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A youthful curiosity leads to excellence

Professor Richard Emmerson's parents provided him with a good grounding in religious matters, helping him to understand the Bible and biblical history, up to the early Christian church. Later, his high school history teachers taught him American history, beginning, of course, with 1492.

"I had this sense of really old stuff, and I had a good sense of modern history," Emmerson said. "And then there was this period of 1500 years," between where the New Testament leaves off and Columbus discovers America, about which he knew very little.

"I was curious about this empty space," he said.

Emmerson's curiosity about the Middle Ages led him to become a history major at Columbia Union College in Maryland. There, and while attaining graduate degrees in American and British literature at Andrews University and Stanford, he thoroughly immersed himself in the culture of the Middle Ages.

Today, Emmerson is an internationally known authority in medieval studies. He has five books, 32 scholarly papers on medieval art, literature and religion and dozens of articles and book reviews to his credit.

Emmerson's groundbreaking research, especially his work on the literature and art of the Apocalypse, has also earned him this year's Paul J. Olscamp award at Western.

Many others in Western's family have won writing, research, teaching and other honors.

See pages 4, 6 and 7.
Viking 23 brings home $1,000 in prizes from rally

Betting torrential rates and a field of eight other electric hybrid experimental vehicles, the Viking 23 came in a decisive first-in-class in the American Tour de Sol road competition.

The team received a $500 prize for winning the hybrid/electric class. It also won free entry in next year's event, worth $500, for best energy efficiency.

Despite drenching rains which flooded all contestants' batteries - plus its own clutch cable malfunction - Viking 23 chalked up 688 tour miles for its first-place finish.

Shannon Point wins grant for minority education

A $345,000 grant from the National Science Foundation has been awarded to the Minoritys in Marine Science Undergraduate Program at Western's Shannon Point Marine Center. Shannon Point has operated the program with NSF support since 1990. This grant will extend the program an additional five years, beginning in 1999.

Western graduates find employment plentiful

Reflecting a five-year, nationwide expansion in job prospects for college graduates, nearly 86 percent of Western Washington University's 1996-97 bachelor's degree graduates - and more than 95 percent of teacher certificate recipients - have found employment, according to a survey conducted by Western's Career Services Center.

Of those with a bachelor's degree, 52.6 percent said they were working in a job related to their area of study, with 26.5 percent in non-related jobs, and 12.6 percent pursuing further education.

Teacher certificate recipients reported 89.3 percent employment in a related field, 6.2 percent in work not related to their degree and slightly more than 1 percent seeking further education.

James E. Shaw named campus police chief

James E. Shaw, who has 30 years experience in law enforcement, has been named chief of public safety at Western. Shaw, 55, has held the same position at California State University, Stanislaus, since 1988. He holds a management degree from St. Mary's College in Moraga, Calif., and a specialized teaching credential in police science earned at the University of California, Berkeley.

New women's basketball coach hired

Gila Sampson, a former All-American and Athlete of the Year at Western, will replace Lori deKubber as assistant coach of the women's basketball program. Sampson, 24, coached and played for a pro team in Australia last year. She holds a journalism scholarship named for Steve Rupp awarded to Western in memory of Steve Rupp, WWU, MailStop 9034, Bellingham, WA 98225-9034.

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Campus Connections
Western at 100: Continuing the Legacy of Learning

It’s time to drag that box of “college stuff” out of the attic and make it a part of history.

During the 1999-2000 academic year, Western will celebrate its Centennial with the theme: Western at 100: Continuing the Legacy of Learning.

Chris Friday, director of Western’s Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, wants to make alumni memories a vital part of the year-long celebration. He is seeking material to assist the university in its 100th year.

“Letters, photos, even memories and memorabilia from times as recent as the 1990s would be wonderful,” he adds. “But they don’t tell us nearly enough about what the Western experience meant to students or to the community. We are interested in what students brought to Western over the years as well as what they took away—the whole range of what a ‘legacy really is.’

Friday cautions that “we can’t take everything.”

Even one photo from each of the 75,000 known alumni “would bury us here at the archives,” he adds with a laugh. “But we can seek out those items that really capture the essence of what Western was like at various points in time, whether it was Bellingham Normal, Western Washington State College of Education, Western Washington State College of Education, or the university of today.”

He suggests alumni send photocopies of items like diary excerpts, letters, event programs or photos of a dubbed tape of musical events, performances or oral histories. A determination can be made about whether to see a high-quality copy of the item or to ask permission to borrow the original.

To offer items for the archives project, contact:

Chris Friday, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, WWU, Bellingham, WA 98225-9123
Phone: (360) 650-7747
E-mail: cpnwss@cc.wwu.edu

Chris Goldsmith, Alumni House, WWU, Bellingham, WA 98225-9199
Phone: (360) 650-3353 or (909) 676-6855
E-mail: chris@cms.wwu.edu.

Accreditation report lauds academics, aesthetics

The Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges’ Commission on Colleges has extended the university’s accreditation, commending Western for the “strength and quality of its commitment to excellence.”

In a report by a high-level evaluation committee that visited campus in April, the commission also applauded Western’s beautiful campus and the university’s active mentoring of new faculty members.

“This periodic review by our peers, which is preceded by an intensive internal study of all aspects of university life, is invaluable in measuring how well Western is accomplishing its mission of providing an excellent education for the students of this state,” said university president Karen Morse.

The commission does not grant accreditation for a definite number of years but conducts full-scale evaluations at least every 10 years.

The evaluation committee also noted that Western is facing acute space shortages and recommended the university implement its master plan as soon as feasible. Other recommendations include preparing an overall, formal, institutional assessment plan to identify and publish expected learning outcomes and reviewing faculty performance every three years instead of the current five.

The accreditation process took 18 months.

Point of View
by Western President Karen Morse

Throughout this issue, you will read about honors that have come to our students, faculty and staff in recent months. We applaud their accomplishments as individuals and the enhancement of Western’s reputation for excellence that results from such achievements.

Even a partial list is impressive:

Two 1998 masters’ in English graduates, Margot Wixsom and Terry Sonneman, received honorable mention in the annual Atlantic Monthly student writing competition, the only honorsome from Washington.

A Fairhaven junior, Kimberly K. Mettler-Chase, was selected from 370 nominees nationwide as a 1998 Morris K. Udall scholar. She will utilize her $5,000 award to further her goal of working for a social service or non-profit agency in a Native American community.

Junior biochemistry major, Joseph Mouquet, was the first Western student in the 20-year history of the prize to earn the regional American Chemical Society “best research award.” He went on to take a national ACS prize for research excellence in analytical chemistry.

Professor emeritus of biology Irwin Slesnick received the highest award of his peers, the rarely conferred Robert H. Carleton award for national leadership in science education.

Increasingly, Western has become the site for lifetime learning opportunities that draw people from around the state and nation. These range from Adventures in Science & Arts for students as young as the sixth grade to the Business Week, which gives high school students a hands-on sense of business, to Elderhostels on far-ranging topics.

National and international groups are also increasingly selecting Western as a site for their gatherings.

The National Wildlife Federation Conservation Summit, held in two of the nation, met on campus this summer.

Delegates from 60 nations attended the silver jubilee Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, the first time this conference was held in the United States. That it was held at Western was recognition that professor W. Alan Lonner and his psychology department colleagues have, for three decades, been in the forefront of research into communicating successfully across nationalities, cultures and ethnic groups.
Western leaves NAIA in a blaze of glory

May 22, 1998 was forever be a red-letter day in the history of Western athletics - the day the Vikings won their first, and last, national team championship in 61 years as a member of the NAIA.

But for the women's fastpitch team that brought home that championship, the day will mean even more, for rarely has a team faced so many obstacles in reaching its goal.

The Vikings barely received an at-large berth to nationals. In the days leading up to the tournament, they lost two pitchers to injuries.

Then their coach, Art Phinney, spent most of the tournament in the hospital. Four times Western came from behind to win tournament games, twice in its last at-bat. And then, to throw up one last barrier, the championship game pitted the Vikings against a team they had lost to six times during the season.

Yet, Western overcame all of it, sweeping things through the double-elimination NAIA National Tournament in Broken Arrow, Okla., with a perfect 5-0 record, including a 1-0 victory over arch-rival Simon Fraser University in the championship game.

"I know a lot of people were surprised by us winning," said Phinney, who was named NAIA national coach of the year. "But, honest to goodness, I wasn't. ... When somebody works that hard, I feel good things are going to happen."

The team finished with a 33-13 record. The fastpitch title put a close to Western's membership in the NAIA.

Starting with the 1998-1999 academic year, the Western athletic program will be a full-fledged member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II, competing for NCAA championships.

NCAA membership means much funds for national championship travel and a piece of the revenue that all NCAA schools share.

"And we can't rule out the 2005 NCAA is a more recognized organization," said Lynda Goodrich, director of athletics. "That adds credibility to our program in recruiting."

The new league also means Western's football team will face the toughest schedule in school history this fall.

The Vikings host NCAA II semifinalist UC-Davis, and visits two Big Sky Conference opponents, Montana State and Eastern Washington. Eastern Washington is the defending Big Sky champion and a NCAA I-AA national semifinalist.

The Vikings play Humboldt State at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, Homecoming weekend.

Viking Night features auction and banquet

The ninth annual Viking Night, a banquet and auction to raise scholarship funds for Western's student-athletes, will be held Wednesday, Sept. 16, at Sam Carver Gymnasium.

The evening, sponsored by U.S. Bank, includes a entertaining talk by Jim Walden, head football coach at Washington State University from 1978 to 1986, and a salmon and chicken dinner.

During the silent auction and the live auction, you may bid on sports memorabilia, vacation trips, gift certificates, services and countless other valuable items.

To recruit top student-athletes, scholarship assistance isn't an option; it's a necessity.

Your participation in the U.S. Bank/Viking Night Dinner & Sports Auction will allow Western to continue to achieve success regionally and nationally in NCAA competition.

Tickets are $75 per person. Reservations are recommended. Call 360-650-3109 for more information.

Women's fastpitch team scores ballpark of honors

In addition to the national title, the women's fastpitch team won these honors:

- Left fielder and base-stealer Sonya Joseph, who made a number of great defensive plays, named tournament MVP.
- Pitcher Devon Fliss, catcher Cathy Johnson and center fielder Jen Brandolini named to the all-tournament team.
- Pitchers Alison Haukaas and Devon Fliss, catcher Cathy Johnson, center fielder Jen Brandolini and catcher-third baseman Andie Greenen named to the NAIA Pacific Northwest Sectional all-star team.
- Brandolini led the PNWAC with a .431 batting average, 69 runs, 18 doubles and 18 RBIs, all school records.
- Johnson topped the league with 44 RBIs and 18 doubles, school records.
- Fliss had a league-best .94 ERA, setting school records for victories (14-5) and lowest ERA.
- Art Phinney named NAIA national coach of the year.

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The Vikings fell to 5-5 last season after reaching the NAIA Division II championship game in 1996. Eight starters return from a defense that posted two shutouts and led the Columbia Football Association in scoring average (18.7).

Leading the way are second-team all-league junior cornerbacks Mike Perez, who had four interceptions, and honorable mention all-league senior tackle John Bergford. Bolstering the stop unit is the return of two juniors, tackle Mark Bone and linebacker Tony Carr, who were both sidelined much of last year with injuries. Also, junior linebacker David Jost, who started on Saddleback JC's national championship team in 1996 and earned all-conference honors in 1997, will be back.

Linemen Greg Bell and Patrick Humphrey, both juniors, are the only returning offensive starters.

The quarterback is senior Sam Hanson, who passed for 350 yards and three touchdowns as a backup last year.

Senior running back Scott Noteboom, a part-time starter the last two years, ran for 156 yards last season. Sophomore placekicker Josh Bailey also returns.

Three other members of the Pacific Northwest Athletic Conference will also be moving to the NCAA: Central Washington, Lewis-Clark State and St. Martin's.

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Science honors for Slesnick

Professor Emeritus Irwin Slesnick (left) received the Robert H. Carleton Award for national leadership in the field of science education. National Science Teachers Association president Fred Johnson (right) conferred the award during the NSTA's national meeting earlier this year.

Slesnick, a science educator for nearly 50 years, retired in September 1994 but continued teaching after that. The award, sponsored by the Dow Chemical Co., included $5,000 and a "lead crystal dish that holds almost a pound of M&Ms."

Slesnick quipped.
Investments in Excellence
Contributions to Western top $5 million

Furthering the tradition of providing private support, 8,749 alumni, parents, friends, businesses, corporations and foundations contributed nearly $5 million to Western in the 1997-98 giving year. Those private gifts, plus $275,000 in matching grants from the state of Washington, totaled $5,027,971.

The total marks the second consecutive year Western has received more than $5 million in contributions and only the third time that amount has been exceeded.

Western alumni comprised nearly 60 percent of all donors, with 5,404 graduates contributing $586,518. Another 2,880 friends of the university, including many parents of Western students, provided $943,036 in gifts.

The majority of private support came from 465 corpora-
tions, foundations and other organizations whose gifts totaled nearly $3.5 million.

"We are truly grateful to all those who have made Western a part of their charitable giving," said Jean Rahn, executive director of The Western Foundation.

"Private gifts have made an indelible mark at Western, benefiting thousands of students each year. Many of our donors have taken the opportunity to become involved with the university on a very personal level and see the positive impact their gifts are making," she added. "All of our donors can be proud of the impact their gift is making in the lives of these students."

The majority of gifts received in 1997-98 were designated for specific uses, including direct academic support, athletics and scholarships. In addition to these restricted gifts, more than $185,000 was contributed to the unrestricted Campus Enrichment Fund.

More than $1 million, including a $250,000 state match for the Wilder Endowment, was designated for permanent endow-
ment funds.

Scholarships support student athletes

The WWU Vikings will begin NCAA Division II play this fall. With this historic first, annual gifts will continue to play an increas-
ingly important role in the success of Western's athletic programs.

Competition will be fierce among NCAA Division II colleges and universities, and the Vikings are prepared to meet the challenge. With the heightened competition for playoff berths, Western must continue to recruit and retain top student-athletes to carry on their winning traditions.

Athletics currently has fund-
ing for only 19 "full-ride" ($5,000) annual scholarships for Western's 500 student-athletes.

An additional $115,000 must be raised each year through annual gifts or endowments in order to meet a departmental goal of retaining funding for 42 full-rides, well below the NCAA maximum.

Your participation will assist in reaching this goal. If you or someone you know is interested in making a gift to the scholar-
ship fund, please contact Jennifer Rich in the Athletic Depart-
ment at (360) 650-3616.

Fund-raising success earns recognition for The Western Foundation

The Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) recently announced The Western Foundation has been chosen as a re-
cipient of the 1998 CASE Circle of Excellence in Educational Fund-Raising Award.

The Western Foundation joins a highly selective list of college and university development programs to receive this annual award which recognizes outstanding improvement in overall fund-raising activities.

The Western Foundation sincerely thanks all the alumni, parents, friends, employees, corporations, foundations and businesses through whose continued generosity this award was made possible.
'99 Distinguished Alumnus Award

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 1999 Distinguished Alumnus Award. The award recognizes a Western graduate for a lifetime of achievement in a particular field or to humanity in general.

Send nomination letters, with a current resume, at least three letters of support and any other material to Distinguished Alumnus Award, Alumni House, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9199.

New student from Tumwater wins license plate scholarship

Congratulations and thank you to all those Washington-based alumni and other supporters who have purchased and are now displaying WWU license plates.

Your support has generated more than $14,000 in revenue for scholarships at Western.

The very first recipient of this award is Christy Ott, a first-year student from Tumwater. She will receive $2,500 per year for each of the next four years.

Purchasers of WWU collegiate license plates pay $40 each (in addition to the regular plate/tab fee). Of that $40, $28 is returned to Western to be used for scholarships.

Those renewing their plates in subsequent years, pay $30, which also generates $28 for this scholarship program.

The WWU Alumni Association board of directors' awards committee also has provided 13 $1,000 renewable scholarships to students for the 1998-99 academic year. Three other Western students were also each awarded $2,000 one-time scholarships for the coming academic year.

Alumni Association Board of Directors' scholarships are funded through earnings of the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. This fund has grown over the years through the contributions of Western graduates and friends. Those donations and investment earnings have now brought the fund to a total exceeding $450,000.

Another award for Pat Swenson

Alumna Patricia Swenson was given the 1998 Edith Knight Hill Award by the Portland professional chapter of the Association for Women in Communications. Given jointly to Swenson and Portland Public Schools' radio station KBPS, where she was general manager for 46 years, the award is for outstanding contributions to improve the quality of life in Oregon.

As general manager of KBPS, Swenson secured funding which brought 24-hour classical music and cultural arts programming to Portland.

Rabdau practicing law in Portland

Matthew D. Rabdau ('90) is an associate at Miller Nash LLP, one of the Pacific Northwest's largest law firms, focusing his practice on intellectual property — litigation, licensing agreements and acquisition of domestic and foreign trademarks, patents and copyrights.

He received his law degree and a master's of intellectual property from Franklin Pierce Law Center in 1997. He's a member of the Oregon State Bar and the Multnomah County Bar Association.
Authors form a large winner's circle

Western's English Department faculty and alumni have had a banner year in garnering awards for their literary pursuits. Others in our university family have also seen their work published and honored.

A George Emmett ('85) story, The Last Red, from his collection-in-progress called Last Lawyer in Gomorrah, appears in the summer issue of Mary Higgins Clark Mystery Magazine. Emmett and Clark are former Pan Am flight attendants.

The Ruins is Fairhaven graduate Trace Farrell's ('95) new novel about a club that sounds suspiciously like the establishment in Seattle where she once worked as a server. The book won the New York University Press prize for fiction earlier this year.

Associate professor of English Robin Hemley's Turning Life into Fiction was published in paperback. His book, Nola, a Memoir of Faith, Art and Madness, will be published in September by Graywolf Press. Hemley, who was this year's Sturm writer-in-residence at West Virginia University, was recently elected vice president of Associated Writing Programs, an organization of 16,000 writers and teachers and 600 member programs across North America.

Associate English professor Rosina Lippi-Green, a linguist, who is both meticulous and imaginatively at the same time," Sonneman explained. "My work weaves together the stories of my German-Jewish family with the stories of Gypsy Holocaust victims."

Sonneman won with A Bitter Root, an essay about Gypsies and the Holocaust adapted from a chapter of her master's thesis. "Gypsies were victims of the Nazis but stories of their experiences have rarely been told," Sonneman explained. "My work explores together the stories of my German-Jewish family with the stories of Gypsy Holocaust victims."

Sonneman will begin teaching English at Whitcom Community College in September. She has one book to her credit, Fruit Fields in My Blood: Oke Migrants in the West. Wixsom's Another Kind of Freedom explores a radical understanding of suicide and challenges different definitions and forms of death. "We tend to oversimplify death and suicide," said Wixsom, who is working on a book about death, life and suicide. "One of my goals as a writer is to initiate a conversation about death and grieving to create new perspectives."

Wixsom was also one of two recipients of the 1998 Marjory Riverrun Award for Teaching Excellence, given to a second-year graduate instructor in English. Gary Thomas ('84) was a ghostwriter of heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield's autobiography. His second nonfiction book, Sacred Pathways, was published by Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Derek Williams has been the Web site coordinator for The Bellington Review. http://www.wwu.edu/~dbfile. For two years. He also recently built the English 101 web site http://www.wwu.edu/~derekw/english101> to help new 101 students find reference materials, course descriptions and examples of good student writing.


Greta Gaard, associate professor at Fairhaven, recently published Ecological Politics: Ecofeminists and the Greens.


Liberal studies professor Milton Krieger wrote African State and Society in the 1990s: Cameroon's Political Crossroads with Joseph Takongang.

Cynthia Mejia-Giudici ('75) wrote a chapter in Filipino Americans: Transformation and Identity, published by Sage Publications this year. Her chapter, "Part of the Community: A Profile of Deaf Filipino Americans in Seattle," gives insight into the lives of seven deaf Filipino-Americans and the social handicaps they have overcome.

Other faculty winners are...

Three other faculty members were honored at the June commencement for excellence in teaching and for diversity achievement.

Hud Hudson, associate professor of philosophy, for his passion about his subject, meticulous preparation and, most of all, inspirational teaching. Hudson has been teaching at Western since 1992.

Award-winning sculptor Aristotle Georgiades, for his tireless efforts to give his students the opportunity to exhibit their work, to encourage them to make what he is an assistant professor of art since 1993.

Larry Estrada, a distinguished teaching colleague and associate professor at Fairhaven College, for his exemplary personal commitment and leadership in promoting pluralism and multicultural education on campus and throughout the community. Estrada is also director of American Cultural Studies at Western and chair of the state Commission on Hispanic Affairs. He has been at Western since 1989.

All awards included a certificate of recognition and a check for $1,000.
After all those years ...

It's the education, silly!
Chapters keep connections fresh

By Steve Inge

Whenever the Western alumni crew visits a new city, someone at some time will ask, "Why are you guys in New York (or Boston, Portland, Boise, Olympia, etc.)? Out looking for money?"

While alumni financial support is extremely valuable to Western, alumni chapter activities and alumni events are not fundraising activities. We travel to meet people who are important to Western's long-term success.

You, WWU alumni, have something that no other group in the world can provide: your life story in the years A.W. (After Western).

Alumni are people who put a Western education to work for themselves. In some instances, the education is directly related to a profession like accounting, finance, or audiology. In other cases, indeed most, the relationship is less direct.

In all instances, the Western education provides tools for living the business of life, of getting along in this world. And the stories are fascinating to hear.

Consider Kai Fujita. Armed with a degree in sociology/anthropology, she left Western in 1972 and landed a job at the University of Washington. That position led her to KCTS TV, Seattle's PBS outlet, which was then more directly tied to the university. That position led her to WGBH in Boston.

Her WWU education provided her the technical skills to pursue her craft and the strength of character to compete in an intensely competitive media market.

In Phoenix, we met Kristine Woldan ('86), senior consultant for Continuum Consulting, a firm she founded after working a number of years for others and learning the software trade. From her base in Scottsdale, she builds her future, and is also willing to provide some organizational effort for the alumni chapter in Arizona.

Consider Moira Hopkins ('91) who spends her time in Washington, D.C., as a camera person for Fox Television News. A 1991 communications graduate, Hopkins throws elbows with the competition as they position themselves to catch the best visual angle for a story at the federal courthouse.

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Fellow Faith Hansen grad, Virginia Jarson ('73), Court Porrill ('72) and Kelly Dobbs ('72) shared some memories at the gathering in New York City.

They made it big in New York City

"If I can make it here, I can make it anywhere."

That could be the slogan for New York residents Erica Christensen ('97) and Doug Anderson ('94). Christensen, a native of Bellingham, is production assistant for MTV Live, a show that features interviews with comics, musicians and major stars. Her duties include researching the guests, preparing the audience before the show begins and editing the taped elements of the live show.

So when Western's Alumni Association held a Wine, Dine, and Dance gathering on the East Coast in April, Christensen showed the alumni staff around the kaleidoscopic MTV's Time Square headquarters. The four included the MTV Live set and the studios where animated segments and sports shows are created.

Though working her way up the corporate ladder, Christensen began her career as an intern on MTV Sports. The high-powered and competitive internship came her way when associate professor of communications at Western, Allen C. Smith introduced Christensen to Anderson, who had begun his career at MTV as an intern, too.

Today, Anderson has a corner office with a window to MTV's Broadway location. It's so packed with videos and entertainment posters, and he's so busy with his job as segment producer for MTV Sports, he almost didn't have time to meet with the Western delegation.

After his internship, Anderson was hired as a production assistant. Later, he did a stint as associate producer and, for the past four years, segment producer for MTV Sports. Anderson, who once did a first-person story on Bungee jumping, enjoys the creative atmosphere MTV provides and is currently working on a new project for MTV Sports.

What lies in the future? Documentary stories and the possibility of returning to Western for a teaching degree, he says.

Both Christensen and Anderson say they owe a lot to Smith for his help in landing them exciting jobs in the entertainment industry.

But Smith said the two "did it on their own."

"They're live wires. They were both very aggressive in looking for the internship," Smith said.
CHAPTER: A group that included (left to right) Bob Smith, Erica Christensen, Jen Nikolaisen, Doug Anderson, and Jo Stroebel, known as the Round Robins, met at Gene and Ann Kahle's home on the San Juan Islands.


Letters keep WWU "robins" together

56 years

Elia Kaufman had never heard of a round robin letter when two other graduates of the Western Washington College of Education, Josephine Stroebel and Jean Vilwock, asked her to become part of one.

"They practically had to draw me a diagram so I could figure out what they were talking about," Kaufman, now Lela K. Turner ('44), says with a laugh.

That was in 1942 when the three friends took a summer trip to the San Juan Islands.

"I just knew if we didn't do something like this we would lose contact with each other," says Jo Stroebel Forner ('40), who came up with the idea of forming a small group of Western graduates to write letters to each other.

The round robin letter is still alive today, with six of the original seven Western "robins" continuing to write to each other several times a year. They also have been holding annual reunions since 1962, usually at their homes.

Turner, known as the chickadee in the group, caught on quickly to the idea. She acknowledges that she often pens the longest letters, telling her former college friends about her family and about life in Tonasket where she now lives.

As Turner explains, a round robin letter is a kind of chain letter. Each member of the group has a place in the chain. The first person writes a letter to the others and mails it to the second person. The second person writes a letter to all six and mails it, along with the first person's letter, to the third person.

The third person writes a letter to all six and mails it, along with the first and second person's letters, to the fourth person. The fourth person writes a letter to all six and mails it, along with the first, second, and third person's letters, to the fifth person. And so on.

The writers start removing their own letters once the package has been around the circle once.

Forner, a retired Highline School district teacher, became the warbler, a joke about her singing ability. The others are Yvonne Konnerup Lahti ('46), the nightingale, reputed to have similar singing ability; Jean Vilwock Allen ('45), the pea hen; Dorothy Schauss Kahle, ('62), the house wren who types her letters; and Julie Tonn ('40), the long-legged crane. (The seventh, Ellen Waineo Cattron, who died several years ago, was called the mother hen because she had children when the round robin started.)

The letters and the group's regular reunions during the last half century, have kept the group very close-knit. The women are always accompanied by their husbands, and children often come along as well.

"Our kids almost regard each other as cousins," Turner said.

In 1978 the women, most of whom lived in the Northwest, traveled to New Jersey and New England with their husbands to see Tonn who had given up teaching years earlier to work in New York City.

Tonn planned a sight-seeing tour of New England for all the robins. Turner said: "That was the most interesting thing we ever did."

The group has also traveled to Victoria, B.C., for a reunion and to Fort Worden where they will reunite again in September.

The principal task of alumni chapters is to bring people together. They are not an exercise in exclusivity. You, as alumni, need to provide some ideas and some energy.

A number of people have recently called regarding alumni chapters in their areas. We want you to keep calling, or, as they say in modern America: "Visit our web-site!"

You can also send us e-mail and become "virtually involved:"

alumni@wwu.edu.
Doug Massey

Western's 1974 Outstanding Graduate in sociology was selected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in April.

Doug Massey is professor and chair of the sociology department at the University of Pennsylvania.

His fields of research include demography, immigration, race and ethnic relations, urban studies and Latin American studies.

Massey is also an American Academy of the Arts and Sciences Fellow and a member of the Sociological Research Association.

Last year he received nearly $2 million in grants for research on immigration, race relations and Latin American studies.

The U.S. National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in April.

1974 - Barbara Ballard received an academic award for her work on the sociology of education.

1975 - Dick Clark is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1976 - George Webb is employed by the Mlnuteman Press.

1977 - Warn is employed by the Mlnuteman Press.

1978 - Don Taggart is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1979 - Joe Witsoe is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1980 - Eric Warn is employed by the Mlnuteman Press.

1981 - Anthony Onofrio is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1982 - David Sherman is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1983 - Shauna Atkins is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1984 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1985 - Pamela Bright is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1986 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1987 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1988 - Christopher Carlson is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1989 - Diane Waldock is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1990 - Blaine Clyde is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1991 - Tami Dun Gorman is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1992 - D. Paul Bennett is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1993 - Shauna Atkins is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1994 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1995 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1996 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1997 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1998 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

1999 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2000 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2001 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2002 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2003 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2004 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2005 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2006 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2007 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2008 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2009 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2010 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2011 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2012 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2013 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2014 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2015 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2016 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2017 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2018 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2019 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2020 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2021 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2022 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2023 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2024 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2025 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2026 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2027 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

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2039 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2040 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2041 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2042 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2043 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2044 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2045 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2046 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2047 - Melissa Neumayer is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2048 - Karen Funston is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2049 - Robert Lindsay is a substitute teacher at Albion College.

2050 - Sandra Antonucci is a substitute teacher at Albion College.
Memorials

Alumni

1966 - Richard Kaup, 55, a retired teacher for Sequim District School, died of lymphoma Feb. 3. ... Patricia Akita Miyahira, 53, a teacher, died after a year-long illness March 31. ... Douglas Rasmussen, 57, a retired computer analyst for Boeing, died Aug. 5. ... Joseph Richter, 55, an educator at Everett High School, died suddenly while jogging on April 4.

1968 - Marlene Hilsenberg, 62, an educator in California, died Jan. 19 ... E. James (Jim) Lepamphile, 53, a building contractor, died March 21.


1976 - Jerry Woosman, 56, a former state legislator who served as Everett's liaison to the Legislature and as a campaign consultant, died Feb. 17.

1978 - George Harrell, '68 BA, 49, a corporate archivist, died June 13. ... Meghan Rehling, 42, an educator in the Franklin Pierce School District, died in a.diming accident on April 18.

1980 - Brent Golden, 40, a dealer at Nooksack River Casino, died in a car accident May 1. ... Jeffrey Green, 41, co-owner of JetSeal Progressive Seed Inc., died of cancer June 8.

1985 - Nancy Parker-West, 35, a merchandising representative for Levi's, died from cancer April 22. ... Timothy Winslow, 38, a real estate agent, died March 17.

1994 - Matthew (Matt) Culver, 27, died in October after returning from a tour of East Africa with the Peace Corps. ... Roy Silvey, 36, died Aug. 1, 1997.

1995 - Stephen Hardy, 26, died May 31.

1996 - Shannon Marie Bouwhuis, 24, died in a car accident March 3. ... Alexander DeWitt, 27, an artist, died in a car accident Feb. 16. ... Deborah L. Langlois, 43, in an apparent fall while viewing Nooksack Falls in June.

Faculty, staff, friends

Stephen L. Chase, 84, a prominent businessman and a member of the university's board of trustees from 1959 to 1985, died June 24 in Everett.

Mary Olson Daughtery, 67, whose 20-year career at Western included roles as director of the International Language Institute, director of academic advising and dean of students, died March 29.

Janice K. Edwards, 53, a former program director in the College of Business and Economics, died March 10.

Ernst L. Gayden, 73, associate professor emeritus at Huslay, died March 27.

Valentina Illyichna Umanets, 58, who taught Russian at Western, died May 15.

Alexander's ashes still cleaning up

Rick Alexander, a student in the College of Business and Economics in 1976-77, still makes pumice soap from the ash of Mount St. Helens. He started the project 18 years ago, after the volcano erupted.

Mount St. Helens soap recently underwent a major redesign, adding moisturizers, evergreen scent and a more rounded shape. It's available in most grocery and drug stores.

Do you have news to share? Send short items of interest and glossy photos to Window on Western, Alumni House, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98227-9045. You can also e-mail your Class Notes, and address changes to alumni@wwu.edu.

Class Notes are also published in the online edition of Window on Western. http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~alumni/wwor

11
The Western Foundation
1997-98 Honor Roll of Private Support

The Western Foundation and Western Washington University are pleased to recognize the generous financial support provided during the 1997-98 giving year. Gifts to enhance Western Washington University programs totaled just over $5 million and were received from 8,749 donors. This Honor Roll of Private Support recognizes donors who made gifts to The Western Foundation between July 1, 1997, and June 30, 1998.

Private financial support enables Western to become the very best by providing greater opportunities for academic excellence and improved teaching resources for faculty. Every dollar makes an important difference. Gifts from alumni, parents, friends, businesses, corporations and foundations ensure Western's continued commitment to academic excellence.

Donors listed in this year’s Honor Roll made contributions of $100 or greater during the past fiscal year. Although this publication’s limited size prevents printing names of all donors, The Western Foundation gratefully acknowledges the impact and important difference made with gifts of all amounts.

Providing Opportunities for Western Students

Since 1985, the Presidents Club has served Western Washington University as the most generous source of annual private support. Gifts from Presidents Club members benefit the Campus Enrichment Fund, which supports the most pressing needs of the university, or are designated to assist a particular college, department or program. Every area of campus life is enriched by gifts received through this program, from scholarships and academics to athletics and the performing arts.

Presidents Club members continue to answer the call for Western, fulfilling many of the University's greatest needs. With $50 current members, the Presidents Club is Western's most prestigious annual giving club. We salute those who make such a thing as possible for WWU faculty and students and thank them for their continued support. To learn about the advantages of becoming a Presidents Club member, contact The Western Foundation at 360-650-3027.

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Get the latest news and updates on Western Washington University and the Old Main Society.

**OLD MAIN SOCIETY**

**Annual Gala**

**Adjacent Banks**

**John A. Swift and Dr. Bethany Swift**

**Private Snell**

**Twin City Foods, Inc.**

**Community Banking**

**U.S. Bank**

**Pacific Northwest Chapter**

**Columbia Bank**

**Pacific Northwest Chapter**

**First Bank of Washington**

**Pacific Northwest Chapter**

**Northwest Community Bank**

The Old Main Society is an organization that provides gifts to the university. The Old Main Society recognizes those alumni and friends who have made arrangements with Western to provide gifts through their estate plans or other planned gift options. Participants enjoy a variety of special benefits, and in some instances, are entitled to Life or Benefactor Presidents Club membership as well (for certain irrevocable gift arrangements).

The Old Main Society

Just as annual gifts satisfy many of Western's immediate funding needs, planned gifts help ensure a stable resource of future funding for the university. The Old Main Society recognizes those alumni and friends who have made arrangements with Western to provide gifts through their estate plans or other planned giving options.

Acknowledging donors during their lifetime for future gifts to Western Washington University is the primary goal of the program. Old Main Society membership begins once documentation has been completed naming Western as a beneficiary through a bequest, trust, annuity or life insurance policy.

Participants enjoy a variety of special benefits, and in some instances, are entitled to Life or Benefactor Presidents Club membership as well (for certain irrevocable gift arrangements).
BIG, BIG HOMECOMING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Big Kickoff ............ 12 noon. Get your free grilled hot dogs and cold pop in Red Square, served by the Alumni House and Athletic Office staff. Try on a sumo suit for wrestling or pedal through Red Square during the Big Trike races. Free.

Big Toys .................. 4 p.m. Bigger than the interactive toys and ahuman foosball tournament. Watch or participate as teams of five harriers in and play foosball on a $5-by-$5 inflatable field. There will also be more sumo wrestling, Big Trike races through an obstacle course and many other big toys. Call Alumni House to form a team. All free at the campus track.

Big Bang .................. 7 p.m. The Bonfire and fireworks will be in Field 1, across from Fairhaven College. Free hot cider, hot chocolate, Homecoming Raspberry Brownies and doughnuts.

Big Band ................. 7 p.m. Swing is back! Watch the fireworks while listening to the big band sound of Resurrected Swing. Band members include these alumni: Larry Pigg ('49), Ann and Bruce Gillett ('51) and Rex Rice ('72).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Big Run/Walk ............ 8 a.m. registration and 9 a.m. race. Register for the Alumni Scholarship 5K Fun Run/Walk at the campus track. Prizes for the top finishers and the oldest alumni to finish the course. Ribbons and other prizes, plus angels and beverages for all entrants at the “End of Race” celebration. See fee schedule below. For entry form, call Alumni House at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885. To register, e-mail donnac@wwu.edu.

Big Tailgate Party ......... 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Civic Field. Enjoy hotdogs, chips, Homecoming Raspberry Brownies and beverages. $5 per person.

Big Game .................. 1:30 p.m. at Civic Field. WWU Vikings vs. Humboldt State Lumberjacks. Buy tickets at the gate.

Big Reunion ............... 4:30 to 6:30 at Canada House. Reunion for physical education/exercise and sport science graduates. $3 per person or $5 per couple at the door, gets you pizza and beverages. RSVP to Linda Finscher, (360) 650-7227.

SEPTEMBER

9 Switzerland trip
12 A day at Emerald Downs for Alumni Club members
16 U.S. Bank Viking Night dinner and sports auction, at Sam Carver Gym, $75 per person. (360) 650-3109
17 Celebration of Learning. (360) 650-3521
19 WWU football at Montana State University, 12:30 p.m.
22 Convocation, 7 p.m. at Performing Arts Center Concert Hall
23 Fall classes begin
26 Viking football faces Western Montana College. 1 p.m. at Civic Field.
30 Opening of Review/Preview: Art Faculty on View at the Western Gallery. Through Nov. 18.

OCTOBER

1-30 Review/Preview: Art Faculty on View at the Western Gallery
1 Author and philosopher Cornel West opens the Distinguished Lecture Series at Carver Gym, 6 p.m., with a talk about “The War Against Parents.” Tickets are free from the PAC box office, Village Books or via mail with a SASE to: PAC Box Office, Bellingham, WA 98225-9109. 650-7545.
2 Board of Trustees meet, 8 a.m., Old Main 340.
2-3 HOMECOMING!! See details above.
3 Alumni Scholarship 5K Fun Run on campus. See below.
4 Viking Football vs. Humboldt State, Civic Field.
4 Seattle Chamber Players, with pianist Jeffrey Gilliam, first of the PAC series, 7:30 p.m. PAC Concert Hall.
5 Reflections and Reactions about Cornel West’s speech, 6 p.m. in Fraser Lecture Hall 4. Faculty panel. 650-7545.
11 Veteran’s Day observance sponsored by Veterans Outreach Center. (360) 650-6115. Guest speaker, a musical celebration with Leon Bates on piano, soprano Sebronne Barnes and bass-baritone Benjamin Matthews. 7:30 p.m. at the PAC Concert Hall.
28 Gershwin by Request, at the Western Gallery.床垫.
November

7-8 Fall Family Weekend.
10 Assistant professor John Field opens the Turning Points lecture series with Salmon, Floods and Earth-Science Education: Geology Isn’t Just Rocks Anymore. 6 p.m. at Fraser Lecture Hall 4. Free. 650-7545.
18 Bimbetta, a five-woman Baroque musical group with a contemporary twist. 7:30 p.m. at the PAC Concert Hall.
18 Last day of Review/Preview: Art Faculty on View at the Western Gallery.

DECEMBER

4 Board of Trustees meet at 8 a.m., Old Main 340
12 Commencement

Tickets and Information:

Alumni events: (800) 676-6885
Athletic: (360) 650-3963
Fall Family Weekend: (800) 600-3353 or (360) 650-3353
Homecoming: (800) 676-6885
Performing Arts: (800) 650-3353
Western Gallery: (360) 650-3521
Alumni Scholarship 5K Fun Run
For entry form, call Alumni House (360) 650-3353 or (800) 650-3353
Email: donna@wwu.edu

Tickets: $10 Alumni Club members
$10 Students
$15 Non-members
$20 Day of race
$25 Per person without T-shirt
$36 Team of four
$50 Team of four, day of race

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