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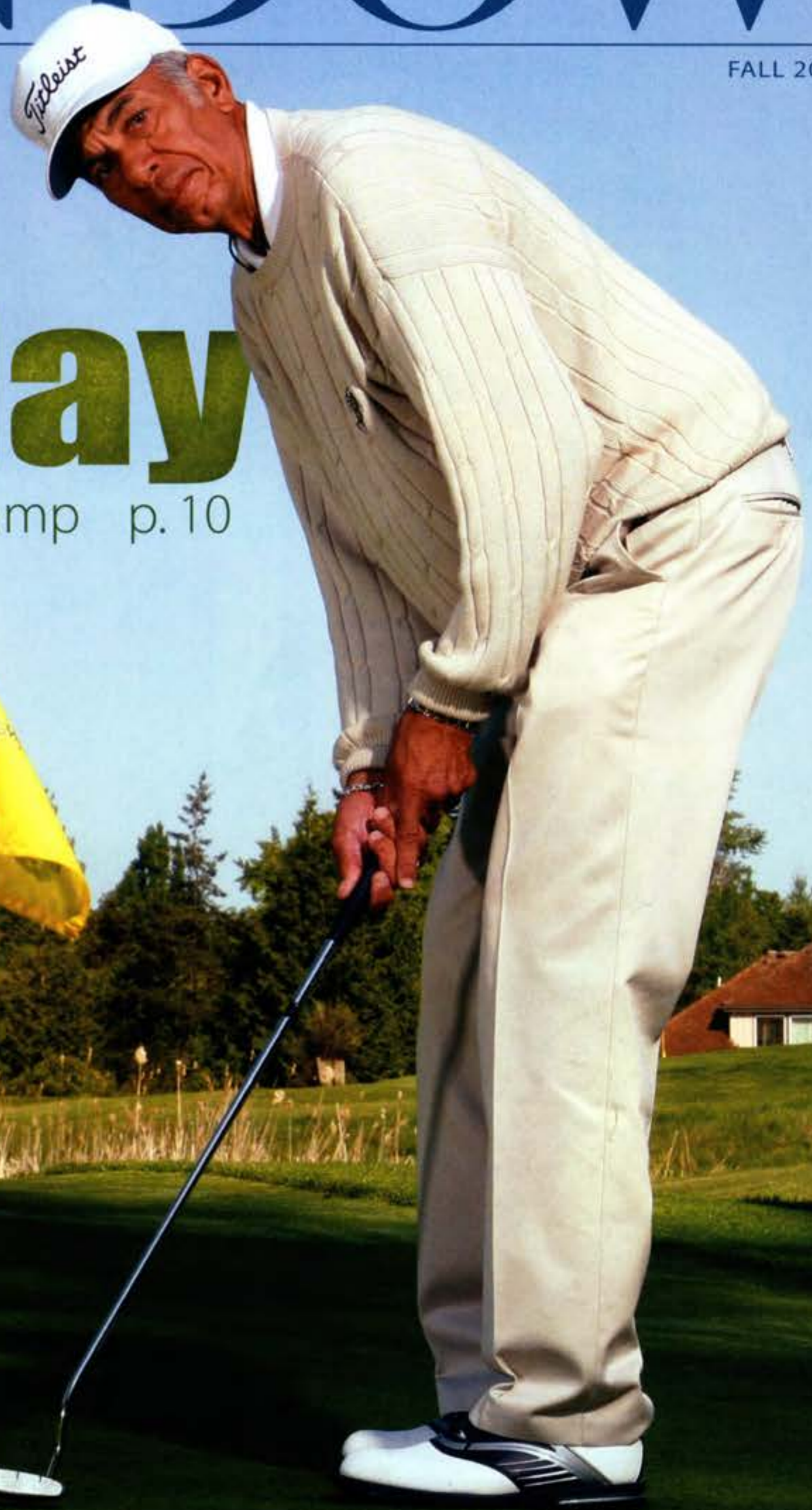
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WINDOW

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2009

Fair Play

WWU's Bill Wright, USGA Champ p. 10



Money Smarts

WWU leads in economics education

p. 8

Brain Power

Inside Western's Neuroscience Program

p. 14



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.wvu.edu/window.
Learn more at www.wvu.edu/compass2campus.



Photo by Martin Waidelich

'Community Conversations' engage us in transformation

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.


President Bruce Shepard



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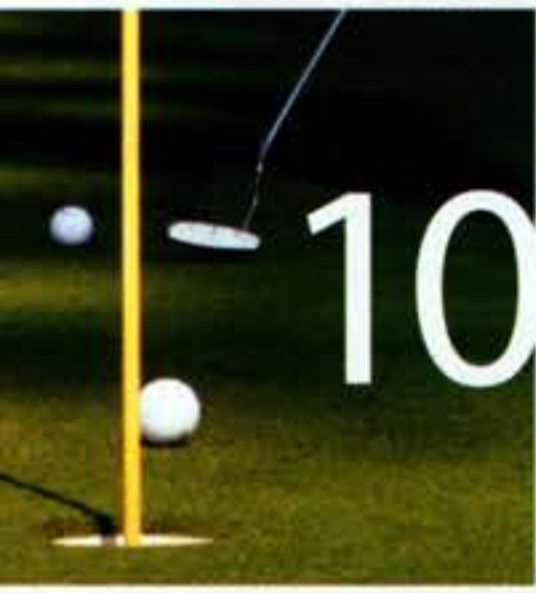
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Green takedown: Dave Bennink ('94) is bringing sustainable practices to the building demolition industry. Deconstruction can create thousands of jobs while saving precious resources, he says.

Get Ready

WWU threw open its doors to fifth-graders to encourage them to plan for college Inside Cover

WWU News

A video scholarship contest, water help for a Mayan village, the best in children's books and recruiting science and math teachers. Just don't miss the unicycling clown 4

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Dave Bennink ('94) demonstrates how we don't have to throw buildings away 20

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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 hydrodesulfurization, 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.

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.

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 undergrad-

uates 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.



Western's new provost is Catherine Riordan



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.



Photo courtesy of Miranda Savory

"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.

Clean green: WWU students Thé Nguyen, Rachel La Bouve, left, and Miranda Savory, far right, in Guatemala with their translator, Candelaria, who helped the Spanish-speaking students communicate with Mayan residents in the que'chi language.

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."

DID YOU SEE THAT CLOWN? IF NOT, HANG UP

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.



Photo courtesy of Ira Hyman

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



Photo by Matthew Anderson

WWU student Christina Everett, right, leads a group discussion at Shuksan Middle School with WWU Retention Project coordinator Trisha O'Hara, left.

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."



KID

Lit TOP PICKS

Photo by Michael Leese

Nancy Johnson, children's literature expert and WWU English professor, can't get enough good kids' books.

"A Couple of Boys Have the Best Week Ever," by Marla Frazee. In this lively and humorous celebration of boyhood, childhood friendship, and the power of the imagination, Frazee captures the essence of summer vacation and the wonder of being a kid. A 2009 Caldecott Honor Book. (Harcourt)

"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)

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 resonance of war and choices of blame and forgiveness. (Scholastic). Bonus tip: pair with Katherine Applegate's "Home of the Brave."

COW POWERED: VRI WINS GRANT TO RUN BUSES ON BIOMETHANE

Tourists heading to the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver may have Whatcom County's dairy cows – and WWU's Vehicle Research Institute – to thank for a green ride to the games.

A \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy will help the VRI convert tour buses to run on clean-burning biomethane from a digester in Lynden that turns the area's dairy manure into fuel.

Converting the three buses used by Bellingham's Bellair Charters from diesel to biomethane fuel will reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 23 times. "These buses will essentially become 'carbon negative' once they have the new engines installed," says VRI Director Eric Leonhardt. "Not only will they produce a fraction of the carbon dioxide they did before the conversion, but they are also using a renewable resource made from cow manure, which would ordinarily just add its greenhouse gases to the atmosphere."

The biomethane used to power the buses comes from the Northwest's first dairy digester, at the Vander Haak dairy in Lynden; the farm's cows supply the manure put into an anaerobic digester on the farm, which separates the solids from the gases.



The gases are then run through a "scrubber," which removes the hydrogen sulfide and other contaminants from the methane and makes it clean and ready to burn in a combustion engine.

Being a dairy-intensive region, Whatcom County alone could produce enough biomethane to fuel up to 40,000 vehicles, according to Leonhardt.

Larry Wickkiser, manager of Bellair Charters, says he hopes the converted buses are ready in time to carry passengers to the Olympics.

"The time is right for our company because the technology is coming together in our own back yard," Wickkiser says. "On top of that, the raw fuel source is abundant, renewable and locally produced."

Teaching *the value of a* DOLLAR

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

By Mary Lane Gallagher

Photos by Rachel Bayne

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’ll 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.



Start small: A simple method can clarify tough decisions.

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



Cookie criteria: Brittany Esbenshade ponders a cookie in a decision-making exercise.

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:

Equilibriums: “A Market for Crude Oil” simulation and a discussion of micro-markets.

Week 8:

Elasticity: Elasticity of demand and changes in revenue.

Week 9:

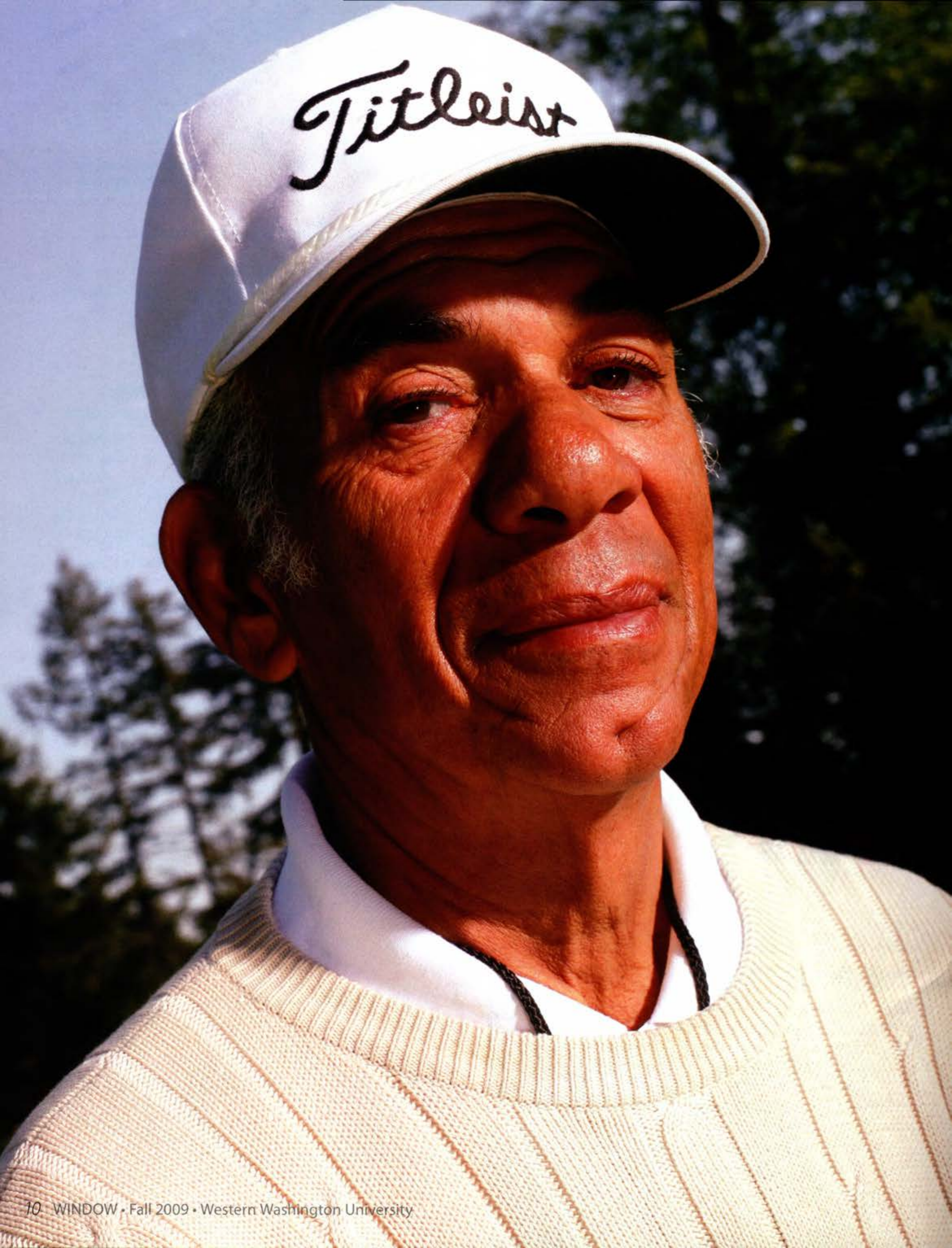
Government Intervention in Markets: Price ceilings and price floors.

Week 10:

Production and Costs, Competition and Monopoly: “Creative Toy Production” exercise.

Week 11:

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



Titleist

Bill Wright

loves this game

... but he had to fight to play it

Fifty years ago, a WWU alum used a putter to demolish one of golf's racial barriers

By Mary Lane Gallagher

Photos by Andy Bronson

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 putting 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.



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"That part of golf really doesn't exist anymore."



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,



Historic moment:
Below, WWU Golf Coach Steve Card, left, and Bill Wright at the NCAA Division II Championship. Bottom, Wright accepts the trophy for winning the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship in 1959.



Legend of the game:

Far left, Bill Wright and his wife, Ceta, watch the NCAA Division II championships at Loomis Trail Golf Club in spring 2009. Below, Wright chats with Brett Eaton, director of golf at Semiahmoo. Right, Wright with WWU golfer Jake Koppenberg, who tied for 12th at the tournament.



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.

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

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

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."

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.

After graduation, Wright and his wife, Ceta, moved to Los Angeles, where he taught for nine years before becoming a

successful businessman as the owner of Pasadena Lincoln Mercury. He also went on the PGA tour, appearing in the U.S. Open in 1966 and six Senior U.S. Opens in the '80s and '90s. He returned to WWU several times over the years, often to play in an alumni tournament named in his honor. And in 2000, he was named one of WWU's "Alumni of the Century."

Now 73 and a golf instructor at The Lakes at El Segundo near the Los Angeles International Airport, he still gets up at 5 o'clock each morning and hits 300 balls three times a day, he says.

"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."

Brain Science



WWU faculty and students explore the depths of the **mind**

By Mary Lane Gallagher Photos by Matthew Anderson ('06)

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

Hands-on: Junior Olivia Konicek prepares a glass pipette for Assistant Professor of Psychology Jackie Rose's work with microscopic worms.

Read more about Behavioral Neuroscience at WWU at www.wvu.edu/neuroscience

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



Learning in the lab: Above, Junior Amanda DeSouza works on a class project in Assistant Professor of Psychology Jackie Rose's lab. Undergraduates work closely with faculty in WWU's Behavioral Neuroscience program. Middle, Associate Professor of Psychology Janet Finlay in her lab. Bottom, Mitchell Wold, a senior Behavioral Neuroscience major, examines a solution of neurotransmitters for Finley's neurochemistry work.



Continued on Page 16



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.



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."



Profound connections keep it real

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.

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 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.

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.

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:

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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

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Olympic

Dreams

By Mary Lane Gallagher
Photos by Rachel Bayne

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

Believe it: Belief is central to what Ralph Vernacchia has learned over the years about sport psychology – both athletes' belief in themselves and their coaches belief in them. "I learned that as a coach," he says. "You're not able to coach someone if you don't believe in them."



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.

**"To me, every person is gifted.
My role is to help you discover that gift."**

Part of Vernacchia's job was to help the athletes and coaches to perform at their best even under less-than-ideal circumstances. The pressure and attention of the Olympics can be distracting for athletes, who must focus – and refocus – to stay in the zone.

Vernacchia learned that first-hand when he was faced with a common distraction at the Olympics: colds and flu bugs gathered from the far corners of the world. But illness didn't keep Vernacchia down for long.

"You don't have much time to think about it," he says. "You're there to serve the coaches and athletes."

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."



Olympic insights come to town

WWU's Center for Performance Excellence will host Jon Hammermeister, a sport psychology professional for the U.S. Winter Olympic Team

Date Jan. 12, 2010 • 7 p.m.
Location Arntzen Hall, Room 100
FREE Open to the public



Inner Strength: Vernacchia's sport psychology graduate students include, from left to right, Catherine Rasnack ('08), Kelly Jones ('09), Kaylee Gardner and Brian Zuleger ('09). "He has taught me and other students what it really means to set your principles and really live by them," Jones says. "That's what you have to measure every decision you make against."



The Center for Performance Excellence offers programs for athletes, coaches and others interested in learning more about achieving peak performance. Learn more at www.wwu.edu/cpe.



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.

green DEMOLITION MAN



Saving the planet, one building at a time

By Mary Lane Gallagher

Photos by Andy Bronson

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 2 ½ 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.

Bennink, a quietly intense guy who prefers to travel Bellingham’s hills on his bicycle instead of his car, explains how a salvaged two-by-four saves not only space at the landfill, but also the trees and energy it would cost to harvest and manufacture a new one.

Better yet, he explains, it saves jobs.

As soon as Bennink and his crew were done dismantling the old Vashon Island school gymnasium with contractor Ron Mitchell, a stressful five-day job compressed into fewer than four during a holi-

cant 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.

“He has a hunger for dismantling buildings...”

“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.”

day week, he was on a plane to Chicago to help the city develop what would be the nation’s largest green deconstruction job-training program, training 140 former prison inmates for green-collar jobs.

Though RE-USE Consulting consists only of him, his wife and help from his two teen-aged children, he’s working with clients in 34 states who have the potential to deconstruct thousands and thousands of buildings.

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 va-

Salvaging history:
Right, Dave Bennink scales a timber beam roof structure to prepare to take it apart.

“Deconstruction creates 20 times more jobs than demolition work.”

Deborah DeWees,
Executive Director
Western Alumni Association



WWU online communities keep us connected

By Deborah DeWees

Photo by Edye Colello-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.

facebook

LinkedIn

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!

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  **Alumni**
Association

KEEP UP WITH WWU IN THE NEWS



WESTERN
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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.

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Western Wire

The Western Wire is our quarterly e-newsletter dedicated to bringing the Western community the latest campus news. Also, look for our college specific e-newsletters with information on classes and programs.

You should already be receiving the Western Wire and your college e-newsletter. If not, visit wwualumni.com to "Update Your Info" with your current e-mail address.

Western Wire
CONNECTING THE WESTERN ALUMNI COMMUNITY

UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 25-27, 2009
Western in WA Wine Country
- October 1, 2009
Viking Night Dinner & South Auction
- October 8, 2009
Communication, Science & Disorders Alumni Reunion
- October 14, 2009
Classical, Cultural Skills for Success!
- November 4, 2009
Tribelina Professor Series: George "Tinky" Nelson & Brad Snowden
- May 14-16, 2010
Back 2 Bellingham Weekend
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In this issue of the Western Wire find out about the Viking Blend, a new whole bean coffee that supports student scholarships; read about a Western Communication grad's experience teaching English in the east African country of Djibouti; learn about some of the groundbreaking research happening on the WWU campus; and watch a student's take on a commencement speech. Plus more!

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Weddings

2000s

Jesica Grace Arreola and **Patrick Robert Kofler** ('01) on June 20, 2009 in Walla Walla.

Cedar Pearsall ('01) and Robert Carter ('01) on Aug. 16, 2008 in Laguna Beach, Calif.

Anne Marie Provinsal ('03) and Derek Mahoney on Oct. 11, 2008 in Bellingham.

Brayde Ridenhour ('04) and **Matthew Willson** ('06) on May 16, 2009 in Bellingham.

Mackenzie Belka ('05) and Jonah Griffith on Sept. 5, 2009 in Seattle.

Lindsay Wallace ('05) and **Andrew Leisner** ('06) on May 2, 2009 in Tacoma, WA.

Lisa Harvey ('07) and **Dale LeClaire** ('09) on June 6, 2009 in Gig Harbor.

Lauren McKnew ('08) and **Jeffrey Bell** ('07) on June 20, 2009 in Bellingham.

1990s

Elizabeth Alex Duncan ('95) and **Tod Monroe** ('87) on March 28, 2009 in Tumwater.

Zoey Deschanel and **Ben Gibbard** ('98) on Sept. 19, 2009 near Seattle.

Obituaries

1933 – Ruby Katherine Smarz, 97, a retired teacher, on Oct. 12, 2009 in Centralia.

1941 – Edith M. Miller, 88, a retired music and art teacher, on Aug. 9, 2009.

1945 – Phyllis Louise Plummer Knick, 93, on March 29, 2009 in Bellevue.

1947 – Alice Joan (Fjellman) Bedoian, 86, a retired teacher, counselor and school administrator, on April 3, 2009 in Fresno, Calif.

1950 – Donald S. Peterson, 83, a Navy veteran, former gas station owner, insurance salesman and upholsterer, on Aug. 11, 2009 in Bellingham.

1952 – Ralph Sparman, 81, a retired teacher, in May 2009 in Lake Stevens. **Letha Sussex**, 77, on Nov. 12, 2008. **Robert Baker**, 78, a retired teacher, school counselor and accomplished musician, on Feb. 24, 2009 in Kirkland.

1953 – Priscilla Wallace, 77, a retired teacher, on Oct. 4, 2009 in Bellingham.

1955 – Ray Martin Cohrs, 75, a retired teacher and administrator, on June 30, 2009 in Seattle.

1958 – John Steward Harding, 75, a retired educator, on May 9, 2009 in Bellingham.

1959 – Donald E. Thorneycroft, 79, a retired teacher and immigration inspector, on June 11, 2009. **Dick Wilkinson**, a former teacher, coach and horse trainer, on June 3, 2009 in Portland, Ore.

1961 – Marvin L. "Jim" Harris, 71, a retired park ranger in North Cascades National Park, on June 21, 2009.

1962 – Verrill Stalberg, 72, a member of the Marine Corps League and Disabled American Veterans, on July 2, 2009 in Bellingham.

1965 – Terrance Rodney Curran, 66, a scientist, on July 15, 2009 in San Diego.

1969 – Richard Charles Fackler, 61, a retired parks and city planner, on May 23, 2009 while traveling in Argentina. A lifelong advocate of parks, trails and open space preservation, Mr. Fackler worked in Whatcom and Kitsap counties. **Keith Leroy Lowry Sr.**, 87, a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel and middle school mathematics teacher, on Sept. 23, 2009.

1971 – Diana Lee (Gooding) Williamson, 59, on April 8, 2009.

1972 – Robert Carkner, 73, a retired high school principal and coach in the Vancouver, B.C. area, on Aug. 2, 2009.

1973 – Gary Lee Gilmore, 59, on Aug. 4, 2009.

1974 – Holly Weston, 55, on Nov. 13, 2007 in Eugene, Ore. **Denise Guren**, 56, a library technician, violinist and folk-dancer, on May 31, 2009 in Bellingham. **Bill Kalenius**, 57, the founder and president of the Vancouver Lake Rowing Club, on Sept. 23, 2009. Kalenius earned 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.

1975 – John J. Jameson, 75, a retired public school teacher and administrator, on April 24, 2009 in Ferndale. He was also active in community theater in Whatcom County. **Don Edward Schelling**, 60, an Air Force veteran and retired pipefitter, on July 30, 2009.

1976 – Jim McKellar, 82, retired executive director of the Bellingham YMCA and former Whatcom Community College trustee, on July 20, 2009 in Bellingham. **Richard Leigh Thiessen**, 54, a geology professor at Washington State University, on July 18, 2009 in Everett. **Stephen F. Snapp**, 56, a commercial fisherman, shipwright and merchant mariner, on Sept. 14, 2009 in Sitka, Alaska.

1977 – Dale Lee Pendry, 64, on July 31, 2009.

1979 – Margie (Mitchell) Huntoon, 52, on Oct. 8, 2009.

1980 – Julie Aydelotte, 51, a former human resources director, on June 19, 2009. **Ernest W. Randa**, 91, a retired economics professor at the University of Utah, on Sept. 5, 2009 in Salt Lake City.

1982 – Nancy Ann (Wilson) Walbeck, 67, a journalist and editor, in May 2009 in Anacortes.

1987 – Danaé C. Lennox, 44, an accountant, on Aug. 7, 2009 in Chehalis.

1989 – Randall Lynn Schuett, 61, who worked in logging and construction before earning his degree, on May 7, 2009 in Bellingham.

1990 – A. Brad Peterson, 55, a physical therapist, on April 6, 2009 in Ferndale.

2000 – Elizabeth Mc Euen, 30, on Aug. 5, 2009 in Charlotte, N.C.

2001 – Rachel Verda Busby, 30, who worked to help domestic violence victims, on May 25, 2009 in Bellevue. **Anastasia Minter**, 36, who had worked as an academic adviser at Boise State University and University of Washington, on Sept. 29, 2009.

2002 – Gunther Jose Frank, 35, a photographer, on June 5, 2009 in Bellingham.

2004 – Tyler Wayne Johnson, 27, on Feb. 19, 2009.

Faculty and Staff

Michael Grimes, 44, an associate professor of anthropology at WWU, on Oct. 14, 2009. The director of WWU's Biodemography Laboratory, his research areas included nutrition and metabolism, reproductive physiology and breastfeeding behavior.

Douglas R. Vander Yacht, 73, a retired professor of Theatre at WWU, on May 26, 2009 in Bellingham. He graduated from Western in 1960 and was also very active in children's theatre throughout the state.

Class Notes

1960 – Ruggles Larson, a retired coach and administrator, often competes at the Washington State Senior Games. The 75-year-old came in first this year in the softball throw and second in the triple-jump.

1965 – Terry DeValois retired after 44 years with the Lynden School District, including 35 as the district's athletic director and 25 years as freshman basketball coach.

1968 – Joe Henry published his book, "Lieutenant Henry: Memoir of a Marine," with virtualbookworm.com. The book chronicles Henry's post-graduation "metamorphosis" from college student to a Marine Corps combat officer in Vietnam.

1969 – Pete Coy is director of the Ski to Sea Race in Bellingham. He is also a real estate agent.

1970 – Berton L. Glandon was named president of College of Western Idaho. He previously served as president of Arapahoe Community College in Littleton, Colo., and Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore. **Harry Price** lives in Fairfield, Calif., and has long been active in city government. He was recently elected for a second term as mayor.

1971 – Edward G. Carson became chief executive officer of Growth Management and Constructive Changes LLC, a planning, marketing and analysis company in Laguna Niguel, Calif. Previously, Carson was a senior manager at The Boeing Co. **Bob Eager**, a retired history teacher, was named "Harborite of the Year" by the Aberdeen Museum of History.

1972 – Mary Ann Horn retired in 2007 after teaching special and regular education for 34 years in the Seattle School District.

1973 – After teaching for 31 years in the Tacoma School District, **Nancy Jones Foote** and her husband moved to the Sunriver, Ore., area where she works for Sunriver Resort.

1974 – Dave Tucker, a geology research associate at WWU, leads geology tours of downtown Bellingham for Western's Academy for Lifelong Learning. **Al Erickson** recently retired as parks manager for the City of Issaquah.

1975 – Americans for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts awarded **Victoria L. Hamilton** the Selina Roberts Ottum Award for Arts Leadership in June. Hamilton is executive director of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

1979 – Chris Rust became principal of Warden High School. He previously worked as principal at a school for mental health outpatients in Portland, Ore. and as a middle school principal in Mattawa.

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

WHERE'S that THESIS?

Alum finishes his degree – finally – after creating a chance for others



Bradley Broder's Kenya Education Fund helps students pay for high school.
Photo courtesy of Bradley Broder

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.

But 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 TVs, 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.

Learn more about the Kenya Education Fund at www.kenyaeducationfund.org

See Broder's Commencement speech at www.wvu.edu/window.

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 Northwest Business Monthly magazine's Business Person of the Year. **Sarah Spaeth** became 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.

1987 – Eileen Martin of Spokane served as an artist-in-residence in the Ritzville School District in May. **Teri Sund**, exhibits director for the RiverSea Gallery in Astoria, Ore., judged the Peninsula Arts Association Art Show in Long Beach in April. **Kelly Lewis** earned the Senior Professional Human Resource certification from the Human Resource Certification Institute. She owns Allied Human Resources Consulting in Bellingham.

1989 – Corey Dangel 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.

1990 – Sheila C. Schmid owns Bhakti Yoga in Portland, Ore.

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 Chrysalis 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 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 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 TheSaurus" shows kids how to use a thesaurus. **Jennifer Louie** was a violinist with The Ohio Light Opera's Albany Records recordings 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 read her poetry at 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

Community College, became a volunteer assistant volleyball coach at WWU this fall.

2000 – Phil Sharp, debate coach at University of Nevada at Reno, coached a team that won two prestigious national collegiate debate titles in one year – a rare feat. Sharp's students won the National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence in Berkeley, Calif., and the National Parliamentary Debate Association Championship in Stockton, Calif. Sharp is a former debate coach at Western.

2001 – Keli Carender teaches math to adults, and is a stand-up comic, blogger and political organizer active with the "Tea Party" movement in Seattle.

2002 – Jennifer Shelton is a certified business adviser at Snohomish County's Small Business Development Center. **Robert Krause** is general 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 assistant vice president of Saturna Brokerage Services. **Josh 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 doctorate 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 board of trustees. **Margalyn Hemphill** produces family history books in her

business Preserving Heritage, a business she started with her mother in Bainbridge Island. **Gail Goulet**, 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 on transformative learning. **Rick Staeb** 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 faith-based 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** co-authored "Successful Transfer of Learning," and presented her work at the Standing Conference on University Teaching and Research in the Education of Adults at Downing College in Cambridge, England. Her book is due to be published by Krieger Press in early 2010. **Leanne Summers** became an English teacher at Othello High School. She previously was a student teacher in New Zealand.

2007 – Jenny Kern became a senior research analyst at WWU's Center for Economic Vitality. **Dan Erickson's** play, "Convention," was one of three full-length 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 and language 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 Mersbergen** 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. **Amy Visser** passed the Certified Public Accountant exam and became company accountant for Logos Bible Software in Bellingham. **Stacy Citron**,

LEADING RABBI GOT HER START AT FAIRHAVEN COLLEGE



Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus

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 president 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 Chicago 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 Judaical-loving 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 College-Jewish 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 oldest 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.

AN OLYMPIC CAREER

played Julia in "Aunt Fondeen 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. **Alexander Peterson** 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



Ron Judd, left, with wife and fellow Olympic journalist Meri-Jo Borzilleri, at the Lake Placid Olympic bobsled track with "Bobby Bobsledder." Photo courtesy of Ron Judd

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 credentialed 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

Back 2010 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!

A bear's-eye view

Photos by Larry Aumiller

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 long-time 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."

See more photos at www.wvu.edu/window





Photo by Rachel Bayne Photography

Joyce Taylor '84

 Broadcast Communication Major
News Anchor, King 5 Morning News

Life Member Since 1993

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!

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  **Alumni**
Association

DAVE BENNINK Making orange the new *green.*

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

Page 20

Photo by Andy Bronson



Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed
forests, controlled sources and
recycled wood or fibre

Cert no. SW-COC-002954
www.fsc.org
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