Bellingham's Viking Vibe
Alumni help make our college town the place we love
Campus Panorama

The morning sun peeks over Sehome Arboretum and illuminates the bricks in Red Square on this gorgeous spring morning. But only the birds and photographer Chris Koser ('09, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) of Hand Crank Films, hovering over campus in a helicopter, can enjoy the southern view all the way to the San Juan Islands.

See more aerial photos of Western's campus at www.wwu.edu/window.
WWU News

Compass 2 Campus wins a big grant for Western's regional mentoring program encouraging youngsters to set a course for college; Western's biggest-ever group of Fulbright scholars prepare for takeoff; Chemistry's John Gilbertson studies ways to make greenhouse gas into something good; Athletic Director Lynda Goodrich retires after a championship career; Good news for the German Department; Life lessons from Holocaust survivor and educator Noëmi Ban, Western's newest honorary doctorate.

We Are So Bellingham

We turn our passions into our livelihoods, even if it means working two jobs. We help make Bellingham a great place to raise kids, eat local and organic food, and listen to local music. We love good coffee, wear hiking shoes to the office and would rather be outside. Meet some alumni who give Bellingham its Viking Vibe.

Peace Through Service

Western is one of the nation's top suppliers of Peace Corps volunteers – 885 alumni have served around the world since 1961. Several Vikings in the Peace Corps share their photos, stories, successes and struggles.

View Finder

Global photographer Michael Christopher Brown ('00, Psychology) nearly died while capturing images of the Libyan revolution. Now his passion for photography goes much further than simply finding the next great shot.

Award-Winning Alumni

The Western Alumni Association honors Vikings who make a difference on campus and in their communities.

Then and Now

From wooden boardwalks on Old Main Lawn to bell-bottoms at the Viking Union bus stop, campus photos illustrate how Western has changed over the years.

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On the cover: Carter Chung's parents, Whatcom Middle School teacher Fred Chung ('01, Interdisciplinary Child Development) and Michelle (Almojera) Chung ('99, Biology), help make Bellingham a great place to raise children and are among thousands of Western alumni who give Bellingham its Viking Vibe. Photo by Rachel Bayne
Global experiences teach the empathy we need in our modern world

As a high school exchange student, I had the opportunity to live for a year in Thailand, go to a Thai high school, become fluent in the language, enjoy the delicious food (I still use the recipe for Pad See Ew I learned there), and, most of all, have my eyes opened to a new way of being in the world. During that year abroad I learned lessons about empathy and intercultural understanding – and how to get around on my own on the other side of the planet – that have served me well in my career and personal life ever since. By that experience, I became a different person – and, I hope, a better person.

They say that when the going gets tough, the tough take accounting. However, as the world becomes more globally interdependent, the leaders of major corporations I talk to reinforce what the data also show: What employers want more than anything in prospective employees is empathy – the ability to see the world around us from the perspectives of others. Empathy coupled with intercultural competency is critical, they tell me, to contributing effectively in their local teams and supporting the enterprise wherever it may find itself in our flattening globe. All are qualities fostered by living beyond our comfort zones, be they cultural, intellectual, or geographic.

One of the things that makes Western such a special place is the adventurousness of our students, inside and outside of the classroom. Our revitalized Center for International Studies has doubled the number of faculty-led study abroad trips in the past several years, each of which incorporates a service learning component. Our faculty is working hard on integrating new international competencies into the curriculum to ensure that the learning that takes place here in Bellingham is still globally informed.

We recently learned that eight Western students will receive Fulbright Scholarships next year. Last year, no master's-granting university in the nation was awarded more than six. We're tremendously proud to be at the top of this list, but we're no strangers to it; this is the second time we've recently been among the top Fulbright-producing institutions of our type in the country.

Earlier this spring Western was named the top medium-sized university in the country for the number of our alumni who have served in the Peace Corps.

Going abroad is only one part of international experience – we must welcome the world to Western as well. Although our total out-of-state student population will not grow much beyond its current 10 percent, it is our hope that in the coming years a larger part of that percentage will be represented by international students at Western, adding another element of diversity to enrich the education of all our students.

Western is blessed to be situated in one of the most beautiful locations in the United States, minutes from an international border and on the edge of the Pacific Rim. The world has plenty of reasons to come visit us. But we have an extraordinary opportunity and a responsibility – to our students and the future of our state – to see and know the world as well.

Bruce Shepard
Don't miss these award-winning stories

It's hard to not be affected by the story of Analiesse Isherwood ('11, Behavioral Neuroscience), a WWU Presidential Scholar who is devoted to helping the people of Haiti. Since first visiting Haiti just before the devastating earthquake of 2010, Isherwood has returned many times to volunteer in clinics, give talks on cholera prevention and enroll youngsters in school thanks to fees collected by kids in her hometown of Moses Lake.

Judges for the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's regional Communications Awards were impressed by Isherwood's story, too. They gave "Haiti: Home of Her Heart" (Spring 2012), written by Spokane-area freelance writer Kevin Taylor, a Gold Award in the Individual Features or Feature Articles category. One judge called it "a finely drawn portrait that surfaces the complexities and undercurrents to the politics of poverty."

The judges also gave a Bronze Award to "Artistic Gifts," (Spring 2012) a profile of Virginia Wright, whose generous patronage of the arts can be seen throughout Western's Outdoor Sculpture Collection and the Pacific Northwest. One judge said the story, written by Sheila Farr ('94, M.A., English) showed "a deft touch indicating mastery over the several areas of knowledge."

Both stories continue to evolve: Isherwood has returned to Haiti twice since "Home of Her Heart" and recently started her clinical training at the University of Washington School of Medicine. And Western recently created three new art galleries in the Performing Arts Center thanks to a $250,000 gift from Wright. Works in the galleries include rare tapestries by Alexander Calder.

The awards represented the best magazine articles in a region that includes colleges and universities of all sizes in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and western Canada. Find both stories in the spring 2012 edition of Window: www.wwu.edu/window.
Power to the Mentors

Compass 2 Campus wins a $25,000 grant to keep encouraging kids to make plans for college

Three thousand programs across the country competed, 200 were chosen and the public determined the top 40. And Western Washington University's Compass 2 Campus youth mentoring program was declared a $25,000 winner.

The money comes from State Farm's Neighborhood Assist program, a youth-led philanthropic organization that empowers communities to identify issues in their neighborhoods that could benefit from a monetary boost. The top 40 causes, as determined by the public vote, each won a $25,000 grant to execute their winning plan.

Compass 2 Campus sends hundreds of trained WWU student mentors into area schools to help kids see themselves as future college students.

The online votes came fast and steady during the two-and-a-half-week voting period, as 3.4 million votes were cast for organizations in the top 200. Compass 2 Campus, the only winner from the state of Washington, placed 26th overall with 47,138 votes.

In its fourth year at Western, Compass 2 Campus sends hundreds of trained WWU student mentors into area schools to teach kids the importance of learning and to help them finish high school and see themselves as future college students. The program focuses on students from traditionally underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds in elementary, middle and high schools throughout Whatcom and Skagit counties.

To date, the innovative mentoring program has now served thousands of students from the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades in schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Next fall, Compass 2 Campus moves into high schools, following students as they progress toward graduation.

Over the past three years, Western student mentors have provided nearly 85,000 hours of mentoring service to those students.

Compass 2 Campus fifth-graders participate in a pretend graduation ceremony during tour day at Western. Helping out in the background is Rep. Bob Hasegawa from the 11th Legislative District. Photos by Rachel Bayne
Global Scholars

It’s a record-breaking year for Western Fulbright recipients

Western Washington University alumni and students received eight prestigious Fulbright Scholarships this year, more than doubling Western’s previous best of three.

The Fulbright Program is an international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government. Last year, no master’s granting university in the nation had more than six Fulbright Fellowship award winners.

Meet the globe-traveling winners:

- **Rebecca Donaldson** of Marysville will teach English in Brazil after she graduates in June. She will also work with the Two Brothers Foundation which provides education opportunities in low-income neighborhoods.

- **Valeria Fisher** (’13, German and Sociology) of Bellingham will teach English in Germany and continue her research on the glorification of reckless driving in car commercials.

- **Elani Koogle** (’12, German) of Bellingham will teach English in Germany and translate Ivan Doig’s “The Whistling Season” into German.

- **Matthew Osborne** (’10, General Studies) of Tacoma, **Andrew Lapidus** of Vancouver, Wash., and **Liv Mothershead** of Kent will all teach English in Austria. Lapidus and Mothershead graduate in June.

- **Ariel Morgan** (’11, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) of Santa Fe, N.M., will teach English in Mexico.

- **Hannah Wolf** (’09, Theatre) of Juneau, Alaska, will work at the National University of Theatre and Cinematography in Bucharest, Romania.

Wunderbar!

Western’s German program was recently one of only two college and university programs in the country (the other was Michigan State) designated as a "German Center of Excellence" from the American Association of Teachers of German.
Turning Greenhouse Gas Into Good Energy

Chemistry's John Gilbertson wins NSF grant for his research revealing a new way to break down carbon dioxide

While he might not be working on turning lead into gold, Chemistry's John Gilbertson and his research team of graduate and undergraduate students might be unraveling something even more valuable - a way to take the increasingly abundant greenhouse gas - carbon dioxide - and transform it into useful compounds such as synthetic fuel or methanol.

Gilbertson, who was just awarded a prestigious five-year, $470,000 Early Career Development Award from the National Science Foundation (Western's third in three years) for his work, said he is basically just doing what nature does on its own.

"Plants take CO\textsubscript{2} and it recycle it, turning it into a fuel (sugar). What we're doing is using a catalyst to assist in the breaking-down process as we recycle it into a different fuel," he said. "The process removes a harmful greenhouse gas and results in a useful compound."

One practical application of Gilbertson's research is a parallel use of the existing Coal-to-Liquids (CTL) process that turns coal into synthetic gas, but Gilbertson's processes eliminate the need for coal altogether.

"Coal to liquids is the formation of syngas, and ultimately diesel fuel, from the gasification of coal. Our process is similar to that except that we are using abundant and readily available carbon dioxide as our carbon source - replacing coal - to make syngas," he said.

Gilbertson's award will fund two undergraduate research assistants and one graduate student per year.

Life Lessons

"I learned in that horrible place, that hate is killing. **Hate is prison.** If I would have hate in my heart now, I would not be free. I would be the prisoner of my own hate. I don't want to be a prisoner anymore. I want to be free and I am free."

- Noémi Ban, retired schoolteacher and Holocaust survivor, in a speech to graduates and their families at Winter Commencement March 23, 2013. Ban received Western's Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters for sharing her story of resilience and hope with thousands of people throughout the Pacific Northwest. Ban also co-founded what is now the Northwest Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Ethnocide Education, housed at Woodring College of Education.
Lynda Goodrich retires after 26 years as Athletic Director and more than 40 years at Western

After more than four decades as a ground-breaking director of athletics and women's basketball coach at Western Washington University, Lynda Goodrich ('66, Special Education and Physical Education; '73, M.Ed., Physical Education) announced her retirement on May 6.

During Goodrich's 26 years as athletic director, the Vikings won nine team national titles, the only ones in school history, and she guided the program in stepping up from the NAIA to NCAA Division II. She coached basketball 19 seasons and had more than 400 wins.

Steve Card, formerly the associate athletics director, has begun serving as interim athletics director. A national search for Goodrich's successor will begin in the fall.

During the current school year, WWU won eight Great Northwest Athletic Conference championships. Both the Viking men's and women's basketball teams reached the national semifinals, with women's soccer getting to the Far West Regional final and volleyball to the regional semifinals.

“I felt like the program was in the right place for me to step down,” said Goodrich. “And for me personally, it is a time to look at something new.”

WWU already scored a record 206 points to clinch a fifth-straight GNAC All-Sports title and has an opportunity for a fifth consecutive top-15 placing among more than 300 Division II schools in the Learfield Sports Directors Cup National All-Sports standings. The Vikings have been among the top 100 in all-sports finishes in all 15 seasons as a NCAA II member and the last 10 years among the top 50.

Besides the move to NCAA II, Goodrich lists adding scholarships, improving facilities and hiring outstanding coaches and staff as her top accomplishments in helping move the program forward. Under Goodrich's direction, WWU student-athletes have graduated at rates well above the national average for NCAA Division II.
Bellingham wouldn’t be the college town you love without alumni like these.

It’s easy to see what’s so Bellingham about Western. Our campus and our college town go together like rainy days and rainwater storage tanks. Like Teva sandals and business casual. Like dead week and snowboarding.

And with so many alumni living here – more than a third of Whatcom County’s bachelor’s degrees come from Western – it’s clear that Vikings have made a lasting contribution to the character of the place.
Work-Hard, Play-Hard Entrepreneurs

Brendan Pape ('11, Communication) and Christian Harkson ('12, Communication)

Sometimes, the best way to find a job in the town you love is to make your own.

Brendan Pape and Christian Harkson started screen printing T-shirts as students in Pape's bedroom in 2010. This summer they expect to print about 80,000 shirts—each one a sartorial tribute to the young and shreddy lifestyle—while they expand into designing jackets and other clothing.

It's more than the easy access to dirt bike trails, snowboarding, and other outdoor pursuits that keeps their company, Disidual, in Bellingham, Harkson says. "A lot of cool businesses start out in Bellingham just because the community supports them so much. It's such a good place for a business to grow."

See more alumni who give Bellingham its Viking Vibe at www.wwu.edu/window

Foodie Forager: Jennifer Hahn ('84)
The Mayors: Kellie Linville ('74, '81), Dan Pike ('94) and Mark Asmundson ('76)
Nightlife Executive: Hollie Huthman ('03)
Lummi Nation Leader: Tim Ballew II ('03)
Community-Building Nature Lover: Wendy Wollam Scherrer ('76)

Photo by Dan Levine
Professional Quality-of-Lifers

Todd Elsworth ('92, History) and Lance Romo ('95, English)

You never know when you'll be able to get in a quick run, bike ride or paddle, which is why the back of Lance Romo's rig looks like the equipment-rental department of the AS Outdoor Center.

As Recreation coordinator for the city of Bellingham, Romo, right, organizes many highlights of the 'Hamster social calendar, from a New Year's Day Polar Dip at Lake Padden to a 15k race along the waterfront each September. When he runs in the races he organizes, spot him wearing a kilt that he says enables quick post-race clothing changes in the parking lot.

Romo works closely with Todd Elsworth, executive director of Recreation Northwest, which puts on several athletic events of its own, including the Bellingham Traverse, a relay race that “celebrates the life cycle of wild salmon.”

Where else could you ride your bike for a fish? Actually, there is one other place: the Olympia Traverse is in July.

First Couple of Organic Farming

Tom Thornton ('78, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) and Cheryl Thornton ('78, Marine Resources)

The Thorntons got their start growing organic vegetables at The Outback Farm behind Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies and went into business at their Cloud Mountain Farm in Everson soon after they graduated in 1978. They've been growing and selling organic produce and plants – and propagating knowledge about locally grown food – ever since.

Today, their farm is the nonprofit Cloud Mountain Farm Center, where they continue to operate their nursery while teaching area gardeners and would-be farmers the secrets to growing food while loving the Earth.

"Now we're at that age where we want to pass all this on," Cheryl says. "We hope it will go on forever."
Saver of Liquid Sunshine

Anitra Accetturo ('02, Geography)

Anitra Accetturo, the city of Bellingham’s Water Conservation Program Coordinator, is a local authority on putting all this rain to good use.

No need to use treated drinking water to flush the toilet or water the lawn, Accetturo says. She teaches classes about rainwater harvesting systems and how to build them. “Rainwater harvesting has a dual purpose in that it’s conservation — reducing the amount of potable water used,” she says, “and storm water management — protecting water quality.”

Two of her demonstration systems are on display behind The RE Store; they’re both much smaller than the commercially engineered, corrugated metal rainwater tanks seen here in the alley behind the Whatcom Museum’s Lightcatcher Building.

Vikings Raising the Next Generation

Fred Chung ('01, Interdisciplinary Child Development) and Michelle (Almojera) Chung ('99, Biology) and their son, Carter

Bellingham’s reputation as a great place to raise a family owes its existence to people like Fred Chung, a Whatcom Middle School math teacher and one of hundreds of Western alumni teaching in Bellingham classrooms.

The Bellingham School District is consistently one of the top 10 employers of new Western graduates. More than half of the district’s certificated staff, including teachers, principals, counselors and others, earned their credentials at Western.

Fred moved to Bellingham from Tacoma to attend Western and “fell in love with the place,” he says. He and his wife Michelle, a nurse at St. Joseph hospital, enjoy spending weekend mornings getting breakfast downtown with their son Carter and taking walks through Zuanich or Boulevard parks.
If your next job offer came from a health center in a small village at the end of a long dirt road in Rwanda, would you take it?

To Kayla Britt, it sounded like a dream job. The 2009 Communication major is one of 73 Western Washington University alumni who are Peace Corps Volunteers in 38 countries around the globe.

This year, Western was the medium-sized university with the most alumni serving in the Peace Corps in 2012 — more than schools such as Georgetown, Cornell or Notre Dame.

All three top Peace Corps schools are in Washington: University of Washington has the most alumni in the Peace Corps among large universities, 107, in a tie with University of Florida. The small-school title goes to Gonzaga, with 24.

Volunteers commit to serving abroad for about 27 months in one of 76 host countries, working closely with local communities on projects related to agriculture, economic development, education, environment, health, and youth development.

Britt, for example, works at a public health center in Rwanda, helping with vaccinations, distributing medication to those living with HIV and AIDS, sharing information about birth control and helping maintain medical records. She lives on the clinic’s compound with other staff members — they've converted a storage room for her to sleep in, she says.

Among her many side projects is distributing mosquito nets to combat malaria. She and a nurse from the health center are delivering nets to every child in their area under age 5.

“I actually saw a child die in an ambulance from malaria six months ago,” she says. “After that, I wanted to find a way to get involved in malaria prevention.”

Jill MacIntyre Witt, Western’s Peace Corps recruiter, says Western’s alums in the Peace Corps — 885 serving around the world since 1961 — are part of the university’s legacy. She thinks volunteers' desire to serve overseas is rooted in their experience at Western.

“The core values of the school reflect service,” says Witt, who served in the Peace Corps in Morocco in 1990 and 1991. “And a lot of our majors have service learning built into their requirements.”

Meanwhile, she says, many Western students get a taste of life abroad through international exchanges or other global experiences.

“They come back and they just want more,” she says.

No Typical Day

Every day is different in the Peace Corps, but several Western alumni who have served overseas shared a few details about their lives abroad:

I wake up in ... a mud house in a small city in Ethiopia ... an apartment in a small Moroccan town with no hot water, a squatty potty, gas camping stove and no central heat ...
est flat on the fifth floor of a Communist-era apartment building in Albania ... a massive four-bedroom house on the campus of a teacher’s college in Guyana.

Then head off to work, where I ... train Botswana youth how to prevent HIV/AIDS infection – and to share that knowledge with their peers ... work with kids in a Moroccan youth center ... work in an Albanian health clinic, counseling people with chronic hypertension ... lead support groups for young mothers in Peru ... help about 30 Senegalese farmers establish a cooperative ... help Fijian villagers protect their endangered coral reef ... teach information technology at a teacher’s college in Guyana.

My favorite meal includes ... Moroccan mint tea. Most Moroccans can tell where a person is from by how they make their tea ... isombe, a classic Rwandan casserole of pounded cassava leaves.

I’ve made some close friends ... A fellow volunteer introduced me to four sisters and a brother who ran a vegetable and fruit stand in the market in Guyana. The family was so kind, they had us over for New Year’s Day ... On my one-year anniversary in my village I went to the bar in town with nine people and had a really good time. They told me stories and I just laughed. I was so naive when I first came here and can’t believe how much I have changed this past year. After drinking, in true Fijian style, we returned to the village to drink grog until 4:30 in the morning at the rugby captain’s house ... I’ve adopted a dog and a cat. Pets aren’t common in Morocco and the neighbors think I’m crazy, but the neighborhood kids are no longer afraid of the dog and even come over to take her on walks.

I find myself at home among ... the beautiful setting in Albania. We’re nestled in the foothills of a rocky mountain on rolling hills above a deep valley and surrounded by snow-capped peaks. It’s paradise!

Language of art: Brenna Anderst ('11, Human Services), a Peace Corps Volunteer at a youth center in Morocco, helped the children paint lively murals to decorate the walls.

I may wonder if it’s all worth it when ... we struggle with language barriers and cultural differences, we eat strange foods like sheep’s blood and cow stomach, we sometimes feel alone and stranded in our small towns, we get parasites in our stomachs that make us very ill for weeks, and we get paid just enough to survive.

But I wouldn’t trade this experience because ... I came to Peru to dedicate two years of my life to make a difference in the lives of the youth here. But it’s the Peruvians – who house me and treat me like their own, love me, teach me about their culture, who want to feed me when they barely have enough for themselves, and work beside me – who are truly giving to me. In the end I think it’s really they who are changing my life and are making a difference for me.

I’m getting used to ... almost nightly kava sessions. Meeting with villagers around a shared coconut cup of muddy water is the best way to build trust in Fiji. So much of the educational process of environmental resource management is accomplished around a bowl of grog.

At the end of the day I’ll receive the best care package ever, filled with ... quinoa ... letters, photos, extra-crunchy peanut butter, Oregon Trail chai ... coffee, duct tape and playing cards ... a WWU shirt from my little brother ... recent magazines, batteries, homemade treats, material for new clothes.

And contemplate my future ... working with global development organizations ... traveling through Africa and Europe ... and Suriname and the Caribbean islands ... earning a master’s degree in Public Health or going to medical school ... teaching English in China ... returning to my mental health practice.

By Brenna Anderst ('11, Human Services), Morocco; Tracy (Slingland) Asher ('82, Recreation), Philippines 1983 to 1985; Kayla Britt ('09, Communication), Rwanda; Ryan Hemingway ('00, Political Science/Economics), Guyana 2001-2003; Helen Jones ('09, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration), Ethiopia; Erin Middleton ('09, Environmental Education), Armenia, 2010-2012; Kendra Pittman ('12, Human Services), Peru; Robert Ranger ('88, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration), Botswana 2007-2009; Samantha Russell ('11, Environmental Science - Marine Ecology), Fiji; Emily Thorn ('10, Anthropology - Biocultural Concentration), Albania; and Byron Yee ('09, Theatre, Business-Management) Senegal, 2009-2011.
Ethiopia

A sweet business idea

Most Peace Corps Volunteers have sharp cravings for the food comforts of home. But Helen Jones' wish for a popsicle in the middle of Ethiopia gave her a money-making idea.

Jones ('09, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration), is in the rural town of Adet working to slow the spread of HIV and AIDS. One project has her working with women who want to find a way other than prostitution to survive – the commercial sex trade is a major conduit of the deadly virus.

"Unfortunately, there is a pretty high number of commercial sex workers in Ethiopia," Jones says. "It's a symptom of poverty."

After an 11-week course on HIV education, the women received startup capital for their own business – a juice stand that Jones hoped would not only generate income for the women, but give their neighbors more access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

But the women struggled to turn a profit. One serving of juice cost as much as a basic meal for two. The fruit spoiled before it could be sold. So the women started selling a traditional barley drink that cost half as much.

But Jones didn't give up finding a way to get more mangoes, bananas, avocados and pineapples into the local diet. She told them about her secret wish for a popsicle and suggested they blend the fruits with water and sugar to turn into frozen treats.

"They cost a tenth of what the juice costs," Jones says. "It's cheap enough that children will come over and buy them at recess."

Even with the recent success, there are no guarantees the business will last, Jones says. Several women already left after such a rocky start.

But Jones is hopeful. The juice stand has just started to turn a profit.
Botswana

An ‘older,’ wiser volunteer fulfills a dream

“I remember watching JFK talk about the Peace Corps on my family’s little black-and-white TV,” says Robert Ranger (’87, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration). “I knew it was something I wanted to do after hearing JFK speak.”

Ranger finally fulfilled that dream at the age of 61, when he spent two years in Botswana as a Peace Corps Volunteer working on HIV/AIDS prevention in 2007 to 2009.

“PC is heavily recruiting older folks like me these days,” he says. “When PC began they did many projects in countries that involved putting in schools or water lines or physical work around infrastructure. Today’s issues in these countries are much more complicated and, to my way of thinking, need and can use the skills of us older folks.”

Ranger found his professional experience as a mental-health counselor gave him an advantage.

“Helping change people’s dangerous behaviors is a complicated process,” he says. “It is clear to me my skill set crossed cultural differences and brought insight and change into their lives that maybe a younger person couldn’t bring.”

Rwanda

A healing nation values service among neighbors

The last Saturday of each month, Peace Corps Volunteer Kayla Britt (’09, Communications) joins in a national Rwandan healing ritual that is part work party, part social gathering.

Umuganda is a national day of service bringing neighbors together to socialize and build schools, houses, roads — and a stronger sense of community. It’s one of many ways Rwanda hopes to prevent another atrocity like the 1994 Rwandan Genocide that killed as many as 1 million people.

Recently, Britt joined people in her rural, remote village to build new classrooms at the local school.

“People were very impressed I was carrying stones,” Britt says. “It’s not very ladylike. People were asking, ‘You don’t even want to rest?’”

Britt, from Lacey, lives and works in the village’s health center, where the other women often treat her as their little sister. But strangers sometimes wonder if Britt’s own history is intertwined with the Rwandan Genocide.

Many Rwandan children with a Belgian parent were evacuated to Belgium during the genocide, Britt says. They have since returned as adults and are readjusting to the culture and language of their birth.

“Lots of times people assume I’m one of those returned children,” says Britt, whose parents are African-American and Filipino. “It’s a delicate thing, when I meet people who have different assumptions about me, how I should be acting and which culture I should be embracing.”
The survivor of a deadly bombing in Libya, global photographer Michael Christopher Brown ('00) pursues much more than the next great shot.

Story by Claire Sykes ('81)
Photos by Michael Christopher Brown ('00)
He remembers them well: The slide shows of his family at home and on vacation. The photos his physician father took of his patients in orphanages in Romania, Mexico and Haiti. The Polaroids scattered around their home of the operations his father performed, full of bloody flesh and surgical tools. Years passed before Michael Christopher Brown realized just how much they would influence him.

"After seeing my father’s surgical photos so many times, perhaps that’s why I’m able to look at flesh and gore without it really bothering me," says Brown ('00, Psychology), a photographer based in New York City, who has captured images around the world of social unrest and war.

On April 20, 2011, shortly after he arrived in Libya to photograph the revolution in Misrata, he was with photojournalists Tim Hetherington, Chris Hondros and Guy Martin traveling with rebel fighters, when an explosive round blasted in front of them. Hetherington, an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker, and Hondros, a celebrated photojournalist, were killed. Martin and Brown were severely injured. Wounded in the chest, shoulder and arm, Brown was rushed to the hospital. But surgeons weren't able to remove all of the shrapnel, which just missed one of his lungs and a major artery in his arm (four pieces remain inside him). He received two transfusions for losing almost half the blood in his body.
Capturing a ‘visceral experience’

The 2012 HBO documentary, “Witness: Libya” follows Brown’s work as a “war photographer,” but he doesn’t consider himself one. Since 2003, he has also taken his camera to the streets of Mexico and Mumbai, around a remote Russian island and among the California redwoods, across China and down into the mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His award-winning, internationally exhibited photos appear in National Geographic, TIME and Newsweek, among others. Straddling fine art and photojournalism, Brown’s photos express his personal perspective and poetic vision through hauntingly beautiful and sometimes horrifyingly graphic views of the world.

A professional photographer was the last thing Brown thought he’d be. Born and raised in Mount Vernon, as a kid he took pictures of flowers, wildlife and landscapes with his father, “mainly because it was something he wanted to do with me,” says Brown. Then, at 15, he injured his knee playing soccer. There went snowboarding and wakeboarding, too.

Brown kept taking pictures over the years, while he racked up sprains and broken bones, and several more knee surgeries. “I began taking photography more seriously, trying to compensate for the physical things I no longer could do. On the streets, I was looking for imagery that would capture that visceral experience I previously had in the outdoors, the type of experience I’d find on an untracked mountain powder slope. I finally found it in Libya, when I wasn’t looking for it.”

As a way to make a living, photography was “the only thing I knew how to do that I was interested in,” he says. At Western, he interned with then-National Geographic photojournalist (for 25 years) and former WWU adjunct professor Phil Schofield.

“When I first saw Mike’s portfolio, I could see he had an eye – and a great deal of passion,” Schofield says.

Brown’s master’s degree in Visual Communications from Ohio University (’03) “was about surrounding myself with those more experienced in and connected to the world of photojournalism,” he says. “It was about getting work.”

After completing his master’s degree, Brown took an internship at a newspaper in Springfield, Ill. A year later, he got one with National Geographic. “It was a dream come true, and my chance to become the type of photographer I wanted to be. Or so I felt.”

Over the next several years, he began taking more and more prestigious assignments. But an unease brewed inside him. “Photography had become just a job,” he says. “I always felt this need of finding something to photograph; it was more of an obsession. It was also a commercially oriented mentality, that the more visually sophisticated the work became, the more I might stay competitive and continue to make a living.”

After two months covering the Afghanistan elections in 2009, he went to China for the second time. He spent long
days alone driving in a van with tinted windows, photographing mostly solitary figures on busy streets or in industrial and agricultural areas.

"I began to feel locked inside a capsule moving through a strange land full of cities with millions of people, many cities with names nobody outside China, or even inside, would recognize," says Brown. "Everything began to look the same after a while, and I felt like I was driving through a wasteland of sorts. The more I looked at people, the more I realized I was looking at myself. I was searching for something more than the issues I was interested in photographing, and the trip became existential. I began asking myself what I was really doing in China with photography—and with my life."

A camera that ‘liberates’

He found his answer during the last several months of his most recent, 2010 trip to China, when he started taking pictures with his cell phone. "I didn't feel like a photographer, just a person," says Brown, who still uses his mobile phone camera, mainly for his own work; he also uses a 35mm digital camera when on assignment.

Says Schofield, "Mike has always been able to make people feel at ease, and get close to them. Using his iPhone makes them even more accessible to him, because it allows him to blend in with everyone else taking pictures with their phones. Also, in a lot of countries, if you're the only white guy in a bar and you've got this $5,000 camera hanging around your neck, you could either get ripped off or beat up, or both."

Brown continues, "People don't see a mobile phone as a camera. It's liberating for me. It's less obtrusive, so it makes certain types of images possible or more easily captured than
“I no longer take pictures for the sake of taking pictures, to challenge myself as a photographer.”

with a traditional camera.”

The cell phone also relieves Brown of “the traditional pressures of photography. Taking pictures with it is an exploration, a personal expression, as it was in the beginning when I first became interested in photography, without the responsibility associated with journalism.”

**Amidst the politics, a country’s people**

In February 2011, Brown followed the Tahrir Square protests on TV from his Beijing apartment, and he felt drawn to cover the unfolding events of the Arab Spring. “There were values I identified with as an American, like freedom and democracy (or at least that’s what the media was projecting). And there was a mysteriousness about Libya that attracted me, in part because the country was largely closed to the world under the 42-year dictatorship of Qaddafi,” he says. “Also, I had never experienced a revolution, and I felt this palpable excitement.”

With Brown and his photography, there’s before Libya and after Libya. For years leading up to that fateful April day, “the obsession with photography always dictated life decisions. Afterwards, I realized I had not done enough in my life, not given enough, that I needed to grow more and that I did not want to die in that way. Photography is important, but I am now conscious of the need to use photography, not to be used by it.”

In Libya, along with the revolution and the war, Brown photographed landscapes, animals and still lifes, like he did growing up. A forthcoming book of several hundred of these images features his journal entries and other writings about going into a war zone for the first time. He used his cell phone to take many of those pictures. “The revolution in Libya was enabled in certain ways by mobile technology,” he says. And in Congo, where in August 2012 TIME sent him to document the effects of the conflict-minerals trade, the mines’ tourmaline, cassiterite and coltan end up in the world’s handheld computers and phones. Brown returned to Congo that November for several months, to cover the resource wars, and again from March to May 2013, to work on several assignments and personal projects.

“I no longer take pictures for the sake of taking pictures, going somewhere to challenge myself as a photographer. I’ll still take some commissions in order to make a living, but it’s more about me continuing to evolve as an individual,” says Brown. “And though I believe pictures can help change the world, I also don’t take pictures for that belief. Nor do I believe any of my pictures have, or will, change anything.”

Even though they do.

“Not many photographers would go into situations with so much ambient danger – live ammunition and the ‘ugly American’ as the catch phrase of the day,” says Schofield. “But Mike inserts himself right in the middle, and brings back pictures that really capture the daily lives of people.”

With his camera, Brown opens a window wide onto the world, showing what life is like from wherever he may go. And those who look through it see that world anew.

Claire Sykes ('81, Community Service and the Arts) is a freelance writer in Portland, Ore. She covers the visual arts and music, health and wellness, the environment, business, travel and general interest for magazines in the U.S., Canada and abroad.
The Planes
Photographer Michael Christopher Brown explains the story of his iPhone photos of abandoned planes at a Congolese airport

Abandoned planes are a common sight at airports in Africa. At Goma Airport, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, planes left due to wars and volcanic eruptions over the past two decades have become a playground for street children, some of whom sell the parts which are made into stoves and other items to be sold on the streets of Goma.

One is generally prohibited from photographing this airport, but in mid-December, 2012, after the M23 rebel force which occupied Goma left and before the FARDC (military of the D.R.C.) returned to the city, a security vacuum meant that nobody was guarding this section of the airport.

Children guided me through the planes, which were later discussed by my Congolese fixer, Horeb Bulambo Shindano:

"In January of 2002, the volcano (Nyiragongo, just outside Goma) exploded and the lava blocked the planes. I helped move this plane after I and many of my friends living near the airport lost our homes to lava, on the first day of the eruption.

"On the second day, we saw the lava moving towards the planes. I and others were just watching the lava flow getting closer to the planes and we decided to move one of them, this newer one.

"There were at least a hundred people there pushing the plane for about 300 meters. A friend of mine who was there, and whose house was also destroyed, had a childhood dream to be a pilot. But his parents were too poor and all the schools were expensive, so he could not hold onto that dream. He forgot about it, but then on that day, when we needed to move the plane, he told me to help him inside so he might steer it!

"We all pushed the plane as my friend waved his arm out the window, in the cockpit. We then climbed in the plane and saw the lava flowing down the volcano and into town."

In the next year or so, I plan to exhibit and publish these images, samples of a larger body of work that is still in production, in book form.

See more of Michael Christopher Brown’s photography:
- Web: www.mcbphotos.com
- Twitter: @mcbphotos
- Instagram: michaelchristopherbrown
Outstanding Alumni

The Western Alumni Association honors Vikings who are making a difference

Lifetime Achievement Award
David W. Cole, Retired Microsoft executive

David Cole ('84, Applied Mathematics; '86, M.S., Mathematics) spent just one weekend relaxing after graduating from Western before diving headfirst into a career at Microsoft.

He wasted no time making things happen as a pivotal member, and eventual leader, of the company's monumental growth over two decades – to include the development of Windows, Internet Explorer and MSN.com. As one of the first 1,000 employees, Cole found himself changing hats as quickly as technology changed, going from technical developer to sales and marketing to vice president.

During the same time in the 1990s, he served on Western's Board of Trustees for three years. His fond memories of Western include the beautiful campus and opportunity to get an excellent technology-based education. His one regret: not having an opportunity to take more business classes.

But the one thing he felt was lacking is now the focus of his philanthropy at Western – education in entrepreneurship. Cole says he is devoted to creating experiences for Western students that help them learn what it takes to launch a business, make connections within the industry and have the best chance of success. Most recently, he funded a faculty position: the David Cole Professor of Entrepreneurship for the College of Business and Economics. He also funded the David Cole Endowment Scholarship of $3,000, awarded annually to a computer science student.

David's fast success has enabled him to enjoy an early retirement. He lives on his horse farm with his wife, Denise, and enjoys being available to spend time with his three adult children. He also spends much of his time fly fishing and attending equestrian competitions.

Larry "Go Vikings!" Taylor Alumni Service Award
Joyce Taylor Wallace, Award-winning journalist

Joyce Taylor ('84, Broadcast Communication) is best known for her work as an Emmy award-winning journalist and as the anchor of "KING-5 Morning News." During her 25-year career, Taylor has covered the stories of heroes, presidents, policy makers, entertainers, athletes, activists and hundreds of people who make up our communities and affect our daily lives.

But not as many know about Taylor's passion and service for education. She serves on the board of Seattle's Rainier Scholars, a rigorous 11-year academic program for talented students of color. Rainier Scholars have gone on to some of the most prestigious universities in the country – including Western.

Taylor is also a member of Western's Foundation Board and was recognized as one of Western's "100 Outstanding Alumni of the Century."

Taylor was born and raised in Tacoma, with a twin sister and three other siblings. She's also a devoted mom, raising a 15-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter with her husband of 21 years, Dr. Calvin Wallace.
More than 30 years ago, Robert Brim ('70, Physics/Mathematics) was controller of his family's business, Brim Tractor Co., writing software to automate his company's operations.

The software caught the attention of the Ford Motor Co. tractor division. With his brother Dave and a friend, Gerald Baron, Bob Brim launched Dealer Information Systems Corporation (DIS Corp.) in 1980 to sell the software to tractor dealers across North America. The company went on to be one of the fastest growing private companies in the U.S. during the 1980s.

Brim, who has been CEO of DIS for 33 years, holds a master's degree in electronic engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. In 1989, Brim received a Gates Entrepreneur Scholarship to earn an MBA at the University of Washington. He also serves on the board of directors for both the Downtown Bellingham Partnership and Mount Baker Theatre. At Western, he donates to scholarships and serves on the College of Sciences and Technology advisory board.

Laurel W. Browning ('86, Child Development; '93, M.Ed., Elementary School Administration) has served as superintendent of the Burlington-Edison School District since 2008. She has also held the positions of assistant superintendent and executive director of Teaching and Learning. In each of these roles, she has championed a focus on high quality teaching and learning for all students. It is her strong belief that all systems within a school and district must be structured to support effective instructional programming.

Browning also recognizes that community partners are critical in the success of schools and works diligently to create partnerships and community connections. Laurel was the acting chair of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce this year, holds partnerships with the Gates Foundation, Western and University of Washington, and serves on the board of the Washington Association of School Administrators.

Murray L. Dow ('70, Economics) got his start in the hospitality industry at Western, working in food services while taking in the breathtaking views from the Viking Commons. Now the owner of the Dow Hotel Co., which manages six major hotel properties throughout the country, Dow says Western is where he learned a collaborative approach to problem solving.

Prior to founding Dow Hotel, Dow was executive vice president and chief operations officer of HEI Hotels, based in Westport, Conn. Under Dow's direction, HEI hotels grew from one property to 20 with $200 million in annual sales.

Dow was named Western's College of Business and Economics Distinguished Executive in 2007 and was a founding board director for the Center for Excellence in Management of Education. He also recently accepted a position on the CBE Advisory Board. As a cyclist, he's proud to serve on the board of directors for Bicycles for Humanity - a nonprofit that collects bicycles, fixes them and ships them to Africa.
Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies Distinguished Alumnus

Royal A. Hanson, CEO, Hanson Research Corporation

Roy Hanson ('75, Interdisciplinary Concentration), holding the guitar in the photo above, came to Western sight unseen, with a sense of adventure that has continued to fuel his success as chairman and CEO of Hanson Research Corp. — a world leader in dissolution test technology for the pharmaceutical industry.

Hanson was drawn to the experimental nature of Fairhaven College and its focus on interdisciplinary studies. His favorite memories include learning about China from the late John McClendon. Hanson has traveled to China more than 50 times in his career and now conducts business there. Hanson Research Corp. now sells testing equipment to major pharmaceutical manufacturers around the globe.

In addition to his work in the pharmaceutical industry, Hanson is a guitarist who plays blues rock, folk and traditional Irish music.

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Distinguished Alumnus

J. David Leander, Pharmaceutical scientist

David Leander ('67, M.A., Psychology) was planning to become a school counselor before he began graduate school, but an intense year of “having a lot of fun being a scientist” at Western changed his plans for good.

After 10 years as a professor in the Pharmacology Department at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Leander spent two decades at Eli Lilly where he helped develop many famous medications, including Prozac, Zyprexa, Strattera, Cymbalta and Permax.

However, the breakthrough drug he is most proud of developing is not as famous. Leander and a colleague developed Enterap to treat constipation and aid gastrointestinal recovery after surgery. Chronic and painful constipation is common among elderly people who take several prescriptions.

Today, Leander is founder of Skagit Neuropharm Consulting. He advises biotech companies and venture capital groups looking to invest in small companies getting started in the neuropharmacology industry.

College of Fine and Performing Arts Distinguished Alumnus

Maitland Peters, Renowned voice instructor

One of New York City’s most prominent voice teachers, Maitland Peters ('74, Music, Sociology, Anthropology; '76, M.A., Music) is director of one of the largest and most prestigious faculties of voice in the world. Peters is currently in his 22nd year as chairman of the Voice Department at Manhattan School of Music and is a recent recipient of the school's Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

His students sing on the stages of the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera, the opera companies of Berlin, Munich, Paris, London and La Scala, and on the Broadway stage. He is the co-creator and artistic director of the Manhattan School of Music Summer Voice Festival.

Peters has served on the faculty of the National Opera Center and as a frequent adjudicator for many international and national competitions including the Metropolitan Opera National Council, National Youth Foundation and the International Contemporary Opera. Just this year, Manhattan School of Music established a voice scholarship in his name to further the vocal studies of their most promising young singers.
Huxley College of the Environment
Distinguished Alumnus

Mark Reis,
Managing director, Sea-Tac Airport

Mark Reis ('75, Environmental Education) is the managing director of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, the 15th busiest passenger airport in the nation, providing service to more than 33 million passengers in 2012. A good-sized city could be filled with the number of passengers who come through Sea-Tac on an average day.

Reis has also been instrumental in Sea-Tac's progress toward sustainability, from employing the herd of goats to munch through invasive plants and manicure the airport lawn, to the radar, lasers and pyrotechnics to keep birds out of the flight path. Sea-Tac was recently named Most Progressive Airport by PETA (People for Ethical Treatment of Animals).

After Western, Reis worked in Washington, D.C., as an environmental lobbyist, focusing on energy issues. He later earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has worked for the Port of Seattle since 1988.

Today, he is vice-chair of Airports Council International - North America, a member of the founding board for Aviation High School in the Highline School District, and a member of Huxley College's advisory committee.

Young Alumna of the Year

Jane Carten,
President, Saturna Capital

Jane Carten ('01, Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration; '06, M.B.A) was already an Internet startup entrepreneur when she was a student at Fairhaven, where she developed a concentration in Internet Entrepreneurship.

After graduation, she worked in her family's investment firm, Saturna Capital, building the company's website and leading marketing efforts. Meanwhile, she learned the investment side of the business and became the company's director and president in 2009.

Today, Carten also works with Fairhaven College to provide more opportunities for entrepreneurial education. She established the Carten Family Scholarship to help Fairhaven student entrepreneurs gain hands-on business skills: Applicants develop a business idea and a website. The unique criteria fosters the kind of creative thinking required to be successful in business, and the scholarship covers tuition for an entire academic year.

Along with the rest of her family, Carten also supports a number of community organizations, including the Mount Baker Theatre, Pickford Film Center and St. Paul's Academy.

Pamela L. Spratien,
U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic

Pamela Spratien attended Campus School as a girl while her father, Thaddeus Spratien, was a member of Western's Marketing faculty from 1961 to 1969. Before she was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic on April 15, 2011, Spratien served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Astana, Kazakhstan, as Country Director in the Bureau of European Affairs and as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs.

Campus School Recognition Award

Harold Hansberry,
Math Department volunteer

Harold Hansberry ('59, Special Education, History/Social Studies; '77, M.Ed., Curriculum), a retired teacher in the Mount Baker School District, remains devoted to math education. He works in the Mathematics Education Lab in Bond Hall and is an enthusiastic volunteer for Western's senior celebrations. From 2004 to 2007, he was activity coordinator for the Whatcom and Skagit Mathematics Partnership, arranging intensive monthly and summer workshops for teachers.

Community Volunteer Recognition Award

Wes Herman,
Founder and owner of Woods Coffee

Wes Herman donates coffee, proceeds and time to Western. One dollar from each sale of Viking Blend coffee goes to WWU scholarships. He also supports events such as the Bellingham and Seattle Business Forums and Western's Get Your Blue On BBQ.

Legacy Family of the Year

The Martinas

Everett-area teachers Joanne ('55 and '73) and Bruce ('55) Martina were the first of 13 family members to attend or graduate from Western. Their three sons and daughter all graduated - Lori Martina Chase ('77), Brian Martina ('79), David Martina ('81) and Todd Martina ('82) - along with several grandchildren and other relatives.

www.wwu.edu/window 27
Curious how the Western Washington University campus has changed over the years? We were, so we sent out Dylan Koutsky, WWU Communications and Marketing intern, to shoot current photos from the same spot as photos from WWU Special Collections.

See the whole gallery on Facebook: www.facebook.com/westernwashingtonuniversity.
While reading through endless stacks of scholarship applications is inspiring, deciding between one student and another is heart-wrenching. Do you pick the one who has always dreamed of attending Western but can’t afford to attend without two jobs, or do you pick another who wants to make an impact on the world after spending nine months in the Amazon jungle to see how the modern world has influenced it? Maybe you decide to go a different route and choose the student who runs a 501(c)(3), is raising three children and needs to work an internship into her already busy school schedule.

The stories we receive each year for our Alumni Leadership scholarships vary from incoming freshman to older non-traditional students, majoring in Kinesiology to Human Services, paying for college themselves or getting help from family, from far-reaching countries to those who have always lived in Bellingham.

But one thing is the same — need.

In today’s tough economy, the strain on students in higher education has continued to grow. Tuition increases yearly, and with significant reduction of scholarship and work-study dollars, the financial burden has hindered many students from deciding to attend university. The need for scholarships and private donations also increases, and we at the Alumni Association see first-hand how donations impact students’ lives daily.

It’s not just the Western Alumni scholarships that make a difference, but because of our Alumni Association members we are able to give more than $60,000 a year in scholarships.

One inspiring story is about WWU freshman Evan Chiles. Evan lived in his car in his final year of high school after escaping a difficult home life. Even with the maximum amount of financial aid and loans, Evan could not afford to attend WWU. Because of private donations and scholarships through the Western Foundation, he is now able to pursue his dreams of higher education.

Every one of our alumni can relate to stories like these: having some kind of need and having someone or something make the difference. The perception that “the need is huge” is real. The little bit of sharing by our alumni of their own good fortune has a significant impact on our students. It means the difference between being able to go to school or not. And we all know the impact a higher education has on our lives.

The little bit of sharing by our alumni of their own good fortune has a significant impact on our students. It means the difference between being able to go to school or not.

Opportunities to support scholarships are as diverse as our applicants — from becoming an Alumni Association member, or working through the Western Foundation to give a donation or to set up an estate gift — every contribution matters.

What will you contribute?

P.S. If you are interested in supporting student scholarships, we’d love your help: foundation.wwu.edu
There is only one road in the United States that crosses the Arctic Circle: Alaska Highway 11, The Dalton Highway. It's more than 2,300 miles from Seattle — roughly the equivalent of driving from Seattle to Detroit. The trip takes more than 50 hours.

Tom Graham knew this. Knew it so well that when his father, Louis, wondered if the pair could drive to the Arctic Circle in time for the Summer Solstice, Tom only had to look at his watch to know the answer.

Louis Graham ('66, Special Education and English; '68, English; '70, M.A, English) and his wife Penny Graham ('65, Spanish) met at Western. Louis became a popular high school teacher at Central Kitsap High School and later a professor at Olympic College. Penny was a librarian in the Central Kitsap School District. Their only child, Tom, had a fairly severe form of autism, and many thought he would never graduate from high school, let alone college.

But once Tom Graham came to Western, he discovered a deep passion for geography, maps in particular, and he graduated in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in Geography from Huxley College of the Environment.

One June day, as Louis and Tom were sharing a beer at a bar in Seattle, the conversation turned to the summer solstice and what it would be like to witness the season's first midnight sun at the Arctic Circle.

"Tom looked at his watch and said, 'If we leave at 4:45 this afternoon we could just make it,'" said Manca Valum, development director of Huxley College. "So they went home, packed up their things and drove to the Arctic Circle."

Where the world's extremities drew Tom, Louis followed, drawing closer to his son with each mile on his Honda CRV. Even after Penny passed away on June 13, 2006, the two continued to travel to the obscure spots Tom found on the map.

The pair drove to the Arctic Ocean and back several times. They visited the northernmost, easternmost, westernmost and southernmost points of North America (Prudhoe Bay, Alaska; Cape Spear, Newfoundland; Cape Flattery, Wash.; South Point, Hawaii). Louis and Tom journeyed together to the southern tip of South Africa, where the Indian Ocean meets the Atlantic. They traveled around the edges of Ireland. They went to the lowest point in North America and the highest point in Scotland.

Tom was fascinated by these places, and Louis was delighted purely by his son's fascination.

Tom died unexpectedly in 2007 at age 35, while descending from a hike on Mount Jupiter on the Olympic Peninsula.

"While the human world of thoughts and feelings befuddled him, the physical world was Tom's window to his place in time, his purpose, his selfhood," Louis wrote.

"His travels, an intrinsic mix of latitude, longitude and spirit, gave him a Zen-like understanding of his life and the way it should be led."

Louis passed away on Oct. 2, 2012, at the age of 72. The Grahams' legacy lives on through gifts of more than $100,000 to Western in support of the geography field camps and scholarships for Huxley students, in honor of Tom.

Brian Sibley is Western's director of Campaign Communications. His favorite road trip was from central Colorado to the Grand Canyon by way of back roads.
1964 - Bob Tarleck (English, ’69; M.A., English) served three terms as mayor of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. He now serves on the Alberta Economic Development Authority and was recently named an honorary member of the Alberta Teachers’ Association. Gary Feragen (History) is a history professor at Oregon State University, teaching classes on the Ancient Near East, Greece, Rome, the historical relationship between science and religion, and on the writings of C.S. Lewis. His research topics include the history of ancient medicine.

1967 - Vern Giesbrecht (English) published an article in the fall 2012 issue of British Columbia History magazine, "Toil and Trivia: A Newspaper Editor’s Life." A former feature editor of The Western Washington Collegian, Giesbrecht wrote about his days as editor of the Hope, B.C., Standard, which was named the best weekly newspaper in Canada in its circulation class in 1970. Despite winning another journalism award with the Alberni Valley Daily Times, Giesbrecht changed careers and spent 30 years as a teacher in public schools and community colleges.

1969 - Dale Friend (History – Elementary Education) retired in June from Tacoma Public Schools, where he taught grades three through six for 43 years at Browns Point Elementary School.

1970 - Richard Harder (History – Secondary Education) is the founder and artistic director of the Off Broadway West Theatre Co. of San Francisco. The critically acclaimed company has received 27 San Francisco Critic Circle Award nominations and four wins. Harder also won 2012 Best Director for the company's production of Athol Fugard’s “Master Harold ... and the Boys.”

1971 - John Doherty (Political Science) was appointed to the bench of the Clallam County District Court 2 in Forks.

1972 - Rudy Thomas (Recreation) recently retired from the city of Bellevue as the programming coordinator at Crossroads Community Center. Shari Sandnes (Art-Secondary Education) is an elementary school librarian in the Lake Stevens School District.

1973 - Ed Bergh (Political Science), in his 39th year of teaching social studies at Yelm High School, was named Washington State Legislature Civics Education Teacher of the Year for 2012. His name was put forward by two of his former students: the district’s superintendent and a local legislator.

1974 - Elisabet Tennesen-Hach (Education – Home Economics) retired from the Cleveland Metropolitan School District after teaching 25 years in the primary grades.

1975 - William Foote (Broadcast Communication) graduated from Liberty Baptist Seminary with a master’s degree in Religion and Pastoral Counseling and teaches Bible and Theology at Rainier Christian High School in Auburn. Everett Babbitt (Industrial Technology; ’85, M.B.A.) is president and CEO of Bellingham Marine.

1976 - David (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) and Julie Walter (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) founded Hollywood Vaults in Los Angeles in 1985, where they care for priceless media materials in climate-controlled security for film and TV studios, the music industry, museums, archives and private collectors.

1977 - Ted Robinson (Visual Communication) retired – again – after nine years of teaching high school photography, drafting and desktop publishing in Batavia, N.Y. Previously, he had a 25-year career as a marketing communications manager for Honeywell, Inc. His current project: to become a good enough cellist to accompany his two 8-year-old grandchildren, who are budding violinists.

1978 - Patricia Lee Davies (Physical Education – Secondary) recently retired after teaching 35 years in British Columbia, the most recent 25 years at Mission Secondary School. She also taught in Prince George and Dawson Creek. At Western, she played volleyball in 1974 and 1975 and coached the JV team in 1976.

1979 - Barbra Schulte (M.A., Speech Pathology/Audiology), an author and horse trainer, was inducted into the 2012 National Cowgirl Hall of Fame.

1980 - Brad Ziemer (Journalism), who writes about golf for the Vancouver Sun, recently received Golf Canada’s Distinguished Service Award. Ziemer is also a former deputy city editor and sports editor for the Vancouver Sun. Jeff Kronenberg (Biology) is a food safety and processing consultant with University of Idaho Extension. He advises food-processing businesses across the state.

1981 - Donna Giller (Physical Education – Secondary), a longtime teacher and tennis coach at Sehome High School in Bellingham, was recently inducted into the Burlington-Edison High School Sports Hall of Fame.

1982 - After serving 29 years with the Bellingham Fire Department, Bill Boyd (Political Science) retired as Fire Chief and as the percussion section and safety coordinator for Coastal Industrial Services. Greg Cox’s (Chemistry) "Man of Steel," the official novelization of the new Superman movie, will be released in June by Titan Books. Kim Depew (Chemistry) is a math and chemistry teacher as well as athletic director at West Seattle High School.

1983 - Tuck Gionet (Political Science/Social Studies), a government teacher at Snohomish High School, was recently named one of two 2013 Civics Teachers of the Year by the Washington State Legislature. Rachel Le Mieux (Business Administration) became the partner in charge of state and local tax practice at Peterson Sullivan LLP, a public accounting firm based in Seattle. Karen Morton (Business Education; ’87, M.Ed., Business Education) is a business teacher at Lake Stevens High School. Rodger Anderson (History) teaches sociology, world issues and drivers education at Lake Stevens High School.

1984 - Mark Ogata (Business Administration) is a business services consultant and case manager for WorkSource in Cowitz and Wahkiakum counties. Greg Rogers (Interior Design and Merchandising), a furniture, lighting and cabinetry designer, bought the historic Oysterville Store in Pacific County.

1985 - Bob Bolerjack (Journalism) was recently appointed to the board of trustees for Everett Community College.

1986 - Kevin Ensigh (Accounting) became director of Internal Audit at the Department of Energy’s Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. David K. Lyon (’86, Chemistry) is senior vice president at Bend Research Inc.

1987 - Stephanie Straight (Music Education-Secondary) is principal of the percussion section of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. Doug Mah (Sociology), former mayor of Olympia, joined the editorial board of The Olympian newspaper. Marsha (Skidmore) Perry (Music Education) composed and sang the theme song for the film "Refuge from the Storm." Keven R. Graves (Journalism) became executive editor and publisher for the Whidbey Newspaper Group.

1988 - Carol Menges (Music; ’90, M.Mus., Music) recently wrote "Begging for Acceptance," now available for download in the Kindle store. The book is her own family, from her grandparents’ emigration from the "Old Country" in Ukraine and their struggles as immigrants in the U.S. to her parents’ miraculous survival of a disastrous plane crash. William Goldsby (Human Services) recently co-wrote "Reconstructing Rage: Transformative Reentry in the Era of Mass Incarceration," published by Peter Lang, examining a successful reentry program in Philadelphia. Terese Rowe (Economics) joined Wells Fargo & Co. as its senior vice president and head of the Agribusiness Group of Oregon.

1989 - Greg Johnson (Applied Environmental Geology) became president and chief executive officer of Prophecy Platinum Corp., a Canadian company with nickel and copper exploration projects in Canada and Uruguay. Tane Cabe (Economics) became manager of Churchill Mortgages' Gig Harbor branch.

1990 - Dillon Schneider (Music – Jazz Studies) is the executive director of the Cascade School of Music in Bend, Ore. He also performs regularly with Michelle Van Handel Quintet and the Groove Merchants. Shane Mcguinn (Psychology) raises hogs, cattle, chickens and turkeys at his farm, Grass Kickin Farms, in Camas, selling directly to customers.

1991 - Marci Hanson (Accounting) became an accounting manager at SPIE, a Bellingham-based scientific society of optical engineers and scientists. Karen (Harish) Downard (Mathematics/Computer Science) lives in Dallas and works for Microsoft as a healthcare account manager. She recently received Microsoft’s U.S. Circle of Excellence Gold Club Award. John Voth (Business Administration) became a senior vice-president and commercial lending officer for Peoples Bank's Skagit-Island County Business Banking Group. Voth is also president-elect of the Economic Development Association of Skagit County. Doug Coutts (Music – Jazz Studies) became director of the newly formed South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District. Previously, he was director of facilities for a park district in the Chicago suburbs.

District and former Olympia School Board member, became a member of the Board of Contributors at the Olympian newspaper, contributing regular columns to the newspaper. **Brett Eddy** (Industrial Design) became chief technology officer for RPI, which prints on-demand photo books, greeting cards, stationery and other products. **Gene J. Simpson** (Applied Mathematics) became vice president of Underwriting and Marketing at CompWest Insurance Co., an underwriter of workers' compensation insurance. **Derek Brower** (M. Ed., Technology) was granted tenure at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, where he has been part of the Education faculty since 2006. **Sarah Stoner** (French) was recently published in "The Chalk Circle: Intercultural Prizewinning Essays." In her essay, "Fragments: Finding Center," she describes growing up in Thailand and first experiencing her "home culture" when she came to Western to attend college. "It was a hard, confusing time," Stoner writes. "I looked like I fit in culturally - with my white face and American accent - but I did not." Stoner says her experience is becoming increasingly common in our globally mobile society.

1993 – **Susie Langerveld** (Psychology) ’98, M.Ed., Elementary Education is a kindergarten teacher at Skyline Elementary School in Lake Stevens. **Andrew Howard** (History) became regional sales director in Seattle, Tacoma and Olympia for Great-West Retirement Services. **Heather (Hostikka) Renner** (Child Development), principal of Morris E. Ford Middle School in Tacoma, was named Middle Level Principal of the Year by the Association of Washington Middle Level Principals.

1994 – **Brett Nicks** (Chemistry) taught chemistry, biology and physics in the Peace Corps after graduation, then attended medical school at the University of Washington, with a specialty in emergency medicine. He's now on the faculty at the Wake Forest School of Medicine, where he is an associate professor of Emergency Medicine, associate dean of Global Health and chief medical officer of two affiliate medical centers. **Jennifer "Jake" Schuyler** (Sociology) launched JKS Solutions Inc., a business consulting firm in Seattle. **Roger Walton** (Physical Education - K-12) teaches several hats at Naselle-Grays River Valley School District, including high school history teacher, yearbook adviser, athletic director and dean of students.

1995 – **Barbara Belshee** (Business Administration – Finance) volunteers in the finance office at Granite Falls School District. **Dan Conway** (Business Administration – Marketing) became president and chief executive officer of 2WIN! Global, which specializes in professional development in the high technology sales field. **Angelique Davis** (Law & Diversity) was appointed to Seattle's Civil Service Commission. She is also a member of the Political Science faculty at Seattle University, where she directs the Pre-law Program.

1996 – **Ian Miller** (Environmental Science) is a scientist based at Peninsula College and is part of the Elwha Nearshore Consortium, studying and promoting restoration efforts following the Elwha dam removals. **Brandon Torres** (Huxley, Student-Faculty Designed Major) is the branch chief of emergency services at Grand Canyon National Park, managing a team of staff members and volunteers responding to more than 1,200 incidents a year.

1997 – **Alice James Books** is publishing "We Come Elemental," a book of poetry by **Tamiko Beyer** (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) in May. Beyer is the 2011 winner of Kinereh Gensler Award from the publishing house. **James Brotherton** (M.A., English), wrote "Reclaiming the Dead," described by Library Journal's "Books for Dudes" column as a "little gem of unexpected depth and speculation zipped up tight in nifty vampire-hunting casing." It's available on CreateSpace and Amazon. **Gabriel Galanda** (English) recently received the "Difference Maker Award" from the American Bar Association for his work in helping to recruit more Native Americans to the legal profession in the Pacific Northwest and for working to restore religious freedoms to Native American prisoners in Washington state.

1998 – **Jennifer Louie** (Music Performance) teaches violin at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. She also performs with the Shoals Symphony at the University of North Alabama, which recently commissioned a piece by Music Professor Roger Briggs. Louie said she was delighted to perform a piece by her former orchestra conductor, **Julie Reiber** (Music – Performance) performed on Broadway as Elphaba in "Wicked." More than 100 times. Her other New York performances include roles in "Priscilla Queen of the Desert," "All Shook Up," and "Vanities." She recently returned to Bellingham to perform songs from her debut album, "Love Travels." **Carol Carr** (Communication, Political Science) became chief executive officer of Lake Superior Hospice in Marquette, Mich.

1999 – **Christopher Bange** (Theatre) wrote, co-created and will appear in "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Hansom Cab Killer" at the Arena Stage. **Valerie Nyberg** (English/Communication) ’04, M.A., English) became associate principal at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

2000 – **Jesse Miller** (English/Writing) recently moved to Long Beach, where he continues to work with his company, Miller Communications, as well as the U.S. Art Alliance. He is also a volunteer at Renaissance High School for the Arts in Long Beach. **Nathan Perea** (Business Administration – Management Information Systems) became the executive director of the Snoqualmie Valley Chamber of Commerce. Previously, he was director of membership development for Issaquah's chamber. After several years performing in musical theatre in Seattle, **Billie Wildrick** (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) now performs on Broadway in New York City, most recently in the musical "Scandalous!"

2001 – **Christine Schellin** (Speech Pathology/Audiology) owns Silver State Hearing & Balance Inc. in Reno, Nev. **Korby Lenker** (Humanities) is a folk musician touring the country and scheduled to return to Bellingham in August for the Subdub Show and Jamboree. **Jason Piskel** (Economics/Political Science) helped form a law firm, Piskel Yahne Kovarik PLLC in Spokane, which specializes in construction, real estate and other commercial litigation. **Brooke Done** (M. Ed., School Administration), principal of Mariner High School in Mukilteo, was named High School Principal of the Year by the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals.

2002 – **Brothers John Prosser** (Philosophy) and Ryan Prosser (Philosophy) recently left their team-teaching jobs in a Tacoma middle school to become teacher trainers with Tacoma Public Schools. They continue to enjoy working together. "Our desks touch," John Prosser told the Tacoma News Tribune. "We sit closer now than when we taught together." Pianist **Reece Marshburn** (Music - Jazz Studies) tours with vocalist Marianna Thielsen as The Bylines, performing an art-pop repertoire. Their self-titled debut album was released in 2012.

2003 – **Thoren Rogers** (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) became a building performance consultant with Barron Heating and Air Conditioning in Ferndale. **Terry Paul** (History/Social Studies, Political Science) ’05, M.Ed., Student Personnel Administration) became an educational planner at South Seattle Community College. Previously, he was a College and Alumni Services program officer at the College Success Foundation. **Tyrene Brown** (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) directed "Black Like Me," one of three one-act plays included in "Second Date!" from Rain City Projects in Seattle. **Dave Schlosser** (Communication) became vice president and director of sales at Electronic Business Machines in Everett. **Jaquie Erickson** (Special Education) is the Resource Room teacher at Highland Elementary School in Lake Stevens. **Mary Margaret Miller** (Recreation) became associate editor for Videogum.com. Her work has also been featured on other entertainment and pop culture websites such as Funny or Die and VH1.com as well as on her own tumblr, ratsof.com. **Michael E. Douglas** (Law and Diversity) became general counsel for the South East Alaska Regional Health Consortium. **Garrett Rudolph** (English Creative Writing) became managing editor of The Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle. **Amber Morrison** (Philosophy) safely finished the Boston Marathon as the 26th-fastest woman in the U.S. and the 45th-fastest woman overall.
2004 – Peter Bristol (Industrial Design) became creative director of Carbon Design Group in Seattle. Angela Brennan (M.S., Environmental Science) is a doctoral student in ecology at Montana State University and won a Fulbright Fellowship to study the effects of disease on wildlife and livestock in Zambia. Jody Gerds (Environmental Education; ’12, M.S., Environmental Science) is coordinator of the University of Minnesota Bee Squad, which assists beekeepers in Minnesota’s Twin Cities area and promotes bee-friendly landscapes.

2005 – Caroline Van Hemert (M.A., English) and her husband Patrick Farrell (’04, Art-Sculpture) recently completed a 4,000 human-powered trek from Bellingham to Kotzebue, Alaska. Along the way they hiked, skied and rowed through the Inside Passage, the Yukon Territory, the Arctic Coast and the Brooks Range. Read their blog and see their photos at carolineandpat.wordpress.com. Karrie-Anne Fiske (Sociology) is a fourth-grade teacher at Hillcrest Elementary School in Lake Stevens. Kate Lebo (English – Creative Writing) is “The Pie Poet” whose “A Commonplace Book of Pie” will be published by Chin Music Press in the fall. Lebo calls it “a poetry book that fits in the cookbook section.” Landon Fisher (Art – Graphic Design) is junior art director for Progressive International, a design firm in Seattle. Morgan Fox (Planning and Environmental Policy) became the Community Reinvestment Act officer for First Federal Bank in Port Angeles.

2006 – Joe Olmstead (Communication) became an employment specialist for Service Alternatives Inc., which supports people with developmental disabilities in the Bellingham area. Chrsissy Wohl (Economics/Environmental Studies) became sport coordinator for the Spokane Youth Sports Association. Elle Rock (Interdisciplinary Child Development – Elementary Education) teaches second- and third-graders at Mt. Pilchuck Elementary School in Lake Stevens. Peter Dixon (Anthropology/Social Studies) divides his time between construction work in Twisp and scuba diving instruction in Honduras. Grant Dykstra (Business Administration – Finance) was one of 48 former NCAA Division II student-athletes named to the NCAA II 40th Anniversary Tribute Team. Nicole (Hagerman) Dewees (History/Social Studies; M.B.A.) is a performance auditor for the Multnomah County ( Ore.). Auditor’s Office, was on a team that found the county could save $300,000 a year with better management practices of employees’ mobile devices.

The Association of Local Government Auditors gave the report its highest honors.

2007 – Nathan Cox (Theatre) performed with Seattle’s Jet City Improv’s “Adventures of Gilbert & Sullivan,” an improvised, unscripted operatic musical. Callie Provazek (Theatre) is a third-grade teacher at Skyline Elementary School in Lake Stevens.

2008 – Josh Batway (Business Administration-Management) is the bar manager at Skillet diner in Seattle. Shelley Falk (M.Ed., Adult Education) continues to study chaos, the traditional Japanese tea ceremony, teaching classes in the Bellingham area and participating in tea ceremony lessons in Vancouver. B.C. Shawn Cass (Environmental Science) is a mural artist in Bellingham. The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra in September is scheduled to play “Rapture,” written by Patrick Harlin (Music-Composition). Harlin is working toward a doctorate of musical arts at the University of Michigan. Rachel Fisheady (Human Services) joined the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling as a program specialist. Molly Johnston (’08, Physical Education and Health) works for the National MS Society. She recently organized the eighth annual MS Pub Crawl in Ballard, an event she started as a student at Western. “Salmon Passage,” a poster by Ruth Hultbert (Biology) was selected by Alaska’s Matanuska-Susitna Borough to promote the area’s salmon fisheries. The Mat-Su borough government selects one poster each year to promote its priority projects. Hultbert, originally from Palmer, Alaska, is studying natural science illustration at the University of Washington.

2009 – Rebekah Hook (Political Science; ’11, M.A., Political Science) works in public policy at Collaborative Services Inc. in San Diego. Adria Wilson (Special Education), a teacher at Renton Academy, was named a teacher of the month by the Rotary Club of Renton. Annie Walden-Newman (Political Science) is the policy director for the National Reproductive Health and Family Planning Association. She also volunteers with Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive, distributing condoms and safe-sex supplies to sex workers in Washington, D.C. In hopes of reducing HIV and AIDS infections, violence, drug use and poverty. Tyler Amaya (General Studies) became an assistant coach for the Bellingham Slam basketball team. Michael Tassin (Human Services) runs Operation: Good Jobs, based at Tacoma Goodwill, which trains veterans and prepares them for new careers and helps them find jobs. Tassin spent eight years in the Army before coming to Western.

2010 – Usalo “Junior” Aumavae (General Studies) signed with the New York Jets in the National Football League. Rachel Lewis (Political Science) became a fellow with Kiva, a global microfinance organization. Lewis, who is pursuing her MBA at Western, was assigned to work with Kiva in Kosovo, a lending organization operating in rural areas in Kosovo and Albania. Chris McCoy (Economics/Environmental Studies) recently opened Kombucha Town, a microbrewery in Bellingham specializing in kombucha “beer.” Jonathan Gipaya (Music) collaborated with other musicians to produce “This Christmas,” a collection of Christmas music with proceeds benefiting the Bellingham Food Bank. Grant Fosheim (Business Administration – Finance; ’11, M.B.A.) became a sales and marketing associate at Vigor Industrial, a ship repair company in Seattle.

2011 – Collette Beaulaurier (Recreation) got a job in Germany with the U.S. Department of Defense’s Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in the Bavarian Alps, serving U.S. service members and their families. Adam Syron (Theatre) played Dr. Caius in the Bag & Baggage theatre production of “The Merry Wives of Windsor” in Hillsboro, Ore. Teresa Todd (Elementary Education Studies) became a sales associate at Launching Success Learning Store in Bellingham, where she also teaches classes in watercolors. Navy Fireman Darren Edwards (Pre-Physical Therapy) completed U.S. Navy basic training in Illinois. Melanie R. Payne (Linguistics) recently completed U.S. Navy basic training.

2012 – Austin Brown (Mathematics/Computer Science) developed an app for Hoitner, an automated, high-tech store selling men’s jeans in Seattle. Nick Marvik (Business Administration-Marketing) recently launched Northwest Technical Outerwear – NWT3K – which creates customized ski and snowboarding jackets. Nicole Holt (Special Education) is a second-grade teacher at Skyline Elementary School in Lake Stevens. Musicians Harrison Mills (Design) and Clayton Knight (Physics) perform and tour as Odesza. They were slated to perform at the Sasquatch! Music Festival at Gorge Amphitheatre on Memorial Day Weekend. Christopher Brown (Human Services) serves on the Whatcom County Veterans Advisory Board and received a fellowship from The Mission Continues to work with the nonprofit Growing Washington. A recent project had him gathering volunteers to spruce up an unused space at a Veterans and Foreign Wars post in Bellingham to serve as a lounge for fellow post-9/11 combat veterans. Will Chen (M.B.A.), a certified public accountant, opened an office in Seattle’s International District.

2013 – Bobby Bertsch (Kinesiology) is working in marketing for a new startup, GeniusDelivery, which offers grocery delivery in Seattle.

Marriages and Unions

Cori Kauk (’97, Recreation) and Chas Walters on Dec. 30, 2012, in Barra de Navidad, Mexico.


Erika Bjornson (’03, Art – New Media) and Tye Chapman on Oct. 6, 2012, in West Seattle.

Brook Lindsey Hinkle (’05, Psychology) and Timothy Jon Moser on Aug. 17, 2012, in Anacortes.

Robyn Oyster (’05, Humanities) and Kelly Austin Moon on Aug. 31, 2012, in Chehalis.

Tell us a good Viking love story

Share your wedding announcement in Window

If you recently got married or entered into a domestic partnership, share your news with your fellow alumni in “Marriages and Unions.”

Email your news, including your names, class years, and the date and place of your marriage or union to mary.gallagher@wwu.edu.
Jennifer Ann Sours ('05, Music - Performance Concentration) and Keith Alan Rice, on June 29, 2012.

Kelly Ann McManus ('08, Psychology) and Noah Martin Schaffer, on Oct. 6, 2012, in New York City.

Jen Morrison ('10, M.S., Mental Health Counseling) and Timm DiStefano ('10, M.Ed., School Counseling) on July 28, 2012, in Salt Lake City Utah, following a proposal during a rainy visit to Red Square.

Alan Rice, and Noah Martin Schaffer, on Oct. 6, 2012, in Bellingham.

Obituaries

1951 - David Edward Baunach, 78, on Jan. 9, 2013. David W. Whitener St., 78, retired faculty member at the Everett Community College and co-convener of the college’s Native American Studies Program, on Nov. 2, 2012.

1965 - Leon John Eldred, 72, a minister and artist, on October 12, 2012, in Bellingham.

1952 - Edward David Baunach, 78, on Jan. 9, 2013. David W. Whitener St., 78, retired faculty member at the Everett Community College and co-convener of the college’s Native American Studies Program, on Nov. 2, 2012.

1965 - Victor Stanley Johnson, 69, a retired teacher and coach, on Sept. 10, 2012, in Burnaby, B.C.


1966 - Gary J. Navert, 70, a retired research and development contractor for the U.S. Navy on March 5, 2013.

1967 - Chester Adam Jaworski, 70, who owned and operated auto dealerships, on Feb. 10, 2013, in Everett.


1968 - Kari Jo Lien Erdwins, 48, a songwriter and Boeing employee, on March 2, 2013, in Bellingham.


1972 - Erma V. Berkley, 63, for piano and organ, on Jan. 16, 2013.


1976 - John H. Eldred, 72, a minister and artist, on October 12, 2012, in Bellingham.


1979 - Steven E. Adams, 56, songwriter and Boeing employee, on Aug. 8, 2013, in Seattle.


1981 - Philip D. Adams, 69, a retired counselor at Peninsula College, musician, history teacher and Jamestown S’Klallam elder, on Feb. 9, 2013, in the Lower Elwha Klallam reservation.


Faculty and Staff

Stanley Matthew Daugert, 94, one of the founding members of Western’s Philosophy Department, working at Western from 1962 to 1982, on Sept. 4, 2012.

Jesse Hiraoka, 85, founder and dean of the College of Ethnic Studies on Nov. 17, 2012 in Seattle. He came to Western Washington State College in 1972, later became chairman of the Foreign Languages Department. He also helped develop The Journal of Ethnic Studies, a journal of interdisciplinary scholarship, opinion and creative expression.

Denise Lanne Hougen, 59, a long-time manager of Western’s Chemistry Department, on Jan. 29, 2013, in Sedro-Woolley. She also earned two degrees from Western, a bachelor’s degree in Business in 1985 and an M.B.A. in 1988.

Richard “Dick” Norris, 66, a 1970 graduate of Western, first associate dean at Fairhaven College and vice president of Administration and Finance at Antioch University on Dec. 7, 2012.

Veronica (Tomaszewski) Traylor, 58, on Feb. 8, 2013, in Bellingham. Mrs. Traylor had been a graphic designer at Western for several years and was a 1986 graduate of Fairhaven College’s Upside-Down Program.

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Waterfalling

WESTERN IS HOME TO SOME OF THE AREA’S BEST WHITESTOWN KAYAKERS

Photo and story Jasper Gibson

Over spring break I traveled with a group of friends to take photos of them heckling their bodies off 40-plus-foot waterfalls.

The vacation turned out to be a non-stop adventure of day trips to waterfalls throughout southern Washington and northern Oregon. I got to watch a group of experienced, semi-professional kayakers, some of whom are at the forefront of their sport.

The group, including Western students Fred Norquist, Eric Parker, and brothers Todd and Brendan Wells, met and learned their skills at World Class Kayak Academy, a roaming high school that takes students to train in rivers and waterfalls around the globe. These days, they kayak Class V+ rivers in the Pacific Northwest and as far away as Chile.

They’re also leaders in their sport. Western student Todd Wells competed in the Whitewater Grand Prix and took fifth place, making him the fifth best kayaker in the world.

And Norquist is a kayaker/videographer who is co-owner and producer of Substantial Media House, an online kayaking video series.

Jasper Gibson is a sophomore at Western, planning to combine environmental journalism and outdoor adventure in a concentration at Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies. More of his work can be seen at jaspergibsonphoto.blogspot.com

Western student Eric Parker drops from Spirit Falls on the Little White River in southern Washington.
Found love
Got married
He was a Viking, she became a Viking
He's a respected Bellingham attorney
She supports families at the Opportunity Council
He joined Western's Alumni Association Board
Both attend WWU athletic events
Both support student scholarships

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Come for a degree, create a new life.

Nathan ('00) and Amanda Dwyer ('11)
& Baby Dwyer (due September '13)
View Finder
The hauntingly beautiful work of global photographer Michael Christopher Brown ('00)