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At last:

Alumni form chapters

Responding to the growth and diversity of the alumni population, Western's Alumni Association has begun establishing chapters in the Puget Sound area, Alaska, Oregon and other communities where significant numbers of alumni live.

Forty Western graduates in Juneau, led by Kelly Follis ('72), began the official organizational effort when they met at the Hangar on the Wharf Nov. 6, becoming the first official chapter of Western's Alumni Association.

Alumni living in Anchorage became the second chapter two days later when Crystal Nygard ('90) and others met for dinner in Alaska's largest city.

The Puget Sound area has also been bustling with activity as Alumni Association staff and officers meet with graduates in the Seattle-Tacoma-Olympia- Everett area and in Bellingham to develop several chapters there.

Alumni Association president Lyle Morse is active in the South Puget Sound chapter which includes Thurston, Mason, Lewis and Grays Harbor counties and has traveled to other spots where alumni are organizing.

"Western alumni are the living history of a dynamic university."

Morse said alumni chapters can be a means for Western graduates to support the university and to network with each other and with current students.

The South Puget Sound group, for instance, which became the first chapter in Washington, hosted a reception last year to welcome incoming students from that area.

Other areas in western Washington where alumni chapters are forming are Pierce County, based in Tacoma; King County, where nearly 25 percent of all Western alumni live; Snohomish County; and Whatcom County.

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Continued on page 4

What's next for new graduates?
Burgers?
Or big time?

The stereotype in many people's minds of young college graduates is that of a 25-year-old stocking grocery store shelves, waiting tables or earning a spare living flipping burgers in a fast food restaurant.

"The young college grad thing."

But it's simply not true.

Over the last six years, Elizabeth D'Alessandro (92) has gradually worked her way up from an entry-level job as an order clerk to a business analyst to a marketing manager of sorts at AirTouchCellular.

Kelly O'Neil Kriss ('93) went on to an MBA after she found her B.A. in art wasn't as marketable and competitive as she wanted it to be. She still paints and makes prints, but her goals — and future — are taking her to new heights. She and her husband, screenwriter Jeremy Kriss ('93), are living and working in the heart of America's film capital in California, dreaming about making a movie together.

Tomoko Kobayashi spent three months of intense job networking in Washington after receiving her degree in American cultural studies last summer. Hoping to land a job that would allow her to pursue her goal of promoting cultural understanding, she found a home with a software company in Bellingham where she translates technical data into Japanese.

In the remote Alaskan village of Kwigillingok, four 1997 graduates are learning to live without cars, flush toilets and other modern conveniences as they begin their teaching careers.

Carl Simpson, director of Western's office of survey research, says young graduates are no different in their field today than they were 20 years ago.

"It's not the case that people are getting fewer jobs in their field," he said. Simpson has been surveying incoming students and graduates for many years and finds, "There's no change in the proportion of (graduates) getting jobs in their field."

The city of Bellingham's surplus labor force and poor economy, combined with many graduates' desire to remain in Bellingham, may give people a false image of what's happening elsewhere, he said. Graduates who answer Simpson's surveys, even those who are unemployed or not working in their field, are still happy and optimistic about their careers, he said.

They may like their jobs less than people who have jobs in their fields, but they're not necessarily stuck. And that's part of the process. Besides, Simpson said, the unemployment or underemployment is always temporary.

Kelly Kriss is one who is fitting her dreams for a career in art with the realities of the job market.

The 25-year-old Washington native was practically a fixture at the Western Gallery, working as a gallery guard during her undergraduate years. And she had two arts internships. With that kind of preparation, prospects for a job in art looked very good.

But when she and Jeremy moved to Beverly Hills in August 1993 (shortly after their graduation and wedding), the best job Kelly could land was a temporary one in the restoration department at the Getty Museum. After that, she got a job caring for a Hollywood film producer, which opened her eyes to new ways of thinking about her career.

"I realized I really enjoyed film," Kelly said. After taking it over with Western Gallery director Sarah Clark-Langager, Kelly decided to go back to school for a master's degree. Now she's setting her sights on a marketing position in feature films or television. "I got my master's in business administration because I thought that would help push me to that," she said.

Kelly, who got her MBA at California Polytech-
Alumni Association golf tournament this summer; and plans are underway for our Centennial celebration, beginning in September 1999.

Investments in Excellence

Microsoft and Boeing, the two largest employers of Western graduates, are major donors to the university. Both companies have recently strengthened their ties to Western.

Young alumni

Whether they've moved to Hollywood or Alaska, or remained here in Bellingham, our young alumni are finding their way in the "real" world outside Western.

Accent on Alumni

The 1998 Distinguished Alumnus award goes to Daniel Beard for his tireless efforts in natural resources management. Find out about upcoming alumni events and reunions, too.

Class Notes & Memoriams

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Calendar of Events

Summer Stock, a great exhibition at the Western Gallery, the Bellingham Music Festival, and a host of other events and entertainment await you in Bellingham.

Sgt. David Meduna hands a coupon to first year student Jamie Koby

Responsible bicyclists earn prizes under new code

University police distributed hundreds of coupons for free food and for free bike tool use to reward students observing the new bicycle responsibility code. Under the code, riders dismount and walk their bikes through designated parts of campus 15 minutes before and after the hour.

Six athletes win NAIA honors

Vikings linebacker Mark Spencer of Elma was a first-team pick on the NAIA All-America list. Chad Rorabaugh of Battle Ground was named to the second team by the NAIA Football Coaches Association. Tight end Erik Morin from Peninsular and offensive tackle Todd Walker, of Redmond, received honorable mentions. Celeste Hill, a 6-foot-1 center from Auburn, was named to the NAIA Division I All-America third team. Senior forward April Saunders of Woodinville was named an NAIA Division I All-America Scholar-Athlete for the second straight year.

Western aids students displaced by Mathes fire

The university provided relocation and insurance assistance to S7 students displaced by an early morning fire that severely damaged three floors at Mathes Hall in November. No one was injured.

Whitworth College salutes coach Jim Lounsberry

Jim Lounsberry, head football coach from 1960 to 1965, was honored posthumously last September at Whitworth College, where he had coached in the 1950s. Lounsberry, who died in 1990, was inducted into the Whitworth College Hall of Fame. Western induced him into its Hall of Fame in 1984.

Viking 23 competes in Tour de Sol

Viking 23, the VRI's sporty two-seater powered by solar cells and natural gas, will compete in the Tour de Sol competition May 8-14, from New York City to Washington, D.C.

Write to us! Got a compliment, suggestion or idea? We want to hear from you. Address your Letters to the Editor to: Window on Western, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9045. Or, you may contact the Alumni Office via e-mail at alumni@wwu.edu.
Insiders at the Alumni Association aren't the only ones excited about the annual Alumni Golf Classic being named for golf legend Bill Wright ('60).

"I love the idea. I love it," the 62-year-old pro said from The Lakes at El Segundo in Los Angeles, a nine-hole executive course where he has been teaching swings and puts for the last three years.

Wright, who became the first black golfer to win a USGA title when he triumphed at the 1959 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, has returned to the Bellingham campus only once or twice in the last 38 years.

"I hope that I see a lot of the people that I went to school with," he said. "I just haven't had a chance to see too many of them." The tournament, to be held Friday, Aug. 14, at Semiahmoo Golf & Country Club near Blaine, will be named for Wright because "He is one of the best golfers to ever come out of the Northwest," said Chris Goldsmith, director of alumni relations.

Along with the USGA title, Wright was also the first black golfer to win the NAIA tournament, in 1960 while a Western student. He went on to play on both the PGA tour and the PGA senior tour.

Wright's golf and basketball pursuits (He was a starting forward in basketball as a junior and senior,) earned him one of the first seven places in Western's Athletic Hall of Fame, established in 1968.

Beethoven, theater and special summer seminars make Western's campus an ideal destination spot

Rather than winding down after the regular academic year, Western's campus comes alive during the summer months.

Whether you're into Beethoven or politics, the natural history of the North Cascades or the natural beauty of Lake Whatcom from Lakewood's dock, Western has summer programs for every age group and most interest groups.

Consider coming back to campus for a weekend or week this summer. There's more than enough to do. Remember, you can rent boats at Lakewood on Lake Whatcom by showing your Alumni Association card. Here's a sampling of other events:

The 1998 Taft seminar, which brings social studies teachers, political activists and government leaders together to explore political issues, will focus on citizenship in a changing world this year. Professors Donald Alper and Eugene Hogan direct and teach the two-credit political science seminar July 6-11. For information: (360) 650-3469.

Teachers, librarians and media specialists can also earn two credits at the STUDY CANADA Seminar from June 28 through July 2. Participants attend seminars and lectures on Canadian history, geography, government, ethnicity and other topics and develop curricula materials to take home. For information: (360) 650-3728.

The Bellingham Festival of Music runs July 31 through Aug. 16 and will include the annual Pelikan lecture series, Aug. 10-14; two Elderhostel programs around Beethoven's life and music; and a young people's concert.

The festival has a rich tradition of presenting international artists. This year's festival will focus on Beethoven. Festival favorites Pepe Romero and the American Sinfonietta will return as will Jaroslav Pelikan, Sterling professor of history at Yale University, to deliver a series of lectures on "Beethoven and Tolstoy: Titans of the 19th century."

For the Bellingham Festival of Music: (360) 676-5997. For the Pelikan lectures: (360) 650-3446.

The WWU Elderhostel program offers four week-long learning opportunities for adults 55 and over. "History of the North Cascades Mountains," July 26-Aug. 1; a city tour illustrated lectures and a field trip to Mount Baker; "Birds and Mammals of the Pacific Northwest" Aug. 16-21 includes a field trip to study the life cycles, habitats and social structures of the wildlife. The other two programs offer immersion in the music of Beethoven, in conjunction with the Bellingham Festival of Music.

Call Elderhostel at (617) 426-8056 for residential participation, or (360) 650-7754 to be a commuter participant.

The Adventures in Science and Arts camps offer week-long adventures for students entering grades five through 12 from June 22 through July 24. For information about these academic enrichment programs: (360) 650-6822.

And don't forget Summer Stock. See the schedule of four shows on the back page, or call (360) 650-6146 for tickets.

For information on Lakewood: (360) 650-2900.

Point of View

by Western President Karen Morse

Long after we leave the university, the memories and friendships we made during this time continue to enrich our lives. As I visit WWU Alumni Association chapter meetings and regional events, I can sense the pride graduates have in Western and the desire to continue to be a part of this network. Western and the Alumni Association have begun two projects to help our alumni keep in touch with each other and with new activities and programs on campus.

One project is an alumni directory, which should be available to you in the next several months. The directory can be of great value in helping you discover a warmly remembered classmate or even someone you didn't know at Western but who is now a neighbor or business colleague. Our alumni number nearly 70,000, and they have excelled across an impressive spectrum of endeavors, as you can see when you browse through the directory.

We hope that it will not only be a practical tool for locating old and new friends but will also remind you of the Western experience which you all share.

To increase the opportunities for getting together, we are developing more alumni chapters throughout the country. As you can read elsewhere in this issue of Window, the Puget Sound area is humming with chapter activity in South Puget Sound, Pierce, King, Snohomish and Whatcom counties. Anchorage, Juneau and Hawaii are not far behind, and organizing events are taking place in Phoenix, San Diego, San Francisco, Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., Boise and Portland.

I hope you will enjoy these new opportunities to share the enthusiasm and fun of being a Western graduate, and I look forward to seeing you at a chapter meeting soon.
Campus Connections

Western's Centennial will begin in fall 1999

More than $11 million in endowment funds managed by The Western Foundation are earning top dollar for student scholarships and other academic support on campus. The National Association of University College and Business Officers' ranking of college and university endowment returns lists WWU's 22.4 percent return for Fiscal Year 1997 Investment Returns among top institutions such as Stanford, the University of Washington, and the University of Virginia.

Endowment return ranked tops in state

While it is gratifying to successfully compete with many of the nation's top universities, the true measure of our endowment investment policy lies in the long-term benefits provided to Western's outstanding students and faculty," said Jim Doud, chair of the Foundation's finance and audit committee.

Doud credits the robust investment return achieved during 1997 to a combination of stock market growth and wise investment management decisions.

The Foundation manages more than 160 individual endowments which support scholarships, equipment purchases, campus lectures and various academic enrichment programs.

The Western Foundation also surpassed other notable universities such as Stanford, the University of Virginia, Yale, Duke and Princeton.

Western's outstanding students are prepared to compete in and contribute to a multicultural global society that demands technical and scientific innovation rooted soundly in the liberal arts," she added.

Western's Centennial will begin with the fall opening of classes in September 1999 and continue until commencement in June 2000, according to Centennial chair Lynne Masland, director of public information. "This will give us an opportunity not only to celebrate a century of growth and accomplishments, but to look forward to the future as we move into the next century.

If you have information on the first class of students or special memories of Western's early years in Bellingham, contact Masland at (360) 650-3350.

Continued from page 1

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The university’s Publishing Services also won a bronze from CASE for A Guide to Guest Services, a three-color brochure for conference participants and other guests of the university. Graphic artist Veronica Tomaszewski Taylor ’86 designed the brochure.

Alumni chapters formed

WWU Alumni web page, alumna win CASE prizes

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The alumni web site -- http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~alumni/wow -- began operations last fall to provide information, services and entertainment to alumni and friends of the university. It is also the site of the electronic edition of Window on Western where you can catch up on Class Notes, submit a Class Note and keep up with campus news.

Graduates with access to the Internet can go to the alumni web site and get help ordering a transcript, duplicate diploma or, souvenir items from Alumni House. Development of the alumni home page was spearheaded by Donna LeBlonde ’86, database manager for the Alumni Association, and Kathy Sheehan of the Public Information Office. Media Synergy Inc. designed, programmed and maintains the site.

CASE’s Northwest region VIII competition drew more than 400 entries in a variety of categories including web site design, publications, videos and other activities in support of higher education. The awards were presented Feb. 23 in Seattle. Region VIII includes public information, alumni and development officers from colleges and universities in Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Manitoba, Montana, Northwest Territories, Oregon, Saskatchewan, Washington and the Yukon.

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Alumni office staff and other WWU personnel attend virtually all chapter events, providing an update on campus activities and a great collection of door prizes.

Events can be as simple as getting for pizza and beer every couple of months or as elaborate as a bus trip from San Diego to the new J. Paul Getty museum in Los Angeles.

The following communities have begun the process of chapter development. If you would like to help build a chapter in your area, call Alumni House at (800) 676-6885.

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Investments in Excellence
Boeing gift a boost for engineering technology

The Boeing Company has pledged $600,000 to the engineering technology department over the next three years as part of an industry-university partnership. The gift, the largest ever made by Boeing to Western, will provide significantly upgraded student computer laboratories and computer-assisted engineering software.

The first $200,000 installment was presented to university president Karen W. Morse by Ginny Woodhouse, resource and business manager at Boeing's Harbour Pointe facility. Woodhouse also serves as the company's liaison to Western.

"A gift of this magnitude from the world's largest aerospace company reflects both the quality of Western's academic programs and the caliber of our graduates," Morse said. "We are tremendously gratified by The Boeing Company's expression of confidence and support."

Woodhouse noted that more than 1,200 Western alumni are employed at Boeing. Each year, the company offers numerous internships and summer employment opportunities to WWU students. Last year, for example, 27 Western business and science or technology majors interned with the aerospace company.

"We are very pleased to expand our relationship with Western," Woodhouse said. "Aptitudes for change and for professional growth, which are so important to industry, don't begin after graduation. We all benefit if they begin within the curriculum."

Added engineering technology chair Kathleen Kitto: "This will enable students to use the same modern equipment in their university experiences as they will be using after graduation. Only through industry partnerships, such as this one with Boeing, can technology-based education keep pace with the ever-changing dynamics of the high-tech engineering workplace."

Western has devised a three-phase program to "integrate a wide variety of new experiences into the curriculum," Kitto said. "Students can design, create prototypes, plan, analyze, tool, manufacture, assemble, test, revise and document — all on the newest equipment and all based on real world projects."

With Boeing's gift, Western will begin this year to create a new basic modeling and design facility. WWU will also launch an introductory course which will emphasize design and documentation through the initial product prototype stage.

Microsoft makes $1.86 million software gift

Building on its already substantial record of supporting Western's personal computing needs, Microsoft recently announced another major gift of computer software.

The latest gift, valued at $1.86 million, represents one of the company's largest software grants and ranks as the single largest gift the university has ever received.

The gift includes the latest NT server and more than 4,500 individual software packages for student computer labs, faculty workstations and staff offices. Student computing resources will receive the highest priority for software upgrades.

"Microsoft's gifts and support from our alumni who are employed by the company have revolutionized Western's personal computing technology," said university president Karen W. Morse. "As a result, we are able to provide our students with a technology-based learning environment of the highest quality."

William Neukom, Microsoft senior vice president, said the company is proud to continue its support of WWU's "technology vision."

Athletics kick off "Blue and White" scholarship drive

With a goal of securing $25,000 in annual scholarships for student-athletes, Viking Athletics recently kicked off the inaugural "Blue and White" campaign.

Combined with the phonathon to WWU varsity athletic alumni in the spring, the "Blue and White" campaign represents a major step in ensuring Western athletics are well equipped to face the challenges of entering the NCAA.

Scholarships for deserving student-athletes are the highest priority for the athletic department as it moves from NAIA competition to NCAA division II play next year.

"We are excited about the move to the NCAA," said athletic director Lynda Goodrich. "But along with that move comes an immediate need to generate additional funds for scholarships. To compete for playoff berths and championships, we need to continue to recruit top student athletes.

With increased scholarship funding, we will meet that goal."

A 16-person, volunteer-driven board, chaired by Scott Walker, director of community affairs for Atlantic Richfield at Cherry Point, leads the "Blue and White" campaign. It targets donors at the $1,000 level while the phonathon generates smaller gifts.

The most recent alumni phonathon, in April, reached more than 2,500 alumni, parents and friends of Western athletics.

If you are interested in making a gift to the scholarship fund, or know someone who might be, contact Jennifer Rick in the athletic department at (360) 650-3616.
Young, successful alumni

Continued from page 1

eic State University in San Luis Obispo last summer, is now working in the sales office of a division of Harmony Gold, a film distribution and production company.

She acknowledges her disappointment in not successfully landing an "art" job in her first two years out of college.

But there are no regrets about pursuing an artistic career.

The computer skills she's picked up since graduating from Western and her new knowledge of finance, international business and accounting has made her into a more rounded person.

"It's really pushing me to realize that I have this creative background, but I also have this background to help me find a job," she said.

Now Jeremy and Kelly Kriss are talking about doing their own feature film. With Jeremy's writing and dramatic talents and Kelly's business background, the entrepreneurial project seems "doable."

"Between the two of us we have this big background of information," she said. "We couldn't have got to this point unless we did all the things we've done. If I hadn't got my master's, no way," she said.

The usual graduate thing?

Jeremy, 26, who worked as assistant director of the central coast Americorps program while Kelly was in graduate school, has no regrets, either. However, he is less upbeat about his journey since graduating in 1993 and about the prospects for others trapped in what he calls "the usual young college graduate thing."

"I didn't know it would be so difficult to get an entry-level job," he said. "It's just kind of harsh to be out and realize a theater degree doesn't prepare you for anything."

Jeremy, who won the Fairhaven College "best play of the quarter" award for "The Final Solution" during his senior year, writes every day and is still looking for an agent to help him sell his screenplays.

Kelly keeps things in perspective: "If we hadn't taken all these little steps, there's no way we'd be where we are today."

Begin at the beginning

That attitude is echoed by D'Alessandro, who believes the most successful college graduates are those who have realistic goals.

"You certainly have to start at the bottom," she said. "You have to get your foot in some-where and check things out. ... It's not easy getting a job any more. ... It's not like TV."

When D'Alessandro left Western with a business degree in 1992 and lots of hands-on experience in marketing, it seemed the world was her oyster. Then she got her first job: auditing in the back office at Lamont's department store where she had worked in retail sales throughout high school.

Her next job wasn't much to write home about, either: taking orders for US West Cellular. But it was the start she needed.

"That position gave me a really firm foundation and exposure to quite a few areas of the business. I was really interested in the new products that were being delivered to make our jobs easier and what it took to deliver them."

D'Alessandro, 29, stayed with the company, now called AirTouch, and is a project manager in the Information Technology and Process Engineering group which delivers internal software enhancements to AirTouch's customer service and marketing teams.

"I... continually do things that will enhance my knowledge and expose myself to new opportunities to make myself more marketable," D'Alessandro said. "With the way the market is moving in terms of changes and mergers, there is no guarantee."

Success 101

Still, there are some things that young people can do to help make their entrance into the job market easier.

Critical thinking skills and lots of general knowledge about the world are an indication that someone is competent in solving problems — the major skill employers seek in employees. A well-rounded education and some work experience can go a long way, says Simpson.

"There's a tendency on the part of some to think that what you need for a job is very specific... That's simply not how things work," Simpson said. "What employers want are broad skills."

Simpson's survey results suggest that young graduates may not re-

"We had just enough time to sit (in the smallest airport I'd ever seen) and wonder if we were crazy before switching to a five-passenger Cessna that took us to Kwig. Kwigillingok — where he teaches high school reading, English and economics and the ecology, biology, journalism and math — is a village of 350 "spread out in a skinny swath about a mile long" where the river empties into the Bering Sea.

Mischa and Danielle are two of eight non-Yupik villagers and two of four 1997 Western graduates who, by coincidence, are starting their teaching careers in Kwig. Sean Morris teaches seventh and eighth grade while Lara Guthrie, who came to Kwig with her husband, Norman, teaches fourth grade.

In their letters, Danielle and Mischa describe their first months in this remote setting:

"When we landed, it was on a bumpy gravel runway with no buildings and no one to greet us. So we grabbed our luggage and started walking toward the biggest building we could see. We were lucky; it was the school."

Transportation is, in one sense, very simple.

"There aren't any cars, because there aren't any roads. In the summer, people drive four-wheeled ATVs, on boardwalks built like spider webs over the mushy thawed tundra. In winter, the boardwalks are buried, but everything is frozen solid, so you can drive anywhere on snowmobiles. Even the river and ocean freeze up, so those become highways."
rs are mastering "ng" in tiny Kwig

After careful consideration — paying off student loans is their first priority — the couple bought a snowmobile, "a ticket to travel to neighboring villages." Mischa made his first long trip in mid-December, a 210-mile roundtrip trek to Bethel to help a fellow teacher bring back a butchered caribou he had killed two weeks before.

In October, they had a rare treat: " Yupik women find mouse burrows, pull them open, and take the pile of roots the mice have neatly stored all summer," they wrote. "Those mice are hard workers! One mouse can gather a bundle that can barely be held in two hands. The roots taste just like potatoes when cooked."

But stolen roots don’t last forever. In December, they wrote: "We’re mastering the food thing. We order through an Anchorage business which shops at Costco, then — for a 30% markup — ships your food out. Of course, the bulk of native diet comes from what they hunt or otherwise harvest: salmon, whitefish, tomodak, blackfish, ducks, geese and berries are all staples."

The couple has electricity, e-mail, satellite telephone and water from a rainwater collection system, but — because of the permafrost — no one in the village has a flush toilet.

Social life centers on gatherings in the village and, when possible, neighboring villages. Going “steaming” is a major communal activity. "Most families,” Mischa writes, "have steam houses, usually eight feet wide and 16-20 feet long. The steaming is HOT! It’s their way of cleansing their skin and burning out any sickness, and they crank it up. Especially the men (men and women steam separately)."

"For men, it’s cleansing, it’s social — and it’s also competitive. A person can become a legendary steamer in the village by being able to withstand extreme heat. I had to cover my nose, ears, mouth and hands with a towel so they wouldn’t burn, and I still couldn’t take it for more than a few minutes. The first time I tried it was with a bunch of my students who I’ll bet were trying to see how tough I was."

(Tough enough. While at Western, Mischa spent his summers fighting forest fires; Danielle crowed on the outstanding Varsity Eight that brought WWU the division 2 national title and won the grand final in the Pacific Coast rowing championship.)

There are 100 students in Kwig, 20 in high school. Starting out as the village’s only one in the village has a flush toilet.

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After commencement ...

For many young college graduates, it’s the recognition that they’ve completed a successful transition from student to grown-up — not the actual graduation — that can be the most challenging and surprising.

Tomoko Kobayashi (’97), a native of Yachiyo, Japan, had so adjusted to American culture after living in Bellingham for five years that she was shocked to learn, during a trip back home last fall, just how much she had changed.

Kobayashi, an American cultural studies major who considers herself a cultural and feminist activist, was in her second year of a two-week trip home when she saw a television program that completely galled her.

A newscaster was interviewing athletes and officials from a championship soccer team. There was only one woman, the team dietitian, among the group of about four dozen.

"I thought, wow! A professional career. Only one, but that’s great to have a woman there,” Kobayashi said.

Then Kobayashi’s pride turned to revulsion. After the dietitian introduced herself, a man in the group quipped to the nationally televised audience: "She works so hard, she missed the chance to marry. ... Do any of you know someone who would be good for her?"

"That did it!” said Kobayashi, who immediately dashed off a letter to the local newspaper to register her outrage at the unprofessional and chauvinistic comment. The letter was so forceful that the editor published it as an opinion column, complete with her photo.

Kobayashi, whose goal is to work as a kind of cultural ambassador or educator, found herself as a minor celebrity in her hometown, bringing attention to an issue rarely discussed in Japan.

The 25-year-old alumna speaks modestly, though, about what she has done to build bridges between different cultures since graduating.

"When you are in college, you can talk about idealistic things,” she said. You make the time to attend the activities that express your values. When you’re at work, however, "I find it’s harder to do because I have to work. I have to make my living.”

During her college years, Kobayashi wouldn’t think of missing Martin Luther King Day observances. Kobayashi said she feels badly that she didn’t attend this year’s events because she was wrapped up in projects at her new job as a translator for EMT Software in Bellingham. "I had to work,” she said.

Still, Kobayashi seems to be successfully transitioning between her role as student activist to a new calling as conscientious citizen who speaks out when appropriate.

When Kobayashi visited an antique store in La Conner recently, for example, she was horrified to find a stack of postcards featuring African Americans with huge lips and other grotesque features, doing menial work.

"I was so mad,” she said. "My palms were sweaty" as she confronted the store owner who claimed they were “collectibles,” a part of history. Kobayashi said she could tell they were nothing of the sort; they had been printed only recently to appeal to 1990s customers.

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Kobayashi said she didn’t persuade the dealer that the postcards were offensive, "But I would have felt bad if I left La Conner without saying something about it,” she said.

Accent on Alumni

Daniel P. Beard ('66) will receive “Distinguished Alumnus” Award

By Lyle Morse (70)

Daniel P. Beard, a 1966 geography major who calls himself "an unabashed environmentalist," is the 1998 winner of the Distinguished Alumnus award.

Beard, senior vice president for policy and chief lobbyist for the Audubon Society in Washington, D.C., will pick up the award at a May 15 dinner in Bellingham.

Beard joins 14 other distinguished graduates who have won the annual award at Western.

“I’m honored,” Beard said when asked about the award. “Western has a very warm spot in my heart.”

In numerous letters sent to the Alumni Association in support of his nomination, Beard was cited as a reform-minded leader who has made significant contributions to the nation’s environmental policy and on natural resource conservation issues.

As commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Department of the Interior from 1993 to 1995, Beard restructured the bureau to eliminate several layers of management. He also made the agency more environmentally responsible and promoted water conservation among agricultural as well as urban water users.

The bureau had become a “bloated bureaucracy” that focused almost entirely on building dams, Beard said. “It spent too much money and worked on the wrong things.”

Although many told Beard he was “nuts” to reduce the agency’s budget and staff and radically change its philosophy, Vice President Al Gore awarded the bureau a “Golden Hammer Award” for modeling how government reinvention should work. Harvard University and the Ford Foundation gave it a $100,000 “Innovations in American Government Award.”

Because many developing countries look to the United States for policy advice, “The ramifications of the changes Dan has helped craft have been felt throughout the world,” according to John D. Leshy, solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

Beard’s reform policies have had a major effect in turning the tide internationally away from exploiting rivers toward wise water resources management,” added Owen T. Lammers, executive director of International Rivers Network.

Beard, a native of Bellingham, has worked on conservation issues from several perspectives. He has served as staff director for the U.S. House Resources Committee and its Water and Power Resources subcommittee; was appointed assistant director of the Southwestern Region of the Department of the Interior.

At this writing, events are also set for Phoenix, San Diego, Seattle, New York, Washington, D.C., Boise and Portland.

These events, ranging from dinner to theater to a night at a microbrewery, have attended three of the events and look forward to the Boise chapter formation and event this spring. Did I say there are many nice things we can do?

We are also working on a campus event along the lines of Super Saturday at the Evergreen State College. Designated to celebrate the Western experience, it would be an annual event, probably held near spring commencement.

Currently the association sponsors a golf tournament in the summer and Homecoming in the fall. Homecoming has turned into an enjoyable weekend complete with a fun run, fireworks, tailgate party, dances and the best small college football in the land.

So, let us know if there is a direction you would like us to take or if you would like a regional event in your area. We will listen especially hard for you if you live in Tahiti and plan the event in the winter.

Make plans for reunions and other alumni events

This year’s reunion weekend, which will include the classes of 1947, 1948 and 1949, is one of more than a dozen alumni events sponsored by the Alumni Association this spring and summer. For all those who graduated in the post war years, the weekend of June 26-28 will be a time to revisit friends, the campus and faculty.

A Mariners’ game in Seattle June 19, the golf tournament Aug. 14, and a dinner for Distinguished Alumnus Award winner Daniel Beard May 15 are also part of an ongoing list of alumni events.

Phone the Alumni House at (800) 676-6885 if you would like to attend one of these events.

Alumni directory to be published in October

By now Western alumni have received either a first or second Alumni Directory questionnaire to be filled out and returned to our publishing partner, Bernard Harris Publishing (BHP).

The directory covers the years 1944-49, and phone number (if applicable). The scope of this information is an indication of the comprehensive quality of the entire volume. The directory will sort this data by name in the alphabetical section and by class year and geographical location in separate sections of the book. There also will be a special section with photos and other information about WWU.

Soon, locating fellow alumni and classmates will be as easy as turning a page in the WWU Alumni Directory. You may receive your personal copy when the Harris representative phones during the verification stage.

Some of our alumni, for various reasons, have let us know by phone or letter that they do not want their information published in this volume. That is an option as long as you make that wish known to either the Alumni office at Western or to Harris Publishing.

The WWU Alumni Directory is set for publication in October.
Alumni support a second scholarship

One lucky entering freshman this fall will be awarded the first $10,000 WWU President’s Alumnae Association scholarship.

Funds for this and future awards come from fees from the collegiate license plate program begun several years ago.

The program allows alumni and other friends of Western to buy automobile plates bearing the Viking logo for $40, of which $30 is returned to Western for the scholarship fund. (Annual renewals for the plates are only $30.) The fees for the collegiate license plate are in addition to your normal annual tab cost.

WWU collegiate license plates are available from any Washington Department of Licensing outlet or wherever license plates and yearly tabs are sold.

The license plate program provides a unique opportunity for alumni and others to show their support for Western and at the same time provide scholarship assistance to some of Western’s best and brightest students.

The new award means alumni are funding two scholarship programs; the Alumni Association board scholarship will continue as before. One application will be used for both programs.

The first recipient of the President’s Alumnae Association award will receive $2,500 each year for four years.

For information about obtaining WWU license plates or a scholarship application for 1999-2000, call Alumni House at (800) 676-6885.

Avis (Weldenbach) and George Rector (’55) have retired from teaching and are living on a Whidbey Island farm raising Polled Hereford cattle.

Avis published her first story in 1993 about their cattle. Carl, called Carl Helps on the Farm, is still in demand for book signings.

Class Notes

1927 - Irene Cunningham (’57) celebrated her 94th birthday Nov. 3 in Bremerton.
1941 - Mitch Elvich, who turned 80 in April, continues to teach music at Bellingham School District. Elvich still operates his own commercial purse seine salmon boat during the summer and early fall.
1945 - Cheryl Bickford and her husband, Lyle Bickford (’49) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 29, 1997 with a trip to the Holy Land.
1963 - Karen Anderson Byrd retired after 34 years of teaching first grade in Anacortes, Forks and the Port Angeles area.
1965 - Charles W. Byrd retired as the social studies chair at Port Angeles High School after teaching for 31 years.
1966 - Ralph Munno was awarded the Hammermond taught at Fairhaven College.
1967 - Peter Gray wrote The Math-Science Achievement Test Series, and won national recognition from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics magazine, Teaching Children Mathematics. Gray co-authored the books with his father, Neil Gray, a retired Western professor.
1969 - Donna Vandenbroucke teaches third grade at Boulevard Elementary School, Lynden.
1970 - Cheryl Chouinard is the interim principal of her alma mater, Franklin High School, in Seattle.
1971 - David M. Johnson retired to El Paso, Texas, after a career as a military psychologist.
1972 - Glen Cooper is the principal of Ocean Shores and Pacific Beach elementary schools in Aberdeen. Jeff Hammonds taught at Fairhaven College winter quarter 1998. John Obrantz leaves the Whatcom Museum of History and Art to become director of a new museum in Salem, Ore.
1973 - Gene Cash just finished his 30-year military career as course manager for RGC C, while studying 14 different states. Cash spent 28 years in the reserve and two years on active duty. Cash is currently the assistant regional manager at Redmond Jr. High. Bill Dietrich, presented the first of a series of lectures and discussions exploring issues of Northwest energy and environmental policy.
1974 - Lynda Belt (’83 MA) won the John C. Barker, Teacher of the Year award from the American Alliance for Theatre & Education. Belt teaches theater at Puget High School.
1975 - Tom Mike Kennedy was promoted to district manager with Haagen Inc. Tom Wood has his work included in "Contemporary Northwest Printmakers." Wood has received national and international recognition for his pastels and oils and exhibited his work at the Lisa Harris Gallery in Seattle. Jerry Webster was recently promoted to full professor in the department of geography at the University of Alabama.
1976 - Albert "Bill" Vincent joined the Island County Planning Commission.
1978 - Greg Atkinson has written 35 food essays that follow a cook's tour through the seasons of life in the Northwest. Dave Winters, the web-site content writer for Media Access Internet Solutions, produced and won national and international recognition for his pastels and oils and exhibited his work at the Lisa Harris Gallery in Seattle. Jerry Webster was recently promoted to full professor in the department of geography at the University of Alabama.
1978 - Richard Lyon performed in "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Aspen Community Theatre this fall. Troy Pazzoli is the human resources specialist at Media Access Internet Solutions. Ron Russell received an award for outstanding community service from the U.S. secretary of education for coordinating a partnership that opened a Renton school to the citizens of a free community computer training program.

Mark F. Robertson (’83) is assistant superintendent for the District of Columbia public school system in Washington, D.C. He was formerly a principal at Franklin High School in Seattle and a lifetime member in the University Place school district.
1983 - Christine Hill performed "Sasuhawa... for your pleasure." Hill teaches applied voice at Grays Harbor College. Jeff Jenkins was named chief financial officer for Haskell Corp. of Bellingham. Jenkins has been with Haskell for four years.
1989 - Jack Nunnally Marr is living in Singapore. Marr would love to hear from other WWU grads living in Singapore and the southeast Asia area at her e-mail address: jennifermarr@yahoo.com. Katy Morse was named 1997 RosiePins Queen of Port Townsend. Ken Winters has just launched a new educational software company named Larken Software Inc. The company specializes in wholesome, non-violent, PC-based early childhood multimedia titles that educate and entertain. Winters welcomes classmates and others to e-mail him at president@larken.com or view his web site at www.larken.com.
1984 - Mitch Elvich, Jr. is teaching in Somerville, Mass., and has written articles for The Boston Globe. Clive Polh performs with the Just Dessert, a Seattle-based trio. Rick Schauer is the CAD-CAM application development manager for De/Finite/Produce Integration Breakthroughs & Initiatives at Boeing Information, Space, and Defense Systems. Schauer has been with Boeing for 13 years.

Feb. 13-15 marked the second annual ski trip with 27 alumni, students, staff, faculty and friends of Western enjoying a perfect weekend at Apex Mountain in Pemberton, B.C. The ski is at right has fully revised.

Kris Pedlar/Upend photo
Memorials

1916 - Dora Dawson, 99, a retired teacher, died Nov. 1.
1921 - Jessie How, 95, a retired teacher, died Oct. 3.
1924 - Mary Elma Pemberton Byers Modica, 91, a former teacher, died Jan. 17.
1926 - George Mowad, 94, a former mayor of Kalama, died Nov. 18.
1927 - Emily Hjalalnin Seeger, 91, a retired teacher, died July 15.
1928 - Thelma (Borgen) Preston, 89, a retired teacher, died Sept. 11.
1935 - Lois Reynolds Jones, 84, a retired teacher, died Sept. 21.
1937 - Katherine "Katie" Mustappa Jones, 84, a retired teacher, died Dec. 23.
1938 - Katherine E. Hatch White, 83, a retired teacher, principal and writer, died Aug. 27.
1939 - Ethel Bromley, 84, a retired elementary school principal, died Jan. 14.
1940 - Donald Martin Lomsdale, 79, a retired warranty supervisor for McDonnell-Douglas, died Oct. 8.
1941 - Ernest Dzurick, 81, a retired teacher, died Sept. 7.
1942 - Joyce Geri, (46), 75, a retired teacher, died Jan. 11.
1943 - Jean Hammes, (45), 74, a retired teacher, died Sept. 1.
1945 - Lillian Moe, 84, died on Feb. 4.
1949 - Lillian Mooney, (61 M.Ed.), 71, a retired educator, died April 2.
1959 - Ethel Brown, 78, a retired teacher and coach, died Jan. 3.
1952 - George Falls, 75, a retired teacher, died Jan. 9.
1964 - Pauline Hunter Heath, 70, a retired home economics teacher, died Aug. 27.
1969 - James H. Leverett, 55, a tugboat pilote and fisheries worker who served as president of the Alumni Association from 1992 to 1993, died Dec. 29. Leverett was a retired criminal investigator for the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Patrol and was active in the Masonic Order. In recent years, he led numerous travel groups to England and was instrumental in establishing the Alumni Association's travel program.
1974 - Diane Marie Loder, 45, a data systems analyst, died of a sudden illness Aug. 5.
1979 - Betty Smith, 61, a licensed psychotherapist, died from brain cancer Aug. 10.

Faculty, staff, friends

Walter Zuber Armstrong, 61, who taught music at Western from 1968 to 1970 and played flute, clarinet and piano, died March 1 in Bellingham.

William Dittrich, 73, associate professor emeritus, who taught physics at Western for 40 years, died Nov. 6. He was also a founding member of Western's campus Christian ministry.

Donald A. Ferris, 89, a retired faculty member and administrator at Western, died June 29 in Fairhaven. He served as registrar, director of teacher-education advisement and education and chairman of the education department.

Scott Hope, 89, completed an AutoCAD class and hopes to move into drafting at VECO Engineering in Bellingham, where he has worked for five years. His perseverance, despite a crippling auto accident when he was in high school, was featured in a VECO newsletter in November.

Two alumnae win teaching awards

Lynn Torpey ('84), a math teacher at Whatcom Middle School, and Ann Babcock-Williamson ('72, '76, '89), a fourth grade teacher at Carl Cozner Elementary School in Bellingham, received the presidential award for excellence in mathematics and science teaching in January. They each receive $5,000 in grants from the National Science Foundation, with which they are to use for classroom supplies.
### May
- 11 Registration for summer quarter begins.
- 15 Distinguished Alumni dinner.
- 15-17 Western Showcase Family Weekend.
- 16 Alumni board of directors meeting.
- 25 Memorial Day.
- 27-31 Black Comedy, a student production at Old Main Theatre.
- 30 Alumni Club Life Member cruise.
- 31 Seeing Jazz exhibit at the Western Gallery.

### June
- 1-30 Seeing Jazz exhibit at the Western Gallery.
- 6 Engineering technology alumni dinner at Red Hook Brewery in Woodinville.
- 8-12 Alumni Alaska cruise.
- 12 Outstanding Graduating Seniors reception.
- 13 Spring commencement.
- 19 Mariners game with Alumni Association.
- 22-26 Adventures in Science and Arts camp for grades 5-6.
- 23 Six-week and nine-week summer quarters begin.
- 28 STUDY CANADA, a week-long Summer Institute, begins.

### July
- 1-3 Last days to view Seeing Jazz at the Western Gallery.
- 3 Independence Day observed.
- 6-10 Adventures in Science and Arts week for grades 7-8.
- 6-13 Taft Seminar for Teachers.
- 13 Adventures in Science and Arts week, for grades 7-8.
- 14-19 *The Witch of Blackbird Pond,* directed by Barb Maier, opens the Summer Stock season at Old Main Theatre.
- 20-24 Adventures in Science and Arts week, grades 9-12.
- 21 Friends of the Music Library's Alaska cruise departs from Vancouver, B.C.
- 23-24 *Hay Fever,* directed by Mark Kuntz, at the PAC Mainstage.
- 25-29 The Fantasticks, directed by Maureen O'Reilly, at Old Main Theatre (Various dates).
- 26-31 Elderhostel on history of the North Cascades.
- 30- Outward Bound in Faith, a program for high school students.

### August
- 1-5 Elderhostel on Beethoven's life and music, in conjunction with the Bellingham Festival of Music.
- 1-16 Bellingham Festival of Music.
- 1-20 My Fair Lady, directed by Ruben Van Kempen and Christopher Parry at the PAC Mainstage. (Various dates).
- 4-16 Hay Fever, directed by Mark Kuntz, at the PAC Mainstage. (Various dates).
- 6-13 The Fantasticks, directed by Maureen O'Reilly, Old Main Theatre. (Various dates).
- 9-15 "Beethoven and Tolstoy: Titans of the 19th century" is the theme of this year's Pelikan lecture series in conjunction with Elderhostel and the Bellingham Festival of Music.
- 14 Alumni Association golf tournament at Semiahmoo.
- 16-21 Elderhostel: Birds and mammals of the Pacific Northwest.
- 22 Summer commencement.

### September
- 7 Labor Day.
- 9 Switzerland trip.
- 23 Classes begin.

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**Seeing Jazz**

The Western Gallery is the only West Coast venue for a panorama of artistic responses to jazz through a collection of paintings, sculpture, drawings, collages and photographs organized by the Smithsonian Institution.

*April 27 through July 3 (closed Memorial Day Weekend)*


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**Western's Summer Stock '98**

The theatre arts department has four shows in revolving repertory format to keep you spellbound during the state's longest-running Summer Stock season.

The **Witch of Blackbird Pond**, adapted by Y. York, from the novel for children by Elizabeth George Speare will be directed by Barb Maier. It opens July 14 at Old Main Theatre and runs through July 19.

*Hay Fever,* by Noel Coward, directed by Mark Kuntz, opens at the Performing Arts Center Mainstage July 23. It runs on various dates through Aug. 16.

*The Fantasticks,* the long-running musical by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt, is directed by Maureen O'Reilly in Old Main Theatre. It opens July 25. Performances are on various dates through Aug. 12.

Rounding out the Summer Stock schedule is *My Fair Lady,* from the play *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. It's directed by Ruben Van Kempen and special guest Christopher Parry at the PAC Mainstage. Aug. 1 through Aug. 20.

Call (360) 650-6146 for exact dates and times.

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**For tickets and information:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adventures in Science:</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-6822</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Elderhostel</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-7754</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Festival of Music</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-5997</td>
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<td><strong>Performing Arts</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-6146</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>STUDY CANADA</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-3728</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer Stock</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-6146</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taft Seminar</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-3728 or</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Western Gallery</strong></td>
<td>(360) 650-3963</td>
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