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A '90s Perspective: Do Careers and Parenthood Mix?

Is American society waging an unconscious war against parents? Do today's social institutions allow individuals the freedom to be good parents and effective employees?

To continue the dialogue begun by distinguished lecturer Cornel West on Oct. 1, Window on Western contacted WWU graduates across the nation, asking how they handle the daily pressures of career and parenthood and whether they agree with West's premise that America's market-based culture values work more highly than family life.

We found that this is not simply a women's issue. The responses were as varied as the individuals who constitute our alumni base, and they came from parents as well as non-parents, and men as well as women, all of whom were eager to reflect on this underlying conflict which permeates our lives. Some distinctly feel a battle between the two. Others say they do not.

Many share the sentiments of Bruce Sharer ('78) of Cleveland, Ohio, who said, "In general, the 1990's corporate climate is not as 'kind and gentle' as it seemed to me when I entered the job market after college. With mergers, downsizings, intense domestic and foreign competition and the relentless struggle by CEOs to squeeze every dollar of profit for anxious boards and shareholders, there is ever increasing pressure on the employee to perform."

He believes, "the traditional 9 to 5 workday does not play well in this arena. Traditional two-parent families and single parents also are struggling with longer hours to appease the demands of corporate America and..."
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Kelly Joffrion welcomed as archivist at WWU’s Center for Pacific Northwest Studies

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Briefly

Northwest Indian College and Western create innovative Environmental Management Program

Northwest Indian College, in concert with Western Washington University and Evergreen State College, launched an innovative tribal environmental and natural resource management program in September under a $775,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

“The primary goal of this two-year certificate program is to graduate qualified Indian students who will be able either to get technical jobs in environmental protection and natural resource management or environmental economics and policy,” said program director Dan Bums. This is the first program of its kind and is meant as a national model. Faculty for the program are from both the NWIC campus on Lummi Island and Western’s Huxley College of Environmental Studies. Also cooperating with the program are Western’s Fairhaven College and the Evergreen State College, both noted for interdisciplinary approaches to curriculum.

On September 23, the first cohort of students started classes for the two-year program, which is targeted on tribal students from across the country.

Elizabeth Schoenfeld named Executive Assistant to Western President Karen W. Morse

President Karen W. Morse is pleased to welcome Elizabeth (“Buff”) Schoenfeld as her executive assistant. Schoenfeld succeeds Mary Marcy, who accepted a post at Antioch College in Seattle.

Previous to this position, Schoenfeld has served as assistant to the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin colleges and to the senior vice president for administration of the UWisconsin system. Experienced in the areas of legislative relations, strategic planning and coordination of institutional governance, she has also served as interim dean of the University of Wisconsin-Rock County and as a special assistant for development.

Gary Geddes to illuminate Canadian culture

Award-winning poet Gary Geddes is Western’s second Distinguished Professor of Canadian Culture. Described by Canadian historians George Woodcock as “Canada’s best political poet,” the internationally known editor and critic comes to Western from Concordia University in Montreal where he was an English professor. He has published 35 books and more than 200 reviews, articles, stories and poems in countries throughout the world. Along with teaching, Geddes role at Western will be to foster an awareness of Canadian culture, including ethnicity, art, literature, history and philosophy.

Steve Inge retired in September 1998

Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the Western Foundation and former Director of Alumni Relations, Steve Inge, completed 30 years of service to Western Washington University on Sept. 30. He will continue to be involved in planning the university’s 1999-2000 centennial celebration.

Elizabeth Joffrion welcomed as archivist at WWU’s Center for Pacific Northwest Studies

Elizabeth Joffrion, a former registrar for the Smithsonian Institution Archives of American Art is welcomed by the Western community as the new archivist for the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies. Effective Dec. 7, Joffrion holds a Masters of Science from the University of Maryland and a Master of Arts from the University of New Orleans.

Fall enrollment reaches new record at 11,655

With 11,655 students enrolled for fall quarter, up 179 from the previous record of 11,476 in 1997, Western Washington University’s student population is growing at a “moderate” pace. This year’s fall class is the largest in the university’s 99-year history.

“Western is committed to meeting our state’s growing need for higher education,” said admissions director Karen Copetas, “but we are also striving to maintain the university’s academic excellence and retain the high-quality undergraduate experience that is part of the Western tradition.” A total of 2,194 new freshmen enrolled this fall with an average high school GPA of 3.47.

Write to us! Have a compliment, suggestion or idea? We want to hear from you. Address your letters to the editor: Window on Western, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9198. Or, contact the Alumni Office via e-mail at alumni@wwu.edu.
Investments in Excellence
Year-end Giving Opportunities Abound at Western

Across the country, charitable giving reaches its height each year in November and December. Many individuals, either because of the advantages of giving before the end of the tax year or the general philanthropic mood of the holidays, choose to support their favorite charities at this time.

Many alumni, parents, and friends include Western in their year-end giving plans, sending contributions of varying amounts to support their favorite college, department, or project. Often, gifts are designated for the Campus Enrichment Fund to support any number of innovative and exciting campus projects. Wherever you choose to designate your gift, the full amount of your contribution benefits Western students and programs and makes a positive impact on teaching and learning at WWU.

What is the Campus Enrichment Fund?
Gifts to the Campus Enrichment Fund support numerous projects on the Western Campus. Unlike funds designated for a specific college, department, or program, gifts to the Campus Enrichment Fund provide the flexibility to support exciting opportunities and innovative campus projects that arise throughout the year. Distributed by President Morse and the Foundation board of directors, in 1997-98 $200,000 was allocated for the third consecutive year to support five areas: campus technology, scholarship, community outreach programs, excellence in teaching awards and faculty enrichment.

Gifts from alumni and friends to the Campus Enrichment Fund make these grants possible, creating more opportunities for all who teach and learn at WWU.

Endowments Ensure Long-Term Support

The Western Foundation endowment program exists to provide a continuous source of financial support for WWU students and programs. Endowments serve a dual purpose by blending the vision of individual donors with the needs and objectives of the University. By working together, endowment donors and the Foundation create distinctive funding sources that reflect a common goal.

Named endowments may be initiated with a gift of $20,000 or more. However, it is possible to establish an endowment with less, provided the understanding that additional gifts will bring the fund's value to $20,000 within five years. Awards are made when the endowment is fully funded. There are currently 227 permanent endowments benefiting Western — 185 for scholarship and 42 for program support.

The Western Foundation invests these funds carefully to ensure that the values of endowed gifts increase over time. By spending only a portion of the total investment return and reinvesting the rest, endowments continue to grow. Endowed funds held by The Western Foundation during this decade have grown from $730,000 in 1990 to $11.7 million as of June 30, 1998.

For additional information on establishing an endowment, please contact Jean Rahn, executive director of The Western Foundation, at 360-650-3027.

WWU and Seafirst to Co-Host Seattle Business Forum

The second annual Seattle Business Forum, co-sponsored by Western Washington University and Seafirst Bank, will be held at noon on Tuesday, March 2, 1999, in the Metropole Room of the Four Seasons Olympic Hotel in downtown Seattle.

The luncheon will feature a keynote address from John Warner, senior vice president and chief administrative officer at Boeing.

Organized by The Western Foundation Western-in-Seattle committee, the event brings together corporate leaders, alumni, parents and friends who are interested both in Western and current business trends. Last year, at the inaugural luncheon, retired Bank of America CEO Richard Rosenberg shared his views on management with a capacity audience.

The forum provides an excellent venue for business leaders to highlight key issues that affect the entire Pacific Rim.

The Business Forum is open to the public. Cost to attend is $35 per person. To reserve a seat or to inquire about sponsoring a table for 10 guests, please contact the Western Office of Special Events at (360) 650-6825.
Vikings set new records

Quarterback Sam Hanson (Sr., Manson) completed 29 of 51 passes for school records of 480 yards and five touchdowns.

Wide receiver Ben Clampitt (Jr., The Dalles, OR) set a Northwest small-college record with 295 receiving yards, leading Western Washington University to a 36-17 victory over Humboldt State University to celebrate Western’s Homecoming on Oct. 3.

Running back Scott Noteboom (Sr., Lynden), who had nine receptions for 95 yards and rushed for 73 yards on 22 carries, also tied a Western record with three touchdown receptions.

Western led 19-0 early in the second quarter, but the Lumberjacks rallied to make the score 19-11 at halftime and nearly tied the game in the third quarter. Running back Matt Dwane scored on a 53-yard touchdown pass from Travis Mari to close the margin to 19-17, but the ensuing two-point conversion failed.

The Vikings then broke the game open by scoring touchdowns on two of their next three possessions, as Hanson hit Noteboom for a 10-yard score on a swing pass, then found Clampitt for a 77-yard touchdown five minutes later.

Hanson, who was 18 of 31 for 306 yards with three touchdowns in the first half, became the first Western player to throw for 350 or more yards in two consecutive games. His 480 yards passing is the eighth best mark in Northwest small college history.

Clampitt’s yardage total eclipsed the former Northwest record of 266 yards set by Mike Wilson of Oregon Tech in 1991. He also had 10 receptions, one short of the school record.

Coffee Table Book to Commemorate Centennial

Remember When...

Western was booming with new students after World War II. The Bellingham Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycee) Frosh Tour of the city was a big event for several years. Here, on Sept. 29, 1947, Jaycee President Bill Rothgeb is about to lead a 20-car caravan through downtown Bellingham with a greeting by the mayor at City Hall. Miller Hall, formerly the Campus School, and the old Industrial Arts building are in the background.

For the First Time...

Western’s history and beautiful campus will come to life in archival pictures and extraordinary color photos by award-winning photographer Phil Schofield in a photo essay book celebrating Western’s Centennial.

Soon...

You’ll have a chance to pre-order this heirloom book!

Watch for details in the next issue of Window on Western...
Western's One Hundred Years: 
A Tradition of Academic Excellence, Service and a Recommitment to Diversity

On the eve of its Centennial year, Western welcomed more than 11,600 students this fall, the largest number in its history. While Western is continuing to grow at a record pace, we are constantly alert to retaining the high-quality undergraduate experience that is part of Western's tradition.

Efforts this year include: a strengthened GUR program, Freshman Interest Groups (FIGs) in which seniors will lead small groups of freshmen enrolled in GURs, and a renewed focus on writing.

Our students are continuing Western's tradition of service to others through community involvement. Last year 65 percent of the student body volunteered nearly 900,000 hours of service to the campus and community. As so many of you alumni have experienced, the spirit of service continues beyond graduation. Western ranked 18th this year among 1,000 universities for the number of graduates who become Peace Corps volunteers. Currently Western alumni are performing public service in 35 countries throughout the world.

To help prepare our students to live and work in a global society, last December Western's Board of Trustees renewed its commitment to provide opportunities for diversity to thrive on campus. To me this commitment means recruiting and retaining a diverse student body, faculty and staff. It means providing forums for students and faculty to discuss their divergent concerns as well as their common ones. It means supporting faculty to develop courses that include appropriate opportunities to explore the roles and histories of minority peoples and cultures in American life. It means infusing a global perspective throughout the disciplines to prepare our graduates to participate in an international society and economy aware of the opportunities and challenges involved in a diverse world.

As we approach the beginning of our second century and our celebration of Western's legacy of academic excellence and service, we reaffirm our commitment to diversity of ethnic, social, economic and cultural backgrounds and perspectives — for our campus community and our alumni of the future.

Bruce Nauman's Stadium Piece
becomes 23rd Outdoor Sculpture

Preparatory work has begun on Western's south campus for Stadium Piece by sculptor Bruce Nauman, who is hailed as "the essential American artist of the last quarter century." The work, a series of poured concrete steps, tinted white, will be the 23rd contemporary piece in Western Washington University's internationally renowned Outdoor Sculpture Collection. It is the sixth gift to the collection from the Virginia Wright Fund, founded in 1973 by the Seattle collector and arts patron.

Stadium Piece will be 25 feet wide, 50 feet long and just over 13 feet high. Footings are in place. Development of structural forms and the pouring of concrete will be under the supervision of the artist at critical intervals, and Nauman will again be on campus in mid-December to complete the work.

Nauman, 56, has said he intends the structure to be used "not only as a seating and meeting area, but also...by spectators for activities occurring around it" such as individual or group theatrical and musical performances as well as recreational sports.

Sarah Clark-Langanger, curator of the collection and director of the Western Gallery, noted that people will interpret Nauman's design in many ways. "For example," she said, "it appears to be a series of steps but it also has qualities of a stadium or the..." Lighted from below, she added, "it also could echo mountain ranges in the distance, so much a part of the natural beauty of our region."

She noted that Nauman's work has been high on a list developed by a public Outdoor Sculpture Collection jury in 1993. The Virginia Wright Fund's selection of Nauman coincided with that opinion and was based on what the Seattle arts patron considered his "vision, expertise and international recognition over 32 years..." In his reputation among a younger generation of artists, who consider him one of their most influential precursors.

After Virginia Wright brought him to Western's campus in January, 1987, he became "intrigued with the location" just south of a major academic quadrangle where playing fields begin, according to Clark-Langanger. Nauman has said he sees Stadium Piece as "a link and transition between the academic and recreational activities that occur within the university."

Winner of numerous awards, including...
Parents are overworked and importantly, children. When time, "she explained.

Society supports parents, or most children. It is not an easy balancing act.

"When our first child was born, my wife fully intended to go back to work. We did the babysitter routine for something like six to eight months. We enjoyed the material comfort that two incomes gave us. However, we quickly became uncomfortable with the situation," said Bruce.

The couple made a life decision they say they do not regret. Sue quit her job to stay home full time. Over the years she has worked some seasonal part-time jobs, but only when Bruce was able to be home with the kids.

"This required changes in our lifestyle due to the loss of my wife's income," said Bruce. Yet, he added, "definitely for this family, having one parent home full time with our children was the best decision."

But staying home full-time is not always an option. Lori Boroughs was pleased to find faculty that was supportive of her situation as a mother. She often brought her daughter, Ellie, with her to meetings with thesis advisor, Dr. Marcia Davison.

"I tend to agree with West in the sense that our society has put work over families."

Crystal Nygard ('90) of Anchorage, Alaska, also sees external pressures as a major stumbling block in America. "A majority of the families today require both people to work because of debt and the 'demands' of living," she said. "I believe this choice between work and career has definitely affected the one person in a marriage that chooses not to work or work part-time after children (husband or wife). Our society does not encourage living a simple happy life, but rather a life based on judgment. That means making sure your kids have everything else that their friends have and your neighbors. No one goes without!"

Nygard has also traded in her full-time career for part-time work and parenthood. She says prior to having her first child she traveled 175 miles from home to work each week and "enjoyed the title, lunches, business trips and meetings. I looked at those who stayed home as boring and giving up their career. But holding that baby in my arms made my decision, I quit my job and stayed home. These are times I will never regret," she said.

Non-parents recognize these struggles as well. Signe Beck, ('84) a financial consultant in San Diego, Calif., is single and does not have children. "I think it is true that couples focus more on their careers now than any other time in history. There are several good reasons forcing them to do so," she said. "First, it now takes two incomes to support families more."

At Western, West spoke powerfully about issues of character qualities that he says can be instilled only by parents, which means "most parents are over-worked, underpaid and beleaguered region" in this country. He believes this unnoticeable struggle for the quality of our future, as the "voids of our young folk (including those that consume their parents) are also filled by the market in this generation, video games, films, fast-food, shopping malls and amusement parks."

"No matter how materially successful a society is, if its system of parents suffers then it will reap what it sows," said West. He continued to be optimistic about the 21st century, but he says that he does not believe America's parents will continue to fight for non-market values. "The War Against Parents" offers an idealistic blueprint for an environment, including a "Parents' Bill of Rights" that West believes will "provide dignity to the parental role and restores our nation's concerned well-being of children."

As stated in the book, "simply heaping blame on overburdened parents will not solve our problems. Modern-day mothers and fathers are continuously threatened by the omnipresence of market forces, which impede and obstruct their parenting. From early in the morning till late at night, Americans are battered by all kinds of pressures, most of which are not of their choosing."

In her introduction of West, WWU president Karen Morse said anyone who is a parent or hopes to be a parent should "welcome West as an individual who was bom, my wife fully intended to stay home with our children. It is not an easy balancing act."

"This required changes in our lifestyle due to the loss of my wife's income," said Bruce. Yet, he added, "definitely for this family, having one parent home full time with our children was a good decision."
West Draws Battle Lines

continued from page 1

continuously threatened by the omnipresence of market forces in American culture. This silent attack on parenthood is "a symptom and a symbol of the quality of our larger society, yet it is hardly talked about," West told a crowd of 2,000 at Western's Carver Gymnasium.

West and Hewlett use an uncommonly liberal perspective to argue that children don't just need quality time, they need quantity. They contend that because of the growing power of the market, children are now required to spend a much larger part of their day in work than in family life, decreasing the amount of time that parents have to spend with their children. In essence, they believe that America's market culture has come to value work much more highly than family life.

Crystal Nygard ('90) of Anchorage, Alaska, also sees these pressures as a major stumbling block in America. "A majority of the families today require both people to work because of debt and the demands of living." She said. "I believe this choice between work and career has definitely affected the one person in a marriage that chooses not to work or work part-time after children (husband or wife). Our society does not encourage living a simple happy life, but rather a life based on judgment. That means making sure your kids have everything else that their friends have and your neighbors. No one goes without!"

Nygard has also traded in her full-time career for part-time work and parenthood. She says prior to having her first child she traveled 175 miles from home to work each week and "enjoyed the title, lunches, business trips and meetings. I looked at those who stayed home as boring and giving up their career. But holding that baby in my arms made my decision. I quit my job and stayed home. These are times I will never regret," she said.

Non-parents recognize these struggles as well.

Sige Beck ('84) a financial consultant in San Diego, Calif., is single and does not have children. "I think it is true that couples focus more on their careers now than any other time in history. There are several good reasons forcing them to do so," she said. "First, it now takes two incomes to maintain our lifestyles, especially if the family is going to live at home. An added burden is the job security and earning the parents. In the past a family with seven or eight children has to work."

Although she agrees with her college friends that would adjust, she says "they do the same thing. They work long hours. This is not an easy job, but they are doing the best they can."

The need to stay at home has been met by another issue, including this year's Jennifer Beke. "Ah, you mean American society is, if its system of parenting succeeds then it will reap what it sows."

Crystal Nygard, Anchorage, AK

"No matter how materially successful a society is, if its system of parenting succeeds then it will reap what it sows," said West. He contends that he is not optimistic about the 21st century, but he says that he does have hope that America's parents will continue to fight for non-market values.

The War Against Parents offers an idealistic blueprint for parent empowerment, including a "Parents' Bill of Rights" that West believes "gives new value and dignity to the parental role and restores our nation's commitment to the well-being of children."

As stated in the book, "simply heaping blame on overburdened moms and dads will not solve our problems. Modern-day mothers and fathers, like those before them, struggle to put children at the center of their lives. But major impediments and obstacles stand in their way, undermining their most valiant efforts. From early in the morning till late at night, America's parents are battered by all kinds of pressures, most of which are not of their making."

In her introduction of West, WWU president Karen Morse said, "I suggest that anyone who is a parent or hopes to be a parent should read this book." Morse was pleased to welcome West as an individual who speaks "eloquently and powerfully about the intellectual issues of our time. She asserted that "this series is dedicated to inspiring a rich dialogue on our campus and in our community."

Western President Karen Morse and Distinguished Lecturer Cornel West (far right) greet guests, including former WWU professor of business, Thaddeus Spratlen and his wife.
to maintain a household, especially if the couple wants to own a home. And secondly, there is no job security like there was for our parents. The average person now has seven jobs in a lifetime, and has to worry about being replaced at the drop of a hat.

Although she is currently busy with her career, Beck also says she would adjust her work schedule if she does have children. "That would include cutting back on my hours. This was how I planned it, and one reason I chose this profession," she stated.

The need for "balance" was referred to by many who responded, including future parents, such as Jennifer Berke ('94), "Ah, you're asking about the American dream!"

"Is the American dream about raising children or making money and gaining prestige?" asked Beck. "We really want to spend all our time on. But we will be able to work from home and when we have children, we will raise them together. So we are sacrificing complete enjoyment in career for money and family life. This is our balance."

Julia Elzie ('93) is currently attending graduate school to earn a Ph.D. in communication. At the same time she operates a computer-oriented business. Interestingly she says, "we chose computers because we're good at working with them and this type of work brings in a lot of money, not because it's what we really, really want to spend all our time on. But we will be able to work from home and when we have children, we will raise them together. So we are sacrificing complete enjoyment in career for money and family life. This is our balance."

"From all outward appearances, it seems we have chosen career over family, but that is really not true," she says. At the time of their marriage, her husband was an officer on active duty with the U.S. Army and they were often separated. "We decided that the potential for harm to our marriage and to our future was great and was more of a sacrifice than we were willing to make. So, he decided to voluntarily remove himself from his officer's commission and work in corporate America," she explained.

Along with the other future parents who responded, the Elzies believe that career choice is a choice and does not perceive a struggle. Terry Buckles ('76) of Pullman agrees. As a parent, his primary concern is for his teenage daughter. "I worry about when she becomes an adult," he said. "I want her to be valued for herself, not whether she chooses to be an at-home mom, a working mom or not a mom at all."

What role does a college education play?

Buckles also mentioned the peer pressure that can come with a college education. "It is often expected that if one attends college, one is looking to have a career outside the home," he notes. However, most Western graduates who responded agreed. Notice college education has been essential in providing the options that they do have.

"I don't think most educated people want to make their career the first priority, but it sometimes becomes that way to survive."

Signe Reck, San Diego, CA

"My college experience at WWU certainly broadened my perspective on human ecology. Given a crisis we can adapt," said Randy Jackson ('85).

Bruce Sharer cites his college education as opening doors that were not available to all. "I took a management path in the years after our first child was born. This boosted my income level considerably. Without a degree, I would have had virtually no opportunity to do this," he said.

An advanced degree also opened new doors for Lori Broughton, who says she feels "thankful that I have the education for a career that I thoroughly enjoy, which also allows me to be home in the summers and have vacations with my kids."

"A degree or further education allows you flexibility," said Crystal Ngard. "My parents and in-laws never had to think about career vs. parenting. Then again, there were never computers in homes."

Throughout the nation, Western graduates appear to be dealing with the issues of career and parenthood in individual, yet similar ways as they strive to impact the future.
Accent on Alumni

Grist of Goldsmith

By Chris Goldsmith
Alumni Director

A big thank you to the numerous alumni who have already responded to last issue's call for memorabilia from their college days to help Western celebrate its 100th anniversary next year.

We've received an interesting array of personal reflections and memories, an actual Life Diploma from 1920 and original clips from the Seattle Times, which ran a story on Western's 75th anniversary in the 1970s.

All of this and the hoped for additional contributions will comprise a Centennial exhibit which will be on display during our celebration from September 1999 through August of 2000.

We have already decided that it would be very appropriate for Western's earlier graduates to help kick off the Centennial celebration by coordinating the reunion of alumni from classes of 1939 and earlier with Fall Convocation in September of 1999. Graduates from those years will be hearing soon about that reunion and their hoped for participation in Convocation.

Plans are also being formed by the Alumni Association's various chapters and regions across the country to help Western celebrate its first 100 years in their communities.

But you don't have to belong to a formal chapter to help us celebrate. We would like to hear from alumni living in any part of the country -- or even other countries -- who would be interested in coordinating an event with other graduates living in their area.

We can let you know how many other Western alumni live nearby and work with you to get something going. Give us a call at 1-800-676-6885. We'd be glad to talk about your ideas!

On campus, the Alumni House is planning for Reunion Weekend 1999, which will take place June 26-27. Classes 1949, 1950 and 1951 will receive information in December.

Contact us if you are interested in being on a committee!

Ski Trip to take alumni north of border Feb. 12-14

Silver Star in Vernon, British Columbia is the destination for the 1999 Alumni Ski Trip.

On Friday, Feb. 12, at 5 p.m., board a deluxe motor coach from Western's campus and take a comfortable ride, complete with movies, snacks and beverages, to Silver Star, which is rated one of Western North America's ten best ski resorts.

You'll stay on the mountain with two night's accommodations at the newly completed Silver Creek, a ski-in, ski-out hotel. Your two-day pass will allow you to ski all day Saturday and Sunday, returning that night to Bellingham at approximately 11 p.m. The package also includes a Saturday night alumni reception at the hotel.

Prices are based on occupancy; quads start at $160 US per person. To make your reservation, call the Alumni House at (800) 676-6885 or (360) 650-3353.

The Western motif village is complete with tube and toboggan area, ice skating, and colorful establishments such as the Sheriff's Café, Bugaboo's Bakery, Silver Lode Inn, Clementines, Vance Creek Saloon and Doc Simmons Soak & Swim. You can't miss this trip, pardner!

Former players celebrate 95 Years of Western Football

Former WWU football players from 1933 to 1996 celebrated "95 Years of Western Football" at the Best Western Lakeway Inn following WWU's Homecoming game against Humboldt State on Oct. 3 (a 36-17 win for WWU).

All former football players were invited to the reunion. Among the honored players were members of the undefeated 1938 "ironman" squad celebrating their 60th reunion. Teammates Wesley Baker, Russell Davis, Walt Wilkinson, and Henry White recalled the days they played on Waldo Field, now Red Square.

The teams of 1948, 1973 and 1988 commemorated their 50th, 25th, and 10th year reunions, respectively.

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President Karen Morse and head football coach Rob Smith were on hand to welcome the former players, along with Goodrich. President Morse spoke of Smith's outstanding coaching record, noting that he is the "first undefeated football coach in Western's NCAA history." The Viking's game and victory against Humboldt State marked the team's first NCAA Division II contest.

If you would like to become involved in planning next year's football team reunion and locating former players, please contact Jennifer Rick at 650-3616 or jrick@cms.wwu.edu.

Coach Rob Smith leads his former players in Western's fight song at the "95 Years of Western Football" celebration following the Homecoming game on Oct. 3.

Jason Stiles (1991-95) and Chet Ullin (1933-36) reminisce about Vikings football. Both Stiles and Ullin are four-year letter earners.

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Former players celebrate 95 Years of Western Football

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Western grads are tops among Peace Corps recruits

By Norah West

Something about Western makes its graduates prime candidates for life-after-college opportunities in far-away countries as Peace Corps volunteers. In late September, Carl L. Swartz, national chief of operations for Peace Corps recruitment, visited campus to present Western with an award recognizing its consistent success in recruiting volunteers for service overseas. He also came to find out what makes Western special.

Some, including President Karen W. Morse, say Western's high number of volunteers - more than 550 in the 37-year history of the service organization - is due to "the culture of caring" instilled in its students. Morse told Swartz that in the 1996-97 academic year alone, Western students contributed 872,170 hours of service to the community.

Cira Endsley ('96), who is spending two years in the West African country of Senegal providing immunizations as a health-care worker, agrees with Morse. "It was really strongly communicated that my degree held a responsibility," Endsley told the Bellingham Herald. "We know that with the privilege of attending school and getting an education, there was a responsibility to go out and be responsible members of any community we landed in."

Karen W. Morse, say Western's prime candidate for the Peace Corps "highly visible" to students. Western this year ranks 18th out of 1,000 colleges and universities providing graduates to the Peace Corps, according to the service organization's Seattle spokesperson, Carla Semmler.

Peace Corps volunteers have found that their service abroad has opened doors to a variety of other opportunities.

Another reason, Career Services Director Tina Loudon told Swartz, is the presence of a Peace Corps alumnus as on-campus recruiter housed in Western's campus and local community.

Still another theory is that Western students represent the Pacific Northwest lifestyle - outdoorsy, connected-to-the-earth kinds of people who are therefore attracted to what the Peace Corps has to offer. This was what Jane R a n e y , former Western recruiter and volunteer in the Philippines from 1984 to 1986, told the Bellingham Herald.

Whatever the reason, or combination of reasons, Western alumni respond favorably. Currently, 49 graduates are doing public service work in 35 countries.

Chris ('96) and Andrea ('95) Chorney currently are serving in Papua New Guinea in community services. They are a second-generation Peace Corps family; Chris' parents served in the 1970s. Like former A.S. president Shane O'Day ('98) in Uzbekistan, many are teaching English as far away as Estonia, Burkina Faso, The People's Republic of China and Turkmenistan. Others teach environmental education in Thailand, Poland, Vanuatu, Paraguay, Ukraine and Bulgaria. Still more are in forestry projects from Kenya and The Gambia to Honduras.

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1918 – Cicily Jolley celebrated her 100th birthday on September 15.


1960 – Bill Wright was honored at the Bill Wright WWU Alumni Golf Classic on August 21.

1965 – Dave Danubo retired with a 33-year career in education from the Stanwood School District.


1969 – Kenneth Martin manages a zinc exploration project in Togo, Ethiopia. Jack Requa is the chief operating officer for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority in Washington, D.C. Barb Warberg is the principal at Hollady Hill Elementary in the Northshore School District. Warberg has been a teacher and school administrator for 28 years.

1970 – Gerry Apple (Med ’70) was named the Shelton School District’s spotlighted employee in February. Apple is the traffic safety instructor and English teacher at Shelton High School.

1975 – Brent Britos, a/k/a Brent Young, works the 6-9 a.m. show at KBFM-AM 930 radio station in Bellingham. Brent delivers a downhome combination of current country hits and off-the-wall humor.

1977 – S.K./Black/Obloom was named “the Professional Advisor of the Year” by the National Self Help for Hard of Hearing organization at their national convention in Boston, MA June 12-15. She is currently Manager of Clinical Operations for Nova Care, Inc. and serves on a volunteer basis for the Kitsap County Self Help for Hard of Hearing Group.

1979 – Dr. Virginia Gardner Troy joined the Berry College (Georgia) faculty as assistant professor of history.

1980 – Karen Carpenter was named the director of nursing at Sunnydale Community Hospital in Sunnyvale, WA. Joe Mays is working services instructor. E. Rosamande Vanlier’s latest book is “Old Hotels of the Bellingham Bay Cities.”

1982 – Robin Sylvan finished his PhD in religious studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

1984 – Creus Bunnlinger was installed as pastor of the Pine Lake Covenant Church in Issaquah. Pamela Childs was promoted to domestic paper sales representative for the Port Townsend Paper Corporation.

1985 – Scott Stroomer is the Mount Vernon Rotary Teacher of the Year. Stroomer teaches social studies at Mount Vernon High School. ... Michael Thomas was promoted to vice president, information services for Gulf States Paper Corporation. Thomas manages the company’s national headquarters in Tuscaloosa, AL. ... Wendy Wall was accepted into the Seattle University School of Law.

1986 – Carolyn Coyle works for Subaru of America in New Jersey in corporate communications. ... Robyn Goodwin is the principal at Morton and Mineral Elementary School in Morton, WA. ... Bob Sampson (‘76 Med) is the administrator of Bellingham Christian School.

1987 – Bobbie (Monroe) Beckman is the Speech-Language Pathologist at William Howard Taft Elementary School in Boise, ID. ... David Donohue serves on the Bellingham Mayor’s Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

1988 – Joe Dockery teaches at Chief Kanik Middle School in Fall City, WA. Dockery was honored by the Seattle Times as one of the “Ten Teachers Who Really Care.” Dockery and his students produce a daily videotaped news and announcements that is broadcast throughout the school.

1989 – Karl Murphy (Davis) owns “Alums in the Attic,” a scrapbook supply business, teaches aerobics at Tumwater Valley Athletic Club, and is the mother of three boys. Murphy can be reached at her e-mail address: scrapbook@connectcorp.net.

1990 – Jerene Gibbs was elected president and chief executive of the South Snohomish County Chamber of Commerce. Gibbs was also named as the executive director of the South Snohomish Chamber of Commerce. ... Brinton Scott is an attorney with China Lawyers in Beijing.

1991 – Ismael Vivanco received a Master’s degree in Economics, Dr. Erwin Mayer, professor emeriti and founders of CBE Dinner Scheduled

1992 – Dennis Hindman and Catherine Timmons on May 24. ... Kathleen Carlinghouse (’73) and Kenneth Rasmussen on Aug. 22.


1996 – Mark Gumblohn and Heidi Bornstein on May 2. ... Michael Summon and Carolyn Markel on June 6. ...


1996 – Tara Fleetwood and Andrew Bowler on June 6. ... Tim Lensaign and Megan Coltran (‘94) on July 18. ... Stephanie Rowland and Kelly Faye on June 19.


1998 – Nicole Anderson and Jeffrey Kuiskink on July 18. ... Brian Bowser and Susan Crow on April 3. ... Carol Davidson and Geoffry Eastman on June 12. ... Jamie Fera and Kari Becker on April 25.

1999 – Michelle Bua and David Belben (‘95) on July 11. ... Milnda Davis and Chuck Troost on July 7. ... Kimberly Deisher and Robert Allen on July 26. ... Pamela Englett and Michael Ratham on June 27. ... Tony Melinier and Wendi Dailey (‘96) on Sept. 20. ... Yanya Pederson and Shavoni Knox on Aug. 8. ... Lori Seabands and Matthew Davis on July 18. ... Jason Pellet and Valerie Watson on July 25.

2000 – Douglas Booth and Carrie Martin (‘94) on Aug. 8. ... Bryan Jones and Heath Helt on June 20. ... Jeffrey Koluseni and Nicole Anderson (‘93) on July 18. ... Timothy Schulz and Gloria Shoen (‘97) on Mar. 21. ... Garth Simpson and Jessica Jornlove on Aug. 1.

2001 – Michael Barr and Kieren Anderson on Aug. 2. ... Wendi Dailey and Tony Meulner (‘94) on Sept. 20. ... Carr Dorey and Amy Lylte on July 29. ... Kelly McColough and Paul Fishers (‘57) on March 7. ... Nicole Hansen and Brian Wheeler on Mar. 22. ... Corey Hodge and Charles Schut on June 21. ... John Kelcher and Niquette Wills on June 20. ... Shannon Lindaas and Michael Logan (“96) on Aug. 8. ... Chad McCoy and Cheryl Steeber on June 26. ... Carrie Martin and Douglas Booth (‘95) on Aug. 8. ... Eric McMillan and Paul Rhodes on May 10.

2002 – Jennifer Brown and Michael Kutcher on July 18. ... Jennifer Cave and Jonathan Wilsson on June 20. ... Jennifer Dillons and Brian Bergman (‘96) on Aug. 1. ... Todd Fisher and Kelly McColaugh (‘94) on March 7. ... Kimberly Rath and John Oblav (“97) on June 27. ... Heather Helt and Broy Jones (‘95) on June 20. ... Lauren Kudak and Cindy Hackett on July 11. ... Brenda Lee and Brian Dailey on May 22. ... Elizabeth Mclnch and Brian Colclazier (‘97) on July 4. ... James Murphy and Jennifer Reinmuth (‘98) on June 14. ... Gloria Shoen and Timothy Schulz (‘95) on Mar. 21. ... Joe Schmutter and Janet Silver on Aug. 15. ... Lori Systma and Jason Felker on July 25. ... Shannon Teter and Scott Hsu on Sept. 6. ... Renee VanDam and Timothy Hansen (‘96) on June 20.

2003 – Kieren Anderson and Michael Barr (‘96) on Aug. 2. ... Tammy French and Russell Seaton (‘98) on June 6. ... Melissa Lankhaar and Scott Engels on July 10. ... Thomas Mauermann and Michael McCollough on May 9. ... Mercedes Miller and David Bower (‘78) on July 25. ... Jennifer Perrault and Nathaniel Davenport on July 18. ... Jennifer Reinmuth and James Murphy (“97) on June 14. ... Mardeen Wagner and Michael Mattix on July 17.

Class Notes

CBE Dinner Scheduled

A dinner honoring professors emeriti and founders of the College of Business and Economics, Dr. Erwin Mayer, Dr. Howard Mitchell and Dr. David Michalkow will take place on February 5 at Bell Harbor on the Seattle waterfront. Invitations will be sent to business alumni; others wishing to attend please call the Alumni House at (800) 676-6885.

Weddings

Catch Spring Training

As the winter days become a little more dreary here in the Pacific Northwest, you might want to let your mind wander to the Seattle Mariners Spring Training in sunny Arizona.

Last year, more than 65 WWU alumni were treated to a barbeque there and then brought straight between Seattle and Oakland.

This year we’re doing it again! So consider this your invitation. The Phoenix/Arizona chapter is also going to throw a game into the deal on March 13 before we catch the Mariners game at Peoria Stadium on March 13.

Sound appealing? Call the Alumni House at (800) 676-6885 or (360) 650-3333.
Olcott Named 1998 Outstanding Distance Education Practitioner

Dr. Don Olcott, a former administrator and faculty member, as well as a graduate of WWU's Woodring College of Education, was the 1998 recipient of the Charles Wedemeyer Outstanding Distance Education Practitioner in North America. This prestigious award is given every two years by the University of Wisconsin-Madison and recognizes outstanding leadership and professional contributions to the field of continuing and distance education in North America.

Olcott is currently the associate dean for Extended University at the University of Arizona.

Thompson Earns Fulbright Award

Mary A. Thompson, (’45) was honored with a Metro International 1998 Fulbright Award for Lifetime Service at the United Nations for her contributions to the field of international education. She began her career in Washington, teaching elementary school in Clear Lake and Enumclaw, then moved to New York to attend Columbia University and live at New York City’s International House, launching a lifetime career in international education. Although she retired in 1979, she has continued to remain involved in the field.

Ryberg Takes Command of Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra

William Ryberg, (’80), an accomplished opera singer, has left his successful post as executive director of the Bellingham Festival of Music to become president of the Grand Rapids Symphony Orchestra in Michigan. He will oversee an organization with a $4.5 million budget, employing 41 salaried and 60 part-time musicians.

Beck Honored for Contributions

Myrl Beck, Jr., who recently retired from Western’s Geology department after 29 years of teaching and research, will be honored for his contributions to the field of geological research at the American Geological Union’s annual meeting Dec. 6-10 in San Francisco.

Twenty-six years ago, Beck and his colleague, Linda Noson, submitted a letter to the journal Nature that introduced a new way of looking at the geologic history of the Pacific Northwest. They proposed that the mountainous region which now stretches from Alaska, through Canada to Seattle was once as far south as Baja California. These findings are still being debated today, with recent studies by the University of Washington and Geological Survey of Canada lending support.

Several prominent scientists will present papers related to, or inspired by Beck’s research, with studies from the Cascades to the Andes.

Memoriams

Alumni

1919 - Frances Johnson Webber, 98, a retired drapery design consultant, died on Sept. 20.
1923 – Catharine "Kitty" Stimpson, 91, died on July 29.
1935 – Constance (Connie) Trafton, 81, a retired homemaker, died on Sept. 9.
1937 – Jennie Berg Werner, 88, an artist, died on Aug. 3.
1938 – Evelyn Egenes, a retired teacher, died on May 31.
1942 – Clara Jeanette Peterson, 79, a retired teacher, accountant and business owner, died on July 7.
1946 – Pearl Bartruff, 94, a retired teacher, died on Aug. 27.
1949 – Thomas Straka, 71, a retired educator, died on July 3. ... Willis Wright, 79, a reed-net fisherman, died on July 28.
1953 – Mary Lou Morrow, 91, a retired teacher, died on Aug. 22.
1954 – Robert Feagan, 69, a retired educator and head coach at Chief Seattle High School, died on June 23. ... Helen Sundeen, 88, died on Sept. 9.
1959 – Bernard Tippen, 63, a retired teacher, died on June 26. ... James A. Young, 83, a retired educator, died on July 27.
1963 – Ronald Seckel, 62, who retired from the insurance industry, died on Aug. 12.
1973 – Earl C. Moore, 51, a juvenile rehabilitation counselor, died on Aug. 22.
1975 – James Gillette, 68 (MEd '77), died on July 11.
1977 – Marion Cole, 62, a special education teacher, died on Sept. 19.
1978 – Anne Borden, 64, died suddenly in Abilene, Texas on June 27.
1979 – B. Dawn Ferguson Evon, 68, died on Aug. 11.
1984 – Michael Boyd, 37, a Port of Bellingham employee, died on Aug. 25.
1989 – Kristine McKains, 31, a budget analyst at WWU, died from cancer on July 16.
1996 – Shannon Bouwhuis, 24, died while attending grad school at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana on Mar. 3.
1997 – Marie Norman, 30, died July 14.
1998 – Aaron Requa, 25, a substitute teacher, died July 31.

Faculty, staff, friends

Lisa Brown, 41, who served as Western’s Web master, among other duties in the Academic Technology & User Services office, died of cancer Aug. 5.

Hallador C. Karason, 84, associate professor emeritus of education and philosophy whose 30-year career at Western (1949-79) also included directing the humanities program from 1963-65 and the general studies program from 1965-68, died at his home Oct. 8.

Ronald Taylor, 65, professor emeritus who was instrumental in establishing Sehome Hill Arboretum, died of cancer, Aug. 16.

Bill Wright inspires youth

Nearly four decades before Tiger Woods became the darling of the PGA gallery, Western Washington University senior Bill Wright was the first African American to win a U.S. Golf Association event.

Now a teaching pro in Los Angeles, Wright returned to Seattle’s Jefferson Park public course on Beacon Hill in August, where as a youngster he learned to play golf with his mother and father. There he shared with young golfers of color lessons from a lifelong love of the game — and from his struggle against racial discrimination in the sport.

His visit was sponsored by the WWU Alumni Association which honored Wright by renaming its annual golf tournament for him. As a Western student, Wright won the U.S. Amateur Public Links title in 1959, a USGA sanctioned event, making him the first African American with a USGA win. The following year, Wright won the NAIA national golf championship, the first individual NAIA championship in the school’s history.

But championship play did not open the gates of many golf clubs to the African American. When Wright was growing up in Seattle, even public courses were affiliated with private clubs which denied membership based on race.

Determined not to let the past repeat itself, Wright, now a Los Angeles resident, returned to the Northwest to accept honors from his alma mater and to inspire another generation of golfers at Jefferson Park.
January

5 Western Gallery presents Focus on WWU Collections: The Last Five Decades, with American works on paper spanning the post-WWII era. Show runs through Feb. 10.


23 PAC Concert Series: A.R. Guerney's Love Letters, starring Michael Learned and Lawrence Pressman, 7:30 p.m., PAC Concert Hall.

5 College of Business and Economics dinner honoring "The 3Ms" (Mayer, Mischaikow and Mitchell), at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle.


12 Western Gallery presents Focus on WWU Collections: Close-up, exploring documentary photographs. Show runs through March 20.

19 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Concordia College, 1 p.m., Bellingham.

20 Winter commencement.

27 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Seattle University, 3 p.m., Bellingham.

28 Distinguished Lecture Series presents historian/biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin with Private Lives of Public Figures: The Art of Biography, 6 p.m., Carver Gym. Tickets are required and free from the PAC box office, Village Books or via mail with a SASE to: PAC Box Office, Bellingham, WA 98225-9109.

29 Western Gallery presents Artist/Author I: Northwest Focus, highlighting the book format as an artistic medium. Show runs through May 28.

31 PAC Concert Series: Turtle Island String Quartet, 7:30 p.m., PAC Concert Hall.

April

10 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Central Washington University, 2 p.m., Bellingham.

13 Turning Points Series: Marie Eaton... Unplugged, a musical presentation, 7 p.m., PAC Concert Hall. Free.

17 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Western Oregon University, 2 p.m., Bellingham.

18 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Humboldt State University, 11 a.m., Bellingham.

24 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Saint Martin's College, 2 p.m., Bellingham.

25 PAC Concert Series: Russian pianist Yakov Kasman, the 1997 Van Cliburn silver medalist, 3 p.m., PAC Concert Hall.

27 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Seattle University, 3 p.m., Bellingham.

Distilled Lecture Series presents historian/biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin with Private Lives of Public Figures: The Art of Biography, 6 p.m., Carver Gym. Tickets are required and free from the PAC box office, Village Books or via mail with a SASE to: PAC Box Office, Bellingham, WA 98225-9109.

27 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Varsity, 1 p.m., Bellingham.

4 Western Gallery presents Focus on WWU Collections: The Last Five Decades, with American works on paper spanning the post-WWII era. Show runs through Feb. 10.

5 Reflections and Reactions to Doris Kearns Goodwin's Distinguished Lecture Series presentation, 6 p.m., Fraser Lecture Hall 4. Free.

8 PAC Concert Series: The Second City, a comedy by The Second City National Touring Company, 7:30 p.m., PAC Mainstage.

11 Turning Points Series: Policing the Frontier, Some North American Comparisons, by Larry DeLorme, 6 p.m., Fraser Lecture Hall 4.

14-16 Western Showtime Family Weekend.

March

9 Turning Points Series: Electronic Meetings for the Next Century: Any Time/Any Place, by Floyd Lewis, Joseph Garcia and Kenneth Keleman, 6 p.m., Science Lecture Hall. Free.

12 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Simon Fraser University, 2 p.m., Bellingham.

19 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Concordia College, 1 p.m., Bellingham.

20 Winter commencement.

27 WWU Women's Fastpitch vs. Seattle University, 3 p.m., Bellingham.

30 Distinguished Alumni Banquet.

May

5 Reflections and Reactions to Doris Kearns Goodwin's Distinguished Lecture Series presentation, 6 p.m., Fraser Lecture Hall 4. Free.

8 PAC Concert Series: The Second City, a comedy by The Second City National Touring Company, 7:30 p.m., PAC Mainstage.

11 Turning Points Series: Policing the Frontier, Some North American Comparisons, by Larry DeLorme, 6 p.m., Fraser Lecture Hall 4.

14-16 Western Showtime Family Weekend.

Tickets and Information:

Alumni events: (800) 676-6088
Athletics: (360) 650-3109
Performing Arts: (360) 650-6146
Western Gallery: (360) 650-3963