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I stand for Western
Home Field Advantage

Western's NCAA Division II soccer teams are playing home games on campus for the first time since 2004 thanks to Robert S. Harrington Field, which opened fall quarter.

The regulation-sized soccer field near Fairhaven College has lights for night games, an all-weather surface and bleacher seating for 500. The field also serves as the home turf for club sports such as rugby and intramural sports.

Robert S. Harrington is the late father of Scott Harrington ('98, Accounting), whose family donated $1 million to the field project. The Harringtons are longtime supporters of Western.
Western Washington University President Bruce Shepard and Dolores Harrington at the dedication ceremony of Harrington Field Sept. 27. Dolores Harrington's husband was the late Robert S. Harrington, for whom the field is named.

Photo by Margaret Degman/The Western Front
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*On the cover: Peanutt Ngeth, left, and her grandmother Knon Pok pose for family photos following WWU's spring commencement ceremonies on June 14, 2014. Photo by Dan Levine*
Message
from the President

Western stands for Washington's future

One hundred fifteen years ago, a modest normal school on Sehome Hill opened its doors to a class of 88 hopeful teachers. Today, Western Washington University is the best comprehensive university in the Pacific Northwest, delivering outstanding liberal arts education at nine locations across the state and developing international partnerships that will take us even further.

That evolution was not one of unbroken upward ascent—there were peaks and valleys along the way. But every one of our major leaps forward happened when, guided by a clear vision and the will to serve even more of our state’s citizens, Western took a Stand for Washington.

Today, there has never been a more critical time for philanthropy to make a powerful impact for Western and for public higher education in Washington. We all know that state disinvestment in public higher education—more precipitous in Washington than almost anywhere else in the country—has transformed what it means for us to be a public institution. At Western, already among the most efficient public universities in the country, we have reallocated and sought new sources of revenue to do more with less.

We’re committed to preserving Western’s distinctive excellence and ensuring that every deserving student has a chance to experience it. That commitment is at the heart of our Western Stands for Washington campaign to raise $60 million with the help of others who believe in the transformative power of philanthropy.

Western Stands for Washington by not only representing the best of our state but by existing to serve and strengthen Washington’s opportunities to take a unique place on the world stage. For example:

- Western Stands for Washington’s precious natural resources, with cutting-edge programs in environmental sciences, sustainability and interdisciplinary energy studies.
- By training the best teachers in the state, Western ensures that our young people are prepared and inspired to maximize their potential.
- Western students learn some of their most important lessons by contributing hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours in service-learning, and through life changing mentorship programs like Compass 2 Campus.
- Above all, Western stands for providing access to quality, so that all of Washington’s sons and daughters have an opportunity to pursue their academic dreams and compete for the best jobs in Washington.

Our campaign is united by a single theme: Western’s distinctive excellence lies in the differences we make—in the lives of our students, in the communities around us, in the state of Washington, and beyond.

Now is our time to take a stand. For Western. For Washington. For our future. Join us.


Bret Shepard

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The Most Powerful Weapon

Photographer Michael Christopher Brown ('00, Psychology) is represented by Magnum Photos and has traveled around the world on assignment for National Geographic, Time, Newsweek, the New York Times Magazine and others, documenting the atrocities of war as well as the poignant moments of everyday life.

Earlier this fall in New Delhi, Brown photographed the underside of a bridge where former shopkeeper Rajesh Kumar runs a free outdoor school for children from disadvantaged economic backgrounds. The open-air, dirt-floor classroom draws dozens of students, age 4 to 14, for lessons in reading, writing and math.

Keep track of Brown's other work on Instagram.com/michaelchristopherbrown.

Recently, Brown traveled to the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan to work with Syrian teenagers on an iPhone photography project. See their work at insidezaatari.tumblr.com.
Upon graduating from high school, twin sisters Anne and Andrea d' Aquino (’18) weren’t certain they’d be headed to college. But scholarships paved their ways to Western and then on to graduate school at Northwestern University near Chicago.
SUCCESS STORY

They came to Western not knowing what they’d study – let alone how they’d pay for it

Story by Hilary Parker
Photos by Rhys Logan

Anne and Andrea d’Aquino (’14) can complete each other’s sentences and often, but not always, predict what the other is thinking. Just ask anyone who’s played them in doubles tennis. They hang out together and crack each other up – a lot. They are roommates, best friends and twin sisters.

One day, they may become research partners.

Having graduated from Western in June, the sisters are now in their first quarter at Northwestern University in Illinois. Both received prestigious National Science Foundation graduate fellowships to study in their respective fields: biochemistry for Anne and chemistry for Andrea.

Any student who makes it to graduate school with a NSF fellowship has already overcome some pretty high odds, but for the d’Aquino sisters, the biggest challenge may have been simply getting the opportunity to attend Western.

“After graduating from high school we weren’t entirely sure we’d be going to college,” explains Andrea.

Anne and Andrea’s parents immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong, and had not attended a four-year university, nor had any of their three older siblings. Mom, Katherine, worked in retail, and Dad, Joao – a baker – provided plenty of encouragement but couldn’t help with tuition. They weren’t any more familiar with the financial aid process than were their girls.

The sisters had accumulated good grades at Bellingham’s Squalicum High School and had an impressive list of extracurricular activities, including coming in second in the doubles tennis state championships. They had also worked summer jobs to save money for college, Andrea since she was 14 and Anne since age 16. By picking up litter along the side of the highway, working restaurant jobs and babysitting, they saved $5,000-$6,000 apiece; not enough to cover one year of tuition.

So they began applying for scholarships. The sisters set their sights high and applied for the Gates Millennium Scholarship, which grants renewable scholarships to 1,000 students nationwide. Both were finalists for the award, although only Andrea ended up with the scholarship.

But it was enough to encourage both sisters to keep trying.

Anne and Andrea went on to receive numerous scholarships, which not only helped them pay for college, but boosted their confidence.

Coming around to chemistry

Andrea and Anne wasted no time becoming involved once they got to Western.

“Western offers so many opportunities to pull students in,” Anne says.

During their years at Western they joined the tennis club, mentored elementary and middle school students through Western’s Compass 2 Campus program, taught low-income kids about healthy eating habits through the Food Sense program, and volunteered on campus as Peer Health Educators.

“We and I have always been passionate about helping students and kids – especially those coming from economically disadvantaged backgrounds,” Andrea says. “Maybe it was because we could relate to these kids in so many ways that we found ourselves gravitating toward these volunteer opportunities.”

The twins’ parents had always encouraged their children to help others, and the scholarships gave them time to volunteer. “I could not have volunteered half as much as I did without the help of scholarships,” Anne says.

At the same time, they were trying to decide on a major. Chemistry wasn’t even on their radar in the beginning.

Anne was considering a career as a nurse and needed chemistry as a prerequisite. Still, the class intimidated her. “I must have been so scared (that) I worked extremely hard and did really well,” she says. “Then I really loved it and just kept going.”
Andrea's research project was so successful that Shell Oil is now developing it further.

Meanwhile, Andrea was gravitating toward math classes. “I didn’t know what I was going to do with math after I graduated, so I thought I’d try other things – community health, physics,” Andrea says. Chemistry had been tough for her in high school, but in her junior year at Western she decided she’d give it another try.

“When I took it here, it was a completely different way of learning it, and I felt like I understood it,” she says. “I realized that’s what I wanted to do, and I could imagine myself doing it after college.”

Andrea didn’t end up declaring chemistry as her major until her junior year, and she credits her professors with helping her to not only complete the coursework but conduct research, serve as a teaching assistant and attend professional conferences as well.

“We’ve had a lot of support and help from faculty and other students here at Western,” Andrea says. “We’ve been able to reach our goals because of the support we’ve been given here and visions that we see from other students.”

“I feel like I’m backed up by the school,” says Anne, who recalls several professors from different departments who encouraged her to apply to graduate school. “I feel like people believe in me.”

Gratitude was one of the themes of the speech the d’Aquinos gave together at June’s commencement ceremony. They were the first twins in recent memory to be selected to give the Student Commencement Address together.

From students to researchers

She may have been intimidated by chemistry at first, but Anne devoted herself to mastering it. Associate Professor Clint Spiegel took notice: Anne was the student who regularly came in for office hours and even did the extra practice problems in the textbook.

“I’ve never seen a student take the bull by the horns and do so many things, immersing themselves in the university and the department,” Spiegel says. “As a researcher, she is resourceful and motivated.”

Anne’s research focused on a blood coagulation protein related to hemophilia. Those with hemophilia A lack the protein, or have a damaged protein, which doesn’t allow blood to clot. Her research has allowed her to marry her original desire to help people through medicine with her love of the sciences by doing research with therapeutic applications.

“I went from wanting to be a nurse to wanting to be a doctor and, eventually, I decided to go to grad school, get my Ph.D., and decided to become a scientist,” explains Anne.

In another lab in the Karen W. Morse chemistry building, Andrea found herself immersed in a project to create a catalyst that helps remove impurities from crude oil.

“The crude oil we get from Canada and the Middle East has a lot of impurities and we design catalysts to remove the sulfur...
I've never seen a student take the bull by the horns and do so many things,immersing themselves in the university and the department," says Associate Chemistry Professor Clint Spiegel of Anne. "As a researcher, she is resourceful and motivated."
"We had no idea what (college) was going to be like or what it took," says Andrea. "At first we may have felt a little awkward about it, but now that we've graduated, I just feel like we've learned so much. That makes me want to keep going to school and keep doing new things."
and nitrogen from those crude oils,” Andrea explains. These impurities, while exacerbating pollution, can also interfere with emission controls, such as catalytic converters on cars and trucks.

The project was “quite a significant breakthrough,” says Chemistry Professor Mark Bussell, who oversaw Andrea’s work. Developing a new, lower-temperature method to prepare these catalysts allowed the research to move from the lab into industry application, he explained. It was so successful that Shell Oil is now developing the research further.

Andrea’s willingness to apply herself allowed her to make great strides in just 18 months on the project. “She’s grown as a student and in the lab,” Bussell says. “She succeeded beyond what I thought was possible in such a short time.”

Bussell was so impressed with Andrea as a student that he nominated her for, and she received, the university’s Presidential Scholar award, Western’s most prestigious award for graduating seniors.

“It never thought that I would ever be graduating from college, majoring in chemistry, or receiving such a great honor for that matter,” Andrea says. “So needless to say – it feels surreal to have accomplished all three.”

Spiegel describes both Anne and Andrea “bright and beaming,” and quick to include others in whatever they are doing.

Their desire to include others and share their enthusiasm led them to help form Western’s chapter of SACNAS – the Society for the Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science.

Andrea says science can feel like a “closed door” for students of color simply because many haven’t had any real experience in the sciences. Their hope is that SACNAS will encourage students to open that door. The sisters helped organize interdisciplinary mixers, student panels and trivia nights for students to learn more about SACNAS.

“This is one way to promote (the sciences),” Andrea says. “If we can do it, so can they.”

Starting the next chapter

Once on their respective research paths, the sisters knew the next step would be graduate school. They also knew they were back where they started four years ago: They needed another round of funding.

Again setting their sights high, they applied for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. The sisters recall waiting for the awards to be announced online last spring, staying up until midnight and hitting “refresh” on their browser every few minutes until they got the news.

This time, both of them won.

The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship provides $132,000 in tuition and living stipends over three years. Previous recipients include many Nobel Prize winners, Google founder Sergey Brin and “Freakonomics” co-author Steven Levitt.

The d’Aquino sisters left for Northwestern at the end of July to get settled into their apartment and prepare for the start of classes in late September. They also took the opportunity to explore Chicago, just 15 miles south. (“There is incredible food everywhere!” raves Anne.)

The sisters, who had been nervous about their first college chemistry classes, chose Northwestern because the university has strong programs in both materials chemistry for Andrea and biochemistry for Anne. Anne had been originally introduced to Northwestern as a summer intern in a lab there.

“I loved it when I worked there for a summer, and when we visited again, I loved it as well,” Anne said.

As they look to the future, the sisters hope their work may someday find them partnering on research. Andrea would like to teach, passing on the same enthusiasm she shared at Western to another generation of students.

As they look to the future, the sisters hope their work may someday find them partnering on research. Andrea would like to teach, passing on the same enthusiasm she shared at Western to another generation of students.

Looking back, the sisters say they are grateful for all the experiences and support they received at Western.

“We had no idea what [college] was going to be like or what it took,” says Andrea. “At first we may have felt a little awkward about it, but now that we’ve graduated, I just feel like we’ve learned so much. That makes me want to keep going to school and keep doing new things.”

Hilary Parker (’95, Journalism) is a freelance writer in Bellingham. Her most recent story for Window magazine was about Western Psychology Professor David Sattler’s research into resilience following natural disasters.
Power Duo

Fred Kaiser and Grace Borsari are energy industry leaders and strong supporters of innovation at Western

By Mary Lane Gallagher and Daneet Steffens

Forty-five years before they were top executives in a vast network of energy-related companies, Fred Kaiser taught Grace Borsari how to build a circuit board in the basement of her Vancouver, B.C., home.

Back then, Kaiser and Borsari were former classmates in night school in Vancouver in 1969. Two educated and ambitious immigrants, he German and she Swiss, both hoped to improve their English language skills.

Before long, they were going into business together. After Kaiser taught Borsari to assemble the boards that would be the guts of their first successful business venture, she got to work. But she wasn't happy with the expensive industrial adhesive typically used in circuit boards at that time. She found a more frugal replacement around the house: quick-drying nail polish.

“We were trying to be efficient,” Borsari says. Before she was through, she had built 1,000 circuit boards.

Kaiser loved Borsari's bright red adhesive alternative. “I tested them all before they went out as finished products,” recalls Kaiser with obvious pride, “and out of the 1,000, there was not one faulty circuit board.”

Those 1,000 red-flecked boards were the beginning of Alpha Technologies, the company Borsari and Kaiser launched in 1975 that would tap into Canada's burgeoning cable television industry — and grow exponentially along with society's ever-buzzing hunger for electrical power.

Today, they’re top executives in the Alpha Group, a global network of energy-related companies that develop and build power systems for companies specializing in renewable energy, wireless communications and utilities. Kaiser founded the Alpha Group and is Chairman and CEO of Alpha Technologies, of Bellingham. Borsari is President and CEO of Altair Advanced Industries, an Alpha Group company that specializes in power equipment for cable television and communications markets.

Since 1997, Kaiser and Borsari have been strong supporters of Western. Their first gifts were close to their own roots in technological innovation. “We started out with a focus on applied science,” explains Kaiser, “since we firmly believe that in our new, knowledge-based economy we need
technical innovators, high-tech and savvy young people."

After those initial science-related scholarships, Kaiser and Borsari worked with Western to identify specific areas of need. "We are always making adjustments, taking into account the changing world we all live and work in, always open to good suggestions," Kaiser says.

Their cumulative giving stands at nearly $2 million. Today, 116 students in computer science and engineering, as well as students from diverse backgrounds and women in materials sciences, have received scholarships funded by Borsari and Kaiser.

Over the years, they have also supported Western's Vehicle Research Institute and Wilson Library, and an Alpha company supplied the solar panels for the Solar Demonstration Project atop Viking Union. They're also strong supporters of Viking Athletics: One of the top raffle prizes at the annual Viking Night fundraiser is a ride with Borsari in her helicopter.

And as leaders of one of the world's largest networks of companies specializing in producing—and protecting—energy systems, they are also frequent employers of Western graduates.

"Western students have a great attitude," says Borsari. "They're interested in the work and are willing to learn: They want to excel."

Western students also bring a pragmatic approach to the job, notes Kaiser: "When you get into doing business, the pragmatic part is quite important because it’s not just about sitting there

Today, 116 students have received scholarships funded by Borsari and Kaiser
philosophizing. It’s about getting the job done. Grace and I have always believed in this continued dialogue between higher education, the economy and industry. None of us can exist in isolation, so what we need—really need—is for students to have a feel for what industry is all about.”

Kaiser and Borsari still maintain the target of 100-percent quality control that they achieved in Borsari’s basement with their first 1,000 boards.

“I learned through experience,” says Borsari, noting being willing to learn from experience remains a vital element in determining the people they work with.

“You can teach anybody anything,” agrees Kaiser, “but if you have somebody with the wrong attitude they can be the best-educated people in the world but you don’t want them on your team.”

Kaiser and Borsari have built on those initial circuit boards—and then some: As cable developed into satellite access and the U.S. market boomed, Borsari established Altair Advanced Industries in Bellingham in 1978, expanding domestically through the ’80s and then, as part of Kaiser’s Alpha Group’s network of companies, internationally through the ’90s.

That exponential growth continues as Borsari and Kaiser focus on industry innovation, developments and technologies, with a clear commitment to a sustainable future. “I think we’ve only touched the surface when it comes to alternative energy,” says Borsari, ticking off wind, solar, wave and geothermal power as immediate examples.

In their view, the Institute for Energy Studies will be critical in raising awareness. Their confidence is showcased in a $1 million cash gift that will see the Institute’s new electrical engineering lab named the Alpha Technologies Electrical Engineering Laboratory.

“We have to make sure that people learn that we have other options, that we have other opportunities, that we have the technology to increase quality of life and lower the negative effects on our society and environment,” says Kaiser. And, he acknowledges, the Institute will help shape a new generation of informed industry leaders.

“A lot of people don’t realize that business is the people. It’s not the brick and mortar, not the machines. It’s not even the patents you might have,” he says, verbalizing the mindset that stems from those early days in Borsari’s Vancouver basement. “It’s the people who make the company.”

“Western students have a great attitude,” says Borsari. “They want to excel.”
Grace Borsari, left, President and CEO of Altair Advanced Industries, and Fred Kaiser, Chairman and CEO of Alpha Technologies, are longtime supporters of scholarships and research at Western. One of the top raffle prizes at the annual Viking Night fundraiser is a ride with Borsari in her helicopter.

Photo courtesy of Cessna Aircraft Co.
THE SPARK

What does the future of energy look like? A new institute at Western is generating the answer.

Andy Bunn, founding director of Western's new Institute for Energy Studies, is working with industry leaders to build a program that prepares students to address global energy issues.

Photo by Rhys Logan ('11, Visual Journalism)
When Andy Bunn came to Western in 2006 to teach climate science, one of the first things he noticed was the number of students asking, “How do I get an energy education?” Bunn soon realized that there were “cool energy-econ classes, great stuff going on in materials science, neat things with environmental policy and regulation, but there was no way for a student to do them all—not unless they wanted to stay for 12 years.”

Students’ interest and curiosity was the driving force behind a comprehensive energy program. But shaping an innovative academic approach began with a question for industry leaders and experts: How do we prepare students to address our energy future?

Their answers lie in Western’s new Institute for Energy Studies, a robust interdisciplinary program that immerses students in all the complexities of energy, from engineering and technology to science, policy and economics.

“Everything is changing so fast right now,” says Bunn, who served as the institute’s founding director. “And it’s not an industry that’s accustomed to change. One of the reasons we have key leaders interested in and investing in our program is that they need a workforce that is dynamic, knowledgeable and can respond to change.”

Negawatts and Megawatts

On the surface, says Bunn, the immediate future of energy won’t look that different. The “liquid fuel delivery system” of gas stations, for example, isn’t going to disappear anytime soon. But as renewable energies such as solar and wind power reach price parity with traditional energy generation, technologies that are currently small scale will move into the mainstream. That, explains Bunn, will require a fair bit of new grid-related engineering.

“The future’s not going to be about everyone having solar panels on their roof, powering their own house and charging their own electric car,” Bunn says. “It’s still going to be about massive, utility-scale grid production. But that grid is going to draw increasingly from a widening mix of resources: natural gas, hydropower and coal as well as wind and solar farms.”

And while we’re tallying up our energy resources, don’t forget the demand for energy itself, says Joel Swisher, a civil and environmental engineering professor from Stanford University who came to Western in November to direct the Institute for Energy Studies. When it comes to our energy future, megawatts saved (or “negawatts”) are just as powerful a resource as megawatts generated.

“We’re using energy much more efficiently, whether it’s light bulbs or automobiles or commercial heating and cooling units, data centers or kitchen appliances,” says Swisher, who has 30 years of experience in research and consulting in clean energy technology. “But we still have all kinds of potential. The fact that we have new technologies and new intelligence every day makes that resource even bigger and cheaper.”

Most people won’t be aware of the behind-the-scenes shifts, notes Bunn. “Most people don’t care about energy, they care about energy services: They like hot showers and cold beer, they care about getting from point A to point B and having a fully charged cell phone. Most people don’t want to know where their energy comes from, they just want it to be there when they flip the switch.”

But that may be changing. “Renewable energy is a siren song for college students,” says Matthew Moroney (’11, Continued on page 21
The Philanthropists

Fred Kaiser, Chairman and CEO, Alpha Technologies, and Grace Borsari, President and CEO, Altair Advanced Industries, industry leaders in power generation, conditioning and product manufacturing, have funded the Institute of Energy Studies to the tune of $1 million.

"We, as people, have to become more efficient, smarter, more prudent," Kaiser says. "We, as a business, are trying to do our share by pushing the envelope, minimizing waste, keeping environmental impact under control, making our equipment as efficient as humanly possible—most of what we're building is now in the 96-percent efficiency bracket. The Institute raises awareness: We have other options, we have other opportunities, we have the technology to increase quality of life and lower the negative effects on our society and environment."

"We've only touched the surface when it comes to alternative energy and exploring it," notes Borsari. "There are probably many ways to harness energy that we haven't figured out yet."

The Student

Stefanie Neale, a WWU senior majoring in Environmental Studies and Economics, with minors in Energy Policy and Spanish.

"Taking 'The Economics of Electricity Markets' at Western was eye-opening. It helped me realize how much work goes into generating enough energy to power the appliances I use in my daily life. Despite downsides—reliability, expense—I believe that there's a lot of potential in renewable energy. Eventually we are going to run out of fossil fuel resources and we will need to replace them with energy that won't disappear. If more research is done to improve the efficiency of renewable sources, then I believe they will out-compete fossil fuels as the ideal electricity source. Renewables will provide endless energy without causing the air and water pollution associated with fossil fuels. Once renewables are popular enough to be mass-produced, the up-front costs of installing them will be significantly reduced, making them much more accessible."

The Industry Insider

Warren Michelsen, founding contributor to the Institute for Energy Studies and district general manager at Trane, a leading global provider of indoor comfort solutions and services and a brand of Ingersoll Rand.

"It's all about producing more energy—both more efficiently and more responsibly. For instance, at a regional water treatment plant we [Trane] recently installed a cogeneration system to remove waste methane gas and run it through an engine, which produces electricity for the entire site. With this method, not only is the resource not wasted, but they are able to generate their own power, putting less demand on utilities. This is just one option, but there are countless more. Nuclear, dams, solar and off-grid energy production are some commonly discussed and hot-button issues right now. These options, though, all have environmental concerns and impacts that need to be addressed. The overarching question is ‘How do we create more energy while simultaneously creating less waste?'"
Environmental Science), a senior staff environmental scientist with Landau Associates, and a fierce advocate for wider energy literacy who was instrumental in shaping the Institute for Energy Studies. "Unfortunately, they don't always understand how energy works — how it's generated, the history of its use, why we use different power sources over others."

When it comes to a realistically sustainable future, Moroney's take is different from Bunn's. Moroney thinks that instead of relying on an ever-expanding power grid, more of us will be relying on at least some home-grown power. For example, he considers anaerobic digestion — a process in which microorganisms digest a biomass such as grass or cow poop and produce methane, a flammable gas that can be used as fuel — a largely untapped resource.

"There are so many people without consistent access to energy. How are they going to get it?" Moroney asks. "Do we emulate America's style, a massive, centralized power-generation with thousand-megawatt plants and distribution lines spiraling around for hundreds of miles? I don't think that's a practical or good idea. In the future, all buildings should generate the electricity that they use. That's called distributed generation and that's a much less resource-intensive way to power society."

At the same time, he points out, it's critical to reduce the amount of electricity that we use, period.

"Without implementing really rigorous energy efficiency standards in buildings, such as better insulation and better use of natural lighting, we'll never be able to meet our needs," Moroney says. "The best thing we can do with the future of energy is start using it more efficiently. Now."

**An Innovation Magnet**

In many ways, the Institute is a natural development for Western, home to Huxley, one of America's oldest environmental studies colleges. Western is a school where student fees have been buying Renewable Energy Certificates since 2004, a school on EPA's list of top 30 green universities. Students recently banned bottled water on campus and consistently produce successful, energy-focused projects, from solar panels on academic building roofs to a pioneering prototype of a transparent solar window that generates electricity, from a sustainable-living dorm room to high-efficiency lights in Western's parking lots. Many of these projects are funded by the
student-generated Green Energy Fee that funds the Renewable Energy Certificates.

"I have deep respect for Huxley and Western," says David Allen, executive vice president at McKinstry, the construction and energy services firm. Allen is an inaugural member of the institute’s advisory board. "If anyone was going to crack the nut or move the needle on building a program that will produce people with a broad understanding of the energy challenges facing our country—the issues around climate change, building sustainable communities and businesses—Western is the most well-positioned and has rightfully earned the respect of the business community to support it."

Who's interested in studying the future of energy? The field tends to attract "an outstanding subset of real go-getters," says Swisher, who recently co-taught a Stanford class in which students created ideas for green energy pilot projects to take to electric utility companies for potential collaboration. "I think there's a huge interest among students in doing something that matters. They want to have a successful career, but also want to create lasting value."

For McKinstry's Allen, the future of energy lies with innovators and visionaries equipped with the knowledge, understanding and skills to build sustainable systems: "The challenge is for every business, every household, to step back and reset, to think about taking the waste out of everything we do: what we consume, what we buy, where it goes, how it's recycled, how it emits, how we make products, how we pursue alternate energy, how we work on the grid. We need people who are knowledgeable and innovative when it comes to conserving energy, who understand the importance of striking a balance between communities, policies, market economy and the science of the problem. This isn't just about climate change—it's about water, pollution, ocean acidification. It all falls into our energy problem, our energy challenge."

Daneet Steffens, a longtime magazine writer and editor, is Western’s associate director of campaign communications. She is investigating the logistics of installing an anaerobic digester in her backyard.

Western Stands For: STEM Leadership

The Institute for Energy Studies is part of Western’s long history of engaging in creative, interdisciplinary approaches to find sustainable solutions to complex problems.

If you would like to be a part of the next generation of scientific innovation at Western, find out more about the Western Stands for Washington Campaign at WWU4WA.org or call (360) 650-3027.
Western faculty and students are exploring the future of energy

**Smarter Solar Panels**
Chemistry Professor David Patrick and other researchers at Western’s Advanced Materials Science and Engineering Center are developing technology for ultra-high efficiency collection and concentration of sunlight. For example, the technology could be used in a fully transparent window that also functions as a solar panel, producing electricity from ambient as well as direct sunlight.

**Cleaner Fossil Fuels**
Mark Bussell, director of the Advanced Materials Science and Engineering Center, is working on removing sulfur from fossil fuels through a process called hydrodesulfurization. Less sulfur in gasoline and diesel fuel means less pollution in the air.

**Biogas for Mass Transit**
Each year, Whatcom County’s dairy cows generate millions of tons of manure. Western’s Vehicle Research Institute is developing a system that will use this waste product to generate revenue as well as renewable fuel for vehicles. Even better, Western’s proprietary system is cleaner than standard conversion processes, creating biofuel without the harmful byproducts like carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide.

**Geothermal Futures**
Pete Stelling, assistant professor of Geology, is working on bringing geothermal power to Akutan, Alaska, a small village in the Aleutian Islands that is home to about 100 people and the world’s second-largest fish processing plant. Capturing heat and generating electricity from nearby volcanic hot springs would vastly reduce the town’s need to import and burn more than 4.2 million gallons of diesel fuel a year. Stelling is also working on a Department of Energy-funded project to explore the potential of geothermal power across the Aleutian Islands and North Cascades.

**Algal Bio Fuels**
Robin Matthews, director of the Institute for Watershed Studies, and Associate Professor of Chemistry Greg O’Neil are working with students to cultivate algae for use in the development of biodiesel.
Western student Morgan Gamboa, 22, is student-teaching at Centennial Elementary School in Mount Vernon. "I like working with small groups," Gamboa says, "because you can really focus in on what their needs are."

Photo by Rhys Logan (11)
Woodring’s student teachers like Morgan Gamboa, 22, spend an average of 725 hours in the field before earning their teaching certificates.

But there’s no way to count the moments those hours contain. “It’s fun to see when they actually pick up on something that you taught them,” said Gamboa, a fifth-year senior from the Tri-Cities. She’s a student teacher in a kindergarten class at Centennial Elementary School in Mount Vernon.

A Psychology major earning an Elementary Education teaching credential, Gamboa is one of about 300 WWU student teachers in classrooms throughout the state of Washington and even overseas. Her internship in the classroom of Michelle Kiehn (’01, Child Development) started by teaching two half-days a week. By January, she’ll teach all day, every day.

Many of her students don’t speak English at home, Gamboa says. She’s learning how Kiehn, Principal Erwin Stroosma (’96, Teacher Certification) and other Centennial faculty work with youngsters who speak Spanish, Russian, Chinese and other languages. “They pick (English) up so fast,” she says. “It’s so fun to watch.”

After she graduates, Gamboa hopes to join the 7,582 Woodring graduates at work in Washington schools. But first, she has to survive a few more tough quarters packed with classes, student teaching and evaluations.

“Woodring has prepared us for a lot of different things,” Gamboa says. “We feel stressed at the time, but then we come out of it feeling, ‘I was really prepared for that.’”
Western Stands For:
Improving Elementary and Secondary Education

Morgan Gamboa is one of the most recent examples of Western's 100-year legacy in educating the state's teachers—teachers who have the potential to change the lives of hundreds of kids throughout their careers.

Each well-trained teacher is a catalyst for improvement in P-12 education, an inspiration to the next generation of kids to set their sights on higher education. If you would like to help the Western Stands for Washington Campaign leverage 100 years of experience into brighter futures for kids in Washington schools, call (360) 650-3027 or go to WWU4WA.org

School Improvement Partnerships

Western Washington University has several school-improvement partnerships with districts in Washington, including:

- **Compass 2 Campus:** The six-year-old program has served about 9,000 K-12 students from low-income schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties. Western students have spent 123,000 hours mentoring kids in 31 schools, in 350-plus classrooms and in 11 school districts, encouraging them to set their sights on college.

- **The Maestros para el Pueblo Consortium:** This collaboration with Skagit Valley College and the Burlington-Edison and Mount Vernon school districts is designed to increase the number of bilingual, bicultural teachers in the Skagit Valley. Bilingual high school students begin with a future teacher course, continue on at Skagit Valley College and then complete their degrees at Woodring.

- **Collective Impact with the Bellingham School District:** Woodring works with the district on projects related to equity and access, such as after-school enrichment programs for low-income students. Woodring students are also instrumental in a wide variety of tutoring, mentoring and after-school programs.

- **Washington Elementary School in Mount Vernon:** The Collaborative Schools for Innovation and Success grant from the Washington Legislature provides $500,000 annually to fund this partnership with Woodring to close the opportunity gap, boost student achievement and prepare new teachers to support diverse learners.

- **Mount Baker School District:** Students studying Special Education and Elementary Ed work with Mount Baker teachers to offer a free summer reading workshop for elementary students who are struggling with reading.

- **Whole School Partnerships:** Faculty from Woodring and Western's Science, Math and Technology Education program are involved in whole school improvement partnerships in nine schools in six school districts to strengthen teachers' content knowledge of math, science, or English language arts.

- **Model of Research-Based Education for Teachers:** This $2.9 million, five-year National Science Foundation study follows future K-6 teachers as they complete their science training at Western and begin their careers. MORE for Teachers also funds training in science instruction for teachers at six Bellingham elementary schools.
Where are Western alumni in Washington schools?

74 percent of school districts in the state of Washington have a Viking among their certificated staff of teachers, administrators and others.

In Western Washington, 93 percent of districts have a WWU alum among their certificated staff.

Which district has the highest percentage of Western alums? Mount Baker School District in Whatcom County, with 49.1 percent in 2012-13.

Which districts have the highest numbers of WWU alumni?
- Bellingham: 450
- Seattle: 344
- Everett: 321

Principals of the Year

In 2013 and 2014, 63 percent of the state’s Principal of the Year recipients had Western roots:

2014 Elementary Principal of the Year
Chris Pearson ('07, Principal's Certificate)
Principal of West View Elementary in Burlington.

2014 High School Principal of the Year
Keven Wynkoop ('03, M.Ed., School Administration)
Principal of Ballard High School in Seattle.

2014 Assistant Principal of the Year
Ann Buswell ('97, M. Ed., School Administration)
Assistant principal of Whatcom Middle School in Bellingham.

2013 Middle School Principal of the Year
Heather Renner ('93, Child Development)
Principal of Ford Middle School in Tacoma.

2013 High School Principal of the Year,
Finalist for National Principal of the Year
Brent Kline ('01, M.Ed., School Administration)
Principal of Mariner High School in Everett.
Grant McMeekin, above right, is a Psychology major from Port Orchard who traveled to Rwanda with a group of Western students and faculty in 2014. The group spent a Saturday participating in Umuganda, a monthly national day of community service.
UMUGANDA DAY

How much can one neighborhood build in a morning?

By Grant McMeekin

"It’s quiet—too quiet," I thought as our group of about a dozen Western Washington University students walked down the empty, red-dirt road into town. Where was everyone?

This normally busy road in Rwanda was deserted save for a lone police officer dressed all in blue, standing across the street watching for something. Our guide had told us to meet him here, so we waited, kicking the dirt and chatting in the rising heat of the morning sun.

Soon, a white pickup pulled up. The town’s mayor stuck out his head and had a short conversation with one of our advisers; the mayor pointed us in the right direction and we moved on.

The day was Umuganda, Rwanda’s monthly day of service. This national community work day has played an important role in the reconstruction of Rwanda since the 1994 genocide, when the Hutu majority committed acts of genocide against the Tutsi minority and left the country in ruins. On the last Saturday of each month, starting at 8 a.m., all citizens are obliged to participate in a community project for at least three hours. And on this Saturday, our group from Western was hoping to join in.

But first, we had to find the work site.

We walked until we found a crowd of people surrounding two half-built houses. The turnout surprised me: There were so many people that if everyone were working at once it would have just slowed things down.

We stood there at first, just watching the men and women running around like parts of a well-organized clock. The men carried 50-pound bricks down to the house while the women brought yellow jerry cans of water up from the lake to make mud for mortar.

“Coming together in common purpose to achieve an outcome.”
Global Learning

Each summer since 2012, Director of Service-Learning Timothy Costello has led six-week service-learning trips to Rwanda, where students work on service projects with community-based organizations. In 2014, Senior Grant McMeekin joined 10 other Western students to work with the Hello Family Association, created by Rwandan nutritionist Christophe Ntezeryayo, helping HIV-positive families gain access to nutritious food. The students worked on Hello Family's farm and helped families in need build kitchen gardens.

The Rwanda trip is one of dozens of faculty-led Global Learning Programs offered at Western every year. Destinations in 2014-15 include China, Kenya, India, Thailand, Italy, Japan and Mexico.

“Photography can create a barrier between the photographer and the subject,” writes McMeekin. “I wanted to avoid that, so when I took a photo of someone I showed them what I had taken. One of the little boys got so excited about seeing his picture, he ran over to look at my camera before I could capture the image.”
We soon saw our guide, nutritionist Christophe Nteziryayo, with a smile on his face, his sleeves rolled up and a huge brick in his arms.

"Umuganda" is a word in Kinyarwanda (the national language of Rwanda) that can be translated as "coming together in common purpose to achieve an outcome."

Umuganda became an official government program in the mid-1970s as a way of nation-building after independence from Belgium. Back then, it was criticized for bearing a striking resemblance to forced labor. The projects were held weekly, citizens did not have a say in deciding which projects to work on and people were penalized for not participating.

Now, citizens help choose their community's projects and participation is more encouraged than enforced.

That Saturday, we were building houses for a Rwandan family who had fled to Tanzania during the genocide and were returning. Some of us jumped in and started helping out, joining the chains of people hauling bricks or water. Others visited with some of the locals. I broke out my camera and started looking for some good shots.

Long before I got on a plane to Rwanda, I had enrolled in a global citizenship class at Western. For three months, I learned how to respect another country's culture while also learning how to travel and not act like an inconsiderate tourist.

One lesson that stuck with me was about cameras, how photography can create a barrier between the photographer and the subject. I wanted to avoid that, so when I took a photo of someone I showed them what I had taken.

That day, I took some pictures of kids whose parents were working on the house. One of the little boys got so excited about seeing his picture, he ran over to look at my camera before I could capture the image.

Shortly after I returned home, I was on a packed bus in Seattle and I noticed something. Every single person was on their phone; many had headphones, shutting themselves off from the outside world. I remembered that in Rwanda, I never saw people staring at their cellphones—they were all interacting with other people. They were not shut off from human contact and didn't shy away when someone brushed against their knee.

I hope that in Rwanda I was using the technology of my camera to bring people together and build relationships. But in America we get so wrapped up in technology that it keeps people from interacting with each other.

When I told my Rwandan friend, Charles Gasore, that where I come from people don't touch each other, he exclaimed, "Ahh, how do you live!?" The Rwandans I had met seemed to understand that human contact and interaction is a necessary part of life. It made me wonder whether our society has become so narcissistic that we don't even communicate with the people around us.

It takes an estimated 1,000-1,500 person-hours to complete one of those mud brick houses, and the massive neighborhood work party had nearly completed one in only three hours. It felt really good knowing that one more family would be able to return home after the genocide because so many people came together altruistically for a common purpose.

But all those mud-soaked people working so hard that day—along with the people standing around and socializing with their neighbors—they knew they were doing more than building a house.

They were building their community.

Grant McMeekin is a Psychology major from Port Orchard. This trip was the first time Grant had left North America, and he plans to do a lot more traveling in his future.
Global REACH

See where Western’s students and faculty are making connections around the world

London:
Six WWU Accounting students traveled to London in summer 2014 to study international accounting as part of the EY Global Mindset Immersion Program. Accounting Professor Ron Singleton and the students visited the International Accounting Standards Board, where they learned more about the differences between international and domestic accounting standards. The group also visited the London Metal Exchange, a high-tech business incubator called Level 39, and the London office of EY, the Big Four accounting firm whose grant helped fund the trip.

Daegu, South Korea:
Woodring College of Education is working with Kyungpook National University on Western’s first dual-degree program in secondary science education, which would enable more student and faculty exchanges as well as collaborative research.

Johannesburg:
An agreement is in the works would enable more student and faculty exchanges between Woodring College of Education and University of the Witwatersrand.

Burma:
Planned for winter 2015, a two-month field program to study environmental and social justice issues in Southeast Asia will include time in Burma. The trip will be led by Charlie Ashbaugh (03, Global Studies), the non-profit educational organization, Institute for Village Studies.

China:
Students spent more than three weeks in China this fall studying “Changing China: Culture, Community and Citizenship.”

Tokyo:
Since 1988, about 4,000 students from Asia University of Tokyo have come to Western to study English and learn about life in the U.S. After their five-month stay, the students who want to stay at Western may enroll in the Bridge Program, which supports and prepares international students at WWU.
Mexico:
Mexico, along with Italy and Spain, were the top destinations for Western students studying abroad in 2013-14.

Bolivia and Peru:
Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies students Arcadia Trueheart and Liliana Morgan recently returned from South America, where they pursued independent studies funded by Fairhaven's Adventure Learning Grant. Truehart studied public theatre and indigenous art in Bolivia while Morgan spent time in the Andes learning about agricultural biodiversity. As required by the grant, both are now back at Fairhaven sharing their experiences with fellow students and faculty. Meanwhile, another Fairhaven student, Le'Ana Freeman, is now abroad in South Africa.
What do college students need to know to be leaders in the 21st century?

For WWU Accounting graduates Scot Studebaker ('90) and Mark Mathewson ('95), now partners with Big Four accounting firm EY, the answer lies in a global perspective. Studebaker and Mathewson were among the forces behind a recent gift of $150,000 from EY and the EY Foundation to establish the EY Global Mindset Immersion Program at Western’s College of Business and Economics.

The program includes an immersive four-week course, including a trip abroad to learn about international business and accounting. This year, students traveled to London, in part to study a hot topic in accounting: the differences between domestic and international accounting practices, and whether the U.S. should adopt International Financial Reporting Standards. The program also includes opportunities for accounting faculty to learn how to incorporate a more global mindset in their classes.

“We wanted to offer something that was global in nature,” says Studebaker, who has been a key advisor to the Accounting Department and to the College of Business and Economics since 2001. “Being a global firm is core to what we do. It’s important to us for students to have a broad, international experience.”

Preparing graduates for 21st century leadership is central to the Western Stands for Washington campaign. We’re building upon Western’s strong liberal arts foundation and emphasis on global perspectives as well as civil discourse, sustainability, innovation and ethical reasoning. If you’re interested in helping to produce the next generation of critical thinkers, change-makers, complex-problem solvers and global leaders, call (360)650 3027 or go to WWU4WA.org.
“I stand for Western.”

I hope you’ve seen, heard or read about the $60 million Western Stands for Washington Campaign to transform WWU through private support. The campaign kicked off with notable alumni sharing what they stand for. Perhaps you’ve even contributed your “I stand for…” message to our website, istand4wwu.com.

Each of us, including you, stands for something unique. That’s what makes Western special. We are a community of individuals who stand proud for what we are passionate about – that’s what drove you to get your degree at WWU, and what you take into your careers and communities after Western.

“You stand for Western, and you will make a difference.”

We know this because the WWU Alumni Association distributes between $60,000 and $65,000 in scholarships to students each year in the form of $1,000 individual awards. Those contributions didn’t come from a few people making large donations; they are made by all of the alumni, parents and friends who become a member of the WWU Alumni Association, purchase a WWU License Plate, join Viking Vines wine club, buy a brick on Alumni Way or a bag of Viking Blend at The Woods Coffee or even by making a direct contribution. Sometimes it’s as simple as adding an extra $10, $20 or $50 onto your registration for one of our events.

Such gestures, while they may seem small, are important in the life of a student scholarship recipient. They can make the difference between continuing their education or not. That’s what this campaign is about. You stand for Western, and you will make a difference. I have been contributing to this effort and I invite you to join me. Every voice matters and every gift helps.

Tell us what you stand for!

Visit istand4WWU.com
We stand for Western.

The $60 million Western Stands for Washington Campaign builds on Western’s greatest strengths, applying them directly to the needs of the State of Washington.

We continue to set ourselves apart, to shine locally, nationally and internationally, and to have a direct impact on Washington’s economy as well as on the next generation of leaders.

WWU represents the best that Washington offers the nation and the world: Western stands for Washington.
Please join us.
Take a Stand. Support Western.

www4w.org
Alums Pat and Karen (Beatty) Gallagher are teachers, researchers and educational innovators

By Mary Lane Gallagher

When Karen Beatty was a student at Western, she met Pat Gallagher while working in the dining hall on the Ridge. She was a scholarship student with an eye toward law school; he was studying to be a teacher when he wasn’t washing dishes in the Ridgeway kitchen.

When they got married a month after she graduated in 1967, the two-career couple made a pact: They would move for the best opportunity, hers or his.

Since then, they have traded the trailing spouse role, and today they’re something of a power couple in education. Karen Symms Gallagher ('67, Political Science) is dean of the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. Raymond J. “Pat” Gallagher ('66, Biology) is an accomplished professor who has devoted his career to early childhood special education, particularly family support for kids with special needs.

After graduation, Karen Gallagher worked a series of corporate jobs in Seattle. “I didn’t find it that fulfilling,” she says. Her husband, a biology teacher in Shoreline, and his colleagues persuaded her to try teaching. She earned a master’s degree at the University of Washington. By the mid-’70s she was heading into school administration before moving across the country so Pat Gallagher could join the doctoral program at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Pat Gallagher and his colleagues were developing new ways to teach and evaluate kids under 3 with serious disabilities. During his dissertation he became fascinated with helping families—including families facing significant difficulties due to economic hardship—make the best life for their kids with disabilities.

“The more families understand their children, even those who might respond atypically, the link between parents and children is enhanced,” Pat Gallagher says. “They begin to realize the cues their children are giving, and they respond accordingly.”

During this time, Karen Gallagher was a central office director in Chapel Hill, N.C. She was delighted that Title IX had recently opened up opportunities to play competitive sports to girls, so when the Chapel Hill-Carrboro High School women’s basketball team needed a coach, she stepped up. The coaching stint is one of her most memorable experiences from North Carolina.

The Gallaghers later spent about 20 years at universities in the Midwest as Pat Gallagher continued working with families of disabled youngsters and directing or co-directing more than $3.4 million in grant projects, including many involving teacher preparation. While he worked at Purdue University, Karen Gallagher earned her doctorate. They both taught at the University of Cincinnati, where Karen Gallagher became an associate dean. In 1994, she was appointed dean of the School of Education at the University of Kansas and the dean of the USC Rossier School of Education in 2000.

Karen Symms Gallagher ('67, Political Science) is dean of the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. Raymond J. “Pat” Gallagher ('66, Biology) is an accomplished professor who has devoted his career to early childhood special education, particularly family support for kids with special needs.

At USC, Karen Gallagher has been honored for her commitment to innovation in education. She was a force behind USC Hybrid High School, a public charter school in downtown Los Angeles that uses a combination of technology and personalized learning to prepare low-income kids to successfully graduate from college.

“Getting a college degree isn’t just about what it means for you,” Karen Gallagher says. “It’s about creating positive multi-generational change. It means something for your kids, your grandkids, your great-grandkids.”

Hybrid High has received funding the Gates, Broad and Walton Family foundations, and will open another campus in East Los Angeles in fall of 2015, Karen Gallagher says.

At USC, Karen Gallagher also helped launch the nation’s first hybrid Master of Arts in Teaching degree. Students from all 50 states and three dozen countries do all their coursework in live courses taught online while working closely with mentor teachers in schools located in the communities where they live.

Pat Gallagher, after teaching at California State University campuses in Northridge and Dominguez Hills—and lecturing abroad in Portugal—is now at USC, too, as a professor of clinical education. He serves on the advisory board for Woodring College of Education and recently collaborated on an early childhood education textbook that emphasizes the importance of play in the development of literacy skills.

“We’ve managed to grow in complementary ways,” Karen Gallagher says. “We are our work. We’re very proud to be educators.”

They’re also expecting their first grandchild; their son, Sean Gallagher, lives in Los Angeles and edits the Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services.

In the last five years, USC Rossier has graduated more than 2,100 teachers, most headed to serve in at-risk schools. Karen Gallagher hopes they’ll be the kind of teachers she had growing up in Seattle. After her father died when she was in elementary school, teachers played a crucial role in inspiring her to go to college and apply for scholarships.

“A lot of people don’t believe public education is a public good,” Karen Gallagher says. “My role as dean is to make the argument that what happens to all young people is important to all of us. We can’t afford to have any kid be unsuccessful.”

Mary Lane Gallagher is editor of Window magazine, and does not believe her husband’s vast family of Gallaghers includes either Pat or Karen.
Class Notes

1956 - Donald Daverin (Music - Elementary; '66, M.Ed.) is a trumpeter who recently organized a band at the American Legion Post 26 in Bakersfield, California.

1962 - Robert Purvis (General Science; '64, M.Ed., Science Education) was appointed to the Alaska State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee. Purvis is a retired professor from the University of Alaska Southeast and owner of Low Vision Tech Support, which provides technology and computer access training for low-vision individuals.

1965 - Len Robertson (Education) retired in 2006 from the Illinois Youth Center, where he taught English and computer skills. Sue Keltner (Speech Communication; '64, M.Ed., Elementary Education; '80, M.Ed., Exceptional Education) was reappointed to the Aberdeen School District and is the business manager and a board member for the Driftwood Players community theatre group.

1966 - Patrick Haggerty (Sociology) performed in the Seattle Pride parade in June with Lavender Country, which in the early 1970s released what is widely considered to be the first openly gay country music album. Lavender Country also performed in Seattle's first Pride parade, in 1974. The album "Lavender Country" was recently reissued by Paradise of Bachelors.

1968 - Charlotte Trayer (Elementary Education) and her husband, Ron, are retired and recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. At the party were some of Charlotte's former neighbors in Higginson Hall: Betty Jacobson Webster ('68, Special Education, English - Secondary), Ellen Rice Webster ('69, School Administration), and their husbands Don ('70, Biology) and Doug ('67, Chemistry; '69, M.S., Chemistry).

1970 - David P. Gross (Sociology and Anthropology) says the computer science classes he took in Bond Hall had daily relevance in his job as a software troubleshooter for mainframes at IBM. He recently retired and now volunteers in a hospital emergency room. Linda Digby recently became executive director of the Kalowna Museum Society.

Randi Cate (Speech Communication) recently retired from Union High School in the Evergreen School District after 23 years. A longtime member of the school, Cate released his first album, "A Different Kind of Same," in August. Ron Lealos (Political Science) recently had two books published through Skyhorse Publishing, "Pashtun," and "Don't Mean Nuthin." His unpublished book, "No Direction Home," takes place at Western during the late '60s and is available in the WWU Library.

1971 - Tim Carlson (Technology Education; '76, M.Ed., Technology) recently retired after teaching 42 years in the Olympia School District, including metal shop, welding, woodworking and power technology. Walter DeMarsh (History) makes handmade, customized shoes in his shop in Pike Place Market.

1972 - LynDee Larson Lombardo (Home Economics), who retired in 2008 from teaching in Yelm schools, received the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 2014 Leaders Award. And in 2013, Lombardo was named Washington Affiliate of Family and Consumer Sciences Professional of the Year.

1973 - Michael Coomes (History - Secondary Education) is an associate professor of higher education and student affairs at Bowling Green State University, where he was the recipient of the 2014 Master Teacher Award, the highest award presented to faculty. Harriet Arkley (M.Ed., Secondary Education) recently published "The Good News Chair: A Simple Tool for Shaping a Child's Positive Behavior and Self Image" through Village Books. The book is based on Arkley's experiences as an elementary school principal.

1974 - Robert Klein (Mathematics/Computer Science) retired from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission after 38 years. Drew Lenore Betz (Psychology; '79, M.S., Psychology) is the director of the WSU Whatcom County Extension and leads family and community health programs.


1977 - Tore Ofteness (History) recently worked for the Professional Aerial Photographers Association and a Bellingham Mayor's Arts Award. Jeff Kallen (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) is an associate professor of Linguistics and Phonetics at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, where he has taught since 1980. His book, "Irish English volume 2: The Republic of Ireland" was published in 2013. Terri McMahan (Physical Education; '80, M.Ed., Physical Education) is athletic director for the Highline School District. She recently announced that she plans to 'speed up at the finish line' and retire at the end of the school year.

1978 - A.J. Callan (Elementary Education) recently retired as principal of Manchester Elementary School in the South Kitsap School District.


1980 - As director of publicity and broadcasting at Emerald Downs, Joe Withee (History) is known as the voice of horse racing in the state of Washington.

1982 - Jason Ford (Geography) recently performed solo trumpet for "In the Heights" at the Prado Theatre in San Diego's Balboa Park. He also performed with Opera NEO in "The Magic Flute" and "Agrippina" and will be principal trumpet for San Diego Ballet's "On the Edge" and "Nutcracker" this fall.

1983 - Scott Crowder (Business Administration) became corporate vice president of Mutchinson, a national distributor of plants and supplies to commercial greenhouse and nursery markets. Paige G. Andrew (Geography) is the maps cataloging librarian at the Pennsylvania State University Libraries and has presented on map cataloging at many conferences. He recently cowrote "RDA and Cartographic Resources," published by ALA Editions.

1984 - The Rev. Elizabeth Purdum Turner (Fairhaven/Interdisciplinary Concentration) became pastor at Lutheran Church in the San Juans. A licensed pilot, Purdum conducts Sunday services on Lopez, San Juan and Orcas islands. Eddie Allen (Political Science) became the development coordinator for the Gardner School of Arts & Sciences in Northeast Vancouver, Washington.

1986 - Paul Pitre (Broadcast Journalism) became the first dean of Washington State University North Puget Sound at Everett. Denise Snyder (Ecosystem Analysis) is an artist in Bellingham whose work was included in "Reaching Beyond: Northwest Craftsmen at 80," an exhibit at the Whatcom Museum. George Garner (Business Administration) became vice president of automotive sales for the North American business unit of SKF Vehicle Service Market. Mark Tye (Anthropology) is an artist and producer who won an Emmy for his commercial greenhouse and nursery distributor of plants and supplies to commercial greenhouse and nursery markets.

Joe Withee is known as the voice of horse racing in the state of Washington.

Michael Coomes received the Master Teacher Award from Bowling Green State University.

Send us your Class Notes

Got a promotion? Got married? Published your novel? Made a difference in your community? Share your news with other alumni in Class Notes. We collect information from published accounts, press releases and alumni themselves. Notes are edited for style, clarity and length and are published as space allows. For more information, or to submit your own information for Class Notes, email Mary.Gallagher@wwu.edu.
work on “Talk Soup” and is now a producer for “Naked and Afraid.” His most recent book, “Seattle Seahawks Super Season,” was published by Sasquatch Books.

Mark Tye Turner won an Emmy for “Talk Soup” and now produces “Naked and Afraid.”


1989 – T.H. “Butch” Kamena (Political Science; ’93, M.A., Political Science) became Western’s Assistant Athletics Director for Compliance and Academics.

1990 – Scott Youmans (Manufacturing Engineering Technology) recently became senior vice president of operations of Atossa Genetics, Inc., a medical technology company that specializes in the development of therapies for breast health.


1993 – Bellingham Schools Superintendent Greg Baker (M.Ed., Secondary) recently won the Crystal Apple Award from the Washington School Public Relations Association. Steve Brummel (Marketing; ’99, M.B.A.) became Western’s Associate Athletics Director for Facilities and Operations. Most recently, he had served as Western’s Director of Athletics Marketing. Ina Zajac (Journalism) has been a newspaper reporter and worked in media relations, event promotion and crisis communications. She recently wrote “Please, Pretty Lights,” published by BookTrove Publishing. Trina Hall (Social Studies – Elementary, Administrative Certificate) became principal of Sunnyside Elementary School in Bellingham. Mark Ross (M.Ed., School Administration) became assistant superintendent of teaching and learning for the Battle Ground School District. Matt Krog (Environmental Education, Interdisciplinary Concentration; ’03, M.S., Geography) directs the Tar Sands SOS Campaign at Forest Ethics, where he recently helped launch an interactive online map, “Oil Train Blast Zone.” Most recently, he served as North Sound Baykeeper at RE Sources for Sustainable Communities in Bellingham. Marke Greene (Accounting) became national partner in charge of accounting firm Moss Adams’ specialty tax services group. Karen Tollefson (M.Ed., Exceptional Children) became principal of Gordon Elementary School in Kingston.

1994 – Susan Ruth Robbins (English) is a professional songwriter in Nashville, Tennessee, and recently released her fourth studio album, “All I Ever Wanted Was Everything.” It’s her first under the name Susan Ruth – her previous releases were under the name Susan Robbins. Susan also writes songs for other artists, film and television, and has won several songwriting awards. Shawn Fuller (M.A., Theatre) recently directed “The Women of Lockerbie” at the Bellingham Theatre Guild. Brian Wharton (Music – Performance) is a professional musician and the principal cellist for the Auburn Symphony Orchestra.


1996 – Tyreen (Gillespie) Martinson (English Secondary) teaches at Harbor Christian Homeschool Cooperative and has written four books: “Dragonfold and Other Adventures,” which is a short story and poetry collection, “Light Reflections,” a poetry collection, and two books of a YA Christian fantasy trilogy, “Champion in the Darkness” and “Champions in Flight.” She’s working on the third book, “Champion’s Destiny.” Michael Xenos (Political Science; ’98, Political Science) is an associate professor and chair in the Department of Communication Science at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

1997 – S. Hoby Darling (Business Administration) is president, CEO and director of Skullcandy Inc. in Park City, Utah. Kurt Fischer (Industrial Design) is creating music and a children’s book, “Searchin” about a sea urchin on a quest. Aaron BeMiller (History) became finance director for the city of Kent. Most recently, he was the budget and finance director/county treasurer for Clatsop County, Oregon. Darin Detwiler (History) is the senior policy coordinator for food safety at the nonprofit advocacy group STOP Foodborne Illness and a doctoral student in law and policy at Northeastern University, where he is also a graduate lecturer. Jennifer Ketcher (Business – Finance) became president and CEO of Whatcom Educational Credit Union. Previously, she was the credit union’s chief lending officer. Steve Grichel (Planning and Environmental Policy) became an officer for the Bellingham Police Department.


1999 – Sean Clemonns (English – Creative Writing) is cofounder and president of Piraeus Consulting in Seattle and was recently included in the Puget Sound Business Journal’s “40 Under 40” list. Braden Abraham (English – Writing) was selected as acting artistic director of the Seattle Repertory Theatre. Abraham has worked at the theatre since 2003, most recently as associate artistic director. Carri (Ellis) Campbell (Art – Elementary) recently became the director of School and Community Partnerships for Seattle Public Schools. Elke Govertsen (Recreation) is an entrepreneur and the publisher and CEO of Mamalode, a parenting magazine. Elke spoke about our best and worst qualities at TinctWhitefish in 2014. Julia Marks (Art History) became the chief visionary officer, in charge of creative and strategic planning for Picture Source, a wholesaler of wall art.

2000 – Dan Ferguson (M.Ed., Student Personnel Administration) is director of college activities at Linkfield College and was named vice chair for programs for the National Association for Campus Activities board of directors. Chris Bede (M.Ed., Secondary) recently became principal of Eastlake High School in Sammamish. Kim Witte (Physical Education – Elementary Ed) teaches second grade at PineCrest Elementary School in Bremerton. She was recently named the Washington Regional Teacher of the Year for Olympic Educational Service District 114.

2001 – Debi Hogan (Linguistics; ’05, M.A., Speech-Language Pathology) became a speech-language pathologist in Pediatric Therapy Services for Easter Seals-Goodwill in Montana. Mark Piscitelli (Communication) became a freelance audio engineer for Kiddie Mathews, a commercial real estate firm. “Fear of Volcanoes” is an exhibition of 13 abstract works by Ryan Molenkamp (Art) recently on display at the Linda Hodges Gallery in Pioneer Square. Ben Hummer (International Business) became vice president of wine operations for Cooper’s Hawk Winery & Restaurants. Most recently, Hummer was senior vice president of operations for Peacet Wine in Seattle. Skye Reynolds (Human Resource Management) is human resource director for Kootenai County in Idaho. Byron Dickson (Psychology) became a sales representative for AHEAD, a hat and apparel company. Alyse Yeaman (Art; ’03, Master in Teaching) is an art teacher at Gig Harbor High School.

2002 – Kelly Schultz (M.A., Audiology – Aural Rehabilitation) is a board-certified audiologist for Wausau, Wisconsin’s Marshfield Clinic, where she helped create a pediatric hearing loss clinic. Justin White (English – Writing) became a plan administrator at Panagioti Pension Advisors in University Place. Mary Schroeder (General Studies) became a coach at Whatcom Community College. Jens Sundem (Communication) recently became the pastor of the Little Brown Church in Bigfork, Montana.

2003 – Brianne Barnett (Interdisciplinary Child Development) became director of special services for the Port Angeles School District. Shelton Diggins (General Studies) became boys’ basketball coach at Long Beach Polytechnic High School. Brooke Geery (Journalism – Public Relations) is the editor and publisher of YoBeat, a Portland-based online magazine devoted to snowboarding. Stacie DeKoker (Business; ’04, M.B.A.) won the Bellingham Bay Marathon for the second year in a row. He works for Brooks Sports in Seattle.

2004 – Sudha Sundararavanan (M.B.A.) moved to India and launched Jumperee, a bounce-house rental business.
service based in Bangalore. Whaley Graham (Business Administration - Marketing) recently became marketing manager for the USRA Corporation's Anchorage office.

2005 - Medeline McNelis (Music) is a musician in Spokane. Nicholle Hoffer (M.Ed., Adult Education) and her husband recently bought Naselle Locker and Liquor Store in Pacific County.

Killian Doherty (Linguistics) earned a law degree from the University of Oregon Law School, with certifications in environmental and natural resource law, ocean and coastal law and international law. Jesse Reynolds (Geography - Environmental and Resource Management) became a surface water planner and GIS analyst for Otak, an international law.

Jesse Inman (Geography) became a project coordinator at Landau Associates in Olympia.

2006 - Ally Evans (Theatre, Spanish) just moved to Seattle after living in Chicago for six years. She was one of 28 actors selected to attend an ensemble training program at the School at Steppenwolf in summer 2013, when she also appeared in the comedy, "The TomKat Project." In Seattle, Evans has done commercial work for Amazon, Microsoft and FedEx. Tim Feenstra (General Studies) is a PGA golf pro at Broadmoor Golf Club and recently won the 27th Rosauers Open Invitational in Liberty Lake.

Elsa Hiltner (Theatre) lives in Chicago where she is a wardrobe stylist and costume designer for plays, films, commercials, events and print. Bert Bouquet (Mathematics/Computer Science), who earned a law degree from the University of Washington and an M.B.A. from Seattle University, became an associate on the software and electrical engineering team at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton in Seattle.

2007 - Ariel Wetzel (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration; '09, M.A., English) recently completed her doctorate in English at University of Washington. Garrett Joeckel (Operations Management) became a sales analyst at Amazon. Amanda Cane (Fairhaven International Concentration; former social work major) recently completed her first EP, "Do Be Do" on iTunes. She returns to Bellingham several times a year to perform. Poet Joshua Young (English - Creative Writing; '09, M.A., English) recently had his play in verse, "The Holy Ghost People," published by Plays Inverse.

2008 - Yale Wolf (Industrial Design) is a Seattle artist who has painted several murals along North State Street in Bellingham near The Hub Community Bike Shop, where he fixed bicycles as a student at Western. Andrew Simon (Fitness Science) became a naturopath at McQuinn Naturopathic in Everett, where he specializes in physical medicine and manipulation. Xandra Lauch (Anthropology - Archaeology) became a visiting assistant professor of Anthropology at William Peace University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

2009 - David Gage (Biology/Anthropology) completed a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree at the College of Dental Medicine-Arizona of Midwestern University. He plans to practice dentistry in Bellingham. Grant Wilson (Environmental Policy) completed a law degree at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland and is outreach and policy coordinator for Earth Law Center in Fremont, California. Before heading off to graduate school at the University of Michigan, Alyssa Cudmore (Environmental Policy) spent several weeks bicycling the trail of the Underground Railroad from New Orleans to Canada, collecting people's stories along the way. Read them at humansoftheundergroundrailroad.blogspot.com. Brian Zuleger (Health and Fitness Specialist; '11, M.S., Human Movement and Performance) earned a Ph.D. in Health Education and Promotion and became an assistant professor of Human Performance and Physical Education at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colo.

Stephanie Morell (Communications, Journalism - Public Relations) became assistant general manager of the Bellingham Bells. Previously, she was the team's marketing director. Sara Vaughan (General Studies) is a registered nurse at Children's Hospital in Denver.

2010 - James Andrews (Creative Writing, Environmental Studies/Journalism), a writer for Food Safety News, won the National Press Association awards in the daily news category, including first prize for a personality profile he wrote about an Oregon senior state epidemiologist. While working on his M.B.A. at Colorado State University, Grant Goodman (Environmental Education) developed Jamii Funding, a crowdfunding platform for social entrepreneurs in East Africa. Courtney Olsen (Creative Writing) finished 57th in her division in the Boston Marathon.

2011 - Gillian Prentice (Economics, Political Science) became an administrative assistant at Abbott Construction. Sheryl Gilmore (Kinesiology; '13, M.S., Human Movement and Performance) became head softball coach at Edmonds Community College. Tiree Kellison (Marketing) became an advertising associate for the Methow Valley News.

2012 - Emily Getts (Art) was one of six Edmonds Community College alumni who had their photography included in an exhibit at EdCC's art gallery. Getts is a freelance photographer in Seattle. Air Force Airman 1st Class Colton M. Stanfield (English - Creative Writing) graduated from Western.

Elsa Hiltner is a wardrobe stylist and costume designer in Chicago.

Rintala (Sociology) graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas, earning distinction as an honor graduate. Dylan Stanfield (Biochemistry) is in his second year at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke, Virginia. Izzy Chavez (Human Services) is a chemical dependency professional trainee for the Capital Region Educational Service District 113 and does drug abuse prevention work in Hoquiam High School, Hoquiam Middle School and the surrounding community.

2013 - Tessa Asato (Art) created the illustrations for "The S.O.S. Boys in Espionage at One Hundred Fathoms," by Rosanna Porter. Hillary Szuz (Creative Writing) is a songwriter and vocalist who wrote and performed the songs on the 2013 alternative pop album, "What Mouths are Made For." Stephanie Harper (Dance) teaches dance at her studio in Bellingham, Harper & Dance Center, where faculty and students are preparing their winter production of "The Nutcracker." Stephanie Renando (Environmental Science) became an environmental technician for Landau Associates in Edmonds.

2014 - Alix Whitener (Biology/Anthropology) is a Ph.D. student in entomology at Washington State University and recently won the Student Certification Award from the Entomological Society of America Certification Corporation. Rico Wilkins (General Studies) recently signed with a team in Denmark's top basketball league, Vaejle. Wilkins averaged 14.1 points per game with the Bellingham Slam in 2014 and won the Sixth Man of the Year award from USBasket.com. He has also played basketball in Morocco.

Sophie Logan (Creative Writing), who grew up in Arlington, dashed off an email to thank President Obama for his plan to visit Oso following the devastating landslide - and was surprised to get an invitation to meet him during the visit. Obama said to her like he liked the letter, Logan told the Herald of Everett.
and talked about reading other peo-
l...
manager with the Ferndale School District, on May 13, 2014, in Ferndale.
1980 – Susan Grace Carpenter, 63, a retired faculty member in the Child Development Department at Santa Rosa Junior College in California, on Sept. 13, 2014.
1986 – Gerald Dennis Archer, 72, an accountant and attorney in Bellingham who served on several community boards, including the Mt. Baker Theatre, the St. Luke's Foundation, the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, and the Western Foundation, on May 22, 2014.
1992 – Thom E. Satterlee, 65, on May 22, 2014, as a result of the mudslide in Oso.
1993 – Denise Dalton Thom, 45, a marathon runner and co-owner of Phoenix Montessori School in Renton, on Sept. 27, 2014. Juliette Tihanyi Zentelis, 47, who had worked as a radio host at KFLU radio, on May 5, 2013, in Bellingham.
2000 – Sonya Joseph-Perez, 35, a former softball standout who led the Vikings to the school's first national team title in any sport, on May 2, 2014, in University Place.
2005 – Sara Elizabeth Morley, 30, who had worked at North Country Health Care in Flagstaff, Arizona and served on many community boards there, on Sept. 28, 2014.
2011 – Claire Marie Dutton, 25, who had been studying for her real estate license, on June 27, 2014, in Bellingham.

Western became a university while Paul Olscamp was president

Former Western Washington University President Paul Olscamp passed away Oct. 14 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He was 77.

Olscamp was president at Western for seven years, from 1975 to 1982, at which point he left the Pacific Northwest to become president at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Olscamp became Western president at 37, the youngest one in Western's history. He came to Western from his position as vice chancellor for student programs and professor of philosophy at Syracuse University.

During his tenure in Bellingham, the school changed from Western Washington State College to Western Washington University. It was a time of expansion, as enrollment topped 9,000 students for the first time in 1975-76 and 10,000 in 1981-82.

Excellence in Teaching Awards were also established during Olscamp's tenure. Today, a research award is named after Olscamp; he established an endowment for that award in 1982.

In addition to being the president, Olscamp held the position of professor of Philosophy at Western. He also was a WWU professor emeritus. Upon departing for Bowling Green, Olscamp was named Distinguished Service Professor and given lifelong tenure at Western.


Olscamp held a black belt in karate, was a licensed pilot and a poet, and enjoyed skiing, parachuting, bungee jumping and sailing. He once participated in a sailing race from Victoria, B.C., to Maui.

Surviving Olscamp are his wife, Ruth Pratt; son, Adam Olscamp; and daughter, Rebecca Fry ('82, Spanish; '84, M.B.A.).
New graduate plans a future in the art of leadership

The day she graduated from Western, all Peanutt Ngeth could think about was her family.

“That same day, two of my cousins graduated from high school and were ready to make their ways toward higher education,” says Ngeth, of Seattle, pictured on the cover kissing her grandmother, Khon Pok. It was a happy, proud day, Ngeth says, for her family and community.

Ngeth was able to complete her degree with the help of scholarships, including the Multicultural Achievement Program Scholarship and Western’s Leadership Advantage Scholarship. Leadership is one of her passions; art is another. She combined the two into a concentration she developed at Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies: Multicultural Youth Leadership through the Arts. She also completed a minor in Education and Social Justice.

She hopes to use her education to teach leadership skills to multicultural youth by using expressive arts such as dance, spoken-word poetry, photography and other visual arts. “The ESJ minor provided me with the skills and tools to use art and leadership to present voices of those who are often silenced,” Ngeth says, “and to challenge traditional academic ways of knowing.”

After graduation, Ngeth moved to Cambodia, where her family is from. Lately, she has been performing as a dancer for Cambodian pop star Aok Sokunkhan, who is a coach on the country’s “The Voice” television show.

“Music and art are very powerful tools,” Ngeth writes from Cambodia. “Before the genocide, Cambodia was one of the most beautiful and gifted nations. Cambodian music was starting to skyrocket in the ’60s and ’70s. A lot of Cambodian music today is copied from other countries, causing people to feel ashamed.

“Now we have artists working toward producing all original work, whether it be music, dance, theater, etc.,” Ngeth says. “I’d love to see Cambodian art reach towards where our legends were heading—and beyond.”
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