WWU family ties span many generations

Legacy: (n) (1) A gift by will; (2) Something received, as from an ancestor or predecessor; (3) Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past (the legacy of the ancient philosophers)

As Western celebrates its 100th year as a learning institution, hundreds of families can also celebrate a very special family tradition.

It's a true legacy of learning at Western Washington University, transmitted through the generations, from grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, cousins, spouses and even godmothers.

"I always knew that I was supposed to live in Bellingham and go to school there," says Sharon Gerde, a 1998 marketing graduate and Camas native. Her twin sister Barbara, older sister Carla and parents (Helen Haugen and Robert Gerde) share the blue and white tradition.

"Our family has a common bond that we all share," adds Trisha Chick, a 1991 graduate who followed dad Gary Moore ('63) and mom Mary Lou (Pripp) Moore to Western and whose husband Stacy Chick ('92) and brother Chris ('95) hold bachelor's degrees from Western. Both Gary and Chris Moore were four-year letter men in football.

Although records on alumni families were not kept in the early years and are difficult to parse even today, there's no doubt that Western's frequent appearance in family photo albums stretches back to the earliest years.

Karen Hulford ('69) counts four generations of Western alumni in her family. It all began with her grandmother, the late Sara Bras Weihe who attended the New Whatcom State Normal School in 1914 or 1915 to become a teacher. The family link ends - at least for now - with son Scott Hulford who got his math degree in August 1998.

"It was just assumed we would go to college," Karen Hulford says. "I mean, there wasn't any doubt and there's no place better than Western. ... I never had any desire to go anywhere else. It never occurred to me."

The legacy of learning is in Jack, Bob, Paul and Tom Bowman's family as well. And in the Runestrands', Faires', Rankins', Hartstras' and Grahams' ...

(Read more about WWU's Family Legacies on pages 6 and 7.)
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Family ties to Western span many generations, providing a genuine family legacy of learning. Many teachers were drawn to Western for teacher training in the early days. Their children followed for the same reason and added to the legacy when they met their future spouses here. Then their kids went to Western and their kids ....

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Point of View
by President Karen W. Morse

It was a very special evening, Convocation 1999, when we officially began the celebration of Western’s Centennial and initiated our second century.

Following a welcoming ceremony, new students marched up a candle-lit Memory Walk—between rows of returning students, faculty, staff and alumni—to place slips of paper on which they had written a hope, dream or goal in a time capsule. There they will join mementos from the graduating classes of 1999.

Joining in greeting this Centennial class were specially invited alumni proudly garbed in academic dress and wearing sashes with their class years, ranging from 1927 to 1957. They stood in place of more than 100,000 Western alumni who have carried their Western education first to the classrooms of a new state, then into ever-widening endeavors: the arts and sciences, business, community service, environmental enhancement, fine and performing arts, technology.

It was a touching ceremony. Our heritage of achievement, symbolized by those alumni, was linked in handshakes and embraces to our alumni of the future: freshmen in the last class of the 20th century, who will repeat that Memory Walk as graduates in the 21st century; students in the last class of this millennium, who will graduate in the next millennium.

The first 88 students who enrolled in New Whatcom Normal School in 1899 were required to present evidence of good health, “good moral character,” B grade completion and intent to become school teachers in a new and growing state. Girls were required to be at least 15 and boys 16 years old. Tuition and textbooks were free and a boarding house room could be rented for $3 a week.

Today’s students face high demands for superior preparation to gain admission to Western. Our freshmen have an average grade point average of 3.5 with high SAT scores. Western has become a nationally respected regional comprehensive university. For the third consecutive year, U.S. News and World Report has ranked the university second among the public regional universities in the West and, this year, among the top 15 public and private universities in the region. Although tuition and board costs have certainly risen, Western continues to be a “best buy” in terms of quality of education received for cost incurred. U.S. News named Western the top school in the West for graduating students with the least debt.

With the leadership of our new provost, Dr. Andrew Bodman, we will continue to adhere to our mission of dedication to the student and classroom experience. Assuring student-faculty interaction remains a core value.

We persist in our commitment to diversity among students, staff, faculty and in the curriculum. Faculty members are developing new ways to improve student intellectual development and enhance personal attention to students, thereby continuing our legacy of learning.

As we celebrate our heritage, most strongly represented by the achievements of our alumni, we look ahead to the future and continue to dedicate ourselves to improvements in the quality of our academic programs. Help us celebrate and join us on campus for alumni events, lectures, concerts, plays, art exhibitions and athletic events throughout this Centennial year.

I look forward to meeting you then, to share your memories and hear your hopes for the future of Western.
**Accent on Alumni**

LaBarge and Metzger-Levin named student athletes of the century

By Jim Carberry

One of the most amazing athletic careers in the history of Western almost didn’t happen.

After completing an All-America football career at Western, Peter LaBarge (’90) tried out for two NFL teams. It could have been the start of a successful professional career. Instead, he was cut.

“It was hard to swallow,” LaBarge said 10 years later.

But because of that setback, LaBarge returned to Western for two more years and became an All-American in men’s soccer. For those accomplishments and more, he was named Western Male Athlete of the Century.

The story of Western’s Female Athlete of the Century, Jo Metzger-Levin (’81, ’85), is a little different.

Where LaBarge only started playing football as a junior in high school, Metzger starred for four years at Everett High School, leading the Seagulls to four straight state basketball tournaments, before taking the court at Sam Carver Gymnasium in 1979.

In four years at Western, the 6-foot forward became the Vikings’ all-time scoring leader (1,990 points) and remains the only Western athlete inducted into the NAIA National Hall of Fame.

A four-time all-league and all-region pick, Metzger-Levin was named first-team American Women’s Sports Federation Division II All-American in 1980 and 1981. Among Viking basketball stars, she is also fifth in rebounds (929) and ninth in assists (318).

Perhaps the most amazing statistic is that she set 15 school records, and 14 of them still stand. That’s quite a feat considering Western’s history includes a roster of All-Americans such as Gina Sampson, Carmen Dolfo, Aalyka Kepper and Anna Rabel.

“I really didn’t know when I left (about the records),” said Metzger-Levin. “I thought, ‘That’s one neat.’ But I didn’t think they were there very long because the team was only getting better.”

Numbers do not tell the entire story about Jo Metzger, but they tell a lot. She led the Vikings in scoring each year, averaging 16.5, 16.4 and 18.1. Her first three seasons. As a senior, she averaged 21.7 points and a team-high 9.9 rebounds.

“She was the consummate forward; she could do it all,” said Western’s Athletic Director and long-time basketball coach Lynda Goodrich. “But in basketball, scoring is what’s all about and she was a pure shooter.

“She could shoot with the best of them right now. If there had been a 3-point shot (back then), her records would never be broken.”

Adds Chuck Randall, who coached the Western men’s team during that time. “Without any exception, she was the purest shooter I’ve ever seen in my life—men’s or women’s.

“I used to watch them play just to see her shoot.”

Today, Metzger-Levin downplays her athletic successes, preferring to “ brag” about her family. She married her high school sweetheart, former Pacific Lutheran University basketball player Don Levin, and the two are raising a pair of hoops fanatics: Tyler, 13, and Bryce, 11.

Since resigning as Everett High School girls’ basketball coach last season after 17 years at her alma mater, Metzger-Levin’s athletic competition now mostly consists of playing her sons on the family’s sports court.

“We try to instill in them that you have to work hard and be a team player and a good sport,” said the proud mother.

The achievement of LaBarge, who lives near Lake Tapps with his family and works in sales for a communications contractor, is also unprecedented in Western history. Four other Vikings—Kris Maraveller, Genevieve Pfueiler, Marilyn Thibeudeau and Jeff Van Kleeck—earned all-America honors in both cross country and in track and field. But only LaBarge did it in two distinct sports.

“There have been outstanding athletes in every sport,” said former

**Grist of Goldsmith**

By Chris Goldsmith, Alumni Director

One of the many benefits of serving as alumni relations director for a university is the opportunity to learn about and, often times, come to know many of an institution’s graduates and students.

One such person is Bill Wright, who for the past two years, has traveled from his home in Los Angeles to Western to play in the Bill Wright/WWU Alumni Golf Classic, which the Alumni Association puts on each year.

Up until two years ago, Bill was known to us at Alumni House as one of our most successful athletes, whose feats had earned him induction into Western’s Athletic Hall of Fame. But when we came to know Bill personally and learned more about what he accomplished, we leaped at the opportunity to name our tournament in his honor.

In the late 1950s, Bill Wright was a stand-out basketball player at Seattle’s Franklin High School. He was recruited by Western’s coach Bill (Dean Mac) MacDonald to play basketball for Western. He did play basketball for the Vikings, but his real love was golf and he joined Western’s golf team as well.

As a junior at Western, Bill Wright won the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, becoming the first African-American to ever win a USGA event. This is an event that Tiger Woods would later win; but Bill did it roughly 20 years before Tiger was even born. One year later, as a Western senior, Bill won the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national title, bringing Western its first ever individual national championship.

Prior to our annual tournament, Bill will be found on the driving range, giving pointers to tournament entrants to help improve their games. He does this graciously and willingly, even though as a teaching professional at a course in Los Angeles, he gets paid to do this everyday. The day following our tournament, Bill shows up bright and early at Seattle’s Jefferson Park Golf Course (where he learned to play) and runs a clinic on Fir State, a minority youth golf association he helped found many years ago.

Bill spends up to four hours at Jefferson, working with kids from age 3 to 18, beginners to subpar handicappers. And all the while, he is ever the professional, patient, soft-spoken, class person we have come to love. As important as golf is to Bill, when he gathers the kids around him before and after a clinic, he tells them that education, good study habits, good grades and strong effort are the most important goals for them to achieve.

Bill tells all that Western and the education he received provided him with many opportunities later in life. Today, he is giving back to Western.

I am thankful we got to know him on a more personal level. Bill is 60 plus years old. He hits the ball long and straight. If you play golf with Bill, you are humbled. If you know and talk with Bill and hear his story, you are humbled still.

Continued on page 8
1973 - Diane Mae Johnson, a mezzo-soprano, participated in "Celebration of Song," a concert featuring selections from Brahms, opera arias and Negro spirituals to honor the Farmworkers of Skagit County. ... Susan Buchman lives in Baltimore and runs an Internet design business. Zakar co-authored "Judiasm Online: Confronting Spirituality on the Internet" and can be reached at her e-mail address: sue@zakar.com.

1974 - Douglas Massey was recently chosen to serve as president of the American Sociological Association, assuming his role as president in August 2000. Massey is currently chair of the sociology department at the University of Pennsylvania. Massey has written books and has published in several journals and has been honored with the Distinguished Publication Award from the ASA, the Otis Dudley Duncan Award, and the Critics' Choice Award of the American Educational Studies Assoc.

1976 - Jay Gottlieb has been named by Gov. George Pataki to the board of directors of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority where he will serve in the economist seat on the board. Gottlieb is a senior manager in the research department of the New York Mercantile Exchange where his prime interest centers on commodity markets for coal, emissions allowances, and other energy issues including natural gas and petroleum. ... John Lundy (77 MA) has been admitted to the doctoral candidate in forensic pathology at the University of Sheffield in the UK. ... March Machin recently retired as a U.S. Navy squadron commander. Machin's career included multiple tours flying the P-3 "Orion" and graduation from the Naval Postgraduate School and Naval War College. Machin's final tour was as department head for the Naval Postgraduate School National Security and Special Operations curriculum. Machin is married to Diane Adrian Machin, a 1978 WWU master's graduate.

1981 - Dr. Mark Fiege has written "Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West."

1982 - Molly Langdon has joined Fairway Fitness in Lynden as a licensed massage practitioner.

1983 - Marv Toland is the executive vice president and chief financial officer for London Fog Industries.

1984 - John Frey, a math teacher for the last 15 years, is the recipient of the Blaine School District, 1999 Golden Apple Award, given annually by the Record-Journal and Haggen Food stores to outstanding local educators. Laura Scala-Sykes (98 M.Ed.) is the Ferndale School District recipient of the 1999 Golden Apple Award, given annually by the Record-Journal and Haggen Food stores to outstanding local educators.

1986 - Emily Nelson Stordahl received her master of arts degree in art therapy from Maryhurst University in June 1999. Stordahl is working at Salem Hospital in Salem, Ore., as a program therapist doing art therapy with children and adolescents. ... Todd Wong, "(94 MBA), works for Crticy Imports in Bellingham with the accounting and marketing departments.

1988 - Matthew Maury joined American Lepidoptera as a taxidermist in the department. ... Maury was a graduate of the UW in the Department of Entomology, and has been employed as the Director of the Entomology Department at the University of Washington.

1989 - Scott Boyd obtained a departmental scholarship to Johns Hopkins Medical Illustration Program in the Medical School. She was one of six people accepted for fall of 1999.

1991 - Anna D. Vamos, 52, of 4701 7th Ave. S., Seattle, died Aug. 26. Vamos was a graduate of the University of Washington and was a member of the Sigma Delta Tau sorority. She was a research assistant in the Department of Human Services at the University of Washington.

1992 - Steven Snodgrass was hired as the assistant professor of theatre arts, and found a new home in Bellingham. ... Heather Martel Nobrega received her doctor of jurisprudence degree from Willamette University College of Law. ... Joel Todd is the health and beauty buyer for Haggen, Inc.

1993 - Emily Brummel was promoted to general merchandise buyer at Haggen, Inc.

1995 - Shawn Alexander graduated with a juris doctorate from the Seattle University School of Law. ... Kevin Blondin graduated with a juris doctorate from the Seattle University School of Law. Blondin has accepted employment with the law firm of Reynolds and Westin in Longview.

1997 - Erin Grindle is working on her master's degree in forensic entomology at Louisiana State University.

1999 - John Perry was a math teacher for the last 15 years, is the recipient of the Blaine School District, 1999 Golden Apple Award, given annually by the Record-Journal and Haggen Food stores to outstanding local educators. Laura Scala-Sykes (98 M.Ed.) is the Ferndale School District recipient of the 1999 Golden Apple Award, given annually by the Record-Journal and Haggen Food stores to outstanding local educators. Laura Scala-Sykes (98 M.Ed.) is the Ferndale School District recipient of the 1999 Golden Apple Award, given annually by the Record-Journal and Haggen Food stores to outstanding local educators. Laura Scala-Sykes (98 M.Ed.) is the Ferndale School District recipient of the 1999 Golden Apple Award, given annually by the Record-Journal and Haggen Food stores to outstanding local educators.
Accent on Alumni
Alumni House gets a makeover

By Mary Ann Harrington

The Alumni House just got a facelift and does she look grand!

She wanted to look her best for the Centennial Celebration Year, so she got a beautiful exterior paint job in late July that finally reflects the "Blue and White" school colors. The house is much brighter with soft white siding and two shades of cadet blue trim.

Built around 1900, the High Street house has sheltered many families and, later on, students before becoming Alumni House. We learned a bit of its history at the reunion for the Classes of 1949, 1950 and 1951 in June.

Reunion attendees Jack and Kay (Lenihan) Jensen (both '51) and Gladys (McCrorie) and Ralph Wood ('50) recalled fond memories of when Kay and Gladys lived in the house as students. The house was then called "Coed Cottage," and no males were allowed beyond the doors. When Jack and Ralph took a tour of Alumni House during the reunion, it was the first time they had seen the inside of the house.

The two men recalled spending many an evening on the stoop outside the back door, however, where long "goodnights" would frequently occur with their future wives.

Accent on Alumni
Get a makeover

According to the 1999 NCAA Graduation Rate Reports, 86 percent of Western student-athletes who received athletic-based financial aid upon entering as freshmen in the 1992-93 academic year graduated within six years. That percentage far exceeds the national NCAA Division II average of 50 percent, the 16-school Pacific West Conference average of 55 percent and the Washington state schools (public and private Division I, II, III) average of 59 percent.

"From the academic perspective, these graduation rates are significant," said Ronald Riggins, Western's faculty athletic representative. "Western can take pride in the achievements of its student-athletes, the vast majority of whom personify the NCAA ideal of both athlete and scholar."

When the figures are expanded to include incoming freshmen from the previous year, Western remains the PacWest leader, with 67 percent of student-athletes entering in 1991-92 or 1992-93 graduating, a figure matched by Western Oregon University.

Western also had the highest graduation rates for the overall student body, with 63 percent of all 1992-93 incoming freshmen graduating within six years.

WWU athletes graduating at much faster rates

Western Washington University student-athletes are graduating at rates higher than their fellow Western students and higher than those of competing institutions, an NCAA report says.

According to the 1999 NCAA Graduation Rate Reports, 86 percent of Western student-athletes who received athletic-based financial aid upon entering as freshmen in the 1992-93 academic year graduated within six years. That percentage far exceeds the national NCAA Division II average of 50 percent, the 16-school Pacific West Conference average of 55 percent and the Washington state schools (public and private Division I, II, III) average of 59 percent.

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Remembering Whatcom Creek

Last summer's tragic pipeline explosion at Whatcom Creek touched Western Washington University's family as much as any in the Bellingham community.

One of the three youths who died in the June 10 explosion caused by a gasoline pipeline rupture, Liam Wood, was to be a student at Western in the fall. The parents and family of the other two boys, Wade King and Stephen Tsiorvas, have close ties to Western as well.

In the aftermath of the calamity, many alumni, faculty and staff members have joined in a community-wide effort to help nature repair itself and to remember those who died. From Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson ('76), who has called for stricter regulations to ensure public safety, to Bellingham musician Tim McHugh ('91) who helped organize and performed in a benefit concert, the Western family has extended a helping hand.

In September, the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies sponsored a day of remembrance for Whatcom Creek and launched a wide-ranging program to pull together the community's collective memories of the creek before, during and after the disaster.

The center began collecting oral histories, written documents, artwork, maps, photos and videos that reflect the community's historical and contemporary experiences in and around the creek.

Theresa Trebon ('94), who studied under Fairhaven professors Robert Keller and Kathryn Anderson, was selected to conduct the oral histories. Trebon has conducted numerous oral history projects through her Skagit Valley business, Continuum History & Research.

A day-long program at the Bellingham public library on Sept. 18 also featured a presentation on the history of Whatcom Creek by Tim Wahl ('76), the Greenways program coordinator for the Bellingham parks and recreation department.

Kay and Gladys, who had lived in basement bedrooms, were amazed that they had shared such a small space with two others.

Alumni House has happily embraced the Alumni Association and the Alumni Relations Office since 1991.

Oral historian Theresa Trebon ('94), Mayor Mark Asmundson ('76) and Greenways coordinator Tim Wahl ('76) participated in the September event remembering Whatcom Creek.
Weihes/Hulford's sent four generations here

When Scott Hulford decided to go after a bachelor's degree, the school he would choose "wasn't even a second thought," he said.

His mother, Karen Hulford, got her chemistry degree from Western in 1969. His grandfather, Robert H. Weihe, got his teaching credentials at Western in 1940 and a master's degree in 1950.

His great-grandmother, the late Sara (Bras) Weihe, started the tradition in 1914 when the New Whatcom State Normal School certified her as a teacher.

Weihe recalls that after serving four years in the U.S. Navy, he wanted to go "home" to Bellingham. When it came time for her to choose a college, Western "had a specialness in the family already." In 1966, she received her degree.

After working a few months with her father at a child-care center run by the Oakland public schools, she felt rejuvenated and made plans to return for her junior year. Hulford and three friends decided to rent an apartment near the college in San Jose, but all three friends backed out at the last minute, she said. Disappointed, she called an aunt in Bellingham who invited her to move to Bellingham where she joined the ski club and the Debate Society and wrote for the student newspaper.

"Western was a wonderful experience and I certainly had an excellent grounding for teaching, said Hulford. "Not all of them graduate in two years, but the WWU loyalty remained strong." She received her bachelor's degree in 1966 and her master's degree in 1987.

All four of her children graduated from Western with master's and doctoral degrees. Her children, George and June, followed in their father's footsteps and became teachers after getting degrees from Western Washington College of Education in 1952 and 1956, respectively. (George's wife, Jan, and June's husband, David, also received their degrees from Western.)

"We always appreciated the size of Western," Hulford said. "I mean I didn't want to be a big college. I wanted to be small and confined, not small and confining like a sorority house, but not as big as a University of Washington high-rise."

And there was always just a little bit of home there: seven of the eight Weihe siblings attended Western.
Campus held best of both worlds for students in the Faires family

Maureen “Mosey” (Faires) Lenicka was one of eight children in her Port Angeles family. So when she got to Western in 1974, “I really appreciated the size of Western and the size of the classrooms.”

The campus seemed contained to a beautiful spot on Sehome Hill, she said. The residence halls on the Ridge were just the right size for socializing, not small and confining like a sorority house, but not as big as a University of Washington high-rise.

And there was always just a little bit of home there: seven of the eight Faires siblings attended Western.

“It was the best of both worlds,” said Lenicka (’78), who lived in the Kappa residence hall for her first two years and whose family remains one of the largest group of related alumni at Western.

“We think Western is a wonderful school,” added Marjorie Faires, who kept up a weekly correspondence with each of her children attending Western in the 1960s and ‘70s.

“For many years they had four always going,” Lenicka said of her parents.

The siblings tipped each other off on good courses to take and fun places to go in Bellingham. One year, Lenicka was able to share a used car with her sister Theresa (Faires) Schmid (’80) who now teaches fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary School in Port Angeles.

“I think everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere that Western had,” said Lenicka, who is in group sales with the Seattle Mariners. “We all got a good education and we all got good jobs.”

Besides Theresa and Mosey, the other Faires siblings were:

Patty Faires Johnson (’69), who teaches third grade at the Madrona School in the Highline School District.

Chuck Faires (’71), who operates the family-owned Port Angeles Marine. (His wife, Linda Weidy Faires is also an alumna, graduating in 1972.)

Ann “Babits” Faires (’73), a flight attendant with Northwest Airlines.

Richard Faires (’84), who works for Homegrocer.com in Seattle.

Diane Pennington, who attended Western for two years but who transferred to the University of Washington. She is an office manager with the law firm Davis Wright Tremaine in Anchorage.

The oldest sibling, Nancy Brant, was the only one who never attended Western, but her oldest son, Peter Brant (’95) is the first of his generation to go. Two of Peter Brant’s cousins are current students: Lindsay Johnson and Ben Faires.

“Everyone just loved the experience of Western,” Lenicka said.

— Kathy Sheehan

WWU families share legacy of teaching and romance

Teacher training at Western Washington University is a common thread for families who boast a WWU legacy lasting two, three or more generations. Usually a grandmother, or sometimes a grandfather, was the first to attend New Whatcom State Normal School in the 1910s or ’20s. Daughters and sons who had similar ambitions to teach in an elementary or high school followed in the 1940s and 1950s.

Many of them met their future spouses on campus. The grandchildren who came in the 1960s, ’70s and beyond might choose a non-education major, but the WWU loyalty remained strong.

That was certainly the case for the Rankin and Bowman families, who each count 10 to 16 alumni in their families, and for June (Mehl) Hartstra, a retired middle school teacher now living in Yuba City, Calif.

Hartstra’s grandparents were pioneers in Bellingham at the turn of the century, Debate Society and wrote for the student newspaper.

family LEGACY

The first generation of the Rankin family who walked through Old Main included, from left, Leland and Linnea (Rosendahl) Rankin, as well as Estelle Rankin, Dorothy Rankin Keck and Eloise Rankin Morris.

The second generation included Loren, far left, son of Leland and Linnea, and Ruth (Soderstrom) Rankin, left, who married Loren.

The third generation of Rankins to attend Western includes Doug Rankin, right, son of Loren and Ruth.
Faires’ siblings attended Western.

**WWU families share legacy of teaching and romance**

Teacher training at Western Washington University is a common thread for families who boast a WWU legacy lasting two, three or more generations. Usually a grandmother, or sometimes a grandfather, was the first to attend New Whatcom State Normal School in the 1910s or ‘20s. Daughters and sons who had similar ambitions to teach in an elementary or high school followed in the 1940s and 1950s. Many of them met their future spouses on campus, too. The grandchildren who came in the 1960s, ‘70s and beyond might choose a non-education major, but the WWU loyalty remained strong. That was certainly the case for the Rankin and Bowman families, who each counted 10 or 15 alumni in their families, and for June (Mehl) Hartstra, a retired middle school teacher now living in Yuba City, Calif.

Hartstra’s grandparents were pioneers in Bellingham at the turn of the century, and her mother, Margaret (Kruhoffer) Mehl, was the first to attend the Normal School for teacher training in the early 1900s.

Mehl later moved to California, but her children, George and June, followed in their mother’s footsteps and became teachers after getting degrees from Western Washington College of Education in 1936 and 1935, respectively. (George’s wife, Jan Bumpers) Mehl is also an education alumna of the class of 1936.

It wasn’t a straight path from high school to Western for the young June Mehl, however. Although she had family living in Bellingham and attended the university, she didn’t begin her college education in San Jose, but all three friends wore herself out working six days a week for a time in China.

All of their children graduated from college with master’s and doctorate degrees, but only son Clinton Scott attended Western to keep the legacy going. Scott, who works as an attorney in Beijing, received his bachelor’s degree in economics in 1990 but also studied German, French and Chinese at Western and taught English for a time in China.

“Not all of them graduated, but the majority of the students who attended Western did,” said Hartstra. “We’re really a family at Western, all the way down.”

The grandchildren who came in the 1960s, ‘70s and beyond are active in Western’s alumni associations, and the children who came in the 1910s or ‘20s. Daughters and sons who had similar ambitions to teach in an elementary or high school followed in the 1940s and 1950s. Many of them met their future spouses on campus, too. The grandchildren who came in the 1960s, ‘70s and beyond might choose a non-education major, but the WWU loyalty remained strong. That was certainly the case for the Rankin and Bowman families, who each counted 10 or 15 alumni in their families, and for June (Mehl) Hartstra, a retired middle school teacher now living in Yuba City, Calif.

Spring quarter 1922. He played as a center on the school’s basketball team and was a left-handed pitcher on the baseball team. He later coached baseball on campus for Sam Carver.

His mother’s sister, Evangeline (Rosenstahl) Bond (40, ‘42), attended five quarters to be a certified teacher and librarian.

His paternal aunts H. Eloise Rankin Morris, Estelle Rankin (27) and Dorothy Rankin Keck, all attended Western. Eloise (32, ‘38), earned 15 letters in athletics, playing badminton, speedball and handball.

In his generation, Loren counts himself, his sister Sara (Rankin) Lubrano and a cousin, Charles Charles, in the Western family because they all attended the campus school. Sara also attended several quarters at Western during her training to become a registered nurse. Loren, who received his bachelor’s degree in education in 1950 and a master’s in administration (‘53), also met his future wife, Ruth Rankin, on campus. He worked with student elections and a faculty budget group.

"Many of these experiences paved the way for future education in handling educational and business opportunities after graduation," he said.

Like the Rankins, Western families headed by teacher-couples who met on campus are a big part of the legacy of learning.

Three of Loren’s children, Loren, Ruth and Rankin, were named in "Who’s Who in American Colleges and Universities" while at Western.

Audrey (‘54) said she met Bob Bowman (‘53) while the two were working on campus publications in Old Main. After marriage and graduation, Audrey and Bob Bowman spent 30 years working as teachers and school administrators in Watsonville, Calif.

Another brother, Paul (1963), spent his working on a manufacturing project in Oregon, also met his future wife, Linda (Adams) Rankin at Western, but he was working on a manufacturing project in Oregon, also met his future wife, Linda (Adams) Rankin at Western, but not exactly on campus. Paul was working as an elevator operator at a Berkeley hotel that was used as a women’s dormitory. Linda Rankin was living there at the time.

The Bowman brothers and sisters are closely related, each having attended Western and left a lasting legacy in the field of education.

### The Grandchildren

Bob and I both married girls from Western, says Jack Bowman, a retired pharmaceutical executive who got his degree in education in 1954, referring to his brother Bob and his wife, Audrey (Adams), who was a midwife at the YWCA.

We told him it was a good school, so he came back here, according to Jack. "It was really the best place to get an education." — Kathy Sheehan
It was the best of both worlds," said Lenicka (78), who lived in the Kappa residence hall for her first two years and whose family remains one of the largest group of related alumni at Western.

"We think Western is a wonderful school," added Marjorie Faires, who kept up a weekly correspondence with each of her children attending Western in the 1960s and '70s.

"For many years they had four always going," Lenicka said of her parents.

The siblings tipped each other off on good courses to take and fun places to go in Bellingham. One year, Lenicka was able to share a used car with her sister Theresa (Faires) Schmid ('80) who now teaches fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary School in Port Angeles.

"I think everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere that Western had," said Lenicka, who is in group sales with the Seattle Mariners. "We all got a good education and we all got good jobs.

Besides Theresa and Mosey, the other Faires siblings were:

- Patty Faires Johnson ('69), who teaches third grade at the Madison Elementary School in Highline School District.
- Chuck Faires ('71), who operates the family-owned Port Angeles Marine. (His wife, Linda Welden Faires is also an alumna, graduating in 1972.)
- Ann "Babits" Faires ('73), a flight attendant with Northwest Airlines
- Richard Faires ('84), who works for Homegrocer.com in Seattle.
- Diane Pennington, who attended Western for two years but who transferred to the University of Washington. She is an office manager with the law firm, Davis Wright Tremaine in Anchorage.

The oldest sibling, Nancy Brant, was the only one who never attended Western, but her oldest son, Peter Brant ('95) is the first of his generation to go. Two of Peter Brant's children are current students: Lindsay Johnson and Ben Faires.

"Everyone just loved the experience of Western," Lenicka said.

— Kathy Sheehan
Top athletes of the century

Continued from page 8

Western men's soccer coach Kevin Quinn. "But he was great in two sports.

"He wasn't the fastest or the most agile, but he was a great athlete who didn't like to lose. And whatever he puts his mind to, he excels at. He deserves the honor." LaBarge's football career alone might have made him a candidate for athlete of the century honors. He was the only player in Western football history to be named to the all-century team at two positions - the first-team punter and second-team kicker.

"Pete was a great kicker and a great punter," said Terry Todd, who has coached Western kickers and punters the past 13 years. "The sport is so demanding that it's hard to do both."

LaBarge not only did both, he excelled at both. He started all four years for the Vikings earning all-league honors as both punter and kicker in 1986, 1987 and 1988. In his senior season, he led the nation in punting with a 42.5 yard average to earn NAIA Division II All-American first-team honors.

He set the NAIA national record for field goals attempted in a game (8) and career (78) and set 14 school records and tied another, including career points (204), best career punting average (.394), longest field goal (52 yards), and longest punt (62 yards). He finished as the Columbia Football Association's all-time leading kick scorer (204 points)

Not bad for a kid from Woodinville, who only started playing football as a junior in high school.

His personal highlight came his senior season at Western when he was named a first-team All-American and later was named the 1988 Western athlete of the year.

"It was pretty outstanding, pretty overwhelming," said LaBarge. "To have people around the country say I was the best there was, that was really neat."

While things were going well on the field for LaBarge, other things in his life were not going as smoothly.

The winter after his junior year, he dropped out of school for a quarter because he wasn't sure what he wanted to do. "I felt like I was wasting my mom's and dad's money, so I came home," he said.

Then the summer after his senior year came the disappointment of being the last kicker cut during tryouts with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Green Bay Packers.

"The tryouts went well and it came down to me and another guy who had kicked at LSU or somewhere," LaBarge said. "But he had kicked in front of 70,000 people, so I kicked in front of Twelve hundred mostly moms and dads."

The NFL's loss, it turned out, became Western's gain.

He returned to Western and found out that because he had taken that quarter off, he still had athletic eligibility left, as long as it wasn't in football. He was convinced by Quinn to try out for soccer, a sport he had loved and done well at in high school, but hadn't played in college because it was held in the fall, the same time as football.

"He turned out to be phenomenal," Quinn said.

As outstanding as his football career had been, it almost paled in comparison to his two seasons on the soccer pitch.

He was a two-time district all-star, the District 1 player of the year in 1990, a third-team NAIA All-American in 1989 and a second-team choice in 1990, and was selected to play in the NAIA Senior Bowl. He led the team in scoring (assists and goals) in 1989 (45 points) and again in 1990 (47), and shattered school records for goals in a game (5), season (21) and career (41).

What was surprising was not that LaBarge scored goals, but that he scored them at an incredible pace. His 20 goals in his first season were as many as the leading scorers of each of the previous four years had scored combined. His record five goals in one game would have been enough to lead the Western team in scoring in nine of the previous 11 seasons.

Along with the top athletes of the century, Jo Metzger-Levin and Peter LaBarge, Western will honor the following sports heroes during its Centennial celebration:

Arts Accomplishment of the Century:
Larry Nielson, Class of 1970, the first American, in 1983, to climb Mount Everest without using oxygen equipment.

Women's Team of the Century:
Chuck Randall, men's basketball

Men's Team of the Century:
1998 Fastpitch

Sports Impact Person of the Century:
Former coach and current Athletic Director Lynda Goodrich

Women's Coach of the Century:
Lynda Goodrich, women's basketball

Men's Coach of the Century:
Chuck Randall, men's basketball

1999 Inductees, Athletic Hall of Fame:
Lynda Goodrich; women's soccer player Cindy Gordon; men's basketball player James Johnson; and women's track and cross-country runner Geneva Pfiehler-Donnelly.

For more information, contact Jennifer Rick, WWU, (360) 650-3109.
Alumni Celebrate!

Some two dozen alumni who graduated in the 1920s through the 1950s made the 1999 Convocation an extra special event by joining in the festivities. They wore caps and gowns, covered by sashes indicating their graduation year, to welcome new students in the Centennial year. About 1,000 new students made a list of their goals for the coming years and were cheered on by alumni and other members of the Western family as they dropped their goals into a Memory Walk time capsule at the foot of Old Main.

Western graduates from the Class of 1927 through the Class of 1957 gathered for the Centennial Convocation. Pictured above, from left to right, starting with the first row: Don Leu ('47); Mary Irvin ('41, '42, '44); Evelyn Wellman ('32, '58, '60); Mark Jarrett ('27 and '34); Elizabeth Cook ('30, '47, '62); Elwin Shields ('49); Suda Newport ('49); Battle Nelson ('47); Yvonne Lahti ('46, '67); Julian Elder ('51); Arlene Gregor ('43); Gloria Eastman ('54); Art Runestrand ('50); Meredith Runestrand ('50); Bob Bostrom ('50) Sid Van Sinderen ('49); Alton Gregor ('54); Larry Stephens ('52); David Agnew ('56) Patricia Agnew ('56); and last row: Duane Hanson ('53); Lois Fisher ('57) and Echo Dorr ('38, '39, '41, '67).

Miriam Snow Mathes donates reading figurines to Wilson Library

An extensive collection of reading figurines is on display in Wilson Library, courtesy of Miriam Snow Mathes, a retired professor of library science and the daughter-in-law of the late Edwin T. Mathes, Western's first president.

The figurines depict children, adults and even animals reading books, newspapers and magazines.

Mathes, who served as librarian of children's literature and as Campus School librarian, began collecting reading figurines in 1939 while traveling in Colorado.

"Without any intent, the purchase soon led to a collection," said Mathes, an avid traveler.

The collection contains finds from antique stores all over the world, two from the New York City World's Fair and a Druidic figure carved of sandstone which was found in the late 1800s on a British estate. The latter was covered with mud after a lake was drained. It was then given to a young guest at the estate.

Dana Jack pens new book on women and aggression

Fairhaven Professor Dana Crowley Jack has a new book out, Behind the Mask: Destruction and Creativity in Women's Aggression. The book, aimed at scholars as well as a general readership, builds on Jack's previous research on aggression and depression in women.

The book explores the origins, meanings and forms of women's aggression, drawing on in-depth interviews with 60 women of varied backgrounds who may have masked their creativity and other positive attributes while curbing their aggression.

"Our culture expects women to be non-aggressive, Jack says, and in suppressing that aspect of their selves, women often silence "their creativity, their initiative and their ... positive force in the world.""

"It's full of women's stories," says Jack, who teaches psychology of women, cognitive/moral development and other courses at Fairhaven and who argues that aggression arises from failures in relationships.

The book, the first on women's aggression that takes the female perspective, was published by Harvard University Press.
Investments in Excellence

Holiday gifts provide scholarships and more

Gifts from alumni and friends make dreams a reality for many students and faculty in Western's colleges and departments. These gifts provide funds for scholarships, equipment and special projects across campus, creating opportunities for those who teach and learn at Western.

This holiday season, include Western on your gift list. Please take a moment to consider how your gifts could make a significant difference at Western. Regardless of size, your gift will be appreciated by those touched by your support.

Listed below are “Holiday Wishes” projects that will benefit from your generosity:

- The Campus Enrichment Fund, providing funding for a variety of innovative campus projects including the arts, Western's Distinguished Lecture Series, campus technology and conference registration for faculty and staff.
- Annual and endowed scholarships for each college and many departments, providing the margin of difference for hundreds of students wishing to continue their Western education.
- Contributions for innovative college-level programs, including Fairhaven's Law and Diversity program, the College of Business and Economics’ Center for Economic Education and Huxley College's old growth forest.
- Departments throughout the College of Arts and Sciences, including the nationally recognized “Viking” car program through the Vehicle Research Institute.

Scholarships: During the 1998-99 academic year, Western students from all academic disciplines received $688,000 in scholarship support from 549 endowed and annual scholarships. Over the past five years, the overall number of scholarships annually awarded has increased by 65 percent and the amount of awards to students has nearly doubled.

• Contributions designated for a specific college, academic department or program create opportunities for both faculty and students, as mentors, employers, volunteers and donors, alumni make a significant impact on the lives of current students.

Through their charitable gifts, alumni play a major role in the continuing success of Western Washington University.

Contributions designated for a specific college, academic department or program create opportunities for both faculty and students, allowing programs to flourish and giving students access to the best equipment and learning tools.

As donors, alumni are active partners in helping Western provide the very best to nearly 12,000 students.

As Western celebrates its Centennial, all alumni are encouraged to give something back in recognition of this historic milestone, to continue the legacy of learning. A gift via the Phonathon, through the President's Club campaign, or by responding to a special letter will speak to your belief in Western and the opportunities afforded you as a student.

If you have already made your annual gift to Western since July 1, 1999, thank you. Your continued loyalty is greatly appreciated by the students and faculty who benefit from your generosity.

If you have not yet had the opportunity to support Western this year, please consider a gift to the program or department of choice.

When you are contacted by a Western student via the Phonathon or receive an appeal by mail, please give generously. Your gift, regardless of the amount, will be combined with the contributions of fellow alumni to make a major difference for Western. Each gift is important and will immediately be put to work to benefit the area of your choice.

By making a contribution before Dec. 31, 1999, your gift is deductible for tax purposes to the full extent allowable by law for 1999. Checks made payable to The Western Foundation may be sent to Western Washington University, Old Main 445, Bellingham, WA 98225-9034. Please note which area, academic department or program you wish to support. For general University support, please designate your gift to the Campus Enrichment Fund. When your gift is received, an acknowledgement and gift receipt will be sent to you.

If you have further questions or would like to speak to someone regarding the gift and tax benefits of estate or planned gifts, please call The Western Foundation at 360-650-3027.

Centennial events will celebrate Western's history

Alumni in the Seattle and Bellingham areas are invited to help recognize Western's Centennial with two special dinners during this historic year.

This will be your opportunity to join together with fellow Western graduates to celebrate 100 years of excellence and look forward to WWU's second century.

On Feb. 5, Seattle-area alumni, parents and friends are invited to a special celebration at the Seattle Sheraton. Special guest speakers and other surprises will highlight the festivities. Look for your invitation in the mail in the next few weeks.

On Feb. 25, the Viking Commons on campus will be the site of a celebration recognizing Western's Alumni of the Century. Look for more information soon.

All alumni and friends of Western are welcome at each event. For more information, or to receive an invitation, please call the office of special events at 360-650-6825.

Charitable donations impact Western programs

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Make your pledge to Western online

Take a closer look at The Western Foundation online. Alumni and friends can learn more about the importance private gifts play in the success of Western Washington University and make their pledge electronically!

Learn about the various ways to support Western and view a listing of departmental funds.

Log on: http://www.foundatn.wwu.edu/

Make your pledge to Western online
**Briefly**

Huxley wins $5 million in research funding

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Walla Walla District have signed an agreement with Huxley College of Environmental Studies to provide funding with a cap of $5 million for environmental research. Research funded may include salmon, dam, wetlands and community relations projects. "This is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate research," said Dean Brad Smith.

**Kevin Raymond appointed to Board of Trustees**

Gov. Gary Locke has appointed Seattle lawyer Kevin M. Raymond to Western's Board of Trustees. Raymond is a partner at Cairns & Hempelmann where he focuses on providing legal services to state, local and special purpose governments. He also works in government relations, land use and environmental issues on behalf of public and private clients. He is a 1980 Huxley graduate and also has a law degree from the University of Washington. Raymond replaces Wayne Ehlers, a former speaker of the state House of Representatives who graduated from Western in 1960 and retired in 1997 after 33 years of state service.

**Viking 28 places fourth in race car competition**

Western’s Vehicle Research Institute team placed fourth overall at the 1999 Formula Student Competition in Birmingham, England. Representing the Pacific Northwest last summer, Western competed against 14 other universities and institutes — three from the U.S. — as well as teams from Canada and the United Kingdom. Western’s team also won the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation award, a gold medal presented to one team each year for excellent innovation and awareness of basic engineering principles in the construction of a racing car. The Viking 28 is a small race car designed, engineered and constructed by VRI students.

**Biology department gets $200,000 grant**

The National Science Foundation has awarded a $200,000 grant to David Hooper, visiting assistant professor in the biology department, to conduct a study on how plant diversity affects the ability of non-native species to invade ecosystems. Two Stanford graduate students and Western graduate student Colleen Mohl are working with Hooper to research grasslands in San Jose, Calif.

**Contact us:**

Have a compliment, suggestion or idea? We want to hear from you. Address your letters to the editor: Window on Western, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA 98225-9045. E-mail: pio@wwu.edu

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**February**

- 4-6 Adventures, science and arts camp for grades 5 and 6
- 5 Western Foundation Centennial celebration dinner at Seattle Sheraton
- 11-12 Adventures, science and arts camp for grades 7 and 8
- 15 Turning Points lecture by Professor Don Alper on One Landscape/Two Systems: Emerging Forms of Ecological Politics Across the Border. 5 p.m., SMATE 120
- 18-20 Alumni ski trip to Silver Star Mountain, B.C.

**March**

- 4 Spokane alumni chapter Centennial dinner at Spokane Club
- 7 Turning Points lecture by Professor Kathleen Young on The Anthropology of Good and Evil, 5 p.m., SMATE 120
- 11 Birke Woodbury Dance Company performs at 7:30 p.m. on the PAC Mainstage
- 18-19 Arizona alumni chapter Centennial celebration: Mariners’ spring training game plus annual golf tournament
- 18 Winter Commencement
- 25 Decade Reunions for Classes of 1960-69
- 28 Seattle Business Forum luncheon with Jerry Grinstein, retired CEO, Burlington-Northern, at Seattle Sheraton
- 28 Contemporary Digital Photography exhibit opens in the Western Gallery. On view through May 6
- 31 Adventures, marine biology camp for grades 5-8

**April**

- 9 President’s Club dinner
- 12 Idaho alumni chapter Centennial dinner at Auld Club
- 14 John Beardsley, in the last of the sculpture lecture series, talks about site specific sculpture, 7 p.m. in 100 Armstrong Hall
- 14-15 Decade Reunion for Classes of 1980-89 (Ski-to-Sea weekend)
- 14-15 Opening ceremonies for The Art of Tibet as Tibetan monks begin constructing a mandala sand painting to celebrate WWU’s centennial, 7 p.m. in the Western Gallery
- 15-20 Tibetan monks continue to work on the ceremonial mandala sand painting in the Western Gallery
- 18 Western Showtime Family Weekend
- 20 Closing ceremonies for the mandala sand painting at 2 p.m. in the Western Gallery
- 20 Sacred Music Sacred Dance, the Mystical Arts of Tibet, 7:30 p.m. on the PAC Mainstage
- 27 Decade Reunion for Classes of 1980-89 (Skia-to-Sea weekend)

**May**

- 6 President’s Club dinner
- 6 Idaho alumni chapter Centennial dinner at Auld Club
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