, like those he once met while accompanying a doctor treating psychiatric patients.

Those troubled by hallucinations could find relief with medication, Bale saw. But medicine didn’t seem to alleviate other symptoms like extreme emotional detachment or disorientation; even though, as he says, they can be just as debilitating.

Finlay is most interested in these so-called “cognitive” symptoms of the disease, which also include loss of short-term memory and attention deficits, all of which can make it impossible for people to live on their own. And those are the symptoms she’s targeting with her research.

“In this lab, we’re working on (research) that can go on to help people,” Bale says. “It’s a very real experience for me.”

Finlay, Bale and other student researchers are studying the anatomy of the prefrontal cortex, the part of the brain that governs high-level reasoning and helps us navigate social interactions. They’re studying structural abnormalities in the prefrontal cortex and their link to the symptoms of schizophrenia.

Dozens of WWU students like Bale are working alongside faculty researchers in WWU’s four-year-old Behavioral...
Neuroscience program, an interdisciplinary effort of the Psychology and Biology departments.

While neuroscience programs are common at large research-oriented universities, it's rare to find a program like this at a university like Western, where undergraduate education is the focus, says Finlay, the program's director.

"I have worked with more undergraduates in the lab in one quarter at Western than I did in 10 years at the University of Pittsburgh," Finlay says. At large universities such as the University of Pittsburgh, she says, the emphasis is generally on training graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

At WWU, each faculty member in the Behavioral Neuroscience program is conducting research with the help of up to 10 undergraduate research assistants. That means students leave WWU better prepared for doctoral programs, medical school and jobs in the biomedical research field, she says.

Finlay says the goal of the program is to train undergraduates in the "four cornerstones" of brain science: physiology, chemistry, behavioral analysis and anatomy. Faculty research areas range from schizophrenia and brain injury to memory and addiction.

She's proud of the faculty who've come to the program. Many have impressive research experience: Assistant Professor Jackie Rose, for example, published an article this year in the prestigious neuroscience journal Neuron.

Other faculty members include Professor Roger Anderson, associate professors Mike Mana and Jeff Grimm, and assistant professors Jose Serrano-Moreno, Heather Van Epps and Kelly Jantzen.

"I just can't believe the faculty we've been able to bring together," Finlay says.

Behavioral Neuroscience got an important boost from the state Legislature in 2007, when they provided some enhanced funding for the program partly to promote the state's biomedical research industry.

All the students "felt like they had discovered the area themselves."

And just as importantly, Finlay says, students got excited about studying brains, too, drawn to a field that combines biology, chemistry and psychology. The program started small and remains selective, with 17 students now working toward a Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Neuroscience.

All the students "felt like they had discovered the area themselves," Finlay says.

Take John Harkness ('09), who calls himself "an ultimate success story for General University Requirements." Harkness was interested in business, or perhaps philosophy, when he took a Psychology 101 class for a GUR. He found his home.

Fascinated with the possibility of studying both human behavior and the biology and chemistry of the brain, Harkness applied to become one of the first Behavioral Neuroscience majors...
soon after the program began in 2005.

He asked Grimm for advice on getting involved in research, and Grimm suggested Harkness stop by his lab to see for himself. Harkness soon worked with Grimm to explore the brain science behind sugar cravings, co-authoring a paper with Grimm and presenting research at several conferences. Harkness also co-founded a student club, Neuroscience Research Driven Students, or NeRDS.

Now a doctoral student in neuroscience at Oregon Health Sciences University, Harkness returned to WWU this fall to present his research at the annual Pacific Northwest Chapters meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, held at Western for the first time this year.

Finlay was delighted that colleagues from both the Seattle and Vancouver/Victoria regions selected WWU as the place to gather.

"It's one more indication Western is on the map as far as neuroscience goes," she says. "I think people will be surprised at what we've become."

A promising young neuroscientist at the University of Pittsburgh in 1992, Finlay received a research grant from the National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia and Depression. The grant often speak to community groups such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, while members of the student club, NeRDS, often visit K-12 classrooms to talk about brain science.

And students and faculty meet informally each month at a restaurant in downtown Bellingham for freewheeling discussions about topics ranging from memory to brain injury.

These "Neuroscience on Tap: Bring Your Own Brain" (sometimes known by the acronym, BYOB) events typically draw dozens of people armed with questions. "How can people improve their memories?" one asked Assistant Professor Jackie Rose, who recently led a discussion about memory and the brain. Get enough sleep and exercise, she responded over the din of the crowded bar.

Other topics in the Bring Your Own Brain series have included brain injury, addictions and mental illness. Faculty members leading the discussions have learned they don't need to give long presentations to fill the time.

"There always seem to be enough questions," Finlay says.

**Mentoring scientists:** Above, Associate Professor Janet Finlay inspects her students' work in her lab. Middle, senior Paul Pittman, right, and junior Olivia Konicek use microscopes to study previous classwork in a lab run by Jackie Rose, an assistant professor of Psychology.

**Young researcher:** Below, senior Mitchell Wold hopes his research with Finlay will help lead to new treatments for schizophrenia.

**Profound connections keep it real**

As of 2023, Associate Professor Janet Finlay has won lots of research grants in her nearly two decades of studying the brain. But only one of those grants changed her life.

At the University of Pittsburgh in 1992, Finlay received a research grant from the National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia and Depression. The grant required her to travel to Chicago to meet the people who funded it: four families who had lost children to schizophrenia.

As the families told Finlay their stories, she realized that for the first time, her research had a face - four faces, really. The four families hoped their stories would inspire young scientists to look for new ways to treat schizophrenia.

"From that point forward, I was committed," she says. "I couldn't possibly not devote the rest of my career to studying this mental illness."

Those are the kinds of galvanizing moments Finlay hopes students have in WWU's Behavioral Neuroscience program, so community outreach is a big part of the department's activities. Faculty members often speak to community groups such as the National Alliance on Mental Illness, while members of the student club, NeRDS, often visit K-12 classrooms to talk about brain science.

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"There always seem to be enough questions," Finlay says.
WWU Seniors Give Back

For the second consecutive year, graduating seniors were given the chance to celebrate their graduation with a gift to Western in honor of their favorite professor, staff person or coach. During the 08-09 Senior Giving Campaign, 87 students made gifts totaling $1,785 to enrich departments and programs on campus. The ‘thank you’ that came along with those donations is an added benefit for those who play such an important role in the lives of students.

To make a gift in honor of your favorite professor, contact Caitlin Holman in the Western Washington University Foundation at 360.650.3274 or email Caitlin.Holman@wwu.edu.

For information about the Graduation Celebration fair and volunteer opportunities, contact Jeniene Bengtsson in the Alumni Office at 800.676.6885 or email alumni@wwu.edu.

Western Employees who were honored:

- Warren Aller, Ed Leadership-Ed Administration
- Kristin Anderson, Sociology
- Susan Anderson, Career Services Center
- Chappelle Arnett, PEHR
- Ridisha Biswas, Political Science
- Rich Brown, Theatre Arts
- David Brunner, disAbility Resources
- Sandra Daffron, Ed Leadership-CCE/SAA
- Rieko Darling, Communication Sciences & Disorders
- James Dean, Economics
- Mary Lynne Derrington, Ed Leadership-Ed Administration
- Jennifer Deavenport, Psychology
- Peter Diehl, History
- Dawn Dietrich, English
- Steven Dillman, Engineering Technology
- Deb Donovan, Biology
- Craig Dunn, Management
- Pat Fabiano, Ed Leadership-CCE/SAA
- David Fewsings, Finance & Marketing
- Petra Fiero, Modern & Classical Languages
- Jeanne Freeman, PEHR
- Kristen French, Elementary Education
- Hugo Garcia, Modern & Classical Languages
- David Gilbertson, Accounting
- Bliss Goldstein, English
- Stan Goto, Ed Leadership-CCE/SAA
- Lee Gulyas, English
- Shaw Gynan, Modern & Classical Languages
- Joyce Hammond, Anthropology
- Todd Haskell, Psychology
- Peter Haug, Decision Sciences
- Jennifer Hays, Communication
- Julie Helling, Fairhaven
- Marty Hitchcock, Accounting
- Charles Hoffman, Political Science
- Caitlin Holman, WWU Foundation
- Peter Homann, Environmental Sciences
- Stephen Howie, Journalism
- Hud Hudson, Philosophy
- Zite Hutton, Accounting
- Ira Hyman, Psychology
- James Inverarity, Sociology
- Nancy Iwakawa, Modern & Classical Languages
- Mitchell Jancic, Elementary Education
- McNeel Jantz, Psychology
- Diane Johnson, Modern & Classical Languages
- Nancy Johnson, English
- Vernon Johnson, Political Science
- Jack Keith, Journalism
- John Korsho, Human Services & Rehabilitation
- George Kriz, Chemistry
- Donald Larsen, Ed Leadership-Ed Administration
- Bill Lay, Special Education
- Kristi Lemm, Psychology
- Max Lewis, Psychology
- Ying Li, PEHR
- Billie Lindsey, PEHR
- Morgan Livingston, Human Services & Rehabilitation
- James Lortz, Theatre
- Kristin Mahoney, English
- Mike Mana, Psychology
- Charles Maxwell, Finance & Marketing
- Lee McClain, Decision Sciences
- Kris McCuddy, Ed Leadership-Ed Administration
- Scott Miles, Environmental Studies
- Karen Morse, President Emeritus
- Sean Murphy, Liberal Studies
- Jeff Newcomer, Engineering Technology
- Carolyn Nielsen, Journalism
- Kathleen Nuzum, Psychology
- Maria Paredes-Mendez, Modern & Classical Languages
- Cornelfor Paulson, Modern & Classical Languages
- Scott Pearce, Liberal Studies
- Seiko Poudou, Art
- Daniel Pueh, CBE
- Deena Rathkamp, Counseling Center
- John Rybczynski, Environmental Sciences
- Yolanda Sanchez-Lovato, Human Services - Bremerton
- George Sanders, Accounting
- Kathleen Saunders, Anthropology
- David Shull, Environmental Sciences
- Ron Singleton, Accounting
- Ruth Sofield, Environmental Sciences
- Robert Stoops, Liberal Studies
- Paul Storer, Economics
- Audrey Taylor, Accounting
- Lucky Tedrow, Sociology
- Glenn Tsunokai, Sociology
- John Underwood, Modern & Classical Languages
- Michael Vendola, Student Activities
- James Vysyan, Chemistry
- Wendy Walker, Environmental Studies
- Rudi Weiss, Modern & Classical Languages
- Kathleen Young, Anthropology
- Eyad Youssef, Finance & Marketing
- Alumni Association Staff
- CBE Faculty and Staff
- MTS Department Faculty and Staff

WWU graduate Rachel Mesko ('09) with Economics professor Paul Storer. Rachel made a gift to Western in honor of Dr. Storer because he was the best teacher she ever had and made economics simple. "As a recent graduate in a tough job market, I couldn't donate a lot," she says. "But Professor Storer was hugely influential in my success at Western and it was very important for me to recognize him, no matter the amount."

Honor Roll of Donors
July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009

- Anonymous
- Steven Abbott, Jr.
- Angela Adkins
- Sarah Anderson
- April Baetz
- Melissa Baldwin
- Thomas Ball
- Rachel Bell-Randall
- Christina Berger
- Bradley Berget
- Charles Blair II
- Catherine Bollinger
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- Megan Byram
- Christina Chacharon
- Jaymie Chamberlin-Johnston
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- Jessie Deardorff
- Arbour Decker
- Naomia Diaz
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Kris McDuffy
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Lee McClain
Kris McCuddy
Robert Stoops
Kathleen Nuzum
Stacia Fierro
Emma Humphreys
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Marc Runyard
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Megan Shea
Cassandra Shelley-Main
Jillian Smith
Montaine Sorenson
Campbell Thibo
Justin Thompson
Sharon Traykov
Aaron Vallot
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- Cornelfor Paulson, Modern & Classical Languages
- Scott Pearce, Liberal Studies
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Professor Ralph Vernacchia has made a career of encouraging athletes and helping them reach their peak physical performance, but forgive him if he becomes a complete couch potato for two weeks in February.

Because when the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C., are on television, Vernacchia says, he'll be an "Olympic zombie." For a scholar of sport psychology, watching the Olympics is like field research and he'll try to soak in as much as he can get, he says, watching the well-trained minds of the world's best skiers, skaters, lugers and hockey players at work.

"I've had a love affair with sport my whole life," he says.

As director of Western's Center for Performance Excellence, a 40-year scholar of sport psychology and a former WWU track and field coach, Vernacchia has helped anyone from struggling college players to Olympians find the mental toughness to achieve their physical goals.

When race walker Allen James ('87) thinks of Vernacchia, he remembers what his WWU track coach said about the competition: race walkers training in the relative luxury of an indoor track during brutal winters of the northern Midwest.

"Oak trees don't grow in a greenhouse," Vernacchia told him.

"That's something that's stuck with me the longest," says James. "You've got to go out there and make the effort. It doesn't matter what it's like outside. It doesn't matter what the competition is like. If you think, 'I'm cooked before I..."
even start,' how do you succeed, when you're already defeated?"

James, along with WWU teammate Herm Nelson ('87), went on to compete in the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games in race walking.

But Vernacchia won't share credit for the accomplishments of great athletes he's known along the way. He may have helped, he says, but the athletes themselves did all the work. Asked for a favorite moment in coaching, he remembers a young man who wasn't a star, just happy to contribute.

"Ralph," the student said after Western won the district cross country championship, "This was the happiest day of my life. That's one thing I'll never forget."

For a decade, Vernacchia worked with the nation's top track and field athletes, first with the junior team and then the senior team, traveling with the U.S. Track and Field teams to international competitions in Bulgaria, Scotland, Greece and Spain.

In 2000, he was one of two sport psychology professionals to travel with the team to the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

"It was very humbling to be able to live my dream," Vernacchia says.

Vernacchia has been fascinated by the mental aspects of sports since his high school days as a track and field athlete. A miler, one of his early heroes is Roger Bannister, whose smashing of the four-minute mile was as much of a mental accomplishment as physical, Vernacchia says.

Before Bannister's mile, Vernacchia says, many people just didn't believe humans could run a mile in less than four minutes, that perhaps the lungs would explode. But as Bannister later wrote, believing he could do it gave him that extra physical edge he needed.

But sport psychology was still in its infancy in the '70s, when Vernacchia was pursuing a doctorate on the mental aspects of athletic activity. Most of Vernacchia's coaching colleagues seemed to believe they'd get the best out of athletes through a "survival-of-the-fittest" approach, but Vernacchia remained convinced that coaches needed to strengthen athletes' minds as well as their bodies.

"To me, every person is gifted," he says. "My role as a professor or a parent or a coach is to help you discover that gift, your specific talent."

The power of belief is the thing that keeps Vernacchia intrigued these days. For years he's told athletes how important it is to develop and believe in their own dreams and goals, to visualize them and prepare to achieve them. But he's also thinking about the power of others' beliefs.

"We can all look to a mentor or someone who believed in us when we didn't even know we had talent," he says. "People underrate that, the power of belief."

And James, who continues to race walk and coach younger athletes near his home in the Buffalo, N.Y., area, still puts his old coach's advice to good use. Even during the most brutal of New York winters, he refuses to work out indoors.

"Oak trees," he says, "don't grow in a greenhouse."
Deconstruction workers: Top, Dave Bennink, in orange, helps strap the building's roof trusses to lift them off the old gymnasium. Middle, Bennink maneuvers a forklift to carry away sections of the roof structure. Bottom, a close-up look at the old timber beams the crew is salvaging.
Sitting in the driver’s seat of a rumbling blue forklift, Dave Bennink uses the tongs to carefully remove parts of a decaying roof, piece-by-piece revealing the massive rough-hewn timber trusses that have sheltered this school gymnasium on Vashon Island for 90 years.

Bennink, a 1994 Huxley graduate, wonders how the 1919 builders got these gigantic beams 20 feet off the ground as he straps them to the forklift for support before lowering them to the ground. The longest beam is 50 feet.

“It’s like a tree suspended over two walls,” he says. “For all intents and purposes, it’s a squared-off tree without bark.”

Bennink’s job is to dismantle the gymnasium carefully enough to preserve those beams – and almost everything else in the historical building – for either reuse or recycling. He also must do it quickly enough to show that preserving a building’s parts can be as cost effective as tearing it down and hauling it to the dump.

“Our goal is to make building deconstruction a mainstream choice for building removal,” says Bennink, who has deconstructed about 500 buildings in 34 states and consulted on thousands of others.

“He has a hunger for dismantling buildings,” says John Majercak, chairperson of Building Materials Reuse Association. “There’s an intensity about him related to wanting to take down buildings efficiently.”

The association just named Bennink its National Deconstructor of the Year not only for his skills on the job, but his advocacy for the industry.

“A lot of people aren’t even thinking about deconstruction and don’t know what it is,” Majercak says. “You have to be able to sell the idea of deconstruction at the same time you’re selling your deconstruction services.”

Bennink was still studying water quality at Huxley when he needed an internship in 1993 and landed at RE Sources, a Bellingham non-profit getting ready to launch the RE Store to collect and sell used building supplies in town.

They started by taking buildings apart piece by piece. It took forever, Bennink remembers, and got him thinking that “zero waste” was a green myth. He began developing ways to use machines to speed up the process.

“In the real market, you can’t have something cost 2 ½-times more and take 2 ½-times longer,” he says. “You essentially betray your mission on a larger scale.”

Bennink says that most building owners love the idea of salvaging a building for materials instead of tearing it down and throwing it all away. “But they just want it to cost the same and take the same amount of time.”
He ended up working for the RE Store for 11½ years, improving his techniques along the way. It used to take about three weeks to salvage parts from a 2,000-square-foot house, Bennink says. Now, he and a well-trained crew can take it apart in 2½ to three days. And the higher labor costs are often off-set by much-lower landfill fees, he says.

“If there were 100 buildings that needed to be taken down, I would say we’d be cheaper on 20 of them,” Bennink says. “We might be the same price on 20 of them and in the ballpark on maybe another 10.

“Right now, that’s fine,” he says, “because we don’t have the capacity to do 100 percent of the buildings.”

That’s his next challenge: While Bennink has been deconstructing buildings, he’s been building a green deconstruction workforce.

He began RE-USE Consulting about five years ago to share his practices with groups in other parts of the country to build their capacity to keep buildings out of the landfill, too.

“It’s taken people a long time to see this, but the environment can be an economic engine,” says Brad Smith, dean of Huxley College of the Environment. “It was an industry that didn’t exist. Whenever you have a whole new sector emerging like this, you have job creation.”

He has also consulted with Rust Belt cities such as Buffalo, N.Y. and Detroit, whose shrinking populations have left behind tens of thousands of vacant houses. Deconstructing those houses can do more than just give new life to the building’s pieces, he says. The new jobs that result could revitalize families and neighborhoods bereft by the shrinking manufacturing industry.

“Deconstruction creates 20 times more jobs than demolition work,” he says. “We could take back a lot of jobs from overseas.”

As his methods have become more efficient, he’s trained others, including demolition businesses that want to get in on the growing interest in sustainable construction.

“Building owners are demanding deconstruction,” Bennink says. “If you want to be a part of that project, you have to provide it.”

Another critical part of his consulting business is working with communities to launch their own retail stores to sell used building supplies. Bennink knows it does no good to encourage people to salvage building materials if there is no local market for it.

By the time Bennink is working in Chicago, the 90-year-old gym has been transformed into piles of wood, sturdy timber and recyclable material. About half of the old building is destined to become part of what is yet to be built.
WWU online communities keep us connected

By Deborah DeWees

Photo by Edye Coiello-Morton

As an alumnus of this great university you have an obvious bond with Western. Think back on your classes and friends, professors and favorite hangouts; how do you stay connected to these memories and relationships in the midst of your busy life?

We can help! It’s as simple as logging on to your computer, going to our WWU Alumni website, and strolling through our Western alumni neighborhoods on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

I’m amazed at how fast these online communities are growing; I recently had 25 requests in 24 hours from alumni to join our LinkedIn group. With more than 5,000 active members, they have become a dynamic way to exchange photos, memories, and career opportunities at real-time speed - adding value in many ways to each other and the university.

While virtual connections are important, sometimes it’s nice to see old Western friends and professors in person. So, we’re giving you two great opportunities in 2010:

• Back 2 Bellingham Alumni & Family Weekend, May 14-16. Tour your old residence hall, attend a campus lecture, enjoy live entertainment or join your college, student club or athletic team in a reunion.

• Golden Viking Reunion, July 13-14, for grads from 1965 and earlier. Reconnect with former classmates during a campus tour, hop aboard a cruise on Bellingham Bay, and join members of the classes of 1958, 1959 and 1960 as they are inducted into Golden Viking Society.

Start finding old Western friends on our WWU Alumni social networks, make a plan to spend time together in Bellingham, and watch your in-box for more details!
Class Notes

Weddings

2000s
Jessica Grace Arabia and Patrick Robert Koffler (’01) on June 20, 2009 in Walla Walla.
Cedar Pearssall (’01) and Robert Carter (’01) on Aug. 16, 2008 in Laguna Beach, Calif.
Anne Marie Provisal (’03) and Derek Mahoney on Oct. 11, 2008 in Bellingham.
Brayde Ridenhour (’04) and Matthew Willson (’06) on May 16, 2009 in Bellingham.
Cedar Pearsall (’01) and Jonah Griffen on Sept. 8, 2009 in Seattle.
Kofler Griffith on Sept. 19, 2009 near Seattle.

2001
Berton L. Glandon (’70) and Jackie Glandon on Aug. 15, 2001 in Bellingham.
Ronald D. Mauder on May 26, 2001 in Bellevue.

2002
Edith M. Miller, 97, on Feb. 28, 2002 in Bellevue.

2003
Lauren McKnew (’98) on Sept. 19, 2009 near Seattle.

2004
Ray Martin Cohrs, 75, a retired teacher and administrator, on June 30, 2004 in Seattle.

2005
Mary J. Gillman (’50) on March 30, 2005 in Bellingham.

2006
Richard Leigh Thiessen, 54, an associate at WWU, leads geology tours for the WWU Alumni Community Service Recognition in 2009 for his leadership of the club, particularly after a rare tornado destroyed much of the club's equipment.

2007

2008
Bill Kalenius, 59, on Aug. 5, 2008 in Bellingham.

2009
Bill Kalenius, 59, on Aug. 5, 2009 in Bellingham.

2010
Michael Smarz, 97, on Nov. 13, 2010 in Eugene, Ore.

2011
The 75-year-old came in first this year in the softball throw and second in the triple-jump.

2012
Margie (Mitchell) Huntoon, 52, on Oct. 8, 2012 in Bellingham.

2013

2014
Pete Coy is director of the Ski to Sea Race in Bellingham. He is also a real estate agent.

2015
Berton L. Glandon (’70) and Jackie Glandon on Aug. 15, 2001 in Bellingham.

2016
Annie Marie Provisal (’03) and Derek Mahoney on Oct. 11, 2008 in Bellingham.

2017
Ray Martin Cohrs, 75, a retired teacher and administrator, on June 30, 2009 in Seattle.

Obituaries

1933 - Ruby Katherine Smarz, 97, on Oct. 12, 2009 in Centralia.
1941 - Edith M. Miller, 86, on Aug. 9, 2009.
1945 - Phyllis Louise Plummer Knick, 93, on March 29, 2009 in Bellevue.
1947 - Alice Joan (Fjellman) Bedoian, 86, on Feb. 24, 2009 in Kirkland.
1950 - Donald S. Peterson, 83, a Navy veteran, former gas station owner, on Aug. 11, 2009 in Bellingham.
1952 - Ralph Sparman, 81, a retired teacher, in May 2009 in Lake Stevens.
1955 - Ray Martin Cohrs, 75, a retired teacher and administrator, on June 30, 2009 in Seattle.
1958 - John Steward Harding, 75, on May 9, 2009 in Bellingham.
1962 - Verrill Stalberg, 72, a member of the Marine Corps League and Disabled American Veterans, on July 2, 2009 in Bellingham.
1969 - Richard Charles Fackler, 61, on May 23, 2009 while traveling in Argentina.
1972 - Robert Carkner, 73, on May 23, 2009 while traveling in Argentina.
1975 - Bill Kalenius, 57, on July 12, 2007 in Bellingham.
1977 - Judy Weston, 55, on July 12, 2007 in Bellingham.
1980 - Linda Quinn became superintendent of the Ferndale School District. She has worked as a school administrator in Washington and California.
1981 - Dana Hanks, coordinator of the Blaine Senior Center/Community Center, won a Bellingham Mayor's Arts Award in 2009. Before joining the Blaine...
Learning more about the Kenya Education Fund at
www.kenyaeducationfund.org
See Broder's Commencement speech at:
www.wwu.edu/window.

Bradley Broder (‘09) knows disappointment often creates opportunity.

In Broder’s case, disappointment at not earning a master’s degree created educational opportunity for hundreds of Kenyan children.

Broder, 34, had planned to combine his Peace Corps experience in Kenya with a new master’s degree from WWU in political science and launch a career with an international non-governmental organization devoted to economic development in Africa. But when his master’s degree didn’t pass muster, those plans were put on hold.

“No organization would hire me for the job I wanted without a master’s degree,” says the New York City resident.

While he couldn’t find a job, Broder knew first-hand how much work there was to do. When he had returned to Kenya to do research for his thesis, Broder had reconnected with many friends.

“All anybody asked me for was money for school for their children,” he says. “They didn’t ask me for money for TV’s, or food or hospital bills. All they wanted was an education for their children and they couldn’t afford it.”

Sixty percent of Kenyans never attend high school because of the fees, Broder says. He began to see a way to help not only his friends, but the whole country.

“Through education, we can improve human capacity in Kenya to the point where they no longer depend on others to solve their problems,” he says.

In 2006, Broder founded the Kenya Education Fund, which now provides school fees for about 300 Kenyan students. By next year, Broder hopes KEF will send about 600 students to high school.

Each high school diploma “represents an opportunity for a family, a community and a country to improve itself and live the kind of life that we all want for ourselves,” he says.

But Broder had all but given up on completing his own degree until he visited Bellingham earlier this year to speak in an African politics class led by his old advisor, Political Science Professor Vernon Damani Johnson.

“We went out for a beer afterward and he said, ‘I felt bad you never finished. What do you think about giving it another stab?’” Broder says. “I was kind of hoping he’d say it. It was always looming over me. The conversation with Damani encouraged me a lot.”

Broder finished the thesis in time to graduate this summer — and speak at the Commencement ceremony about opportunities that present themselves even in the worst of times.

Establishing the Kenya Education Fund was an opportunity that was “the best of my life,” he told the graduates. “It’s one I was able to recognize thanks only to my education.

“My work is to facilitate the kind of education that creates similar opportunities for others,” he said.

Senior Center, Hanks was coordinator of the Roeder Home in Bellingham.

1983 — Rick Dale, chairman and CEO of iXP Corp, spoke at WWU’s spring Commencement. Dale is an expert in building public safety communications systems. Jeff Morris works for the Environmental Protection Agency as the National Program Director for Nanotechnology.

1984 — Patsy Martin, executive director for the Port of Skagit County, was a finalist for Northwestern Business Monthly magazine’s Business Person of the Year. Sarah Sparth was executive director of the Jefferson Land Trust. She previously was agency’s conservation director. Debbie (Romano) Ream became director of public relations at Mount St. Mary’s College in Los Angeles. She most recently was director of public affairs at the Los Angeles Times.

1986 — Julie Larson-Green is head of “Windows Experience” at Microsoft, where she helped build Windows 7, the company’s next-generation operating system. Timothy Vail became a financial adviser with Waddell & Reed.


1989 — Corey Danger is an art director for Sony Online Entertainment, working on “The Agency,” an online role-playing game. He previously worked at Microsoft’s games division, on games such as “Dungeon Siege,” “Psychonauts” and “Mythica.” U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Kerrie Golden is chief physical therapist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She visited Bellingham recently for the Ski to Sea Race as captain of “Missing Parts in Action,” a team made up almost entirely of injured soldiers.


1993 — Susan Colleen Browne just published her memoir, “Little Farm in the Foothills: A Boomer Couple’s Search for the Slow Life,” about her experiences creating Berryridge Farm outside Maple Falls. She wrote the book with her husband, John F. Browne, a 1970 graduate of Western and a retired sergeant with WWU Police. Ted Strong became principal of Gig Harbor High School. He was previously the principal of Goodman Middle School in Gig Harbor. Shannon Harvey, principal of Cascade Elementary School in Renton, won the $25,000 Milken Award from the Milken Family Foundation. Harvey was honored for her success in using data to achieve long-range goals, particularly in reading achievement. Mike Bruner became manager of the Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds.

1994 — Jen McQuaide just performed the role of Luce in the Bellingham Theatre Guild’s “The Boys from Syracuse.” She is also a project manager at Sterling Life Insurance in Bellingham. Tim Bartlett became an Accredited Advisor in Insurance with the Insurance Institute of America. Tod Sakai and his wife, Kristen (‘98) started Sockeye Homes two years ago. One of their projects recently won a Chrysallis Award in the category of $100,000 to $250,000 building additions in the western U.S. region as well as an Excellence in Remodeling Award in the $75,000 to $150,000 category from the Building Industry Association of Washington.

Melanie Loughmiller is president of the International Association of Administrative Professionals, Bellingham chapter.

1996 — James Bible Jr. received the 2009 Champion of Justice Award from the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for his pro bono work as a community organizer and president of the Seattle King County NAACP. Irwin Stroosma became principal of Centennial Elementary School in Mount Vernon. Guy Leahy is an exercise physiologist for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Ariz. A film about Louie Gong’s life and work was screened at the American Indian Film Festival in Bellevue. Gong, educational resources coordinator at Muckleshoot Tribal College, is an artist and activist exploring multicultural culture. His latest endeavor, shoe art, was on display at the festival, too. He decorates sneakers exploring multiracial culture. His latest endeavor, shoe art, was on display at the festival, too. He decorates sneakers with Coast Salish designs.

1998 — Maria L. Corkern is an elementary school teacher in Alpharetta, Georgia, whose book “Doris the Saurus” show kids how to use a thesaurus. Jennifer Louie was a violinist with The Ohio Light Opera’s Albany Records recording of “The Mikado” by Gilbert and Sullivan and Jerome Kern’s “The Cabaret Girl.” John Grimm became lead designer for Flying Lab Software’s “Pirates of the Burning Sea,” an online, multi-player roleplaying game. Anita K. Boyle recently retired as the Northwind Reading Series in Port Townsend. Her poetry has been published in Indiana Review, Stringtown, The Raven Chronicles, Spoon River Poetry Review and others.

1999 — Nate Langstraat, the head women’s volleyball coach at Whatcom
Tournament of Excellence in Berkeley, at University of Nevada at Reno, 2000
Community College, became a volun­
tee business adviser at Snohomish
2002
and political organizer active with the
"Tea Party" movement in Seattle.
Sharp is a former debate coach at Western.
2001
- Keli Carenre teaches math to
adults, and is a stand-up comic, blogger
and manager of the Tacoma branch
of Maxim Healthcare Services Inc., a
home healthcare provider.
Amanda (Frederick) Hauk was named Teacher of the Year in the Lower Kuskokwim School District in rural southeast Alaska. Hauk is an elementary school teacher in Goodnews Bay, where she also coaches the cross country and
speech teams. Melanie Reed was se­lected to design the new logo for the Sequim-Dungeness Valley Chamber of
Commerce. 2003 - Neal Tognazzini just earned his doctorate in philosophy from the University of California, Riverside, and
became an assistant professor of phi­lo­sophy at the College of William and
Mary in Williamsburg, Va. Accountant Jennifer Weeks joined Telgenhoff &
Oetgen Certified Public Accountants in Lynden, Readers of Mother Nature Network named Casey and Katie Kulla
among the nation's top 40 Farmers Under 40. Their Oakhill Organics is lo­cated in Grand Island, Oregon.
2004 - Chris Lang became interna­tional accounting manager for Saturna
Capital Corporation in Bellingham and
assistance vice president of Saturna
Brokerage Services. Joshua Henry works in real estate lending with Bank of the
Pacific in Bellingham. John Peeters is a
champion power boat racer. He re­cently won national titles in D-stock
hydro and outboard stock hydro 400,
qualifying for the world championships
in Sweden in September 2010. Robin Daniel Gouin earned his doctor­
ate in optometry from the Southern
California College of Optometry.
Scott McDaniel became principal of
Goodman Middle School in Gig Harbor.
He previously was assistant principal at
Key Peninsula Middle school.
2005 - Alex Ramel is energy policy
manager for Sustainable Connections
in Bellingham. He also is president of
the Kulshan Community Land Trust.
Margarlyn Hemphill produces family history books in her
business Preserving Heritage, a busi­ness she started with her mother in
Bainbridge Island. Gail Golet, was awarded a three-year "studentship" by the
Department of Education for the Ph.D. program in adult education at the
University of Glas­gow. Her research is
transformational learning. Rick Steab became sales and marketing director for
Baron Telecommunications. He pre­viously was manager of the Cascade
Radio Group. Jason Curry, who just earned his master's degree from Western in Rehabilitation Counseling,
became the family coordinator for
Rebound of Whatcom County, a faith­based group that helps at-risk children.
He'll develop programs to assist par­ents and families.
2006 - Nicole Hagerman became a
research analyst at WWU's Center for
Economic Vitality. She just earned her
MBA from Western. Mary North co­authored "Successful Transfer of Learning," and
presented her work at the Standing
Conference on University Teaching and
Research in the Education of Adults at
Leanne Summers became an English
teacher at Othello High School. She
previously was a student teacher in
New Zealand.
2007 - Penny Kern became a senior
research analyst at WWU's Center for
Economic Vitality. Dan Erickson's play,"Convention," was one of three full­length productions staged at Festival
Northwest at Tacoma Little Theatre in
August. Cassandra Jarvis earned her
master's degree in speech and lan­guage pathology from Washington
State University. She plans to provide
speech therapy services to children in Western Washington.
Blake Herrington is a mountain climb­er who has discovered new climbing
routes on mountains in New Zealand, Argentina and around the U.S.
2008 - Former WWU football line­backer Shane Simmons signed with the B.C. Lions in September. He had
previously trained with the Oakland
Raiders and the Seattle Seahawks.
Shannon Skinner became a copywriter
and financial editor at Saturna Capital
Corporation in Bellingham. Patrick
Rogers joined Blu Sky Creative Services
in Bellingham as a Web site program­mer. Krista Van Marsbergen passed the
Certified Public Accountant exam and
became a staff accountant for
Varner Sytsma Herdon in Bellingham.
Nic Castona became head cross coun­try coach for Nooksack Valley High
School. She passed the Certified Public
Accountant exam and became
company accountant for Logsible Software in Bellingham. Stacy Citron,

LEADING RABBI GOT HER START AT FAIRHAVEN COLLEGE

Never be afraid to ask Rabbi Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus ('74) a question. It was a question — lots of them — at Fairhaven Col­lege of Interdisciplinary Studies that helped launch her career.

Dreyfus, now a pio­neering woman rabbi and presidential of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, remembers being peppered with ques­tions during her time at Fairhaven. One of few Jewish students at the college, Dreyfus became her classmates' de-facto source for all things Jewish.

"People asked me lots of questions and I didn't know the answers," Dreyfus says. "I found I really wanted to learn the answers."

It was during the Vietnam War. Dreyfus, a Chi­go native, had been a medic at anti-war riots at her first college, the University of Wisconsin, and found the experience made it difficult to focus on her studies there. A family friend lived in Belling­ham, and Dreyfus came out to Fairhaven.

But when her professor, Bob Keller, asked the class to write a position paper about war, Dreyfus was stumped. "After a process of soul searching, I realized I couldn't come up with my own position about war without knowing what Judaism said about it," she says. "I got hooked on studying this stuff."

But career choices were limited for Judaica­loving women in 1974. Few schools had Jewish studies departments, and the first woman rabbi had been ordained just two years earlier. But Dreyfus was drawn to the variety of roles rabbis play. "I love to teach, and rabbi means "teacher," she says.

So Dreyfus attended Hebrew Union College­Jewish Institute of Religion and in 1979 became the 11th woman ordained from the nation's main seminary for Reform rabbis.

"As far as we know, I was the first rabbi ever ordained while pregnant," she says.

Earlier this year, she also became the second woman ever elected president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the 1,800-member organization of Reform rabbis. She's an important figure in the Reform movement, handling issues ranging from assisting rabbis unemployed by the recession, to questions about Israel, to concerns about Jewish education and intermarriage, she says.

"We're trying to figure out what will be the face of Reform Judaism in the 21st Century," she says.

Meanwhile, Dreyfus is also proud of the children she raised while building her career. Her eldest son, a 30-year-old high school physics teacher who was in his mother's womb when she was ordained, just got married — to a rabbi.

Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus

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played Julia in "Aunt Fondene and the Lost Dutchman Goldmine," an original children's show for the Culver City Public Theatre. Derek G. Delgado became a member of the Benedictine community in July when he was invested as a novice of St. Martin's Abbey in Lacey. Delgado received the religious name of Damien, after St. Damien of Molokai. A music teacher, he earned a master's degree in music from WWU.

Amaris Lunde oversees the Bellingham Food Bank Farm, which raises fresh fruits and vegetables for patrons of the Bellingham Food Bank. Tracey Demmon earned her doctorate degree in audiology from A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Health Sciences in Mesa, Ariz. She is an audiologist at Hearing Northwest in Bellingham.

Krista Van Mersbergen passed the Certified Public Accountant exam. She works at Varner Sytsma Herndon in Bellingham. Alexandra Copeland became the office and customer relations manager for Excellence Northwest in Bellingham.

2009 - Tahoma Khalsa organized a 5k run in Shoreline commemorating Earth Day. The Bellingham Slam's Tyler Amaya was named an International Basketball League all-star after leading the Slam with 448 points scored during the season. Before joining the Slam, Amaya played professional basketball in China during the winter season.

Alexandra Copeland became a reporter for the East County Journal in Morton. Holly Faulstich spent her summer as a biological science technician at Mount Rainier National Park, gathering data in the back country for a long-term study of the effect of climate change on forests. Evelyn Barber joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest to work with people with disabilities in Southeast Alaska.

Ron Judd prepares to chronicle his sixth Olympic Games

Ron Judd ('85), a reporter and columnist for the Seattle Times and author of several outdoors books, has traveled the world to cover the Olympic Games. He recently talked to Window about preparing to cover his sixth games this winter in Vancouver and Whistler, B.C.

It's not just sports. It's the Olympics: It's like the one time the world all comes together in one place and focuses on one thing that doesn't involve people trying to kill each other. Most professional sports, I can take or leave. I've seen too much of the dark side - the money and the egos. But these athletes are different. Most will persevere and scrape by and do whatever they have to do to get into the Olympics, purely because they want to be best at something. To me that's pretty special.

Favorite Olympic moments in journalism: One was in Nagano at my first Olympics in '98. It was the first year for women's hockey as a medal sport. These girls had grown up watching their brothers play hockey. The U.S. and Canada were by far the two best teams and they met in the gold medal game - and there was a lot of vitriol. When the Americans won, everyone dropped their sticks and realized this was such a historic occasion. Women from both teams started crying. These teams didn't like each other, but they still realized it was a cool moment.

Favorite Olympic moments not in journalism: We met for the first time in Athens, working in the same office. I used (journalist) Meri-Jo Borzilleri as a joke tester. If she laughed, I thought, 'This is a good joke.' If I got nothing, I would just take it out. In Turino, we worked out of the same office again. She worked in Colorado Springs and we both claimed Apolo Ohno as a hometown athlete. We got to be really good friends and one thing led to another. We got engaged in Lake Placid, and got married in 2008. She's going to be creden-tialed for the Vancouver games writing for the Seattle Times and other newspapers as a freelancer.

What to watch in Whistler: It's a down year for U.S. figure skaters, but there will be some intense matchups on the women's side. Between Kim Yuna of Korea and two or three Japanese skaters, these women are at a level unlike anything I've ever seen in U.S. figure skating. I think we have a good chance for the first time in a long time winning a gold medal in the four-man bobsled. The Canadians will have the fastest bobsled/luge track in the world, by far. Just that track will be a story.

Judd's book, "The Winter Olympics, An Insider's Guide to the Legends, the Lore and the Games," was released this year by The Mountaineers Books.

Two Great Reasons to Come Back to Bellingham in 2010

May 14-16, 2010

Back2010 Bellingham WEEKEND

3 Fun Packed Days for Alumni & Families
Campus lectures, Downtown Bellingham Bash, live entertainment, residence hall tours, Fairhaven College and Huxley College 40th reunions, and more! For alumni of all graduating years!

July 13-14, 2010

GOLDEN VIKINGS REUNION • CLASSES 1930-1965

2 Days of Celebration for Grads of 1965 and Before
Reconnect with classmates, tour the campus, cruise Bellingham Bay, enjoy live entertainment and the Golden Vikings Society Induction Celebration for class members from 1958, 1959, & 1960!

www.wwualumni.com
WWU graduate student Ian Gill spent five weeks watching grizzly bears gorge themselves on salmon this summer in an Alaskan wilderness version of an all-you-can-eat buffet.

Gill, a student at Huxley College of the Environment, had a coveted bear-watching spot at the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, where he collected data on how much fish the bears caught and ate as the chum returned to their spawning grounds on the Cook Inlet.

"This is the largest naturally occurring seasonal congregation of brown bears in the world," says Gill, who worked with Larry Aumiller, the former longtime manager of the sanctuary, "so it's an incredible chance to do this kind of research."

As the chum swim upstream through the falls, the bears perch, swim and lie in their path, using a variety of "fishing" techniques to catch their prey. Some squat in the falls and wait for salmon to literally bump into them; others perch on ledges near channels and swat the salmon as they go by; others swim in the water at the base of the falls like skin divers, grabbing prey under water as the salmon wait their turns to proceed upstream.

"This is one of the most pristine wildlife viewing areas in the world," Gill says. "To even get to the viewing platform, you have to win a permit lottery."

Since the lottery program began in 1975, he says, no human has ever been harmed by a bear at McNeil River. "Because these bears have never been fed, never been shot at or molested in any way," Gill says, "they view observers as neutral entities."
Joyce Taylor ’84

Broadcast Communication Major
News Anchor, King 5 Morning News

Former member of the Western Cheerleading Squad.
Lived in Delta and “Bucky” Towers.
Worked at the Career Placement Center as a student.
Is a member of the WWU Foundation Board. Former Western Alumni Association Board Member.
Recognized as one of Western’s “100 Outstanding Alumni of the Century.”
Passionate about children’s health and education; volunteers her time with Rainier Scholars.
Learned the value of an education from her family, is proud to be instilling those same beliefs in her own children!

“Living in a world where it is so important to stay connected and maintain relationships, the Western Alumni Association is a great way to build a network.”

Membership Matters!
Huxley grad Dave Bennink says keeping yesterday's buildings out of today's landfills can build the jobs of tomorrow.