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Peek inside a massive collection p. 14 of American pop culture with curator Doug Dreier ('96)

Water Wonders p. 10
WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center immerses undergrads into the marine sciences

Back 2 Bellingham p. 18
You won't want to miss this celebration
After a watchful guard killed a deadly puff adder snake that had slithered into the school yard of Ombogo Girls Academy in Kenya last summer, Kathryn Bachen ('09) chronicled what happened next.

"The girls wanted to dissect it," Bachen says. "Ask any of those girls, they’ll either say they want to be a doctor or a lawyer."

Bachen was visiting the high school, whose students include many orphaned by AIDS, with a WWU group that also included Fairhaven Professor Marie Eaton, left, to start an international service learning program in Kenya. Partnering with the Bellingham-based Slum Doctor Programme, about a dozen WWU students will travel to Kenya's rural Homa Bay region this summer to work on projects the school's students and staff say are their greatest need, from improving water quality to teaching job skills.

The group will also visit and work with a Massai tribe on projects to help them modernize while preserving their semi-nomadic lifestyle.

See Bachen's video about the trip at: www.wwu.edu/window
Come back to campus to celebrate Western's traditions of excellence

Message from the President

As I travel throughout the state, alumni and friends of Western often ask me what is new on campus these days. Like families and businesses everywhere, we struggle with the economic downturn, but we're also using the opportunity to build on what we do really well — provide brighter futures. We continually aspire to be the best university of our kind in the nation. One measure of our preeminence is that other universities come to us to learn how to mirror our success.

For example, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies and Huxley College of the Environment at Western this year are celebrating 40-year anniversaries. Huxley College, one of the oldest environmental colleges in the nation, has been a national model for environmental education for decades. Likewise, Fairhaven College's innovations in interdisciplinary education have been emulated in many places. These trend-setting colleges reflect traditions of excellence that will continue far into the future.

And those are but two examples of the excellence that defines us. The College of Business and Economics' MBA program has been ranked in the top 100 programs worldwide. Our College of Fine and Performing Arts educates nationally recognized artists who shape our culture and enrich our lives. In the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Philosophy Department is among the best in the country. In a College of Sciences and Technology program we are preparing the teachers of tomorrow with revolutionary approaches that demonstrably improve the math and science performance of their K-12 students. Woodring College of Education is regarded in this state and beyond as a leader in preparing outstanding teachers.

That sort of creative and constant reinvention, while building on what already is strong and vital at Western, happens all over campus. A wonderful way to learn about some of these exciting changes is to attend an event called Back 2 Bellingham May 13 to 16. A detailed article on the weekend is in this edition of Window. It is with great pleasure that we invite you to come back to campus and look forward to seeing you here!
Dear Diary: Roger Shimomura's "Diary January 1, 1943," an excerpt of which is seen here, was among the works donated to a consortium of museums that includes the Western Gallery. See the rest of "Diary January 1, 1943" on page 6.

Service Learning in Kenya
WWU students, faculty and staff prepare for an international program this summer.

WWU News
Part of a major gift of Northwest art gets a new home at WWU. Also, Western professors study how to turn pollution into fuel and how to reach students shaken by trauma.

The Act of Teaching
WWU's acting class for teachers gets students ready for a tough audience – teenagers.

Culture Collector
Doug Dreier ('96) left teaching to curate his family's enormous private collection of pop culture artifacts, from Fonzie's leather jacket to Houdini's handcuffs.

Water Wonders
Undergraduates plunge into the marine science at WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center.

You'll Wish You Were Here
With more than 100 events, Back 2 Bellingham will be a mega-reunion May 13 to 16.

Global Education
Don Olcott Jr. ('81 and '86), now a leader in international education, got his start at WWU. Plus, read about all the other recipients of the 2010 WWU Alumni Awards.

President's Message........................................2
Alumni Message........................................23
Class Notes........................................24

Weddings........................................24
Obituaries........................................24
Student Lens........................................28

On the cover: Doug Dreier ('96) curates thousands of pop cultural touchstones, like Captain Picard's chair from "Star Trek: The Next Generation." Photo by Nell Campbell

www.wwu.edu/window
A $15,000 QUESTION
What would you do with $15,000 to travel the world and learn?

That question beckons students at Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, whose Adventure Learning Grants gives $15,000 to each of three students annually for an independent learning project abroad.

This year's grant recipients will venture to such far-flung places as the Andes to study weaving and fiber-arts, Central America to learn about feminism and theatre, and the Balkans to explore the economics and social aspects of fishing.

Competition for the grants is, understandably, intense. Applicants are judged on their proposal's creativity and ingenuity, the extent that the culture they will experience is different from their own, and the student's commitment to sharing their experience with the WWU community.

The program, funded by an anonymous donor, has inspired many students to pursue projects they had previously never thought possible, says Kathryn Anderson, a Fairhaven professor in charge of the application process.

"It's based on the faith that if you give bright, creative students this kind of opportunity," Anderson says, "then great things will happen."

International studies grant feeds interest in MONGOLIA

WWU, already home to one of the country's biggest collection of writings on Mongolia, is seeing a surge of academic interest in the inner-Asian nation.

Funded by a federal grant to boost international studies at WWU, Professor Ed Vajda's winter quarter class on the Mongolian language might have been the largest ever offered in the U.S., with 35 students.

And this fall, Vajda plans to launch two large survey courses on the cultures of Mongolia and Russia respectively, which he expects will serve more than 100 students in each class.

The grant will also help make Russian and Mongolian language courses more accessible to students who need General University Requirement courses.

"Even though we're doing something exotic, we're doing it in a way that increases students' ability to graduate in four years," Vajda says.

The two-year, $175,000 grant, awarded to Western's Center for International Studies, will also pay for study abroad and exchange programs. WWU is partnering with three Mongolian universities, and upcoming Mongolian courses will be taught by visiting instructors from that country.

The Mongols, who once made up the world's largest empire, are critical to understanding the world, Vajda says.

"There's no possible way to understand the modern Middle East, Russia or East Asia, without understanding the Mongols," he says.
Can we make cheap methanol from greenhouse gases?

As the Earth's temperature continues to creep upward – the last decade was the hottest 10-year span in history according to a report recently issued by NASA – Western Washington University's John Gilbertson is researching methods that could put a significant dent in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the Earth's atmosphere.

Gilbertson, an assistant professor of Chemistry at WWU, is researching methods to take carbon dioxide and combine it with hydrogen to make liquid methanol, a useful fuel and feedstock for making other chemicals. More specifically, Gilbertson and his team of students are investigating how to use nanoparticle catalysts to break the bonds of both the carbon dioxide and hydrogen molecules, allowing them to be recombined to form liquid methanol.

“Similar technology is currently online in Japan, but the trick here is to build the most efficient catalyst possible,” Gilbertson says. “If the catalyst isn’t extremely efficient, it takes more energy to do the process than you save in the long run.”

Gilbertson says many different technologies are needed to put a dent in the warming of the Earth.

“Estimates are that to make a dent in the Earth’s carbon dioxide levels, we’ll need to remove about a gigaton – a billion tons of it – each year,” he says. “So employing cheap, easy-to-use methods will be crucial.”

WWU disaster experts learn what they can from HAITI’S quake

Two professors from WWU’s Resilience Institute spent a week this winter in Haiti, where they studied the destruction of January’s massive earthquake for the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute.

Scott Miles, assistant professor of Planning and Environmental Policy, and Rebekah Green, associate director of WWU’s Resilience Institute, spent a week talking to residents, relief workers and government officials, gathering information about what Haitians need most to rebuild.

“We’re trying to understand the broader impacts,” Miles says. “How is the damage affecting livelihoods?”

Miles and Green toured schools, hospitals and marketplaces and met Haiti’s top disaster recovery official as well as an assistant to President Clinton and people whose homes had been destroyed.

The group also got to know the Haitians who worked as the group’s drivers, guides, interpreters and cooks – and who took the scientists to see how the quake had upended their own lives.

“Those were very difficult days,” Miles says.

Engineers as well as social scientists, Miles and Green also inspected some quake-damaged buildings, including a school that one man had built with money he had borrowed himself.

“One building looked okay on the outside, but inside we saw one of the load-bearing walls was completely compromised and we needed to get out now,” Miles says. “That hit him really hard. If he wants to rebuild, he has to take out another mortgage.”

In addition to helping governments and relief agencies better understand the Haiti earthquake, the information the group gathered may also help improve disaster response in general, Miles says.

“Every disaster is a learning opportunity,” he says. “We want to be able to respond and recover better every time.”

Eyewitness reports: WWU's Rebekah Green, below left, talks to residents of Port-au-Prince about Haiti's earthquake damage.

Photo by Scott Miles
When Safeco Insurance Co. donates its significant corporate collection of Northwest art to a consortium of Washington state museums and university galleries, many of the pieces will find a new home at WWU’s Western Gallery.

The Western Gallery will store and manage about 100 works on paper from the 840 Safeco pieces, says Sarah Clark-Langager, director of the Western Gallery. These 100 works will form the core collection of Northwest Artists in the Washington Art Consortium/Safeco Collection.

The rest of the collection will be divided among the seven members of the Washington Art Consortium, whose charter members include the Western Gallery. In mid-March, Clark-Langager was busy developing WWU’s “wish list” of Safeco art to house at WWU; museums should know by late June which artworks are coming their way, she says.

The collection includes paintings, works on paper, photographs and works in glass, ceramics, bronze and mixed media. Some of the greatest names in Northwest art are represented, including Jacob Lawrence, Fay Jones, Morris Graves, Barbara Thomas, Dale Chihuly and George Tsutakawa.

The Western Gallery received a grant of about $42,000 from Safeco for art storage equipment to hold the consortium collection’s works on paper, which will also make appearances in the Western Gallery itself, Clark-Langager says.

Safeco, which was purchased in 2008 by the Boston-based Liberty Mutual Group, built the collection over the last three decades and displayed some of it in their University District offices and in galleries. But much of the collection hadn’t been publicly displayed.

Now that the works of art are on their way to museums around the state, that may change.

“"The grand thing about it is, because we’re all consortium members, we have an agreement that we will lend freely to each other," Clark-Langager says.

The consortium plans to put some of the art works on display during April at the Wright Exhibition Space in Seattle. And plans are in the works to display more art at the seven member museums: the Western Gallery, the Seattle Art Museum, the Tacoma Art Museum, the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture in Spokane, the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, the Henry Art Gallery at University of Washington, and the Museum of Art at Washington State University.
Helping students touched by TRAUMA
Professors write a guide for teachers

WWU Secondary Education Professor Ray Wolpow is the lead author of a free downloadable book from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to help teachers reach students whose lives have been turned upside down by violence, homelessness, grief or other trauma.

"The Heart of Teaching and Learning: Compassion, Resiliency, and Academic Success," explains how trauma affects students' behavior and academic achievement, and provides examples of compassionate methods, policies and procedures that might help kids heal and get back on track.

Wolpow took a year-long sabbatical to research the handbook, which he co-authored with OSPI staff and Susan Kinkaid, a WWU assistant professor of Human Services and Rehabilitation. More than 100 educators statewide also contributed to the research.

"A colleague of ours says that focusing on academics while struggling with trauma is like 'trying to play chess in a hurricane,'" says Wolpow, who was a high school teacher in Whatcom County in the 1980s. "This handbook is intended to serve as a focal point in the collective efforts to help these students overcome trauma, foster resilience, and succeed physically, emotionally, socially and academically in the school setting."

The book is available for a free download at: www.k12.wa.us/compassionateschools/

Huxley students test their pollution cleanup skills

WWU students work with the Port of Anacortes

A polluted paper mill site in Anacortes is a real-world classroom this spring for a group of students at Huxley College of the Environment.

Cleanup is under way at the former Scott Paper Mill site in Anacortes, and 17 students in Huxley's Environmental Toxicology emphasis spent winter quarter learning the property's history, state environmental regulations at play and possible cleanup methods. They also drafted mock cleanup proposals and identified research to be done on the site. Now, they'll spend spring quarter carrying out that research.

"The students will gain hands-on experience with the latest field technologies and they will be forced to make difficult decisions based on technical knowledge, economics, social issues and regulatory guidance," says Ruth Sofield, the Huxley associate professor responsible for putting the class together.

The Port of Anacortes, state Department of Ecology and Geoengineers, an environmental consulting firm, are collaborating with Sofield to deliver a realistic experience for the students.

"This is the real world they will be stepping into when they graduate," Sofield says, "and there is no better way to prepare them for it than through an applied learning experience such as this."

The project is being funded by $25,000 that was part of a damages settlement associated with the cleanup of the site. The money will be used to support the class and the student research related to the site during the spring and summer.
"Who's next?"

An uncomfortable silence fills Associate Professor Bob Keiper's classroom as his students look expectantly at each other.

"No one's ever died doing this," Keiper says, his resonant actor-voice filling the room. "We're future teachers so we don't hesitate when we're asked to volunteer."

As usual in Keiper's "Dynamics of Teaching" class, the awkward silences are broken with nervous laughter, and a volunteer quickly comes forward.

"Life dies out in some CLASSROOMS when it should grow and flourish."

Today's assignment: Perform a solo mime about adolescents. Justin Schaeffer pops up and becomes a teenage boy sneaking out of the house in the middle of the night to play video games with a buddy.

If Keiper's students today feel a bit awkward about getting up in front of their classmates and performing an extended pantomime, it may help to know they have had lots of company.

For the past 15 years, all secondary education students at Woodring College of Education have taken "Dynamics of Teaching," an acting class for teachers that emphasizes the non-verbal and vocal communication skills so critical in both the classroom and on stage.

And whether they're undergraduates, graduates or post-baccalaureate students, they all need at least a B in the course.

Keiper first recognized the connection between actors and teachers when he was supervising student teachers on the western slopes of Colorado while he was earning his doctorate at the University of Northern Colorado.

"These future teachers could plan a lesson, they could develop really good objectives, and everything looked great on paper," Keiper says. But it often fell apart when they had to present that lesson to the students.

Keiper, a former high school drama teacher who triple-majored in theatre, speech and English as an undergraduate, quickly diagnosed their troubles: stage fright.

Keiper taught acting techniques to student teachers in seminars and elective classes until the class became a requirement about 15 years ago.

Now, Keiper and other faculty who teach "Dynamics of Teaching" hope students analyze the resonance and pitch of their voices and consider the positions of their bodies to make sure they're conveying the same message as the words they speak.

Keiper hopes the techniques will make his students more lively, engaging teachers. Most importantly, Keiper says, they'll be more effective.
Every actor knows the importance of non-verbal communication, and teachers should, too, says Associate Professor Bob Keiper, who developed “Dynamics of Teaching.”

When we talk, Keiper says, more than half of the information our listeners receive is from our non-verbal cues, such as our body position and facial expressions. Another 38 percent comes from the tone of our voices. That leaves just 6 percent of the information coming from the words themselves.

So teachers stiff with stage fright are much less effective communicators in the classroom, Keiper says. And while actors with the jitters just get bad reviews, students whose teachers freeze up may get a bad education.

“You TEACH – and ACT – to the back row first.”

“Monotone is a killer in the classroom,” Keiper says. “Life dies out in some classrooms when it should grow and flourish. Research shows that teachers who are caring, outgoing, spontaneous and animated do better with adolescents.”

Keiper also wants them to learn to take risks and become comfortable being in front of an audience of secondary students. So a lot of class time in “Dynamics of Teaching” is spent in think-on-your-feet exercises encouraging students to think creatively.

One class assignment had pairs of students act out a non-verbal “conversation,” narrated by Keiper, that begins: “Hey!” “Are you referring to me?” “Who else is there?” “Hey’ is a little impersonal.” And it gets even more elaborate from there.

Another has students collaborate and use their bodies to depict contraptions such as slot machines and juke boxes.

“We tell students, if you try something and it fails, at least you’ve learned something,” says Keiper as one of his students pretends to be a push mower and the other pretends to mow the lawn. During class, Keiper throws in anecdotes from his own teaching days, including gritty realities of teaching adolescents — like the time he had to stop a school play in mid-scene when Romeo and Juliet’s braces got tangled.

He also peppers his lectures with tidbits that actors know, such as the importance of “pit air,” and how expansive gestures beside the body and above the waist are much more meaningful than keeping the hands close in.

“You teach and act to the back row first,” he tells his students. “Don’t forget them. Either you’ve put them there or they’ve put themselves there. You have to reach them.”

Key Assignments

The class, developed by Associate Professor Bob Keiper, helps future teachers develop the non-verbal and vocal communication skills they’ll need to be successful in the classroom.

Key assignments include:

• A baseline presentation at the second class meeting in which students give a short self-introduction and describe the subject they’ll teach. The presentation is recorded so students can compare their presentation skills at the end of the course.

• A solo pantomime that depicts an aspect of parenting, coaching, teaching or being an adolescent. Students are graded on the effectiveness of their facial gestures and body language in telling the story to the audience.

• An oral reading of something related to being an adolescent, such as poetry, a journal or song lyrics. Students are judged on good use of the seven vocal qualities taught in the class.

• A presentation combining visual, vocal and verbal skills. The 10-minute scenario is a first-day talk to a secondary-education class. After a self-introduction, the student gives a presentation that sets the tone for the semester. Students must complete the presentation successfully in order to pass the class — and continue in the secondary education program.

• A self-assessment in which students compare video recordings of their first and final presentations and analyze their use of the communication skills learned in the class. Keiper suggests watching the videos with the sound off first, then by listening only, in order to catch both the non-verbal and verbal cues.

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WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center draws undergrads into critical ocean research

Sea trials: Students prepare to lower a water sampler off Burrows Island, just south of WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes. WWU faculty and students regularly use the center's three boats to collect samples of marine life.
The green-and-white ferry edges past the channel marker a stone's-throw from the shoreline, its engines thrumming. Nearby, a pileated woodpecker hammers at a soaring cedar tree and a great blue heron stalks the shallows as small waves crest and stumble up the rocky shore, retreating with muted hisses.

The quiet beauty is deceptive. The peaceful shoreline is at the edge of a veritable hive of teaching and research activity inside WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center. Located in Anacortes, about 40 miles southeast of WWU's Bellingham campus, Shannon Point has become a West Coast epicenter of research on the planet's marine systems — with critical assistance from undergraduate students.

"We offer something that is pretty distinctive," says Steve Sulkin, the director of Shannon Point for 25 years. "Many university marine centers focus on being a place for undergrads to get fieldwork experience; others focus solely on high-level research. We're one of the few that really excels at both."

When Sulkin was hired as the center's first full-time director, that was his mandate: to combine undergraduate experiential learning and scientific research. But he had a tough challenge ahead of him.

"We had just the one building, the Sundquist Laboratory," he says. "There were three or four people who spent time here, but it was pretty quiet."

A quarter-century later, Shannon Point has three buildings in addition to the expanded Sundquist Lab, including space for housing, offices and laboratories. Seven faculty and anywhere from 15 to 40 students each quarter work among bubbling beakers and forests of rubber tubing to study marine science topics ranging from toxic algae to rises in jellyfish populations.

Recently, the most important work to come out of the center has included research on how the rising level of atmospheric carbon dioxide is increasing the acidity of the planet's oceans.

Outside in a covered work area sit row upon row of plastic tubs, fed by circulating jets of seawater straight from an intake 100 yards from of the beach. Dungeness crabs cradling masses of eggs scuttle around the edges of their tubs; sea anemones grope about with stubby tentacles and sand dollars sit placidly like purple coins thrown into a fountain.

"We're situated in the perfect place for specimen collection," Sulkin says. "There are so many types of fabulous habitat very close to Shannon Point, from nearshore and beach areas to the deep water sites offshore."

Undergraduates, typically WWU Biology or Environmental Science students with a Marine Science concentration, are a big part of that collection process.

"We've got three boats here at the center, from the 19-foot RV Flora up to our flagship, the 32-foot RV Zoea," says Sulkin. "And while specimen collecting used to consist mostly of dragging a big net along the bottom and pulling it up to see what you've got, the vast majority of what we do now is through scuba. We can go down, see what we need, and get it efficiently and with minimum damage to the environment."

Most classes meet once a week, all day, giving the faculty plenty of wiggle room to plan outdoor lab time, catch an incoming tide, or dodge some bad weather.

Meredith Emery, a senior from Rio Rancho, N.M., majoring in Biology with an emphasis on Marine Science, said participating in Shannon Point's Research Experience for Undergraduates Program last summer got her so interested in field research, she went back for more.

"In the fall I took the Oceanography lab with Huxley's David Shull, which allowed me to use more of the facility's..."
Marine scientists study a world brimming with color, from the shockingly vivid purple of a sea star to the deep ochre of jellyfish. But you won’t find that kind of diversity among the scientists themselves, who remain largely white.

Shannon Point Marine Science Center’s award-winning Multicultural Initiatives in Marine Science: Undergraduate Participation program (MIMSUP) aims to change that.

Each year, eight students are selected from across the country to spend two academic quarters at Shannon Point, taking courses in the marine sciences, attending seminars and workshops, exploring career opportunities and engaging in supervised research.

Supported by a 2008 $1 million National Science Foundation grant that funds the program through 2013, and the winner of the 2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring. MIMSUP is recognized as a national leader in preparing its participants for careers in the sciences.

Since the program began in 1991 more than 99 percent of participants have earned undergraduate degrees, and about 65 percent have completed an advanced degree or are currently pursuing one.

“Acidification-induced changes to the base of the marine food web have the potential to impact virtually everything that lives in the ocean,” Olson says. “For example, a decrease in the amount of zooplankton means less food for juvenile stages of commercially important organisms such as crab and fish.”

The Shannon Point scientists recently secured a three-year, $557,000 National Science Foundation grant to continue their research on the rising acidification of the oceans. In addition to salaries and supplies, the grant will support the participation of students in the study.
Chris Chinen
Finance Major
Double Scholarship Recipient
Fundraiser for WWU
Future Donor

Scholarship Recipient
Wants to ‘Pay it Forward’

This is my first time receiving a scholarship and let me tell you it’s an amazing feeling. The donors who made this possible have given me a great feeling of relief knowing I don’t have to have a full-time job to finish college. Scholarship support provides opportunities for me to pursue my passions and dreams by eliminating the obstacles that so many times hold students back.

I work part time for the WWU Foundation Phonathon talking to alumni to raise funds to keep Western the great institution that it is and to make it a better place for future students. The job has been a rewarding experience for me and I’ve gotten the chance to hear many wonderful stories from alumni. Western is privileged to have an amazing network of alumni and friends who are the driving force behind gifts like the one I received.

Being part of the process, from making the fundraising call to actually becoming a recipient of two scholarships myself, has instilled in me a desire to pay it forward. I imagine someday I’ll read Window magazine and know that I contributed to the success of a passionate individual who received scholarship support. I’m looking forward to that day.

Photo by Jon Bergman ('10)
Doug Dreier ('96, English/Theater) never gets tired of the typical reaction: Picture little Charlie Bucket entering Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory for the first time, eyes as big as saucers with a mixed expression of “holy cow” and “somebody pinch me” written all over his face.

This is the way most visitors react when they walk in the door of The Dreier Collection, one of America's foremost private collections of American popular culture, often dubbed “The Smithsonian of the West.”

“Walking in and getting handed Babe Ruth's bat pretty much sets the tone,” Dreier said. “After that, it's basically one 'Oh my gosh' after another for the rest of their tour.”

In a lot of ways, Dreier is a lot like Wonka: As fulltime curator of his family's collection, he's a consummate showman and proud host to swarms of eager guests drawn to the rare, amazing artifacts from sports, entertainment, and popular culture — from a fabled Honus Wagner baseball card to Obi-Wan Kenobi's lightsaber to Michael Jackson's...
blinking, lighted glove. And like the group of children touring the chocolate factory in Roald Dahl’s timeless classic, guests coming through The Dreier Collection leave mesmerized by what they’ve seen while knowing they have only barely scratched its surface.

Located on a breathtaking property high above Santa Barbara, Calif., The Dreier Collection was started by Doug’s father, Chad Dreier, and began as a family hobby of collecting baseball cards and other common (at the time) sports memorabilia.

And at its heart, The Dreier Collection remains a family hobby.

“We continue to collect the type of things that interest us,” Dreier says. “One month might see us acquire something for our gems and minerals collection, another might see us add on to what we think is the world’s largest collection of Cracker Jack toys, from the early 1900s to today.” Their collection includes some of the first-ever Cracker Jack toys, pre-1900 paper dolls.

“You just never know what’s going to be out there,” Dreier says, “which is one of the things that makes this job so fun.”

The Dreiers keep the collection in its own building; they opened the sports section in the summer of 2004 with the other sections – TV, movies, gems and minerals, toys, and books and other items – opening about a year after that.

What began with 50 display cases of items in 2004 has grown to around 300 cases now. The collection has really become a private museum, complete with a climate-controlled building, 24-hour security and a significant budget for staffing, maintenance and new acquisitions.

And the collection continues to grow each year. Dreier receives several auction catalogues each week, follows up on tips from private dealers and hears from other collectors interested in selling an item or two – or a whole set.

Continued on page 16.
"Each piece represents a unique slice of the American experience."

Though Dreier estimates there may be more than 1 million pieces in the collection, his memory for the pieces is encyclopedic and his enthusiasm about each item—from Willy Wonka's own Everlasting Gobstopper to Fonzie's leather jacket from "Happy Days"—is infectious.

"Oh man, you gotta see this," he says. Pointing to captain Jean-Luc Picard's chair from the bridge of the U.S.S. Enterprise in "Star Trek: The Next Generation," he begins a story about a visit from a high-ranking Navy official.

"When he saw that chair he just couldn't wait to sit in it," Dreier says. "I asked him if he couldn't just go and sit in the captain's chair on the real U.S.S. Enterprise, and he said 'Oh, I can do that anytime.' It was great."

A glass cabinet filled with Pez dispensers triggers another typically detailed entry from Dreier, who was a middle school teacher before coming home to manage the family collection.

"Did you know that Pez started as an anti-smoking aid in Austria? They made the dispensers look and feel like lighters, and popping the candy into your mouth from the dispenser was supposed to fool you into thinking you were smoking," he says. "It didn't work, but kids loved them, so they went in that direction ... oh, and 'Pez' is short for the German word for peppermint, which was the flavor of the first candy inside the dispensers."

The Dreiers share the collection through private tours and charity events, but its location in a residential neighborhood precludes it from being a fully public operation.

"We see 2,000 to 3,000 or so folks through the doors every year, which is great," he says. "But that's really about as high as we can go with it right now. Our neighbors really don't want buses and cars roaring up and down the street full of people coming here, and I don't blame them."

As for the future of the collection, Dreier says nothing is written in stone.

"We could sell the whole thing to another collector. We could move it downtown into a public museum spot. We could move it to another city. Or, 10 years from now, my kids could be in here helping me sort baseball cards. Really, there's just no way of knowing," he says.

"It's basically one 'Oh my gosh' after another."

"I do know this: I love this job," Dreier says. "Something new and fun happens every day. I'd love to be able to share that with my kids and have them one day take over and be in charge of it."

"We're very committed to it, very honored to be able to preserve this vault of American culture, which, when you get down to it, really is a little piece of all of us."
A FAMILY BUSINESS

Doug Dreier’s teaching career came home to a very unusual classroom

The Dreier Collection, home to hundreds of thousands of artifacts of Americana in the hills of Santa Barbara, got its start with Chad Dreier’s love of baseball cards.

The family collection grew along with Chad Dreier’s career as a homebuilder in Southern California, culminating with his position as CEO of Ryland Homes, one of the nation’s largest homebuilding companies.

Before too long, the hobby had morphed from some baseball cards into a major investment - an investment that needed tending to. Chad had an idea who the right person for the job was, but persuading him wasn’t going to be easy. The timing had to be perfect.

In 1991, Chad Dreier’s son, Doug, was a 6-foot-2-inch All-Los Angeles area offensive tackle wooed by some big university football programs. But the big-city kid wanted more of a small-college experience, and after hearing about Western from a friend, he came up on a recruiting visit.

“Coming from L.A., Bellingham was so green and so lush ... the campus was just amazing. I loved it, everything about it,” he says. But even as he signed up for the Vikings he could feel his interest in football waning.

“My dream was to become a teacher, and that was always my focus,” he says. He finished his freshman year on the team, and left the team after that. But his passion for learning and for the academic programs at Western continued to grow.

How vast is The Dreier Collection? Here’s a glimpse:

• Action Comics #1, the first appearance of Superman
• Michael Jackson’s blinking, lighted glove from the 1984 Victory Tour
• Matthew Broderick’s leather jacket from “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off”
• The largest woolly mammoth tusk ever offered in public auction, at 13 feet, 4 inches
• Amazing Fantasy #15, Spider-Man’s debut (as well as Amazing Spider-Man #1)

• Shaquille O’Neal’s shoes from the 2003 All-Star Game (size 22)
• Map of Middle Earth signed by J.R.R. Tolkien
• A complete set of unused Super Bowl tickets
• The first NFL helmet with a logo (the Rams)
• A crayon lion drawn by Pablo Picasso (Displayed next to a crayon drawing of a lion by Doug Dreier, age 4)

Hear Doug Dreier discuss some of his favorite pieces in the collection at: www.wwu.edu/window
Two colleges, several student groups and some of the biggest academic departments on campus are just a few of the 28 reunions happening May 13 to 16 during Western Washington University's Back 2 Bellingham event.

Add gatherings for a dozen or more student groups, throw in a headlining keynote speaker or two, and it adds up to be the biggest event the Alumni Association has ever put on, says Chris Roselli ('99), an assistant director of the association who is coordinating the event.

"I regularly hear from Western alumni that they want to come back to Bellingham," Roselli says. "This weekend is designed to give our alumni not only a chance to enjoy the city they love, but ultimately remember their days as a student, reconnect with their friends and classmates and relive their Western experience."

Huxley College of the Environment and Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies are both celebrating 40th anniversaries that weekend. Each college will host reunion parties on the opposite ends of campus Friday, May 14 and continue all weekend long with speakers and other gatherings.

Meanwhile, the weekend will be filled with reunions and events for groups ranging from Associated Students governing boards to the Ethnic Student Center and Residential Advisors.

Other gatherings and activities will be open to all alumni, such as an All Alumni Celebration in Wilson Library, a Downtown Bellingham Bash and boat cruises on Bellingham Bay. There will also be afternoon and evening activities for kids in third- through eighth-grade to enjoy on their own.

And WWU parents will be on campus, too, for the annual Showtime Family Weekend.

Headlining the weekend will be a keynote speech by author Timothy Egan, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for non-fiction. His talk is sponsored by Huxley College for their 40th anniversary celebration and open to the campus community. Egan will be introduced by U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee.

With Egan's historical perspective on the interplay between people and the planet, he seemed like a fitting speaker on a weekend marking the 40th anniversary of Huxley College, says Brad Smith, dean of the college.

"The college mirrors the growth of the current
environmental movement," Smith says. "Huxley was formed the same time as the first Earth Day, and the same year the Environmental Protection Agency was formed. We've been a part of that evolutionary development over the last 40 years.”

Meanwhile, the stories of Fairhaven College and its students will be a highlight of their reunion weekend, with speakers including Jerry Flora, WWU's president at the college's founding, President Bruce Shepard and Dean Roger Gilman ('73).

But the college is also collecting alums' own stories and memories, both in the form of oral histories that students will record that weekend and trivia questions to share at the celebration.

"We're trying to highlight the accomplishments of alumni," says Amy Keeling ('07), Fairhaven's outreach coordinator. "It's mainly just a chance to reconnect with everyone and make it really fun."

Faculty-led seminars open to alumni will also give graduates a chance to reacquaint themselves with "that intense intellectual engagement with other people thinking through a problem," Gilman says, "an experience that characterizes a Fairhaven College education."

For information on all 28 Back 2 Bellingham reunions and 100-plus activities, visit www.wwualumni.com/b2b.
When Don Olcott Jr. ('81 and '86) travels to a different country, and he's been to 16 in the past year alone, he starts thinking about how he's going to get a cup of coffee.

The head of a London-based information service that tracks global higher education issues, Olcott keeps a small library of language guides handy, convinced that knowing even just enough of the local language to order a cup of coffee can result in a critical beginning.

"You cannot understand another's culture if you don't also understand the basic underpinnings of their language," Olcott says. "I can tell you from experience that speaking French in Paris, Mandarin in Shanghai, or Polish in Krakow opens the door with the native French, Chinese and Poles."

Bridging cultures isn't just an academic exercise for Olcott, this year's recipient of the WWU Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. As chief executive of the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education, Olcott helps universities and governments navigate the cultural complexities of educating students across international boundaries.

"We are a strategic information resource for universities that are delivering their programs in another country," says Olcott, who began his career at WWU in charge of Woodring College of Education initiatives to help universities reach out to rural and under-served areas.

Today, he leads a group that helps its 200 members sort through such issues as quality assurance and legal logistics as well as the cultural, social and language issues that come with establishing a campus abroad.

And a growing number of universities are seeking this kind of expertise. There were 162 international branch campuses in 2009, when the Observatory released its most recent data. That's an increase of 43 percent in just three years.

Typically, branch campuses are established by universities in the U.S., Great Britain and Australia, setting up shop in the Middle East and Asia. The United Arab Emirates, for example, hosts about 40 campuses of overseas universities. China hosts another 15.

But all the growth isn't necessarily good, Olcott says.

"Perhaps the most important issue we currently address is helping universities assess whether they belong on the international playing field," he says.

A native of Skagit County, Olcott says he was a good athlete but lackluster student in high school. He turned down athletic scholarships to join the Air Force, where he met many people who had joined the military for a chance at a better life, and took his first three college classes on base in Germany.

Later, he came home to enroll at Skagit Valley College on the GI Bill, then came to WWU to complete his bachelor's and master's degrees. Soon after graduation he taught in Woodring's Human Services program and worked in the college's National Rural Development Institute.

Working with universities around the country to improve K-12 education in rural areas, it was Olcott's first introduction to the importance of distance education, grant writing and the power of educational access, "particularly for those who faced geographical, financial and social barriers," he says.

These were skills and ideals that would carry him through a career as a leader in distance education at Oregon State University, where he earned a doctorate, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, University of Arizona and Western Oregon University.

Though he moved to London in 2007, Olcott still serves on the board of directors for the U.S. Distance Learning Association. He has also worked in the private sector serving as a vice president for the VCampus Corporation, an online learning services company based in Virginia.

Larry Marrs, Olcott's dean while he studied and worked at Woodring, has been inspired watching Olcott's career.
Some of the international stuff he's done, I didn't even know was there,” Marrs says. “He's done an amazing job of being a step ahead of where a lot of people are. He's on the cutting edge of whatever it is and has always done a wonderful job of helping universities and other organizations take their next step, whether it is in technology, rural education, or consortia building.”

Olcott says it remains a career grounded in finding ways to improve access to education first on a local, now on an international scale.

“Today, at the international level I travel to many countries and see first hand the incredible challenges facing people in developing countries who desire to get a college education,” Olcott says. “Their barriers are beyond the typical things like finances, housing, family time and work commitments, although those are very real. Many of these people live in conflict zones and have more fundamental human needs such as food, healthcare, public safety, racial and religious discrimination.

“When you see it up close and personal,” he says, “it really leaves its mark on you.”
Western Washington University Alumni Association's 2010 Award Recipients

Lifetime Achievement Award
Don Olcott Jr. ('81 and '86), chief executive of the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education. Read more about Olcott on page 20.

Young Alumnus of the Year
Scott Harrington ('98), vice president of finance for Screenlife LLC, which makes Scene It? pop culture games. Read more about Harrington on page 25.

Alumni Community Service Award
The late Sid Hammond ('67), a longtime educator who helped start the tradition of bag piping at WWU commencements. He began with the ceremonies of his daughters, Margo Hammond ('85) and Lisa Hammond LaGrandeur ('87) and continued for more than 25 years. Hammond died in November 2009, but WWU graduates continue to be accompanied by bagpipes at each ceremony.

Larry "Go Vikings!" Taylor Alumni Service Award
Jerry Thon ('75), vice president of Astoria Holdings, a seafood wholesale company. One of Western's "biggest cheerleaders," Thon works hard to raise the image of WWU in the Bellingham community, from giving personal tours of the campus to friends and business associates to hosting receptions for new faculty and community members.

Legacy Family of the Year
The Kruhoffer, Hayden, Mehl, Scott and Hartstra families, whose members include eight WWU alums who have been strong advocates for their alma mater. Started in 1924 by Margaret Clara Kruhoffer the clan includes:
- Virginia Boal Hayden (’41), a teacher and the late WWII fighter pilot Robert L. Hayden, who attended from 1939 to 1940 and owned Bellingham grocery stores with his wife.
- California physical therapist Ross Davies Scott (’53).
- Teachers June Mehl Scott Hartstra (’53), Janice Ruth Mehl (’56) and the late George Brinton Mehl (’56).
- Brinton Mehl Scott (’90), an attorney practicing in China.

Distinguished Alumni Awards

College of Business and Economics
Paul Merriman (’66), founder and president of Merriman Capital Management, who publishes newsletters, leads seminars and has also spoken on the subject of investing and retirement planning. Merriman has stayed connected with CBE by speaking to classes and to the Finance Club.

Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Theodore Bestor (’73), professor and chair of the anthropology department at Harvard University. Bestor's research focuses on the culture and society of modern Japan. His book, "Tsukiji: The Fish Market at the Center of the World," from University of California Press, focuses on food culture, globalization and Japan's fishing industry.

College of Fine and Performing Arts
Erin Wall (’98), a rising star in the opera world. Wall, a soprano, made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in April 2009 and has performed with many symphony orchestras in the U.S., Canada and Europe. She also performed on the recording that won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Classical Album.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Simon Blackwell (’84), is vice president of technology for Wizards of the Coast, the developer of role playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons. A Philosophy graduate, he continues to support WWU by serving on the college's advisory council and by establishing the Downing Montague Philosophy Scholarship in honor of two favorite professors.

Huxley College of the Environment
Gail Bingham (’75), is president emeritus of RESOLVE, a respected public policy dispute resolution organization based in Washington, D.C. and a practicing mediator with 30 years of experience in environmental, natural resources, public health and community planning issues.

College of Sciences and Technology
Peter Greenberg (’70), a professor of microbiology at University of Washington who studies the social activities of bacteria, or "sociomicrobiology." Greenberg also is an inaugral member of the college's Leadership Board and an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Woodring College of Education
Robert Watt (’72), chair of The Seattle Foundation and a retired vice president of state and local government relations for The Boeing Co. Watt has also served as president and CEO of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce, deputy mayor of the city of Seattle and president of Family Services of Seattle/King County.
It has been my experience that when Western alumni reflect on their days on campus, they have a strong sense of pride in their alma mater and the role Western played in developing the people they are today. I was reflecting on alumni who had recently reconnected and realized how important their involvement is for the Western community:

**Chris Cassidy ('05)** who now lives in Washington D.C. and works on Capitol Hill, recently organized a casual happy hour that drew more than 60 Vikings in the D.C. area. They want to make this budding Western community fun and meaningful – and will help launch our alumni-student online mentoring program this summer. If you’d like to get on the D.C.-area alumni list, let us know.

**Mike Bahn ('01)** stopped by the Alumni House on his way to Vancouver, B.C., for the Olympic Games and to visit his wife, Laura Tietjen, a physical therapist for U.S. Speed Skating long track team. He had already gotten in a workout at the campus Wade King Student Recreation Center, spoken to an upper-level Physical Education Health Recreation class, and later was going to meet a few grad students and faculty at Boundary Bay Brewery.

**Dan ('98) and Jen ('99) Cunningham,** who graduated with Chemistry and Biochemistry degrees respectively, just hosted a Western Alumni wine tasting event at their store, WineStyles, in Issaquah. They shared tales of their time in the labs at Western and with their favorite professor, Anthony Spencer-Cahill, who I learned that night officiated at their wedding. The Cunninghams felt good about reconnecting with WWU after a decade. And rightly so: More than 80 alumni, parents and friends were there! I spoke with several graduates during the evening, including **Suzanne Coleman ('72),** and her brother-in-law **Larry Farmer ('88).** Suzanne announced by the end of the evening that it was time for her to get more involved and she joined the Alumni Association on the spot!

I invite you to add your story to the list of alumni connections; stop by the Western Alumni House at the end of High Street, call, e-mail or join us on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter, and we’ll help you figure out how!

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**BE PART OF THE CONVERSATION: WWU ALUMNI**

We’re asking how Western can become the best university of its kind in the nation. Join the conversation through a confidential survey coming your way. Your thoughts will make a difference.

**Questions include:** How important is a strong alumni association? Would you recommend Western to a friend? Which attributes give WWU its competitive edge?

Watch for the survey, or go to [www.wwu.edu/alumnisurvey](http://www.wwu.edu/alumnisurvey) to complete the survey online today. You’ll need your “W number,” which appears on the mailing label of this Window magazine.

Photo by Rachel Bayne
Class Notes

Marriages and Unions

1980s

Laurie Rossman (’86) and Linc Nesheim on Nov. 11, 2009, in Puerto Morelos, Mexico.

1990s

Maaren Sanderson (’96) and Brandon Chapman on Sept. 19, 2009, on Orcas Island.


2000s

Sarah Marie Erlebach (’00) and Many Chapman on Sept. 19, 2009, on Orcas Island.


Nikki Chin (’05) and Todd Slick on Aug. 8, 2009, in Mount Vernon.

Did you make it official?

Let us know!

If you recently got married or entered into a domestic partnership, share your news with us so we can include it in “Marriages and Unions.” E-mail your news, including your names, class years, and the date and place of your marriage or union, to mary.gallagher@wwu.edu.

Class Notes

Obituaries

1932 - Iva Lee Hall, 96, a retired teacher, on June 1, 2009 in Anchorage, Alaska.

1934 - Violet Ruth Strand, 95, a former teacher and farm bureau secretary, on Aug. 22, 2009, in Makena, Hawaii.

1941 - Henry “Hank” Chamberlin, 83, a former teacher and basketball official, as well as a member of WWU’s Basketball Hall of Fame, on Nov. 7, 2009.

1945 - Henry “Hank” Chamberlin, 90, a former retail manager and basketball official, as well as a member of the National Basketball Official Hall of Fame.


1972 - Debra Nutt, 59, associate registrar at Whatcom Community College, on Dec. 21, 2009, in Bellingham.


2004 - Stephanie Starr (’04) and Dean Westling (’05) on Aug. 29, 2009, in Snohomish.

2005 - Bob Bowman, 78, a retired teacher, counselor, principal and district administrator, on Jan. 6, 2010, on Lummi Island.


2009 - Donald M. Miller, 95, a retired teacher, on Aug. 8, 2009, in Custer.

2010 - William Demmert, 75, a retired professor of political science, on Jan. 14, 2010. Demmert was an advocate of creating a faculty union at WWU.


One of the original founders of the National Indian Education Association, Demmert served as the director of education for the Bureau of Indian Affairs and as commissioner of education for the state of Alaska. More recently, his work included seminars on improving educational opportunities for Indigenous students. Could you be an advocate? Let us know! E-mail your news, including your name, class year, and the date and place of your marriage or union, to mary.gallagher@wwu.edu.
WWU Young Alumnus of the Year

A VP for “Scene It?” got his start at WWU

By Mary Lane Gallagher

Scott Harrington (’98) was about 11 when he and his father, a stockbroker, disagreed over whether Scott should become an artist or a businessperson.

It was the younger Harrington who worried a career in the arts wouldn’t be practical enough.

“I want to be able to afford to go on ski vacations,” he remembers saying.

But Harrington, who majored in Accounting at WWU, got to work in the arts anyway – sort of. He’s the vice president of finance at Screenlife, LLC, a Seattle-based subsidiary of Paramount Pictures that produces Scene It? and other pop culture games on DVD, console, online and mobile devices.

Harrington, WWU’s 2010 Young Alumnus of the Year, recently talked with Window about how he stays connected with his alma mater.

Natural networking: Harrington, 34, was a good student at WWU, but admits he at first felt awkward networking with professionals until he got involved in the student chapter of Beta Alpha Psi. “It did a good job of helping you learn to break down those boundaries, and helping you realize it’s not just about ‘schmoozing,’” Harrington remembers.

“I just enjoy working with people I like.” In 2006, Harrington was leaving an Irish pub in Seattle where he had watched a World Cup soccer match when he ran into a beloved former mentor from Moss Adams, who was then CFO at Screenlife. “The first thing out of my mouth was, what are you up to and when are you going to call me to come work with you?” he remembers. “They called me that week. They were looking for a controller.” Within a year, Harrington was VP of Finance. “I just enjoy working with people I like,” he says. “My networking has been more like that.”

High standards: Harrington still thinks about WWU Accounting Professor Stephen Senge when he’s setting his own expectations in the workplace. “He was a very balanced, fair professor, who set solid expectations and wanted to hold you accountable for them,” Harrington remembers. Senge also didn’t hesitate to help students with things like resumes. “His door was more than open,” Harrington says, “and I barely even knew him.”

Never quit the team: Harrington credits his involvement in WWU’s soccer team with helping him succeed academically. “Sports helps you identify your weaknesses,” he says. “And you don’t ignore them; you work on them.” He has continues to support the Viking soccer program and hopes to get more soccer alumni involved. “I think there are a lot of young alumni who don’t realize how much small contributions could actually help, in masses,” he says. “It’s easy to say, ‘If I only give this much, it’s not much of anything, but if you get the excitement of a big crew doing that, it could be a big contribution.’”

Above: Scott Harrington is the vice president of finance for a Seattle company that makes pop culture games.
third term on the Bellevue School Board. Sarah Arney became copy editor at the Stanwood Camano News. Previously, she was editor of the Arlington Times.

1980 – Jim Sterk, who recently became director of athletics at San Diego State University, was inducted into WWU’s Athletics Hall of Fame in February. Sterk, who was Washington State University’s athletic director for 10 years, earned four letters in football and one in basketball while at WWU and completed a school-record 164 tackles during the 1977 season. Hoyt Gier, a vice president with Goldman Sachs & Co. in Seattle, was the Winter Commencement speaker at WWU. Lee Anne Riddle was reelected to the Ferndale School Board.

1981 – Author Gregg Olsen’s latest novel, “Victim Six,” was recently published by Kensington Publishing Corp. The psychological thriller is set in Kitsap County and the Key Peninsula. Olsen’s true-crime book, “A Twisted Faith,” is scheduled for release later this spring by St. Martin’s Press.

1982 – Michael Turek became tribal relations program manager for Six Rivers National Forest near Eureka, Calif. Turek is responsible for coordinating relationships and forest activities with more than a dozen Native American groups in the region. Renee Goodman became executive director of marketing and customer relations for Pacific Alliance Title in Yakima. Previously, she was executive director of curriculum and professional development for the Wapato School District.

1984 – Lori Jenkins, a middle school language arts and social studies teacher in the Lake Chelan School District, recently earned her National Board Certification.

1985 – Rick Thompson became superintendent of the San Juan Island School District. He had most recently served as Lynden School District’s superintendent. Sydney Jackson recently became the Woodinville police chief after spending 20 years with the King County Sheriff’s Department. Kim Middleton recently taught a class on Orcas Island birding at the Orcas Island Public Library. Now an Eastsound resident and a lifelong birder, Middleton creates bird-related artwork and conducts guided field trips and ornithology classes. Chef and restaurateur Sean Quinn and his wife Barb Pexa recently opened Flat Iron Grill in Issaquah.


1987 – Kevin Walstrom recently became senior vice president and chief financial officer for PeaceHealth, a regional health system with operations in Washington, Oregon and Alaska.

1988 – Craig Downs recently was appointed superintendent of the Chimacum School District near Port Townsend. Previously, he was assistant superintendent of the Woodland School District south of Longview.


1990 – Michelle Dietz-Date is the resource development manager for Village Community Services, which provides services to adults with disabilities in Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties. John Veitch became a financial representative for Northwestern Mutual in Bellingham.

1993 – Jennifer Young became a loan representative at Bank of the Pacific.

1994 – Tom Robinson, who teaches algebra, geometry and physics in the Lake Chelan School District, recently earned his National Board Certification. He also coordinates the National Board Certification program for the district. Troy Turner is the co-founder and CEO of Tatooish Distillery, which makes handcrafted whisky and small-batch copper-pot stills in Seattle. Dwayne Kirkley, a basketball coach in Hong Kong, was recently inducted into WWU’s Athletics Hall of Fame. Kirkley had one of the greatest basketball seasons in school history as a senior in 1993-94, scoring at least 20 points 17 times and beating a school record with 99 steals.

1996 – Sister Amalia Camacho joined the staff of St. John Medical Center in Longview in the newly created position of Cultural Health Advocate and Spiritual Care. Sister Camacho is a member of the order of Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace. Andria Fountain is a patrol officer for the Bellingham Police Department and head coach of the Sehome High School girls’ soccer team. Gina Sampson was inducted into WWU’s Athletics Hall of Fame in February. A women’s basketball center, Sampson led the Vikings to a 26-7 record and to the quarterfinals of the 1996 NAIA National Championship. She is now a counselor for an international relocation firm and raising three girls with her husband, Orlando Steinauer, who played 13 years in the Canadian Football League. The Rotary Club of Renton recently named Sandy Cato, a language arts teacher at Black River High School, Teacher of the Month.
Western-in-Italy
Your Alumni Association is Going Abroad!

October 27 - November 4, 2010

Amalfi, on the Mediterranean coast, is one of the most renowned regions in Italy. Join us for seven nights at a 5-star hotel, enjoy authentic meals and daily excursions led by local guides. This educational travel experience is sponsored by Western in partnership with Alumni Holidays International.

www.wwualumni.com
Jon Bergman ('10), an intern in WWU's Office of University Communications, had just finished editing his photographs of the Academic Instructional Center when he found the sky erupting over the south end of campus.

"I knew I needed to get a photo of this because any sunlight in Bellingham is rare this time of year, so I wanted proof that it still exists," says Bergman, a Visual Journalism graduate. He used a tripod and a long exposure to capture the Academic Instructional Center and Bruce Nauman's "Stadium Piece" sculpture in the foreground.

"I was only able to get three shots before the light changed and the scene disappeared," Bergman says.

A Bozeman, Mont., native, Bergman got hooked on photography at age 9 while taking pictures on a family trip to Disney World. After devouring photography classes in high school, he earned his bachelors' degree in Fine Art Photography from Montana State University. Intent on launching a career in photojournalism, he moved his young family to Bellingham to earn a postbaccalaureate degree at Western. He graduated March 20 and plans to pursue a career in sports photography.

"The risk of moving away from a steady income and comfortable life in my hometown has finally paid off," Bergman says. "I hope my luck continues."
Married for 62 years, Cecil and June continue to support the university and serve on the Western Golden Viking Reunion Committee.

Cecil & June Thomas

Cecil

Bachelor of Arts in Economics '51
Retired financial supervisor and auditor, Shell Oil Co.

Lived in the Men's Residence Hall (now College Hall)

A passionate hiker and climber

Volunteer for the Skagit Alpine Club, Anacortes Red Cross and United Way of Skagit County

"I support Western because I believe it is human nature to want to give back to a source that gave so much to you."

June

Bachelor of Arts in Education '66
Retired high school English teacher in Anacortes

Lived on High Street

Attended Western's Campus School grades K-6

Part of a four-generation family of Western students, from her mother to her granddaughter

"The Alumni Association is a great way for me to stay involved and give back to that ‘college on the hill’ I've been part of nearly all my life."
WWU's Shannon Point Marine Center immerses undergrads in the marine sciences

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