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This brain is fighting back against Huntington’s
Bringing a new sound to Cuban audiences

Guests in the cafe patio in Cuba had probably never heard anything like the brass quintet – plus one – practicing in the courtyard.

“We were the first professional brass quintet to tour Cuba in at least 50 years,” says Western’s Assistant Music Professor Gustavo Camacho (wearing the plaid shirt). He played the horn with four other U.S. university musicians on a 10-day tour of Cuba in May. Here, the group plays with a sixth musician, from Penn State University, who also traveled with the group.

“Because the brass quintet performing medium didn’t really evolve to its modern form until after the 1950s – coinciding with the start of socialism in Cuba – brass quintets never made it to the standard concert stage in Cuba,” Camacho says. “Cuban audience members told us they could not believe that a group of five brass instruments could sound like an entire orchestra.”

Go to www.wwu.edu/window to see an interview with Camacho.

Photo by Brian Ross
New Sounds: Horn player Gustavo Camacho, left, in the plaid shirt, toured Cuba in May with five other U.S. university musicians, including trombonist Mark Lusk, tubist Velvet Brown and guest artist/saxophonist Dan Yoder, director of Jazz Studies all from Penn State University. Trumpeters John Aley from University of Wisconsin-Madison and Michael Davison from University of Richmond rounded out the quintet.
Awards are nice, but Western's real achievement is our superb learning culture

I do love the rhythms of campus life and this year is no exception. As I stroll across Western's campus and hear students talking with excitement about a class challenge or faculty discussing their research, I am reminded of how truly special Western is.

Western continues to be highly sought-after by prospective students. Fall quarter, the university enrolled about 15,000 students, with the largest freshman class in Western's history. And fall enrollment for freshmen and new transfer students of color is the highest ever at Western. Increasing access to Western's distinctive academic excellence, first-rate programs and top-notch faculty is an essential part of our mission, creating brighter futures in Washington and beyond.

Western's excellence continues to draw attention across the region and nation. The university has garnered many recent accolades: U.S. News & World Report, USA Today and Washington Monthly magazine all named Western as one of the top universities of its type in the West; Western was one of five national recipients of the 2015 Active Minds Healthy Campus Award, which recognizes the university for its programs to promote student health and well-being; and for the sixth year in a row Western was designated a military-friendly campus.

While awards are a nice recognition of good work, the real achievements at Western take place every day across campus in dozens of classrooms and labs – the superb culture of collaborative learning that is quintessentially Western.

Western continues to respond to the needs of our state, most recently with the creation of a new cybersecurity program in Poulsbo in cooperation with Olympic and Peninsula colleges. And Compass 2 Campus now has student mentors helping children in not only elementary and middle schools, but high schools as well.

As you may have heard, I will be retiring from the presidency of Western after the conclusion of this academic year. This was not an easy decision, for serving Western remains a deeply rewarding privilege. But, I believe it is now an appropriate time for Cyndie and me, as well as for Western, to look ahead to next phases. Be assured that our campus community, led by our Board of Trustees, is intensely engaged in doing exactly that.

And as the academic year, my 43rd year in higher education, continues I will particularly savor the wonderful rhythms of campus life at Western.
What do you think about WINDOW?

If something you read in Window sparks a memory, question, inspiration or critique, let us know! We'll run a sampling of your feedback in each edition. Send your thoughts to window@wwu.edu. Or, find us online at www.wwu.edu/window. You may also send a note to Window Magazine, Office of University Communications and Marketing, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA, 98225-9011.

Letters and emails are always welcome at Window magazine, but there are many ways to stay connected to your alma mater.

Drop a line to Class Notes with your latest job news, awards, retirement plans or service to your community. Email window@wwu.edu

If you've gotten hitched recently, let us know at window@wwu.edu. We also publish marriage announcements in Class Notes. Share your own Viking love story.

Check out western.today.wwu.edu to learn what the day's news is on campus. Each day, find new stories about faculty, staff and students, as well as little items about campus news, events and media clippings. For a daily dose of campus nostalgia, you can even have Western Today sent to your email inbox.

Western is all over social media, but check out Western's Social Media Index (western.today.wwu.edu/content/social-media-index) to see if your department or favorite campus hangout is also posting. WWU Heritage Resources keeps a Tumblr page, for example. And many student clubs and club sports are on Facebook and Instagram.

Go to alumni.wwu.edu to learn more about how you can reconnect and mingle with other Vikings. They have events throughout the year both on campus and elsewhere.

Help the next generation of Vikings launch their careers through Western's Career Services Center. At www.wwu.edu/careers, go to Viking Career Link to learn how to post your company's job and internship notices or become an online mentor to a current student.

Send notes to your favorite professors to let them know how you're doing.

Go to campaign.wwu.edu to learn more about the Western Stands for Washington Campaign, which brings together others who want to strengthen support for students and research at Western.
Work begins on Carver overhaul

While Carver Academic Facility is closed for a much-needed renovation, new WWU graduates can expect to walk across the stage in the Performing Arts Center or even Civic Field for the next few Commencement ceremonies. Intercollegiate basketball and other games will be at Whatcom Community College.

Carver's two-year upgrade began this summer soon after the state Legislature passed the 2015-17 state capital budget, which included $70 million for the project. Workers will replace the center section of the building with a three-story addition and wrap the east and south sides with new structure and glass windows.

The project will address urgently needed seismic reinforcement throughout the building, replace many aging building systems and provide improved disabled access to classrooms, labs and offices. The renovation will also provide classrooms and lab spaces for several departments, including Health and Human Development (previously known as Physical Education, Health and Recreation), the largest and fastest-growing academic department at Western.

Carver wasn't the only bit of good news from the state Legislature this year: The state provided funding to reduce tuition for resident undergraduates by 5 percent in the 2015-16 academic year and by 15 percent in 2016-17. Funding was also made available for a new cybersecurity program in Poulsbo and for raises for Western staff and faculty.

Western moves into new digs in the heart of Downtown Bellingham

Western recently opened a new office in Downtown Bellingham that will serve as a campus welcome center in the city.

Western City Center, located in the bottom-floor, corner office of the Herald Building, 1155 N. State St., includes an information desk and a computer/phone kiosk for purchasing tickets from the Western Box Office and Athletics.

Visitors can purchase WWU-branded items and sip complimentary Viking Blend coffee from The Woods Coffee. The 2,500-square-foot space also houses several offices for the Alumni Association and the Western Foundation.

The office hosts Western Wednesdays – stop by for pastries compliments of The Woods – and participates in community events such as the Downtown Bellingham Art Walk.
Tiny collaborations: Alum honored for research in 'quorum sensing'

Back when microbiologist Peter Greenberg's ('70, Biology) baby daughter Barbara was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis in 1986, he had no plans to fight the disease in his own lab.

Being a worried dad was enough, he thought. Bringing the genetic lung disease to work with him would be too overwhelming.

Greenberg was happily working in what was then an obscure area of research: the social life of bacteria. He's a pioneer in the discovery of quorum sensing, a mechanism in which bacteria accomplish something collectively that they cannot do alone.

Greenberg first studied quorum sensing in luminescent bacteria, Vibrio fischeri, commonly found in sea creatures. "Somehow, they know when they're in a crowd and they make light together," Greenberg says. "A single bacterium can't make enough light for anyone to see, but when they're in a big group, they can."

Greenberg and other scientists discovered in the '80s that bacteria communicate by releasing a chemical: When the concentration of the chemical rises, the lights go on.

"People said, 'That's interesting, but so what?'' remembers Greenberg, now a microbiologist at the University of Washington and a 2010 WWU Distinguished Alumnus. "But it turns out that what we've observed in these marine bacteria has been observed in lots of other bacteria. In fact, there are a lot of human pathogens that make those signals."

Including the most common pathogen in the lungs of people with cystic fibrosis. When a colleague told Greenberg the CF pathogen Pseudomonas had genes similar to those that control light production in the luminescent bacteria, Greenberg's research took on a new focus -- and more scientists began to pay attention.

In September, Greenberg won the prestigious 2015 Shaw Prize in Life Science and Medicine with Princeton University microbiologist Bonnie Bassler. Greenberg and Bassler, chair of Princeton's Department of Molecular Biology, will divide the $1 million award.

The international award was established in 2002 by the Hong Kong-based Shaw Foundation to promote worldwide scientific research. Many Shaw laureates have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.

Today, many researchers are competing to make drugs that target quorum sensing in the fight against disease, Greenberg says. And doctors already fight some nasty infections with drugs that attack communities of bacteria called biofilms, another offshoot of his work.

One of those drugs helped Greenberg's now-adult daughter Barbara fight a CF-related infection earlier this year, her worried dad thankful for the help.
The search is on for Western’s next president

Western’s Presidential Search Advisory Committee received considerable input from faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members this fall about important qualifications and characteristics in Western’s next president. The committee sought feedback through open forums and online surveys. The online surveys in particular received more than 500 responses.

In June, President Bruce Shepard announced his retirement effective at the end of the 2015-16 academic year, and the trustees are conducting a search for his successor. The trustees hope to appoint Western’s next president in March 2016.

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee, which reflects a broad cross-section of the Western community, including faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, friends and other stakeholders, developed a list of qualifications and characteristics the next president should possess. After receiving the committee’s report, the trustees adopted criteria to be applied by the committee in evaluating and interviewing candidates.

Then, the committee will submit to the trustees a list of all candidates who meet the minimum qualifications along with the committee’s unranked recommendation of three to five candidates for the board to consider inviting for final interviews.

Keep track of the progress at Western’s Presidential Search website: www.wwu.edu/presidentialsearch.

Theatre’s Rich Brown is the state’s Professor of the Year

Associate Theatre Arts Professor Rich Brown is perhaps best known for his students’ collaborative creations.

Now, he’s being honored as 2015 Washington Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

He specializes in devised theatre, a collaborative creative process in which writers, designers, actors, directors and others work together to develop a play from scratch.

Brown and his students have devised award-winning plays that celebrate our culture’s differences, including 2015’s "/faust," 2013’s "Soapbox" and 2011’s "Us," the latter two honored by the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., with "Us" winning three national awards.

"Theater truly has the power to impact lives and change them for the better, and that is the belief I take into the studio each day – and I hope my students share that belief," Brown says.

Brown, who has taught at Western since 2006, traveled to Washington, D.C., in November to accept the award. Geology’s Scott Linneman won the award in 2013.
UNSINKABLE
Kids from WWU after-school robotics program honored for creativity, problem-solving and all-around MacGyvery

The Anacortes kids didn't have the fanciest – or even best-working – robot in the competition, but they certainly caught the judges' attention.


The fifth- through eighth-graders worked with Mira Lutz ('96, Biology - Marine) for 11 weeks to prepare a submersible remote operated vehicle (ROV) that could complete a series of missions.

But the Anacortes kids couldn't catch a break on the day of the competition.

They broke one of their 3-D printed engine mounts. Then their plan to attain neutral buoyancy by flooding their ROV with water worked fine in the 5-foot practice pool, but when it reached the 10-foot bottom at the competition, there it stayed; they had not accounted for the difference in water pressure.

One kid even fell in the pool while holding a control box.

Expected from the start to design, test, and troubleshoot without instructor input, they came up with creative solutions. They re-attached their stray motor with epoxy. They added sections of a pool noodle to counteract sinking.

And Lutz's former classmate, an adviser from South Whidbey Academy, slipped them four tampons from the machine in the ladies' room to absorb the water inside the remote control device.

Every time something went wrong, the kids furiously improvised to solve the challenges, "which is really what engineering is all about," says Lutz, a former Anacortes science teacher and current WWU graduate student in the Marine and Estuarine Science Program.

After such an exhausting day, the kids decided to begin their long trip back to Anacortes before the awards assembly. So they learned on their way home that they had won the Angus MacGyver Award, named for the 1980s TV action hero underdog who saves the world many times over using household items, ingenuity, and a lot of duct tape.

Their prize included a framed award and a tour of the Rolls Royce Marine facility on Harbor Island in Seattle – which they offered to share with the team from South Whidbey.
There has been a sharp increase in the U.S. Latino population – due in part to the long-term U.S. government effort to stem illegal immigration.
A WAVE OF CHANGE

WWU alum and Princeton sociologist Doug Massey explains how U.S. immigration policy reshapes our demographics and our politics

By Doug McInnis

If you follow presidential election politics this year, you might conclude that Mexican immigrants are pouring into the United States without legal permission. You might also conclude that the number of immigrants living here illegally would be much greater if the U.S. weren't spending $18 billion a year to keep them out.

In fact, neither is true, says Douglas Massey, '74, professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton University. "Since 2008, illegal migration from Mexico has pretty much dropped to zero," says Massey, who has studied Mexican immigration patterns for more than three decades.

For one thing, Mexico's once stratospheric birth rate has plummeted, easing the population pressures that once drove immigrants north to the U.S.

Even so, there has been a sharp increase in the U.S. Latino population -- ironically due in part to the long-term U.S. government effort to stem illegal immigration, Massey says. Over decades, that has contributed to a large increase in America's population diversity: According to the U.S. Census, now about 38 percent of U.S. residents are Hispanic, black, Asian or another minority group.

So while this year's presidential candidates sculpt their talking points on immigration -- or describe the walls they would build along the borders -- American politics is in the midst of a sea change decades in the making, thanks in part to U.S. immigration policy.

The growing diversity of the voting population is affecting the outcome in political races -- and the beneficiaries so far have tended to be Democratic candidates. For instance, 2012 election data shows that Republican Mitt Romney failed to attract voters from across the spectrum and it cost him the White House.

"In 1988, George Bush won 59 percent of the white vote, which translated into 426 electoral votes (and four years in the White House)," conservative columnist George Will wrote in a recent article. "Twenty-four years later, Mitt Romney won 59 percent of the white vote and just 206 electoral votes." Romney, Will wrote, got just 17 percent of the minority vote.

If the past is any indication, these trends could become a problem for the Republicans. "In 2014, less than 50 percent of births were (non-Hispanic) whites," says Massey. "That's the future."

Massey's interest in immigration is part of a broader focus on economic stratification and inequality. As such, his work deals with a variety of issues involving race and ethnicity. A recent paper, for instance, dealt with the underlying issues that ignited racial violence in Ferguson, Missouri.

His interest in these subjects began in the turbulent 1960s in his hometown of Olympia, a city that reflected the racial

Hispanics born in the U.S. made up the largest part of U.S. population growth from 2000 to 2013.
stratification of American society. "While I was in junior high school, the first black family moved into Olympia. Before that, the only black person was a blind man who lived in a downtown hotel and made a living tuning pianos." But Massey had only to pick up a newspaper or turn on the television news to see another America, as riots and the struggles of the civil rights movement played out across the country.

After graduating from Western with a Bachelor of Arts and three majors - sociology-anthropology, psychology, and Spanish - he earned his master's and Ph.D. in sociology at Princeton, then began a long academic career that included first-hand research into immigration from Mexico. "Official data on illegal immigration isn't very good," he says. "So I designed surveys to collect data. I've been working in Mexico since 1982." Every year, his survey teams go into a different set of Mexican communities to look at migration patterns. Then his teams go to the U.S. cities where the migrants have moved. This work, combined with other data sources, allows Massey to track the ebb and flow of immigration to the U.S.

At one time, he says, the migrant relationship between the U.S. and Mexico was governed by a predictable process. Migrant farm workers came north to the U.S. legally during the growing season, then returned to Mexico when it ended. Back then, illegal immigration wasn't even on the radar screen.

In the 1960s, Congress moved to ban the annual migrant influx. But the growers still needed labor and the Mexicans still needed the work. So the migrants came anyway - illegally. In response, the U.S. ramped up its efforts to stop them at traditional entry points such as San Diego and El Paso, Texas, says Massey.

The migrants countered by crossing the Sonoran Desert into Arizona. But this tactic was neither safe nor cheap. The average cost of an illegal border crossing jumped from around $500 to roughly $3,000, says Massey. Over time, thousands of migrants perished on their desert trek from exposure, thirst, drowning, homicide and other non-natural causes, federal data shows.

The combination of rising costs and danger eventually spurred many migrants to rethink their traditional pattern of coming to the U.S. for work and then going home. Instead, they began to stay.

"The end result was a doubling of the net rate of illegal migration and a sharp increase in undocumented population growth through the 1990s and into the new century," Massey wrote in Daedalus, the Journal of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. "In the course of two decades, the North American migration system was transformed from a circular flow of male migrant workers going to California and a few other states into a settled population of families living in all fifty states," he wrote. The upshot: The number of residents living in the U.S. without legal permission soared from 1.9 million to 12 million in the two-decade period ending in 2008.

To counter this growth, the U.S. orchestrated a major increase in roundups and deportations. People responded by petitioning for U.S. citizenship to keep from being thrown out. The 2.4 million who have succeeded since 1990 were permitted under U.S. law to bring their spouses and minor children to the U.S. Steadily, this process has helped the number of new Latino citizens increase to the point that they are having a pronounced impact on the demographic makeup of the U.S. and its political system.

California is an example of the changes taking place. California was once a Red State that twice elected Republican Ronald Reagan as its governor - and president. It is now a Blue State in which some 15 million Hispanics (as identified by the census) and other minorities make up 61 percent of the population; the state has consistently voted Democratic in every presidential election since 1992.

The same factors may soon transform Texas, a Republican bastion and the nation's second-most populous state. The state has more than 11 million Latinos and nearly 5 million other nonwhite Hispanic residents, who together now outnumber non-
Hispanic whites by more than 4 million, according to 2015 estimates from the Texas Department of Health Services. “I think Texas will slip into the Democratic column in the next election or two,” says Massey. “When that happens, the Republicans will have very little chance at winning the presidency.”

But in the long-term, Massey predicts that U.S. politics will adjust to the population shifts, particularly if the rising tide of voters leaves one political party out in the cold. “The job description of a successful politician is winning elections,” says Massey. “And if they start to lose elections, they will have to change.”

He believes that time will resolve the illegal immigration issue as well, even if the U.S. doesn’t give legal status to the millions of people already here. “If the influx of illegal migrants stops, as it seems to have done, then eventually the illegal population will die out. And it will be replaced by their American-born children and their children’s children.

“Today there’s a reaction against this shift,” he says. “But ultimately, demography will have its way and the country will change.”

Doug Mclnnis is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in the New York Times, Popular Science and Window magazine.
The Big One
Is it that bad?

By Jemma Everyhope-Roser

The Pacific Northwest – known for its microbreweries, breath-taking scenery, and locals who inexplicably love our dreary 10-month winters – is due for an earthquake. But how soon? How bad will it be? And what can we do to prepare for it?

Questions like these have the power to keep us up at night. So we turned to a few of Western Washington University’s experts for the answers.

Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, a professor of Geology at Western who studies earthquakes in volcanic systems, says that geology’s a young science, and thus scientists are still gathering data on predicting long-range hazards like the so-called Big One. A massive 9.0 earthquake could bulldoze the Pacific Northwest in 80 years, 280 years – or tomorrow.

But where would an earthquake like that originate? Could iconic Mount Baker be to blame? How about Rainier? Both are volcanoes.

Volcanoes on land, Caplan-Auerbach explains, can rarely generate earthquakes higher than magnitude 4 and that cannot create tsunami.

But tectonic earthquakes, caused by massive pieces of the Earth’s crust crushing into each other? That’s our culprit.

As the Juan de Fuca plate presses under the North American plate, it gets stuck; then, suddenly, it slips. That lurch is a tectonic earthquake. These quakes ripple across a plate’s surface, disturbing buildings, bridges, and water mains – and maybe generating a tsunami.

Yes, tsunamis are possible here. Caplan-Auerbach informs me there’s even a fault inside the Puget Sound that could generate a localized tsunami. Though, of course, cities along the Pacific coast itself face greater danger.

As the Earth bucks and shivers beneath our feet, we face an
additional threat – liquefaction. Loosely packed sediment may shift, allowing water to seep through and transform seemingly solid earth into the quagmire it secretly is.

While that may produce some toe-wiggling fun at the beach, it’s significantly less wonderful when it happens beneath your house. Structures built on coastal areas, near rivers, or on floodplains, are at risk. But at least homeowners can learn more about their own property’s risk by looking up how their neighborhood would fare in various earthquake scenarios.

Buildings bend – or break

“If a building is brittle,” Caplan-Auerbach adds, “it will break. Buildings need to flex. Even wood will flex better than brick.” Her own office, even though its cement walls are chock-full of rebar, was built before the enactment of certain seismic codes and could suffer damage in a quake.

Caplan-Auerbach also has a special warning for campus, where our beautiful buildings, some brick and some brick facade, pose a risk: “Don’t run outside. Earthquakes don’t kill people. Falling buildings do. Unreinforced masonry will come down. Get under a desk or a table.”

Jim Mullen (’70, M.Ed., Student Personnel Administration), who served as the emergency management chief for the city of Seattle and the state of Washington, has additional advice for living through a quake. Sheltering in doorframes or under bedcovers isn’t a good option. He likes to advise citizens to ride out the waves under something solid, keeping their heads down.

Mullen also agrees with Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Rebekah Paci-Green that surviving the initial disaster isn’t nearly as problematic as getting through the days that follow.

Paci-Green, whose international research focuses on the safety of school buildings following earthquakes, is also director of Western’s Resilience Instinct. She wrote “Cascadia Rising,” a gripping 180-page narrative description of what could happen during and after a 9.0 quake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. The New Yorker drew on her work for last summer’s panic-inducing article, “The Really Big One,” and FEMA will use “Cascadia Rising” for training exercises in 2016.

Since Paci-Green literally wrote the book on this, I ask her: Will The Big One really be this bad?

Maybe.

Paci-Green reviewed estimates from HAZUS, FEMA’s computer modeling system for emergency scenarios; for “Cascadia Rising,” at their request, she took a look at the 90th percentile of a 9.0 earthquake, basically the worst case of a worst case scenario. “This scenario is possible,” Paci-Green says, “but it’s also extreme.”

But it could also be worse. HAZUS’ worst-of-the-worst could actually underestimate damages. While HAZUS can accurately model how buildings withstand trauma, it doesn’t account for aftershocks or, because the government has little data on the private sector, how utilities or communications may be disrupted.

The upcoming FEMA practice event will be a region-wide, multi-day exercise that calls on not only FEMA itself but also the region’s police and fire agencies, emergency managers, hospitals, military and local governments. On the day of the exercise, officials will enter their ops rooms and receive a report: How would they proceed if half their staff is missing? How would they allocate resources if a school and a utilities plant are both on fire – but they only have one truck to send? It’s these hard, stress-inducing decisions that make the scenario so realistic. As it wears on, the officials receive “injects,” which complicate the scenario even further.

“These exercises are necessary. They’re hard. They’re good,” Paci-Green says. “And they’re really expensive to put on.”

“Whenever you do an exercise,” Mullen says, “improvements follow.”

Get ready

In the advent of a real disaster, both Mullen and Paci-Green warn that the National Guard and FEMA will take at least two days to provide any aid to citizens, and may take up to two weeks to fully mobilize. “There’s no way for them to act faster,” Paci-Green says.

That’s why it’s important for ordinary people to display self-reliance until help can reach them, their families and their neighbors (see infographic on page 16).

An earthquake of substance could bring us to our knees,” Mullen says. “What we really have to think about is: How would we establish an organizational framework to recover from the most ungodly event we can imagine?”
A 9.0 quake along the Cascadia Subduction Zone: How big of a disaster would it be?
The answer lies in what we do now to prepare.
That means people need to think big – such as shoring up political support for infrastructure renovation projects – and small – as in preparing to help their own families through the first few weeks after a disaster.
Here are some ideas to get started.

Shoot for at least three days' worth of emergency supplies. Two weeks is a desirable target – if you have the resources and the room. Every little bit helps: The more you can take care of yourself, the more help could be available to your more vulnerable neighbors.

Keep your emergency supplies in unbreakable containers. Don’t forget pet food and medication.

Make sure your house is bolted to its foundation. If not, it may “walk” right off.

A nearby creek or lake could be a good source of water – if you can boil or filter it.

Know the location of your shut-off valves for natural gas. Turn it off if you smell gas – or see the wheel spinning on the meter when the gas is not in use.

Your water heater holds gallons of uncontaminated water as long as you have it properly secured to the wall with earthquake straps.
An emergency water supply is crucial: Most of us can last without food for much longer than without water.
If you’re storing water, plan on one gallon per person, per day.
Internet and cell service will be down following a big quake. A battery-powered radio can help you stay informed. Flashlights and electric lanterns are also a safe source of light. Don't forget comfort items in your emergency supplies: soap and toiletries, a first-aid kit, games, books, decks of cards. A child's second-favorite stuffed animal could "guard" the family's disaster kit.

Keep shoes by your bed. Protecting your feet from puncture wounds helps keep you out of over-crowded hospitals. Keep your heaviest books on the bottom shelves — and strap heavy bookshelves to walls to prevent them from falling on beds. Hang pictures — especially those over beds — with earthquake hooks or with a simple string and nail.

Latches on cabinets can keep glasses from becoming jagged shards all over your floors. If your emergency stash includes canned food, don't forget the manual can-opener.

Your kit should also include practical items such as important documents, cash and change, and paper and pencils.

Want to go all out? Have a disaster party. Go without power, cycle through a few supplies, and live — live, like you want to survive tomorrow.

Cascadia Rising: Rebekah Paci-Green, director of Western's Resilience Institute, wrote "Cascadia Rising," a gripping description for FEMA of what could happen after a 9.0 quake in the Cascadia Subduction Zone. FEMA will use it soon for a disaster simulation.

Mullen, after about 25 years in emergency management, is accustomed to thinking about how these events would unfold on a grander scale. He'd consider questions like: How much emergency funds would the state need and how quickly could we get it? Who would establish the legal authority to shut down roads, or take other emergency actions? Where would we put the rescuers' base of operations? Who would be allowed into damaged areas? Residents? What about business owners, their employees and customers? All those people suddenly out of work — could they be mobilized as part of the recovery effort? What would the construction industry need to recover? How about transit? Schools? How would we establish supply lines that would operate for months — or even years — while we repair our infrastructure?

"The biggest issue," Mullen says, "is how do we get all of that infrastructure up at once?"

Mullen cites indirect economic impacts as a prominent concern. After a massive event, businesses would move, maybe even out of the state. Schools may close, causing the workforce to stay home with their families. People may relocate to less damaged areas.

"It could cripple our economy, not for years, but for decades," Paci-Green adds. But the good news is, Mullen says, "There's no reason for anyone to be surprised. There is an earthquake coming. It will be bad. How we prepare for it will determine how we recover."

"It's hard," Paci-Green says, "but I'm heartened by the steps communities are taking."

Caplan-Auerbach calls on ordinary people to support local government initiatives to improve infrastructure: "These hazards exist. They are real. But we can minimize damage. Infrastructure costs money, but damage costs more."

Jemma Everyhope-Roser is a writer and editor in Bellingham — and the program assistant in Western's Office of Communications and Marketing. She is also assistant editor of Glimpse, Clemson University's research magazine.
The irony was lost on most. When Western Washington University recently opened its new City Center in the Bellingham Herald building, not a single eyebrow was raised. But the symbolic merging of the local newspaper and the Bellingham hilltop campus surely produced seismic activity in local cemeteries, where bodies of old political battles lay buried.

Eight decades ago, the powerful men leading the two institutions now sharing space on State Street were bitter enemies, locked in an ideological death struggle that would lead to the career-ending ouster of Charles H. Fisher, Western's fourth president. The controversial firing was instigated by a group of arch-conservative townspeople led by Frank I. Sefrit, longtime manager and editor of The Herald, who essentially ran the newspaper and the Republican Party from the same office.

Fisher first came under attack in 1935 for "communist, atheistic and free-love" activities on campus, only to be fully exonerated by Western's Board of Trustees. But persistent lobbying by the same group persuaded Gov. Clarence Martin, a conservative Democrat, to order his dismissal three years later. The controversial move stands today as one of the most puzzling - and perhaps misunderstood - events in Western's history. But thanks to new evidence and a fresh review of the case, clarity is emerging.

Red Square
As a 1985 graduate of Western (Journalism and History), a longtime journalist at The Seattle Times, and an adjunct lecturer at Western, the Fisher case seemed a natural choice when, in 2013, I began searching for a thesis project to complete a master's degree in history. Surprised to find that no previous historian had undertaken a thesis-length survey of the Fisher case, I waded into a sea of local archival material - some of it left for posterity in 1939 by a scorned and heartbroken President Fisher himself.

First impression: The passing of decades had eroded the corners of the Fisher story to the point that facts of the case, let alone lessons to be learned from it, had faded into obscurity. Fisher had entered a sort of myth-based historical purgatory in which his innocence of these charges of "un-Americanism," incredibly, seemed in doubt.

Part of this is simple bad luck and unintended associations: Fisher Fountain, the only campus feature named for the once-nationally recognized leader of Western, lies dead center in Red Square, the nickname given to the university's red brick-lined central plaza, for obvious reasons. (Hello, guilt by association.)

These mistaken impressions even appear in a brief profile of Fisher on Western's own website, which concludes that "...Fisher was accused of expressing his liberal leanings and non-traditional religious ideas at the college." (Fisher, a seminary graduate, was a devout Protestant his entire life.)

Clearly, the Fisher story needed to be re-examined, and retold. While the paper trail from the period is rich, the case
became infinitely more interesting thanks to a single box of musty files that only recently became public: Sefrit’s own Charles Fisher files, which had languished at The Herald for decades before making their way to Western Libraries’ Center for Pacific Northwest Studies.

**World views clash behind closed doors**

To any researcher of the Fisher case, these files are a historical gold mine: The collection, essentially the private working files of Frank Sefrit’s get-Fisher squad, provides an unprecedented glimpse into the shadowy conspiracy to smear and dethrone Western’s popular, charismatic leader.

Among the contents are various right-wing organizations’ pamphlets, mission statements and bulletins; news clips about national alleged communist conspiracies and leftist activity; correspondence to and from Sefrit from other Red-baiters; “evidence” of “Red”-tinged college library books and “traitorous” leanings of campus speakers; and a set of what appear to be notes from several gatherings, written in Sefrit’s own hand.

Even more significant is an 80-page, typed transcript of a May 22, 1935, hearing before Western’s Board of Trustees, in which Fisher was effectively put on trial by the Sefrit group behind closed doors.

This transcript, likely the only copy in existence and lost to history for 80 years, reads in places like a screenplay. Throughout the remarkable, nearly five-hour proceeding in Old Main, Fisher and Sefrit exchange rhetorical volleys that reveal the clashing world views of two uncommonly articulate ideological titans — one arguing for what would become the country’s progressive future, another staunchly defending its conservative past.

With this serendipitous find in hand, I spent months further rounding out the Fisher story by examining countless pages of other local historical collections not usually associated with the Fisher case, most in the diverse archives of Western’s Heritage Resources. The historical “takeaways” from the resulting new view of the Fisher case are extensive and someday might fill a book.

But several key points stand out:

1. **To restate what should be obvious, Fisher was not a communist.** He was not an atheist. The rural Pennsylvania native, grandson of deeply religious Prussian immigrants, was a former assistant pastor, a New Deal Democrat, a lover of ideas and debate, a nationally respected educator, a first baseman, a devoted husband and father, a patriot, and a worshipper of Orcas Island sunsets. Big ideas were his passion; Western was where they flourished.

   Sadly, Fisher’s bold, successful gambit to make Washington State College of Education a national leader in the emerging field of teacher training by minimizing traditional pedagogy in favor of a broad, liberal arts education has been largely overshadowed by his ignominious exit. But every faculty member, administrator and student who sets foot on campus today unwittingly carries forward his legacy of intellectual inquiry.

2. **The Sefrit-led group was larger, its campaign more meticulously planned, than originally believed.** When the group levied its charges at the 1935 Trustees meeting, a letter listing 10 official charges was signed by Sefrit and five other local men — one a pastor, others associated with the American Legion. One of the five was Solomon Blanton Luther, a downtown landholder and self-professed Grand Dragon of the local Ku Klux Klan.

   But Sefrit’s recently unearthed notes add another seven names, including former Chamber of Commerce Secretary P.E. Healy, and an even more intriguing person — Frances Payne Larrabee, business and civic leader, philanthropist, and wife of Fairhaven co-founder Charles Xavier Larrabee. Mrs. Larrabee, who ran her husband’s extensive businesses for decades after his death in 1914, led various community women’s groups and was a leading philanthropist in her day, responsible for the building of the YWCA in Bellingham. She also founded the local chapter of “Pro-America,” a rising conservative U.S. women’s group of the day, which actively engaged in research on Fisher’s alleged campus transgressions. The full extent of her involvement in the Fisher case is unknown.

3. **Motivations in the anti-Fisher group were varied.** Fisher, never known to suffer fools, had created a handful of enemies, but none with the political clout, or cunning, of Sefrit. Fisher told friends the rift with the acerbic newspaperman emerged in 1934 when a Sefrit friend and fellow conservative, Pelagius Williams, was laid off in a Depression-related faculty cutback. Sefrit sought Williams’ reinstatement, but was rebuffed by Fisher.

   Other potential motives of Sefrit are open to interpretation.
As one of many local conservative power brokers cut off at the knees by sweeping Democratic majorities in elections of the New Deal era, Sefrit did seem to believe the nation was under threat from leftist radicalism. He also clearly bristled at Fisher's status as one of few men in Bellingham brave—or foolish—enough to openly defy him. Sefrit, Fisher would write in 1939, "... has exercised control in the community for thirty years, and has earned a reputation ... of getting any man he cannot control."

4. The ultra-conservative, “super-patriot” leanings of the Sefrit group would not have seemed jarringly out of place in the mid-1930s, when a virulent counter-reaction to leftist political agitation still simmered in the Northwest. Militantly conservative passions ignited by crushing the Seattle General Strike in 1919 were further enflamed by New Deal economic reforms in the 1930s. The left wing of the state Democratic Party was occupied by practicing communists; Gov. Martin’s power base included conservatives from both parties.

5. Significantly, Sefrit’s attack on Fisher unfolded simultaneously with a strikingly similar campaign by famed newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, who attempted to create a national Red Scare by attaching “communist” labels to professors and university administrators across America in 1935. Hearst’s favorite target was educational reformer George S. Counts, of Columbia University (“the Reddest, most un-American educational institution” in America, Sefrit warned trustees), where nearly half of Fisher’s Western faculty had been trained.

Hearst did not own The Herald. And while no evidence of direct collaboration between Hearst and Bellingham agitators has emerged, Sefrit, who reputedly embraced the nickname “Little Hearst,” clearly was aware of the legendary publisher’s fanciful Red-baiting campaigns. He adopted some of the same “evidence” cited by Hearst operatives elsewhere to smear textbook authors and guest speakers at Western.

6. Fisher’s ouster unfolded remarkably close to Sefrit’s original scheme: His plan was to dispatch committee members to collect “evidence” against Fisher to be presented at the 1935 hearing before the three-member Board of Trustees. This was essentially a charade, as Sefrit’s notes indicate he fully expected the board to exonerate the popular president. Sefrit then would deliver his dossier – along with the hearing transcript, to document the Board’s intransigence – to the governor, who would fire the board and appoint new trustees to fire Fisher.

Sefrit’s only miscalculation was over-estimating the fortitude of the trustees, who in 1938 ultimately caved to the gov-

"The fundamental question, as I see it, is shall a small, influential group of fascist-minded reactionaries, through false propaganda, get control of an institution and thus sabotage the will of the majority?"

— Charles H. Fisher, letter to colleague, June 29, 1939

A liberal arts legacy: Charles Fisher led Western’s transformation into a nationally respected teachers college in the 1930s. He brought a wide range of speakers to weekly assemblies on campus, including politicians, members of the clergy, authors, Army officers and teachers.
The governor and the college president: Gov. Clarence D. Martin (in suit and glasses) visited campus in 1933 to see the graduation of the first Bachelor of Arts in Education recipients. Five years later, Martin demanded that the trustees oust Fisher.

More than 75 years later, those words still hang over Fisher's legacy — and the university's official history — like a cloud, a sad epitaph for a man whose full devotion to the cause of opening minds was snuffed too soon by winds of extremism.

Ron C. Judd is a reporter and columnist for the Seattle Times, a three-time nominee for the Pulitzer Prize and an adjunct faculty member in Western’s Journalism Department.

Go to www.wwu.edu/window to learn more about the Fisher case, with Ron Judd’s presentation, “The Liberal Arts on Trial,” as well as excerpts from the transcripts of the 1935 Board of Trustees meeting.
HIDDEN HISTORIES

A few stories behind – and around – campus landmarks

Photos by Rhys Logan ('11)

The grassy, wooded hill between Old Main and High Street has been called The Knoll and the Bird Sanctuary. Originally, it was a pond bog, but was filled in with dirt from the excavation for the building of Old Main. Dirt from Edens Hall and Wilson Library may have also ended up in the Knoll, writes the late President Jerry Flora in his 1991 memoir, “Normal College Knowledge.”

The hill was dedicated as a bird sanctuary in 1921 in memory of Ida Agnes Baker, one of Western’s first faculty members. An animal lover and suffragist, Baker was killed in January 1921 when she was hit by a car near campus while walking home from a League of Women Voters meeting in a terrible rain storm.
Big Mac: Bill McDonald Parkway, the tree-lined thoroughfare leading to the south end of campus, was named after Western's first vice president for Student Affairs, who retired in 1977. McDonald, commonly known as “Big Mac” for his height of nearly 7 feet, coached basketball beginning in 1945 and later became Western's dean of men. “Local law enforcement held that it was more effective punishment to turn students over to Big Mac than to hold them in jail,” writes Flora in “Normal College Knowledge.”

Canada House: Western acquired this 1920 home in 1959 as a house for the president. Three presidents lived here - James Jarrett, Harvey Bunke and Flora - and Western's Faculty Club used to meet here. Today, it's the home of the Center for Canadian-American Studies.
Avalanche memorial: The monument to six students killed in an avalanche on Mount Baker during a climbing trip in 1939 is made up of rocks from the mountain itself. The brass plaque includes the inscription, “You will be forever climbing upward now.”

The layered sediment behind Edens Hall hints at Bellingham’s previous existence as a coal-mining town. Flora wrote that plant impressions could be found in this outcropping of “near coal-like material.” A real coal layer was found on campus when the ground was excavated for the construction of the bookstore in 1960.
‘If you don’t fill up your brain with stuff because you’re worried you’re going to lose it, then you’re giving in.’
This brain is fighting back

Jeff Carroll spends his days studying the monster destined to kill him

Few scientists know Huntington's disease as intimately as Jeff Carroll. An Army vet who trained with top Huntington's scientists at Harvard University and the University of British Columbia, Carroll is a widely published researcher, award-winning advocate and sought-after speaker at Huntington's disease conferences around the globe.

He's also guaranteed to get the disease.

Carroll, an assistant professor of Psychology at Western Washington University, inherited HD from his mother and grandmother, both of whom died from it. If he lives long enough, he'll watch it devour three of his five siblings, too.

The first drug trial to ever target the cause of Huntington's in humans -- a trial he and other scientists are calling the most promising yet -- began in September. Nobody has ever cured a degenerative brain disease, but this trial may be the closest scientists have come. A half-dozen other drug trials, too, are providing promising glimpses of potential treatments for HD symptoms.

Science moves with fastidious care, though, and Carroll knows a cure isn't likely before he dies. Huntington's symptoms -- memory loss, personality changes, involuntary movements -- typically develop in midlife, between ages 30 and 50. Carroll is 38.

"I hope for the best and prepare for the worst," he says. "I act like it's going to kill me, but I hope and I believe that it won't."

The disease may take his life, but Carroll isn't letting it take his days. Not while his research needs attention, his students need mentoring, his wife needs her husband and his kids need their dad.

Not while the disease keeps burning its way through family trees.

Carroll applied for tenure at Western this September. He's been at WWU since 2011, arriving the year after completing his doctorate at UBC. In between, he conducted post-doctoral research with Marcy MacDonald, one of the world's top researchers of neurodegenerative diseases, at Harvard Medical School.

Not many kids who drop out of high school make it to Harvard. But not many kids have Carroll's motivations, either. A decade before opening his lab at Western, Carroll had been serving in the Army, his future a nebulous blur. And then he learned that his mom was dying of Huntington's. Desperate for any information that might provide hope, he began a lifelong pursuit of the disease.
“When Jeff found out about HD in his family, he basically turned his whole life upside down,” says Amber Southwell, a friend and post-doctoral researcher at the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics at UBC.

Today, with British researcher Ed Wild Carroll runs a website called HDBuzz that helps HD families – people, like him, hungry for scraps of anything to make sense of this thing – stay abreast of the science and any treatments or trials that may prove effective. The site is written in plain language, aiming to inform. At the end of every story, readers can click either “Enjoyed” or “Didn’t understand.”

The site is a purveyor of hope. Wild says. Patients are no longer alone, blindly hoping for a cure. Instead, they’re able to share in daily research victories.

“There’s as much hope to be had from basic breakthroughs and understandings as there is from major trials,” he says. “Often, that’s all that’s needed. I can affirm that there is hope, that there are lots of little, small things to hope for. We slightly, sort of, a little bit, kind of changed the world.”

Carroll’s work with HDBuzz and his other outreach work to fellow HD families are the reasons he and Wild were named 2014 Researchers of the Year by the Huntington’s Disease Society of America.

**First human drug trial**
Room 532 is a busy space on the top floor of Western’s newest building. On a typical day, Carroll’s lab in the Academic Instructional Center buzzes with activity. In one room, students are monitoring a Morris water maze to gauge how HD affects mice’s memories. In a dark space across the hall, the glowing screens of high-end microscopes illuminate the intent faces of students.

The primary research in Carroll’s lab focuses on testing whether turning off the HD gene in the body can help the brain get better.

“It probably won’t work, honestly,” Carroll says. “But if it does, it’s super cool, because it’s way easier to dose people in the periphery than in the (central nervous system). Even if it helped a little bit, it’d be a new avenue to consider.”

Actually, everyone has the HD gene, one copy from each parent. In most cases, the gene exists harmlessly at the end of chromosome 4, providing instructions for cells in making the HD protein. But in roughly five to seven people per hundred thousand, one of those genes is mutated.

Scientists aren’t exactly sure of the purpose of the HD protein, but they know it’s required for normal development before birth. Mice bred to lack the HD gene die in utero.

Wild likens gene mutations to spelling mistakes. The Huntington’s “spelling mistake” is a repetition of the nucleotide bases represented by the letters C, A and G at the beginning of the gene. If those letters are repeated at least 36 times, you’ll get HD. Guaranteed. Carroll has 42.

Carroll’s research might reveal more about the function of the HD protein. “The mice give us the opportunity to discover whether the loss of (the HD protein) in peripheral organs is detrimental,” he says. “We’re using the mice like the canary in the coal mine.”

In London and Vancouver, scientists have just begun human trials that look at the effect of silencing the HD gene in the nervous system. Thirty-six patients will eventually be enrolled in the trial of a drug targeting not the symptoms, but the disease itself. Animals treated with the mouse version of the drug have shown improvements in HD-like symptoms, but there’s a long way to go before the drug could be widely used in people. Still, scientists have been excited for more than a decade about this trial beginning.

“The whole field is beside itself,” says UBC’s Southwell. “It’s a very, very exciting time.”

The trial uses a drug that aims to prevent cells from using the HD gene to create proteins. Mutant genes provide instructions for making abnormal proteins, which in turn damage the brain. The drug gets in the way of that. Southwell explains: “If genes are the menu, mRNA are the orders and proteins are the meals, this drug destroys orders for huntingtin...
proteins on their way to the kitchen."

Wild, a consultant neurologist at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery at University College London and one of the trial's investigators, puts it another way: "The drug shoots the messenger."

Scientists hope that the drug will cut the production of HD proteins in half. And that's just about perfect, Wild says. This trial is about as safe as it can be given the state of research, he says. It's a massive step forward.

"Whatever the result of this safety trial, the fact it's happening is one of the most important steps in HD research since the gene was discovered in 1993," Wild says.

'What am I doing?'

Carroll grew up just south of Seattle, one of six children born to parents Jim and Cindy. He describes his younger self with words you might find on a bad report card: directionless, underachieving, failing to live up to potential. He dropped out of high school, attended Green River Community College for a bit and then joined the Army in 1996. Stationed at Fort Lewis, he spent his weekends in Vancouver, B.C., where he met his wife, Megan; they married while he was stationed in Germany.

Then on Christmas leave in 1998, Carroll's dad told Jeff that his mom had been showing signs of Huntington's disease.

"My wife tells me that I must have known on some level what Huntington's disease was, because I reacted very emotionally, while she genuinely didn't know what my dad was talking about," Carroll told a group of scientists at the 10th Annual HD Therapeutics Conference in February. "We were married, but I had never told her about my risk for HD, because in my mind, I didn't know."

But now he knew — and wanted to know more. In 1999, Carroll was sent to Kosovo as part of a peacekeeping force. In his downtime, he spent hours scouring the fledgling Internet for information about HD. There wasn't much. Eventually, he gave up and enrolled in a college correspondence course in biology.

He enrolled at the University of British Columbia in 2001 after being discharged from the military. He didn't know it then, but UBC is home to the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics, which itself contains one of the world's most advanced Huntington's research labs, led by Michael Hayden.

It was there in 2003 that he was tested for Huntington's. Carroll was faced with a life-changing decision. He had just learned that he had a disease that would steal his mind, strength and personality, probably by the time he was middle-aged. Now two years into his schooling, how much more time did he want to spend inside laboratories and offices?

"I had this crisis of conscience," he remembers. "'What am I doing? This is taking so long.'"

Many students reach this point during the long doctoral slog, Carroll says, even those who aren't fated
to lose their knowledge prematurely.

“It was at that point that I definitely made the decision,” he says. “It’s like, if you don’t fill up your brain with stuff because you’re worried you’re going to lose it, then you’re giving in.”

Southwell, who met Carroll in 2009 in Hayden’s lab at UBC, says she’s known of other researchers from HD families, but none who’ve risen to Carroll’s level.

“You make some hard choices about how you want to spend the time you have, and not everyone makes the decision Jeff made,” she says. “We are very lucky that he’s made the choice he has.”

Knowing that Carroll fights on against an uncured disease inspires researchers to try even harder, Wild says.

“Everyone in the HD community wants to work rapidly enough to come up with treatments to help Jeff,” he says. “Within the HD community, Jeff is pretty much everyone’s hero. That’s sappy, but it’s true. He’s my hero. What he’s done, going from being a grunt to being one of the world’s leading HD researchers, is kind of a Disney-esque story. It’s a story of triumph over adversity, of dogged human endeavor.”

Wild recalls a conversation in which Carroll told him that his life is much more interesting because HD is in it.

“HD has defined his life,” Wild says. “But he’s had control over how it has defined it.”

Clad in a white V-neck shirt, dark grey hoodie and jeans, Carroll evokes images of Macklemore as he holds sway in class. Students describe him as brilliant, enthusiastic, passionate, hilarious. Carroll doesn’t often talk in class about having HD, but everyone knows about it. It’s just a fact of Carroll’s life.

“Sometimes you have to put your personal struggles aside if you want to make a difference,” says Western junior Jose Carrillo, who has been working in Carroll’s lab since his freshman year. “He does that. I think that’s part of what makes him a great scientist.”

Carrillo was born in Peru. When he was 7, his parents moved the family to Indiana so he and his brother Eduardo would have access to stellar education. Carrillo’s getting that at Western, he says. He wants to be a clinical researcher, and Carroll has been mentoring him toward that goal.

“If I had to pick one person as my role model, whether in science or in life,” Carrillo says, “it would be Jeff.”

‘We don’t know what to do with him’

Huntington’s disease is famously linked to folk musician Woody Guthrie. The “Dust Bowl Troubadour,” who spent much of his early years chronicling the lives of migrant workers during the Great Depression, is probably best known for the 1940 anthem “This Land is Your Land.” Later that decade, as his behavior became increasingly erratic and violent, Guthrie was diagnosed both as an alcoholic and a schizophrenic, according to Joe Klein’s 1980 biography “Woody Guthrie: A Life.”
“Mrs. Guthrie, your husband is a very sick man,” a doctor once told his wife, Marjorie. “And we don’t know what to do with him.”

These days, information is much more prevalent and accurate, Carroll says.

“Yeah, we can’t cure HD yet,” he says, “but you can get much better information.”

Treatments for symptoms of Huntington’s disease do exist. Drugs help suppress involuntary jerking and writhing — Huntington’s chorea — in some patients. Antipsychotic medications sometimes lessen mood swings or violent outbursts. Physical therapy can help patients maintain mobility. But these treatments only mitigate aspects of the advancing disease; nothing has been proven to slow the progress of Huntington’s.

“You’re going to die when you’re going to die,” Carroll says. “In that sense, it’s incurable, and that’s what people tend to focus on when they find out about it.”

But there are many incurable brain disorders, he adds. Part of having a human brain is the fact that, eventually, it falls apart. Like HD, Alzheimer’s is incurable. Parkinson’s is incurable. And scientists don’t even know why certain people get sick.

“Why did Joe’s grandma get Alzheimer’s when she was 70, but your grandma lived until she was 90? Well, we don’t know,” Carroll says. “If you want to treat those people, you can’t find them until they get sick. Something like 90 percent of the neurons in the substantia nigra are dead by the time you have Parkinson’s. By then, it’s pretty late to try to fix it.”

Huntington’s is unusual among diseases that attack the brain: Baked into its genetic core is an early warning system. The gene mutation that causes Huntington’s is detectable from an early age. From the embryo stage, really.

Many people know years, even decades, before symptoms appear. Those years can represent anxiety — or hope.

“If we could find treatments or therapies, drugs, that modify the course of the disease, we could give it to them early, before they get sick,” Carroll says.

**Carroll’s children will not inherit this disease**

Since 1993, when the mutation was discovered, thousands of patients have been able to plan ahead for Huntington’s. People can even — as Jeff and Megan have — ensure that their children will be HD-free.

The Carrolls’ twin children, Billie and Elijah, were born in 2006. They will never get Huntington’s disease, because doctors examined the embryos and implanted in Megan only the ones that were mutation-free. They were the first children born in Canada via this process, and they’re well-known in the research community.

“Billie’s and Elijah’s drawings are taped all over Carroll’s office. Houses with smoke curling from crooked chimneys. Trees, laden with fruit, standing tall under a yellow sun. All drawn by kids who’ll never lose their ability to hold a crayon because of Huntington’s. Carroll loves talking about it.

But the kids are still part of an HD family, one of thousands of HD families. And that means his work isn’t done.

“The brain is insanely complicated,” he says. “I’m not that old, but there have been huge revolutions in biology and neuroscience since I started. Things that I was taught in my training were wrong. And not little things, but big, huge things. So, who knows what’s going to happen?”

Carroll, Southwell, Wild and other researchers know today what scientists years ago could only hope was true.

“By definition, all of the problems of HD can, in theory, be reversed,” Wild says.

“To Carroll, that’s reason enough to keep hoping, to keep fighting. To keep filling his brain — and those of his students — with information that might one day end Huntington’s.”

**Matthew Anderson** (’06, Journalism) is Western’s New Media coordinator. His last story for Window, “Linked through Language,” profiled Linguistics Professor Ed Vajda’s study of a dying Siberian language.

“Everyone in the HD community wants to work rapidly enough to come up with treatments to help Jeff. Jeff is pretty much everyone’s hero.”

Billie’s and Elijah’s drawings are taped all over Carroll’s office. Houses with smoke curling from crooked chimneys. Trees, laden with fruit, standing tall under a yellow sun. All drawn by kids who’ll never lose their ability to hold a crayon because of Huntington’s. Carroll loves talking about it.

“Jeff is pretty much everyone’s hero.”
In Over My Head

A ‘60s-era student had to face her fears before she could graduate

By Norma (MacLeod) Petersen

Graduation requirement: Norma (MacLeod) Petersen was once so terrified of swimming, she wouldn't put her face in the water.
As I turned the page of a WWU alumni publication, I stopped abruptly, unnerved by the photograph of Jim Lounsberry, a former Western football coach. At the sight of this imposing man, my hands began to perspire and my stomach started to churn. Suddenly, I was 18 again. Coach Lounsberry towered on the sideline ready to blow his whistle, beginning the worst nightmare of my freshman year.

I had begun freshman orientation with confidence, but on the last day, our senior guide announced that we would be required to pass a fitness assessment, including a swimming test. “No one will graduate from Western without passing this test or satisfactorily completing a beginning swimming course,” he added. I was horrified. I hated water! I didn’t want it on my face, in my eyes or over my head. The situation was clearly hopeless. I would never graduate; I would never become a teacher. I would drown.

As the fall quarter of my freshman year came to a close, I decided I had better enroll in Beginning Swimming. After all, it might take the remaining 11 quarters to pass the swimming test. I discovered Beginning Swimming was offered at 8 a.m. during winter quarter. This sounded ideal. Surely, not many would sign up for a class which would require them to wake up early on wintery mornings. And a small class was essential since I wanted to be certain someone saw me when I started to drown.

On the first day of class, I hesitantly left the dressing room and stared at the pool. It looked as large as a football field, which was appropriate since Coach Lounsberry was the instructor. Without my glasses, I was a prime example of sensory deprivation: I couldn’t see, my nose clip prevented me from smelling, and the mandatory bathing cap impaired my hearing. As I squinted at the figure on the edge of the pool, formidable in his khaki Bermuda shorts and matching shirt, it was clear I was going to do everything he ordered.

Coach Lounsberry’s first words were direct and to the point: “The strategy is simple. You can’t swim now, but by the end of the quarter, you will dive in, swim the length of the pool, and demonstrate a number of different strokes. If you do, you will earn an ‘A.’ If not, you will fail and retake the class.” Clearly, he had no idea of the enormity of what he was asking.

The first few days, I practiced jumping off a chair in my Higginson Hall dorm room just to find enough courage to jump into the pool. I submerged my face in the bathtub until I no longer panicked. I waded through snowdrifts at 7:30 in the morning, swallowed gallons of chlorinated water and smashed my head into the concrete side of the pool because I swam with my eyes shut. But, incredibly, I began to learn how to swim. On the day of the final test, I dove in and using an odd combination of strokes, along with a great deal of just plain flailing, I made it to the end of the pool. The coach was a man of his word. When I ripped open the grade report for winter quarter, there it was — my first “A” ever in P.E.

Decades later, I sat next to another Western graduate at a meeting, and during our conversation we discovered that we had been in the same swimming class. Of course I hadn’t recognized her — I never saw anything clearly in that class without my glasses. I also learned that she had dropped out of the class after the first few days. In fact, she had never passed the swimming test at all. A week before she was to graduate, the head of the Physical Education department demanded she not be allowed to go through Commencement. In desperation, she pleaded with the Dean of Students, who waived the requirement. I was exasperated. Had I suffered all that torture for nothing?

Later that evening, I tried to sort out what I truly felt. I have honestly appreciated the ability to swim these many years — however ungracefully. I never would have learned how without the university’s insistence. Education justifiably includes both physical and mental challenges.

My classmate confessed that finally, at the age of 40, she had been forced to take private lessons because her husband would not take her out in their sailboat until she did.

Maybe we never successfully evade the rules, just delay the inevitable consequences.

Norma (MacLeod) Petersen (’67, English-Secondary, Spanish-Secondary; ’68, M.A., English) taught high school English for 43 years in Quincy and now lives in Liberty Lake, where she enjoys swimming with her 4-year-old grandson.
The Power of Scholarships

Scholarships do more than pay the bills: They fuel dreams, nurture ambitions and crack open opportunities. Which is why the Western Stands for Washington Campaign will double the funds committed to scholarships and student support. But how do those scholarship dollars become real-life achievements?

Here, meet just a few Western students whose scholarships have already transformed their college careers – and changed their lives.

1994-95:
$2,256: tuition and fees for resident undergraduates.
68 percent: share of a student's cost supported by the state in '94-'95.

2015-16:
$8,610.75: tuition and fees for resident undergraduates.
42 percent: share of a student's cost supported by the state in '15-'16.

57 percent: proportion of students graduating with student loan debt in 2013-14.
$21,250: average amount owed – which means many owed more.

$41.6 million: amount donated to Western for scholarships from 2000 to 2015.
10 percent: scholarships' share in Western's total aid to students in 2013-14.
13,405: number of scholarships awarded to students from 2000 to 2015.

50 percent: share of undergraduates are in need of financial aid, up from 39 percent five years ago.
Future Teacher
Sinai Gonzalez
Junior from Tacoma

Majoring in Special Education with minor in Education and Social Justice.

Gonzalez nearly dropped out of high school and had no plans to go to college. Then she became close friends with two kids who were in special education. They still inspire her: She plans to be a high school special ed teacher.

She supports herself by working 15 hours a week at a second-hand store while going to school full-time. She still has time for a teaching practicum in a kindergarten class at Bernice Vossbeck Elementary in Lynden.

Inspired for Teaching Excellence Scholarships: Three full-tuition scholarships awarded to incoming Washington freshmen who are passionate about making a difference through teaching. The endowment was created by Dennis Madsen, former CEO of REI and former chair of Western’s Board of Trustees, whose sister and daughter are teachers and Woodring College of Education alumnae.

Recent Grad
Leah Wood
2014 Community Health graduate from Olympia

Wood was working 35 hours a week and attending Western full time when she received the Willis Ball scholarship and gladly scaled back on restaurant jobs to have a few more hours to study.

She also received the Mike Sharar Internship Scholarship, which enabled her to study abroad to complete a full-time internship required for her major.

Wood interned at the Jhamtse Gatsal Children’s Community in the Himalayas, focusing on health and hygiene projects.

She now works as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer with Whatcom County Health Department’s Healthy Communities Program, focusing on food access in the Mount Baker foothills area.

Willis Ball Memorial Scholarship: Named for Ball (’56, P.E. – Exercise and Sport Science), the first African American graduate of Western, benefiting students from underrepresented racial or ethnic minorities majoring in Physical Education, Community Health or Recreation.

World Traveler
Le’Ana Freeman
Senior from Pasco

Completing a Fairhaven concentration in Human Rights, Racial Identity and Colonialism.

Freeman taught English to middle-schoolers in South Africa while learning about post-apartheid society. Then she taught English to Tibetan refugees in the Himalayas.

She now works at the reception desk – and mentors other students – in Student Outreach Services.

She’s also teaching a two-credit class with two other Adventure Learning Grant recipients on ethical travel and breaking down cultural barriers.

Adventure Learning Grant: A $20,000 donor-funded stipend awarded annually to three students at Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies to enable them to spend 10 months abroad, take intellectual risks, learn about other cultures and return to Fairhaven to share what they've learned.

Scientist
Ryan Sumner
2014 Chemistry graduate from Vancouver

Working on a master’s degree in Chemistry at Western.

Sumner spent the summer making luminescent solar concentrators for a solar window development project with Chemistry Professor David Patrick.

He’s completing his thesis on solar concentrators and how to improve their performance – and he’s working with Patrick on publishing their work.

Arlan Norman Award for Excellence in Student Mentoring: An award to a College of Science and Engineering faculty member for excellence in mentoring student research. The faculty member then selects a student to receive a large stipend to support research over the summer. Privately funded and named for Norman, the college’s first dean.
We've reached an incredibly exciting moment in our Western Stands for Washington campaign as we head toward the finish line, buoyed by the fact that we are not just achieving our $60 million target but sailing past it. For myself and for many others, it feels even better knowing that the campaign's number-one priority is for scholarships.

While the recent state of Washington budget includes in-state tuition reduction over the next two years, after numerous budget cuts since 2008, these new reductions will have minimal impact on the financial realities for many students at public universities such as Western. Even with the promise of lower tuition, covering four years of college remains a significant challenge for most students, many of whom work one or more jobs in order to purchase food, books and other necessities. Scholarships remain a critical need and our highest priority; simply put, there is no more direct way to support Western students than via scholarships. And please believe me when I say that all gifts have an impact, no matter how large or small.

I, as a longtime member of staff and parent of an alumnus, have given across various colleges and areas, motivated by the knowledge of the deep need for student support. Among other University areas, I've contributed to the Center for Law, Diversity & Justice Fund at Fairhaven College; to the Colleges of Business and Economics and Fine and Performing Arts; to the Dennis R. Murphy Faculty Research Awards; to Women's Rowing and Women's Basketball; to the Vehicle Research Institute; to the WWU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund; and to Compass 2 Campus. While I began by giving $20, I now contribute more than $1,000 a year and have included WWU in my estate plans. I've done that because I believe in our students, in all that they can achieve with our support — that's incredibly powerful to me.

Western makes it so easy to contribute! You can give via our Alumni Association Scholarship program, support Admissions scholarships or Athletics or give to the Western Fund. Whichever area you select, now's the time to do so. Please join me in taking a stand for Western, in taking a stand for Washington and, above all, in taking a stand for our students.

I have one other invitation up my sleeve: last month we opened our brand new Western City Center in Bellingham. Whether you'd like to make a gift, find out about campus events, purchase tickets to a WWU basketball game or musical performance or just stop by for a complimentary cup of Woods Viking Blend coffee and a danish, we'd love to see you. Come on in! Our door is always open.
Western City Center is now open in the historic Herald Building
Come say hello, grab some Western gear and enjoy a free cup of Viking Blend coffee!
Class Notes

1944 – Georgie Bright Kunkel (Elementary Education) continues to do public speaking, appears on the comedy stage and writes a weekly column for Westside Weekly. “Dating, swimming and keeping up with politics rounds out my life,” she reports.


1962 – Rod Anderson (English), a retired elementary school teacher, was recently honored as a Volunteer of the Month by the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau. Anderson has also been the public address announcer for athletic events at Ilwaco High School since 1965.

1963 – Richard Langenbach (Education) taught in several school districts, including Tumwater, Beaverton and Battle Ground. He recently celebrated his 50th anniversary with his wife, Jinnie.

1968 – Robert Vedvick (M.S., Chemistry) recently retired from the Infectious Disease Research Institute in Seattle, where he was most recently vice president for Formulation and Process Development. He spent 43 years in medical research and holds 38 patents for diagnostics, vaccines and therapeutics of infectious diseases and cancer.

1970 – Lynne De Merritt (M.A., Political Science) recently retired after 41 years at the Municipal Research and Services Center in Seattle, where she served as a senior research consultant. She recently completed a certificate in Genealogy and Family History at the University of Washington.

1971 – David B. Murphy (Art – Secondary, History/Social Studies) recently retired from teaching after 43 years of teaching art and yearbook. He ended his career at Lincoln High School in Tacoma, where he taught for 27 years. Marv Koon (Special Education – Elementary, Mathematics – Secondary) recently retired as fire chief for North Whidbey Fire and Rescue District. Vic Randall (Physical Education – Elementary; ’74, M.Ed., Physical Education) recently retired as athletic director at Ferndale High School, where he also coached football, baseball and golf.

1973 – Wayne Lieb (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) is a founding partner at Potvin Lieb Potvin Attorneys at Law in Olympia and is preparing for retirement. He has purchased season passes to two ski resorts and a winterized RV. Mike Dobb (Recreation) retired after 32 years in the parks and recreation field, including time as superintendent of Recreation for Pierce County.


1974 – Nancy Lazenby Blaser (Business Education) recently retired as commissioner of Athletics for the Central Coast Section of the California Interscholastic Federation. Mountain Press recently published “Geology Underfoot in Western Washington” by Dave Tucker (Environmental Science; ’04, M.S., Geology), a guide to interesting rocks and geological formations in the area. Tucker is a research associate in Western’s Geology Department and manages the website for the Mount Baker Volcano Research Center and blogs at Northwest Geology Field Trips.

1975 – Paul D. Juarez (Psychology; ’77, M.Ed.) is a professor of preventive medicine and founding co-director of the Research Center on Health Disparities, Equity and the Exposome at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He is a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Minority Health for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

1977 – Scott Cairns (English) is a professor of English at the University of Missouri, Columbia. A poet and memoirist who writes about spirituality, Cairns is a recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship and contributes to the Huffington Post’s religion section.

1978 – Cameron Castle (Philosophy, Political Science) owned his own business for 14 years and now devotes his time to writing and raising his kids. His memoir, “My Mother is Crazier than Your Mother” is available on Amazon. Bob Winters (Environmental Education; ’98, M.Ed., Elementary School Administration) became principal of Methow Valley Elementary School.

1979 – Charles Bennett (Mathematics, Political Science/ Social Studies) became consul general for the U.S. Consulate General in Guangzhou, China. He has spent 28 years in the State Department, serving in Vietnam, China, Thailand, the Philippines and Taiwan. Dale Zender (Accounting) became president of Hospital Services, Northwest for PeaceHealth, responsible for PeaceHealth hospital operations in Bellingham, Sedro-Woolley, Friday Harbor, and Ketchikan. Sue Riney (Recreation) recently began her term as secretary/treasurer for Soroptimist International. She is a vice president/project manager for Wells Fargo in Community Banking in the Oak Harbor area. Cathi LeCocq (Recreation) is the manager of the Lynden Community/Senior Center, where she also teaches strength training and tai chi.

Justin Neal (’96), Playwright

How do your own life experiences influence your plays?

If I have a character based on a real person, I can never remember what that person actually says, but I can hear them speak – the tenor of their voice – so writing for them can be so much fun and invigorating. And this is good, because I prefer to free myself from the literal dynamics I've had with a certain person or the lives they lead because it starts to get limiting.

When a certain character needs some kind of development – more detail, a stronger backstory – I will pull from my own experience. For example, in one of my plays, a main character needed a story to show that she had a soft side, as she is drawn in a hardened way. So, I took a story from my childhood and wrote it in for her. In the play, it's told by her brother to her boyfriend – and it's something she wouldn't disclose to others, to be sure. Sharing with my characters feels like a secret gift I get to share with the world.

Neal (Fairhaven Interdisciplinary Concentration) is working on new plays, including “You Move On,” which highlights the Musqueam First Nation’s territory on which the University of British Columbia campus was settled.
What do firefighting and teaching have in common?

Teaching sixth grade is very much like being a firefighter/EMT. How do I know? I have walked both paths in life. The firefighter receives an alarm, responds very quickly, arrives on scene, conducts a scene size-up, triages the event, and makes tactical decisions to either eliminate the fire, conduct a rescue, or provide medical care.

Teachers essentially conduct the same process. They receive student academic performance data, respond rapidly with appropriate instruction, arrive at conclusions based on student assessment information, conduct formative and summative decisions about academic pathways, and move forward to eliminate learning gaps and boundaries. Not to mention the social, emotional, and developmental emergencies that teachers navigate with students daily at school.

Teachers put fires out, too. They just use pencils, chalk, and dry erase markers instead of fire engines, hoselines, and irons.

I have enjoyed both adventures tremendously. The next three-alarm response is just around the corner.
Georgie Bright Kunkel ('44)  
Speaker, writer, stand-up comedian

Kunkel (Elementary Education) at the Columbia City Theater for a story in Seattle Magazine, "Seattleites Who Have Gotten Cooler with Age."  

What’s the best joke you ever told?  
When my late husband and I were talking over marriage plans I blurted out that I wanted to have 11 children like my mother had. My future husband was so shocked that he said, “You are going out right now and be fitted for a diaphragm.” I followed his advice but we still had four children—intentionally.

Raj Mehta  
Regional managing partner in the Pacific Northwest and the first Indian originizing indigenous languages. He has previously published "The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh: A Walk through the Forest that Inspired the Hundred Acre Wood," published by Timber Press in fall 2015. Richard Denenny (Political Science), an attorney, is partner and chair of the corporate practice group at Lee & Hayes in Spokane.

2018 – Martin Tor (Political Science)  

2000 – Rob Zarkos (East Asian Studies)  
Director of the Real Monarchs, Real Salt Lake’s second division program in Major League Soccer. R J Del Mese (Accounting) became a partner with Moss Adams in Spokane. DJ Brimer (English – Elementary) teaches sixth grade at Tumwater Hill Elementary School after a 10-year stint as a firefighter and fire academy instructor. He formed the Sasquatch Junior Hiking Club for elementary-aged kids and their families to go hiking together in Thurston County. "A History of Puyallup Tribal Sovereignty: A Puyallup’s Perspective" at the Washington State History Museum.

2001 – Carl Gipson (Political Science)  
Director of External Affairs for AT&T’s Washington and Alaska regions and was included in the Puget Sound Business Journal’s 40 Under 40 awards.

2002 – Darnell Taylor (General Studies)  
Enrollment and admissions office over the summer. "A History of Puyallup Tribal Sovereignty: A Puyallup’s Perspective" at the Washington State History Museum.

2003 – Katherine Frankhauser (Environmental Science)  
Co-owns Spark Mobility, a Spokane company renting electric and battery-powered bikes and cars in several cities in Europe. John Stilson (M.Ed., Secondary Education) became principal of Central-Line Elementary School in Helena, Montana.

2005 – Brett Smedley (Business – Performance)  
Fellow for the New York Public Library, chair of the Music Library Association Vocabularies Subcommittee. He attended the University of Washington-Tacoma, working with other i-team members to focus on economic development projects and improve city services.

2006 – Casey Mullin (Music – Performance)  
Fellow for the New York Public Library, became director of Athletics for South Puget Sound Community College. Heidi Wiersma (Community Health) became a Bloomberg Innovation Fellow for the city of Long Beach, California, working with other i-team members to focus on economic development projects and improve city services.

2007 – Mark Buckman (General Studies)  
Utility operator for the New York Public Library, became the head coach of the Arena Football League Portland Timber.

2008 – Earl Sullivan (East Asian Studies)  
Director of Athletics for South Puget Sound Community College. Heidi Wiersma (Community Health) became a Bloomberg Innovation Fellow for the city of Long Beach, California, working with other i-team members to focus on economic development projects and improve city services.
Amanda Hahn (M.S., Experimental Psychology) earned her doctoral degree from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and is a postdoctoral researcher in the Face Research Lab at the University of Glasgow’s Institute of Neuroscience and Psychology. Brian Zuleger (PE: Health and Fitness Specialist; ’11, M.S., Human Movement and Performance), an assistant professor of sport psychology at Adams State University in Alamosa, Colorado, achieved Certified Consultant status with the Association for Applied Sport Psychology. Camden Schutte (Business Administration), co-owner and manager for Coldwell Banker Koeje in Oak Harbor, was the only office manager named to the Association for Applied Management’s 30 under 30 list.

The real setting of the Hundred Acre Wood is Ashdown Forest, a wild heathland and woodland located about 30 miles south of London in East Sussex. It is the largest heathland in England and rare flora and fauna grow there. I liken the conservation laws protecting the forest to be as high-security as the crown jewels! The protection of this natural setting actually conserves the literary landscape made famous by A. A. Milne in the tender adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh and his chums.

Kathryn Aalto (’98), Author, historian, garden designer

What did John Miles, professor emeritus of Environmental Studies, teach you about nature writing?

Professor John Miles was a pivotal person in my learning and career, and remains one of my Favorite People of All Time. In his American Literature of Nature and Place course, I learned that a lot of nature writing is delving into ‘sense of place,’ that an invisible layer of memories, history and emotions cover the physical landscape in front of us.

Has Winnie-the-Pooh’s natural setting helped the story endure for 100 years?

The real setting of the Hundred Acre Wood is Ashdown Forest, a wild heathland and woodland located about 30 miles south of London in East Sussex. It is the largest heathland in England and rare flora and fauna grow there. I liken the conservation laws protecting the forest to be as high-security as the crown jewels! The protection of this natural setting actually conserves the literary landscape made famous by A. A. Milne in the tender adventures of Winnie-the-Pooh and his chums.

“The Natural World of Winnie-the-Pooh” by Aalto (M.A., English) was just published by Timber Press. She lives in England with her family.
Obituaries


1941 – Beatrice Nilsen Aubert, 94, a retired teacher and community volunteer, on July 18, 2015, in Bellingham.

1942 – Mary E. Doubt, 97, a retired teacher, on Sept. 14, 2014, in Lynden.

1944 – Serena Bernice Haugen, 93, a retired teacher in Whatcom County, on Sept. 13, 2015.


1957 – James Rance De Monbrun, 83, a retired music teacher and Boeing production worker, on March 6, 2015, in Everett.


1966 – Paul D. Moses, 72, a retired English teacher at Omak High School, on May 12, 2015. Lawrence Edward Wangen, 73, a research Scientist at the Argonne and Los Alamos national laboratories as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, on July 27, 2015, in Seattle.

1967 – Anita Joan (Payne) McClary, 74, a former teacher who also worked in the banking industry and for California State University, Northridge, on Feb. 10, 2015, in Spokane.

1968 – Harold Haddock, 74, a retired teacher and coach in the Nooksack Valley School District, on April 26, 2015, in Green Valley, Arizona.

1971 - William John Arrigoni, 65, a former teacher and technology coordinator in the Auburn School District and adjunct faculty member for Lesley University, on March 25, 2015, in Renton. Jim Blizard, 66, who worked as a driving instructor and later for the Department of Revenue, on March 17, 2015.

1972 - Walter J. "Buzz" Quesnell, 66, a retired teacher and football coach in Seattle, on Nov. 27, 2014, in Vista, California.


1974 - Thomas W. Farnell, 67, a machinist, on June 2, 2015, in Bellingham.


1977 - Sylvia Carol Baldwin, 61, a retired systems administrator at Boeing, on June 24, 2015, in Everett. Beth Carol O'Neal, 60, a retired preschool and elementary school teacher, on July 2, 2015, in Limestone, Maine. Timothy Douglas Stetner, 63, who worked in retail for many years, on June 25, 2015.


1982 - Angela R. Potter, 66, a retired case manager for Northwest Regional Council, on April 1, 2015.

1984 - Robyn du Pré, 53, a former executive director of RE Sources for Sustainable Communities in Bellingham who was very active in environmental preservation, on March 10, 2015.

1985 - Susan M. Jernegan, 52, a high school history teacher, on April 21, 2015, in Yakima.

1989 - Frank Dunaway, 79, who earned his college degree in his 50s after retiring from a long career in the Coast Guard, and worked for the Washington State Employment Security Department for 10 years, on June 2, 2015. Jeffrey George Frost, 54, an electrical engineer and PTO volunteer in Ferndale, on April 7, 2015.


1994 - Donna Rowan Sue (Munyon) Hyman, 50, who worked for the Oregon Children's Services Department, owned a home design business and started a vineyard, on June 8, 2015, in Colbert.


2003 - Joline Recknagel Lambert, 57, a former attorney who became a second-grade teacher in Mukilteo, on Jan. 21, 2015.

2006 - Christopher Lee Davis, 32, a piano teacher and church music director, on Sept. 20, 2015.

2008 - Kathryn Teresa Barcom, 34, an artist, musician and writer, on June 13, 2015, in Seattle.

2012 - Mikkel Christopher Gobel, 39, an art teacher at Eisenhower Middle School and Cascade High School, on Oct. 11, 2015, in Everett.

Faculty and Staff

Diana L. Jones, 50, an associate professor of Human Services who had recently been named director of the program, on Sept. 21, 2015.

Elvet Glyn Jones, 93, professor

emiratus of Psychology, on June 12, 2015, in Laguna Hills, California.

James Berton "Bert" Rhoads, 86, director of the graduate program in Archives and Records Management from 1984 to 1994, on April 7, 2015, in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Howard E. Mitchell, 94, a decorated World War II veteran who was one of the founding faculty members of the College of Business and Economics, on March 24, 2015. Dr. Mitchell served as chair of the Economics Department and helped found The INN University Ministries.

John Moore, 83, who taught business courses at Western for 30 years, on March 31, 2015, in Bellingham.

Richard Navas, 65, who taught computer science at Western, on March 19, 2015. Mr. Navas earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western in Math in 1985 and 1987.

Robert Leland Scandrett, 88, a professor emeritus of music who conducted choirs throughout the Pacific Northwest, on Nov. 30, 2014, in Seattle.

Thomas Schlotterback, 86, a professor emeritus of Art who served as chair of the department from 1973 to 1983, on Sept. 14, 2015.

Froderberg led Western through tragedy

Albert John Froderberg, a professor and administrator at Western for more than 40 years, died peacefully at home in Bellingham on Oct. 22, 2015. He was 80 years old.

Froderberg, a mathematics professor, administrator and lobbyist, was known for his humor, his humanity and his excellent political skills.

He was probably best known for his leadership after a plane crash took the lives of three top WWU administrators in the fall of 1987. After the deaths of President G. Robert Ross, Vice President Don Cole, and Vice President Jeanene DeLille, Froderberg moved from the position of acting provost to interim president. Few likely realized that he had himself narrowly missed being on that plane, and that he had lost one of his closest friends in President Ross.

Despite what must have been terrible inner grief, Froderberg's was a healing presence at the university. He later represented Western in Olympia, where he was able to secure millions of dollars for operations and capital projects. He served as Western's director of Planned Giving and continued to offer "wise counsel" long after he retired in 2009.

Froderberg is survived by his wife of 53 years, Mary, his daughter Annie (and wife, Renata), grandsons Kieran and Declan, and his brother Ted (and wife, Jayann).
Trees of History

On a July afternoon in 1951, several well-dressed ladies in hats and gloves gathered at the northern edge of the Knoll on Old Main lawn to watch gardener Glenn Jordan peel back the layers of a campus relic, a large tree stump.

One of the ladies, Helen Mathes, said the stump was a remnant of the grove of large trees that once stood on Western's campus. Her husband Edward T. Mathes, Western's first president, left the stump as a reminder of the campus's wooded past, she said. It was considered such an important symbol of Western's history that president W.W. Haggard attended the Stump Ceremony in which Jordan scraped away 50 years of ivy growth.

The remains of the stump, possibly a Western red cedar, is still in the wooded area on the small hill across High Street from the Viking Union. What's left of one of the original trees on campus is now nursing the roots of two birches and an American mountain ash.

Those who love the trees of Western as much as these ladies did can find kindred spirits at the @wwuarborists Instagram feed.
I stand for Western.

Bill Wright
WWU Alumnus ’60
1959 USGA Champion

Becoming a WWU Alumni Association member is an easy way to contribute. Join today and your membership will support scholarships and the campaign.

WWUALUMNI.COM/MEMBERSHIP
A NEW DAY FOR CARVER