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Western Washington University

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The Human Spirit:
Resilient to disaster, depression, declines in mental functioning

From the psychological impacts of the Sept. 11 attacks on America to the effects of aging on memory, Western's world-class faculty members are helping us understand the complex world in which we live.

This issue of Window on Western focuses on the recent research of faculty and how their investigations into the human condition show that the spirit is remarkably resourceful and resilient.

Faculty-student research finds students coping well after Sept. 11 attacks

While people around the world watched in horror as the twin towers of the World Trade Center collapsed in New York on Sept. 11, 2001, there was a recognition that life was never going to be the same.

Shortly afterwards, David Sattler, an assistant professor of psychology at Western, designed a project to examine reactions to the tragic events. He was especially interested in finding out how people were pulling together.

He asked himself: What good could come from such an immense tragedy?

Surveying 1,282 college students in four areas of the nation, including 329 at WWU, Sattler was gratified to find that a strong majority of students are exhibiting positive signs of coping and resiliency.

Sattler, an expert on psychological responses to disasters who has been at Western since fall 2000, also found that although 70 percent of the students had grave concerns for their safety, most said they have new priorities about what is important in their lives.

"I wanted to document the resiliency of the human spirit and community," Sattler said. "Ever since the attacks, we have heard wonderful stories of compassion, community and caring. Although the events of Sept. 11 were tragic and stressful, it is important to recognize a possibility for growth that can come from an overwhelmingly negative situation."

Assisted by recent WWU alumnae Amanda Marshall (BA '01), Leslie Croot (MA '01), and David Sattler, an assistant psychology professor...
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Western Washington University is committed to assuring that all programs and activities are readily accessible to all eligible people without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, Vietnam era or disabled veteran status.

Window on Western is published three times a year by the Alumni, Foundation and Public Information offices.

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This publication is also available in an alternate format. Call (360) 650-3617.

Online: http://www.wwu.edu/~alumni/wow/

BRIEFLY

Students working on the Viking 32, expected to be completed in 2003.

VIRL GETS $1 MILLION FOR ECO-FRIENDLY CAR

The Federal Highway Administration has awarded an $800,000 grant to the renowned Vehicle Research Institute on campus to build a safe, natural gas/electric hybrid car. With an additional $200,000 from WWU, funding for the Viking 32 totals $1 million. The two-door, four-seater with a carbon fiber body is expected to be completed in 2003.

HUXLEY COLLEGE HAS A NEW NAME

Huxley College of Environmental Studies is now Huxley College of the Environment. The Center for Environmental Science also has a new name: the department of environmental science.

TWO LEADERS IN DRUG PREVENTION AT WWU HONORED

University President Karen W. Morse and the head of Prevention and Wellness Services have received national service awards from the U.S. Department of Education. The national Network of Colleges and Universities Selected to the Elimination of Drug and Alcohol Abuse honored Morse with a Visionary Award and gave its Outstanding Service Award to Pat Fabiano, program director of Prevention and Wellness Services. Western has received national recognition since 1992 for programs that debunk the myth that "everybody drinks" in college.

FREEMAN DYSON LECTURE AND TALK SHOW ONLINE

Freeman Dyson, the physicist, mathematician and humanist who opened the Distinguished Lecture Series at Western Oct. 11, also took part in an interactive Web talk show on campus the following day. An archived version of his hour-long Webcast as well as the text of his speech on technology and social justice can be found at http://www.wwu.edu/~lectures/speakers.html.

George Dyson, a son of Freeman Dyson who teaches at Fairhaven College, moderated the question and answer period following the lecture.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS SOUGHT FOR M.A. PROGRAM

To help ease the extreme shortage of K-12 administrators in schools serving Native American populations, Woodring College of Education is recruiting Native American teachers for a fully-funded master's degree program for principals and school administrators. For information on the program, to begin this summer, go to http://www.wwu.edu/~demmertw/.

THE PLANET WINS MORE NATIONAL HONORS

The Associated College Press honored Huxley's Magazine as one of the top eight college magazines in the nation at the annual National College Media Convention in November. The magazine received the 2000 National Magazine Pacemaker Award.

WWU IS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR


RESEARCHER'S BOOK EXPLORES CAPTIVE GORILLAS

A new book by Dawn Prince-Hughes, an adjunct professor in the anthropology department, focuses on more than a decade of unique observation and research on captive gorillas. Prince-Hughes conducted research for George Lucas' company by sitting on a wooden bench at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle for hours each day. She will read from her book Jan. 26 at Village Books in Bellingham.
Western's student-athletes aren't just beating their opponents on the playing fields. They're doing it in the classroom, too.

An NCAA report on graduation rates shows Western student-athletes graduate at a rate higher than those at other schools, sometimes much higher. They also rank slightly better in graduation rates than their peers on campus.

In addition, 24 Viking athletes were named Great Northwest Athletic Conference academic all-stars in four fall sports: football (8), women's soccer (5), cross country (7) and volleyball (4). To be an academic all-star, student-athletes must have a 3.2 GPA or better and be in their second year of competition.

"We are proud of our student-athletes," said University President Karen W. Morse, a member of the NCAA Division II President's Council. "They perform well on the field and the court. But what's even more important, they perform well in the classroom."

"In our program, we try never to forget that the word 'student' precedes the word 'athlete,'" said Athletics Director Lynda Goodrich ('66). "There is always room for improvement, but we are pleased that these figures show our program is a leader in academic achievement."

Football team wins GNAC title, narrowly misses playoffs

For the second straight year, Western's football team came up just short in its bid to secure a berth in the NCAA Division II Championship field.

The Vikings, who finished 8-3 and won the Great Northwest Athletic Conference title for a school-record third straight year, were ranked No. 3 regionally before a 40-32 loss at UC Davis Nov. 10, their final game of the 2001 season.

"What makes this so difficult to swallow is that this is two years in a row now that we've been right there. Knowing that we were talented enough to compete with any team in the playoffs," said Western head coach Rob Smith (13 years, 89-42-1).

In 2000, the Vikings were rated No. 5 regionally, only to have their post-season hopes dashed at the end of the season.

"I'm so proud of our team," Smith said. "They battled, battled and battled. Considering our schedule, 8-3 was a heck of a year."

Western graduates 15 seniors, among them quarterback Scott Mitchell (Kennewick/Kamiah) and strong safety Erik Totten (Maple Valley/Tahoma). Mitchell finished as the Vikings' career record holder in total offense (7,877) and tied for most career touchdown passes (67). Totten set school career marks for return yardage of punt (1,242) and kickoffs (1,347).

The seniors came into a program coming off a pair of 5-5 seasons, and they really were the class that took us from a NAIA program to a solid NCAA II program," Smith said. "This class will be remembered as the one that helped Western in that transition."

Despite the setback, Smith already is looking forward to next season.

"We've got some of the best young talent in the program we've ever had," he said. "We were able to redshirt every one of our freshmen, and I believe that's the first time we've done that."

University has special responsibilities to students during these difficult times

As we attempt to heal from the September attacks and their aftermath, it is appropriate to reaffirm the responsibilities of a university. America's colleges and universities are the envy of the world. They occupy a special place in our democracy where intellectual inquiry, free and open dialogue and energetic debate flourish.

Our campuses are beacons of liberty and hope, particularly today, when we are engulfed in sadness and face solving complex national problems.

In our words and actions, we must teach the values of democracy and freedom; teach the importance of citizenship and civic involvement; and teach the indispensable strength and richness of ethnic diversity and religious tolerance.

Western has been serving as an educational resource and place for open discussion for the University and Bellingham communities with many campus forums, talks and discussion series.

On the Veterans Day holiday, for instance, a series of panel discussions took place on topics ranging from mid-East issues to public health and safety. It ended with an evening talk by David Sattler, an assistant professor of psychology who described his post-attack survey of college students not only at Western but in New York City and elsewhere.

His study indicates that a majority of these students have restructured their lives and are exhibiting positive signs of coping and resiliency as they move forward by helping people in their communities. (See story on page 1.)

We've established a "Western Responds" Web page, which you can access through the Western home page at http://www.wwu.edu. That Web page, which is updated frequently, gives information about Western's response, including events, talks and lectures, and a resource list developed by Wilson Library staff.

I would like to invite you as alumni and part of the Western community to share in our dialogue. If the events of the past few months teach us anything, it is that we must commit to making a just and peaceful world as our country and communities face crucial challenges.

As a university, we will strive to provide our students with the kind of thoughtful education that will enable them to address these issues.
Class Notes

Send short items of interest, address changes and other news to:

alumni@wwu.edu

Alumni House, MS 9199, WWU, Bellingham, WA 98225

1992 - Harriet Hertzog organizes a group, "Our First Cruise," to a South Pacific cruise, joint-riding on the North Olympic Peninsula every week for the last 10 years.

1993 - Gerry Lantz-Friberg, an artist, painted a cat with a tail of bright blue flowers, surrounded by tulips and butterflies for the 2002 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival poster.

1997 - Rick Asher teaches middle and high school students at Edmonds Community College.

1969 - Keith Barnett retired from teaching in Montesano after having more than 900 fourth-grade students in his 28-year career. ... Y. Lawrence "Larry" Evans is the chairman of the board at Horizon Financial Corp. ... Ronald Lafayette (M.A. '71) became president of North Seattle Community College in 1992. ... Kaye René retired in June after spending 26 years with the Skagit Valley School District. Rene's travel plans include a cruise to the Panama Canal.

Robert Tarleck (B.A., B.A.Ed. '64, M.A. '69) was the principal at Meeker Junior High School in 1992-93.

1992 - Barbara Dingie (M.Ed. '87) is case manager for our Retirement and Long Term Services in southern Kittitas County and gets to see her two grandchildren more often. ... Dave Eisenhardt, an occupational health services consultant for the U.S. Public Health Service in Vancouver, has put his Huxley education to work on the Seatl 11 island on the World Trade Center. He and his co-workers provide hazard awareness training and personal protective equipment for rescuers and other federal employees working at or near Ground Zero, only five blocks from his office. He is preparing a story about his experiences for the online edition of Window on Western.

Roald Haze Hefcott was appointed the Birmingham-Southern College Environmental Fellow for 2001-02. ... Patrice Walls was named vice president of The Lippin Group, New York, an entertainment public relations company.

1995 - Jim Goldberg received a $10,000 award from the ArtCounsel, a nonprofit charitable arts organization in San Francisco. ... Jeff Kowal joined the sales staff at Barron Heating & Air Conditioning in Bellingham. ... Cathy Stevens owns Peeps photography in Mount Vernon.

1997 - Charles Hasse left his fourth grade at McMinnville Elementary School in SeaTac to become the president of the Western Washington University Alumni Association. ... Torre Ofteness, a photographer by trade and historian by hobby, presented a photo slide show at the Whatcom Museum called "Ethereal Aerials: The Aerial Photography of Torre Ofteness." ... Carolyn L. Price is the publisher of Skagit Times, a monthly newspaper in the Skagit Valley.

1998 - Michael H. Pryor was promoted to liaison with the Communications section of Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glosveky and Popeo, P.C., in Washington, D.C.

1999 - Corbin Ball was named one of "the 25 Most Influential People in the Meetings Industry" by MeetingNews Magazine, the world's largest publication for the $12 billion a year meetings and events industry. It's the second year Ball received this honor. ... Bob Hunter teaches art at Aberdeen. ... Jeff Martin joined the sales staff at Barstool Heating & Air Conditioning in Bellingham.

2000 - Sara Patten (Paton) of Longview was recently selected as one of three winners of the Association of African-American Educators and Researchers 2001 undergraduate essay contest. Patten won for "The Social Implications of Citizenship in Washington State: A Study of the 1921 Anderson and 1938 Randalls Court Rulings." Her essay is a 40-page historical analysis of two early African American civil rights cases.

No previous scholars had given attention to these cases, making Patten's research original and requiring her to travel all over Washington state in search of sources.

"This award is a recognition of Ms. Patten's impressive abilities as an historical researcher and published author," said history professor Chris Friday. "It is also a testament to the focus on excellence in undergraduate teaching here at Western.

Patten is currently working on a master's in education at the University of Washington.

Where do you wear your Western T-shirt?

Arvid Hokanson ('99), a producer for KUOW's daily public affairs program an all-night show in Seattle, wore his Western T-shirt in Washington, D.C., a few years ago. Producing Weekday for Seattle's NPR station involves tracking news, conceiving segment ideas and booking guests for 10 hours of programming every week.

Send us a picture of yourself and/or other Western alumni in your Western gear. Send glossy-only photographs to Window on Western, MS 9011, WWU, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA, 98225-9011.

2001 alumna wins essay contest

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Patten is currently working on a master's in education at the University of Washington.

http://www.wwu.edu/~alumni
Songs for the Brave
inspired by Camus

Writing under the pen name Ann J. Davidson, Marilyn Gall Bennett (’71) has released Songs for the Brave, the first of a planned five volumes of illustrated poetry.

Inspired by the works of Nobel Laureate Albert Camus, her poems focus on the courage of the dispossessed—from slaves brought to North America to today’s refugees. “At times of deprivalion amid immense plenty,” Davidson writes in her poem, “Tolytoy, Grass and Ccarnus: Rules, “One turns to the wisest thinkers for consolation.”

Legally blind herself, Davidson has taken special care to make her works accessible to the visually impaired. Songs for the Brave is also available on audiocassette.

Two European literary magazines, one in Rome and one in Athens, have published poems from her first volume. Her books and audiocassettes can be ordered direct from the publisher, scbwbooksatheartlink.net. Davidson can also be reached through this e-mail address.

IN MEMORIAM

Harold W. Winslow, 79, a graduate of The Normal School, May 25. ... Marie Pedersen, 94, a retired Slatedale teacher, Sept. 5.

1928 — Mary E. Ball, 93, a retired teacher, Sept. 18.


1934 — Mildred Clark Fosness, 88, an accomplished musician and vocalist, Oct. 10. ... Martha ShudtShbford, 87, a retired teacher, Sept. 28.


1939 — Virginia Weston O’Connor, 82, June 9.

1948 — Donald Gooding, 82, a retired Belling­ham Herald reporter, Aug. 9.

1952 — Paul Gillie, 73, a retired teacher, state attorney and poet, Aug. 29.


1956 — William Richardson Jr., 79, June 27.

1960 — Jan Zachau Dodd, a teacher at Auditorium Elementary School in Lake Wash­ington School District, Sept. 2.


1968 — John Patrick, 59, an employee at Boeing, June 17.

1969 — John L. Moore, 56, a businessman with leukemia who took a legal struggle for patients’ and property rights to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1991, Oct. 1. ... Eileen Jones Troll, 54, Aug. 3.

1970 — Virginia (Gimmy) Bowen, 54, an employee of International Athletics, Aug. 9.

1971 — Sheila Huber, 51, a travel agent, Aug. 11.

1972 — John Wilson, 81, a retired teacher, June 7.

1975 — Beth Burkhalter Van Wyk, 64, a retired teacher, July 28.


1979 — Laura Bassett, 44, Aug. 15. ... Robert Viereck, 77, a former Milwaukee Railroad road worker and a teacher in Alaska and at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen, July 22.


1983 — Stephen Shannon Davis, 46, a teacher at IIT Technical School in Bothell, from injuries sustained in a car accident, Oct. 16.

1985 — Christina Gordon, 43, a teacher, Oct. 16.

1986 — Marilyn Sager, 71, a retired real estate agent who worked in Everett and Bellingham, Aug. 28.

1989 — Flolian "Yangie" Christiansen, 62, whose investigation of a natural means of inhibiting the tobacco ringspot virus earned a Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award from the Western Association of Graduate Schools, Nov. 4. She worked in the presi­dent/provost’s office at WWU from 1991 to 2006. ... Debra Nelson, 34, July 5.

1991 — Derek Cook is the dean of students at Arizona State University. ... Louane Paul teaches kindergarten in Friday Harbor.

1992 — Kristi Fotmar worked as a speech therapist at The American School in The Hague, The Netherlands during 2000-01. Fotmar and her husband have returned to the Seattle area. ... Calvin Den Hartog is general manager of Noosakat Valley Dis­posal Inc. in Lynden and manager of his sis­ter company, San Juan Sanitation in East Sound. ... Tara Lee is a part-time develop­ment coordinator with The Homelessness Project, a program of the Church Council of Puget Sound. ... Kathy Mowalda O’Brien is teaching developmental writ­ing at Montana State University in Billings where she also supervises tutors in the learn­ing lab. ... Dean Shelton was elected to a three-year term as trustee for the Wash­ington State Council of Firefighters. Shel­ton works for the Marysville Fire Depart­ment. He has been a paramedic for eight years and a fire paramedic for six.

1993 — Reeceka Gafos is the business manager for the Whatcom Economic De­velopment Council. ... Bill Premore is the founder of Popl Multimedia in Seattle, an interactive media company that develops Web sites and other Web applications.

1994 — Kim Burkhardt has written "Com­petitive Intelligence Workbook," available at http://www.burkhardtresearch.com. Burkhardt’s book provides the tools to create reports that are well organized, compre­hensive and easy to understand. The tools and checklists are available on the accompa­nying CD. ... Kelli Podyak Byrne is the assis­tant vice president and corporate secretary at Byn Mawr Capital Management, Inc. in Haverford, Penna. ... Rob Endsley co-hosts the syndicated fishing show "Fisherman’s Heaven." ... Galen Pfeil and his wife own Green Touch Massage in Bellingham.

1995 — Sean Hackney of Bellingham led the firm of Waddell & Reed in insurance sales last June. ... Crina Hoyer works for RE Sources, a Bellingham non-profit environ­mental educational organization. ... Kaatja Makihjaula is the associate editor at The Kirkland Courier. ... W. Scott Raitlton has been hired at the law firm of Chang & Bosc in Bellingham in practice immigration law. ... Lisa Sommers graduated from the UW School of Medicine and went on to complete education training in internal medicine at the University of California, San Francisco.

1996 — Nicholas Bley is a systems manager for Washington Mutual in Seattle. ... Derek Burnett graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 2000, and started her own legal practice in Se­attle specializing in immigration law. She and her husband, Jason, live in Seattle. ... Fannce Reiser Crocker is a contract ana­lyst in the compliance department with Safeco. Crocker and her husband, Chris Crocker (’90) live in Tacoma.

1997 — Galen Galdana, a former ASC presi­dent at Montana State University, gave the spring commencement address. Galandana is prac­ticing law in Seattle with Williams, Kastra and Giabbus. ... Leslie Keller is the program coordinator for Leadership Tomorrow, an affiliate of the Great Seattle Chamber of Commerce. ... Michael Klein is the resi­dential lending officer at Pacific Northwest Bank in Everett. ... Joel Runnels received his M.A. from Lewis and Clark. Runnels, a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa for three years, is returning to Uganda to set up and teach faculty teaching at Kocha School for the Deaf in Kampala. ... Christine Ambuel has received her M.S.W. in June from the University of Washington. ... Jill Gillespie works part-time with special needs stud­ents at Coastline Elementary School. ... Anna Wygant Bley teaches fifth grade in Snohomish County.

1998 — David Deklyen enlisted in the Army Reserve. Deklyen was assigned to an aviation regiment at Fort Lewis. ... Scott Deklyen graduated cum laude from the Gonzaga School of Law in May. Deklyen also passed the Washington state bar exam. ... Carley Gillespie, a staff accountant with the Archer Group in Bellingham, Nov. 4.

2000 — Jennifer Hahn wrote about her solo kayak trip from Ketchikan, Alaska, to Bell­ingham in "Spirted Waters: Soothing South Through the Inside Passage." ... Julie Halvorson received a heart transplant on Aug. 9, 2001 at the University of Washing­ton Medical Center. ... Matthew Mihelich is currently in Budapest, Hungary, research­ing his dissertation on post-conquest Hung­ary with support from a Fulbright student research grant for the 2001-2002 school year. Hodson, his wife, Cheryl, and son, Nathan, also welcomed the arrival of Victoria Ann Bozena on Sept. 12 in Tielk, Hungary. ... Laura Kupiers spent a year helping with international Special Olympics in Anchorage, Alaska, and working on reha­bilitation of national parks. ... Michael Klein is the resi­dential poet and corporate secretary at the Marysville Fire Depart­ment. He has been a paramedic for eight years and a fire paramedic for six.

2001 — Renee Mihelich teaches first grade at Greywolf Elementary School in Sequim. ... Randi P'Pooi is a disc jockey at KVRX in Yakima. ... Tim Reid, who served the U.S. Navy in Korea before attending Western, is back in South Korea teaching English at a church in Seoul. ... Michael Swartz is a financial analyst for Washington Mutual in Seattle. ... Ginger Wolfiner is the assistant golf professional at Barkley Golf Center in Bellingham.

2002 — Renee Mihelich teaches at North Kitsap High School. She replaces her high school Spanish teacher, Ellen Konopaski. ... Adam Goldstein teaches seven classes in four subjects at Ferrand High School and School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Washington. ... Gary with support from a Fulbright student research grant for the 2001-2002 school year. Hodson, his wife, Cheryl, and son, Nathan, also welcomed the arrival of Victoria Ann Bozena on Sept. 12 in Tielk, Hungary. ... Laura Kupiers spent a year helping with international Special Olympics in Anchorage, Alaska, and working on reha­bilitation of national parks. ... Michael Klein is the resi­dential poet and corporate secretary at the Marysville Fire Depart­ment. He has been a paramedic for eight years and a fire paramedic for six.

Faculty, Staff & Friends

Audrey Brainerd, 56, an adjunct faculty member at Woodgrove’s office campus sites, Nov. 21.

Cody J. Bryant Jr., 75, an assistant professor of accounting from 1977 to 1982. ... Myrtle Kirkman Huntley, 93, a retired food services employee, Aug. 20.

P. Peter Mazur, 77, who retired in 1990 as professor emeritus of sociology, Nov. 7.
Janet Finlay is one of three fairly new faculty members at Western who have, since 1999, created a strong biopsychology program within the psychology department.

As a result of their setting up new research labs and creating new courses examining how biology affects behavior, the maze of hallways in the basement of Miller Hall is now a buzz of activity.

"Unfortunately, I can't accommodate all the students who have voiced an interest" in working on her research, Finlay said. "It's been unbelievable."

Finlay, who joined the psychology department as an assistant professor in 1999, has been studying the neurobiology of mental illness since she received her first research grant as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for the Study of Schizophrenia in 1990.

Today, she involves WWU students in two funded studies she's conducting on whether changes in brain chemicals may contribute to brain abnormalities such as schizophrenia.

Finlay, who calls her work "translational research," takes a clinical problem such as schizophrenia and translates the problem into basic science studies that can have practical applications in clinical settings.

Her current study focuses on mesoprefrontal dopamine neurons, cells that communicate information in the part of the brain known as the prefrontal cortex. A long-term goal for her research is to understand the picture of depression and schizophrenia.

"Despite their situation, the human spirit is very resilient," she said, "the human spirit is very resilient."

Although she is still analyzing the data from Nepal and doesn't expect to publish initial results until spring, Jack is confident it will result in new insights about women and depression, the role anger and family violence play in depression and about possible unique symptoms of depression in Nepal.

"Despite their situation," she said, "the human spirit is very resilient."

The next step in her research is translating the experiments back to a practical clinical application: Is there a drug that will reverse these changes and positively affect behavior and brain function?

"It's exciting to have a basic science research program with clear clinical implications," she said.

"I am excited at the possibility of understanding the picture of depression in a different culture," Jack said.

Silencing the Self has been translated into French, German, Italian and Chinese. A second book Jack wrote on the psychology of gender, Behind the Mask: Destruction and Creativity in Women's Aggression, has been translated into two different forms of Chinese for distribution in China and Japan.

Outside the lab, Finlay supports the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) and stimulates discussion in her classes about the causes and effects of depression and schizophrenia.

"Even in this day and age, we encounter people who think depression and schizophrenia are the result of such things as bad parenting or some sort of character defect," she said, "although both diseases are no different than heart disease in that we now know they have a biological basis.

Her class on drugs and behavior also touches on real life examples that most students encounter or at least hear about.

"It's a fun area to teach undergrads about. Everybody relates to it and is interested in it," she says.

Finlay says she's thrilled that so many undergrads are interested in conducting serious research and going on to advanced degrees.

"It feels like an extended family. You feel like you have contributed to their growth and development in a significant way."

Finlay is married to colleague Mike Manu.


**Why are older people forgetful?**

Assistant professor Mike Mana, a biopsychologist at Western who’s studying aging-related changes in memory function, insists he did not forget about an appointment he had one Wednesday afternoon with the editor of Window on Western.

Instead, he says he missed the appointment because he and some of his students were absorbed in a research project in the basement of Miller Hall that went beyond the time he had scheduled.

It’s quite understandable.

Student and faculty research in the department’s research labs have taken off in the last three years since Mana, Janet Finlay and Jeff Grimm joined forces with professor Merrie Prim to strengthen the biopsychology program at Western.

Besides, Mana is only 41 years old, a good 20 years away from the age at which humans typically begin to see a decline in their memory skills.

The phenomenon of older people being forgetful is well known. What Mana and other scientists want to know is: Why?

To help answer that question, Mana and his students study 2-year-old lab rats, the equivalent of 80-something humans, to learn more about the relationship between changes in memory function and aging-related changes in neurons that release a chemical substance called norepinephrine.

Norepinephrine is a type of chemical signal released by neurons in the brain. It is the brain’s equivalent of adrenaline, says Mana, who has also conducted research into the effects of stress on brain function. “Norepinephrine neurons are highly activated during times of stress or arousal and appear to be quite involved with vigilance and attentional processes in the brain,” he says.

Mana and a handful of undergraduate and graduate psychology students are currently studying rats’ performance in two different mazes in the basement of Miller Hall.

In addition, they are studying the electrical and chemical activity of norepinephrine neurons in the rats to see if there is a relationship between changes in brain function and the ability of these rats to make their way through the mazes.

“They’ve already collected a year’s worth of data. The long-term expectation is that their experiments will help answer some of the following questions:

- Is there a change in function of norepinephrine neurons during aging?
- Are these neural changes correlated to changes in memory function?
- Can you stimulate norepinephrine neurons and ameliorate some of the cognitive changes that accompany the aging process?”


**Students resilient after Sept. 11**

Continued from page 1

Sattler and his team surveyed 414 college students in the New York City area, 329 at Western, 280 from Boulder, Colo., and 259 from Charleston, S.C., to assess how life had changed since Sept. 11.

Sattler said he was amazed that the attitudes of the students surveyed were similar, regardless of their proximity to the tragedy.

For instance many Western students reported almost identical feelings to their counterparts 3,000 miles away in New York. On some survey questions, there were only a few percentage points difference between the two groups.

“The findings show that this is an American response to an American tragedy,” Sattler said. “People throughout the country were affected by the events that took place there.”

The responses to questions regarding what students have done for their community since the Sept. 11 attacks, how relationships with family and friends have changed and how priorities and personal goals have improved reflected a new spirit among the American people, he said.

Many students reported they felt closer to family and friends than they did before the attack and felt comforted by their community. Students also reported an increased knowledge that they could count on people in times of trouble.

Many students also said they have become more compassionate and acted on it by giving money to charity, showing concern for someone they did not know and displaying the flag as a way to support and comfort those who lost family and friends in the attacks.


**SURVEY RESULTS ON COPING CHARACTERISTICS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NY</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>SC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feel Patriotic</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display American flag</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have new priorities in my life</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>81%</td>
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<td>Appreciate each day</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feel closer to family members</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Found I am stronger than I thought</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Know I can count on people</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feel my life has purpose with work</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated money to charity</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Participants included 414 in NY; 329 in WA; 280 in CO and 259 in SC

The psychology department at Western has two research centers that study the human condition.

The **Center for Cross Cultural Research** consists of 17 faculty members in the psychology department who share a common interest in studying the influence of culture on human thought and behavior.

Begun in 1969, the center was a response to the Euro-American bias in psychological theory, research and practical applications common at that time.

Its director is Walter Lonner, who is also the founding and senior editor of The Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology.

The **Western Institute for Social Research** has nine affiliated researchers whose areas range from trust and confidence research to women’s anger, from prevention of alcohol abuse among American Indians to stereotyping and prejudice.

George Cvetkovich leads the WISR.
**Accent on Alumni**

**New scholarship provided by alumni from San Diego**

The San Diego Alumni Association Chapter, one of the most active in the WWU chapter network, is seeing a year's planning come to fruition with a scholarship program that will benefit San Diego County residents interested in attending Western.

The one-year award of $1,000 for an entering student is a way for San Diego alumni to give back to WWU.

The chapter is the first to create a scholarship and it's well on its way to raising its goal of $40,000 for an endowment.

The scholarship is in addition to the 28 scholarships awarded through the Alumni Association, the Alumni Club and the Collegiate License Plate program each year.

"It will definitely be used as a model for our other WWU chapters who have been planning fund-raising or scholarship programs of their own," said Mary Ann Harrington, associate director of Alumni Relations.

The kick-off for the San Diego scholarship program was held at the chapter's fall event, a motor coach trip and tour of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, Calif., followed by dinner in historic Old Town Pasadena.

Signe Beck ('84), a UBS/PaineWebber financial adviser in La Jolla and the chapter's scholarship coordinator and co-president, said she and Sam Porter, the other chapter co-president, are excited that alumni have already contributed to the scholarship fund in many ways.

WWU alumni can make one-time donations to the scholarship endowment or give a little bit every month, quarter or year, Beck said. "No matter how they wish to give, we can work with them," she said.

The first recipient, to be chosen in the spring, will receive $1,000 toward his/her out-of-state tuition and fees for the 2002-2003 academic year.

"When we reach our $40,000 goal, it will become a $2,000 scholarship," Beck said, $1,000 for each of the student's first two years.

Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of residence in San Diego County, community activity and financial need. Preference will be given to children or other relatives of WWU alumni.

Contributions to the San Diego WWU Alumni Scholarship may be sent to The Western Foundation, WWU, MS-9034, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA, 98225-9034.

For more information contact Sonja Chorba at The Western Foundation (360) 650-3384; Signe Beck in San Diego at (858)459-1848; or the Alumni Association at (800) 676-6885.

**Scholarship winners**

Recipients of Alumni Association scholarships for the 2001-2002 school year were invited to a luncheon with Alumni board members in Bellingham in October. Attending were (spinning in, clockwise from bottom left): Rita Johansen, Maya Tomlin, Kevin Rupp, J.P. Mumley, Cynthia Chahine, Leah Norton, Brent Olson, Megan Risdale, Maya Zeller, Emily Johnson, Krisa Almas and Kristen Cheshie.

David Britton ('70/76), chair of the Alumni Association Awards Committee, says he's proud that the fund doubled in the last four years and that some individual awards have increased from $1,000 a year to $3,000 a year.

The San Diego Alumni Chapter is creating a separate scholarship fund for WWU students from San Diego County.

**WWU Student Alumni Association is growing strong**

**Hello Western Alumni!**

I am one of the many enthusiastic members of the Student Alumni Association, which is rapidly growing this year. This organization started two years ago and we have thousands of ideas.

Already, we have 15 members who hope to gain leadership skills, meet new people, and have a ton of fun.

During fall quarter, we set goals for the year and began to plant programs such as a comedy night, a retreat to Viqueen Lodge on Sinclair Island and various community service projects. We'd also like to trade places with a Western faculty member for a day and sponsor a student team for Ski-to-Sea.

All of the members are especially excited to meet Western alumni.

**Anchors Away?**

Interested in a three-day cruise around Puget Sound? Leaving from Seattle and visiting Vancouver and Victoria, B.C.? Alumni House is soliciting interest in a June 5-7 mini-cruise. Call Kristie Lundstrom, events coordinator, at (360) 650-3389 or (800) 676-6885 for more information.

**How is your WWU newsletter doing?**

Do you read Window on Western from cover to cover?

Would you like to see more feature stories on faculty research and campus changes or more space devoted to news about your fellow alumni and about chapter events?

What stories are we covering well? What types of stories would you like to see more of?

We'd like to hear your views.

As the Alumni Association and all of Western grows and changes, we hope to keep you informed and entertained.

Do you read the online edition of the newsletter? Or are you waiting until we debut a new glossy, full-color magazine?

Well, we're not sure how and when we'll grow and change with you, but a lot depends on the desires of you: our alumni and friends. Write us:

**Window on Western Alumni House, MS-9199 Western Washington University 516 High Street Bellingham, WA 98225-9199 E-mail: alumni@wwu.edu**
Reunion is June 21-23

Reunion Weekend, June 21-23, celebrates the return to campus of classes 1951, 1952 and 1953 with a full weekend of activities. Friday begins the weekend with a Welcome Back to Campus Reception. Saturday will hold a full day of activities with plenty of time to reminisce with faculty and fellow classmates. Sunday will be a special farewell coffee time and lunch at Lakewood. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this wonderful event.

Information concerning the reunion was mailed in December.

Are you interested in taking part as a Reunion Committee Member? It’s fun, takes little time and is quite rewarding. If you would like to join the reunion team or did not receive the initial reunion information, please contact Kristie Lundstrom at Alumni House.

Homecoming contests

Red Square at high noon: For five days preceding Homecoming Weekend in October, students participated in pie-eating and bubble-blowing contests, trike races and other activities organized by Alumni House staff.
Campus Connections
CBE dean watching changeover to euro

Dennis Murphy, dean of the College of Business and Economics, says Americans traveling to Europe and U.S. businesses that export to more than one country in Europe will be the winners as 12 than one country in Europe

countries begin using euro marks, francs and other European notes to a single currency once and for all, eliminating the need for American tourists and exporters, Murphy says.

Negative impacts from converting computer systems will also be minimal, Murphy predicts, thanks to years of preparation by Europeans and others who do business in Europe.

The switch from lira, marks, francs and other European notes to a single currency means far fewer hassles for American tourists and exporters, Murphy says. Businesses incur costs just to track, calculate and hedge against the fluctuations in money values, he explains.

Murphy predicted a "very smooth final step" when the changeover occurs after years of planning. Citizens and merchants in the 12 countries, however, will need some time getting used to the new currency, particularly when you consider that national currency often captures a nation's identity, he says.

Although the 12 nations are surrendering autonomy with respect to monetary policy, they will retain at least quasi control of the fiscal policies in their respective countries, Murphy notes.

"They have spent an enormous amount of effort to smooth the transition for the transition, but it will still be fraught with a variety of emotions," Murphy says.

Four join 93 others in WWU's Athletic Hall of Fame

Two all-star football players, a track star and a standout basketball player are the newest members of Western's Athletic Hall of Fame. They are track sprinter Hollie Roberts, basketball forward Anna Rabel and football offensive lineman Jack Frazier and Scott Stokes.

Roberts, who competed as Hollie Watson, owns school records in both the 100 and 200 meters. She was an assistant track coach for six years at Bellingham and Quailcumin high schools. She and husband Keith have two sons, Bo and Cole.

Roberts, 35, was a third-team NAIA All-American in 1988-89 as an offensive lineman for the Vikings to their only 30-win season in 1988-89. Frazier played a key role on a 1950 gridiron squad that was one of the best in school history, and Stokes helped the Vikings to the NAIA District 1 football title in 1976.

The quartet, which brings the total membership to 97, were formally inducted at an Oct. 6 ceremony at the Viking Union. They were also honored at halftime of Western's football game with South Dakota State University.

Roberts, 34, was Western's Female Athlete of the Year in 1987 as she placed third at the NAIA National Track and Field Championship in the 100 meters and fourth in the 200 meter run for 4,000 (4,032) career yards. Stokes, 19, was a third-team Distict 1 All-American in 1988-89 as a guard, and Rabel, 35, was a third-team NAIA All-American in 1988-89 as a guard.

Women's volleyball has outstanding 2001 season

One of the finest campaigns in school history ended as the women's volleyball team swept by UC San Diego in the Pacific Regional of the NCAA Division II National Women's Volleyball Tournament Nov. 16 in San Bernardino, Calif.

Despite the tournament loss, the No.3-seeded Vikings captured the first outright league title in school history, taking the Great Northwest Athletic Conference crown with a perfect 18-0 record.

Dennis Murphy says there remains a concern about how easy it would be to pass phony euros onto millions of Europeans who will be getting their first real look at the new currency when they begin circulating in January. "But they are being vigilant," he says, and counterfeiters should be contained.

What do people do with the "spare change" left over from previous trips to Europe?

"I'm just going to keep them like other people," Murphy says. "They are souvenirs.

Will the changeover cause huge computer problems like the so-called Y2K bug?

The changeover does raise some worries, Murphy said. But there already has been a huge effort to reprogram computer systems. And "the system of accounts is well set up," he says.
Dance Makers
bring movement, growth, partnership into public schools

By Erin Crumpacker
and Drew Linth

Western's Dance Makers program is entering its third year of introducing the art of dance to public schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties.

The program, led by dance director Nolan Dennett and facilitated by Pam Morrison, a lecturer in dance, takes Western dance students into the schools for energetic lectures/demonstrations.

The 50-minute program introduces kids to the building blocks of movement exploration and concludes with a rollicking, hands-on performance. Later, the WWU performers work with kids and teachers in the classroom.

Jane Colson, principal of Ten Mile Creek Elementary School in the Meridian School District north of Bellingham, said Dance Makers has enriched the school's physical education curriculum.

"There is no question Dance Makers and dancing in general promote personal growth," Colson said. "The fifth-grade children were able to participate in a week-long workshop where they gained body awareness, rhythm, coordination and self confidence."

Cynthia Zaferatos ('85), a third grade teacher at Lowell Elementary in Bellingham, has invited the Dance Maker performers into her classroom three times.

"It’s great because kids get to work cooperatively rather than competitively," Zaferatos said.

Both Zaferatos and Dennett agree that children benefit from the non-competitive approach dance brings to physical exploration.

"Movement precedes the acquisition of language and is as significant as story telling in the preservation and understanding of culture," Dennett said.

"It could be said that the purpose of teaching creative movement is to nurture noble minds and to inspire an artistic sensibility in the young. This is accomplished by looking at structure, sequence and relationships from a kinesthetic standpoint," he added.

"If children can command their own bodies without competition or judgment they will take the first steps toward understanding the world they find themselves living in."

WWU's Dance Makers program has received funding from Whatcom Community Foundation, the Parent Teacher Association and Woodring College of Education and the dance program in the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

The state of Washington recently created guidelines for the endorsement, which follow national standards and prepares future educators who wish to teach dance in the public schools.

"Dance Makers is a central component of the endorsement," said WWU dance director Nolan Dennett.

The endorsement program is the only one in Washington offered within the confines of an arts college, Dennett said.

"Our workshops and school performances are built around the Essential Academic Learning Requirements for dance arts," Dennett added, "and have become a vital and vibrant training ground for pre-service teachers who are able to gain first-hand experience in teaching creative movement and in using dance as a tool in the traditional classroom."

Mariners' Lincoln will speak at Seattle Business Forum

The Western Foundation is pleased to announce that Howard Lincoln, chairman and CEO of the Seattle Mariners, will present the 2002 address at the Seattle Business Forum in April 2002.

Lincoln, a key player in the formation of the ownership group that saved the Mariners for Seattle in 1992, was named chairman and chief executive officer in 1999. Since his arrival, the Mariners hired a new general manager; reorganized the front office to streamline business operations; expanded the Major League payroll, allowing the addition of several free agents, and entered the race for the pennant.

Lincoln retired as chairman of Nintendo of America, Inc. in February 2000.

The luncheon forum will be held at the Westin Hotel in Seattle at noon, April 22.

Doors open at 11:15 a.m. Tables can be reserved at the following sponsorship levels:

- $1,500 Platinum Table (priority table placement and private reception with honored guests preceding the luncheon)
- $1,000 Gold Table (1st tier table placement)
- $500 Silver Table (2nd tier table placement)
- $350 White Table (3rd tier table placement)

All sponsorship levels include distinct table signage, listing in the event program and nine seats at the table for your invited guests. The tenth seat will be reserved for a distinguished WWU faculty member, scholarship student or key university administrator.

To support Dance Makers, send your contribution to:

The Western Foundation
Dance Makers/Dance Works
516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-9034

Alpha Technologies has challenge for President's Club members

Alpha Technologies of Bellingham has provided a $25,000 challenge grant to all President's Club members to encourage increased annual gifts from current members.

The grant will match all President’s Club-level gifts that are increased by at least $250 over last year's gift.

For example, if a member increases his or her annual gift from $1,000 to $1,250, the additional $250 will qualify for the match.

While donors can designate their gift to a fund of their choice, the match will benefit the Campus Endowment Fund, which meets the most pressing needs of the campus and supports priority programs.

For more information on the matching gift and/or the President's Club, call Mark Bagley at (360) 650-3612.
January

7-31 Faculty Review/Preview at the Western Gallery
17 Distinguished Lecture Series presents Helen Thomas, 6:30 p.m. at PAC Mainstage
18-20 Alumni Association Annual Ski Trip to Sun Peaks, B.C.
19 Alumni Chapter: Snohomish County hosts retirement and Peter Pan at the Village Theater, Everett
21 Martin Luther King Day
23-31 Theatre Arts presents Independence, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 23-26, Jan. 30-Feb. 2 and at 2 p.m. Jan. 27, Undergraduate Theatre $4
31 Alumni Chapter: Whatcom County hosts "tailgate" party on campus before the WWU vs. Central basketball game

February

1-2 Theatre Arts presents Independence, 7:30 p.m. Undergraduate Theatre, $4
2 Board of Trustees meets 8:30 a.m., Old Main 340
11- Western Gallery: Pressure Points, an exhibit of contemporary prints by artists focusing on identity and the conceptual arrangement of visual clues. Through March 22, free
8 PAC Series: Susan McKeeewn & Chanting House, Celtic folk rock and global rhythms, 7:30 p.m., PAC Concert Hall. $10-$16
9 Alumni Association, Board of Directors meets, Seattle
9 Alumni Chapter: Seattle reception/speaker, Chinese Room, Smith Tower, Seattle
12 Music Department: Wind Symphony, 8 p.m., PAC Concert Hall, free

March

1-22 Western Gallery: Pressure Points, an exhibit of contemporary prints by artists focusing on identity and the conceptual arrangement of visual clues, free
1 Sleepwalking Over Science: Hands-on activities and an overnight science show in the Science Learning Resource Center for grades 3-8. $45
9 Alumni Chapters: Whatcom and Seattle host one-day ski trip to Whistler, B.C.
12 PAC Series: Petersen Quartet, 7:30 p.m., PAC Concert Hall, $10-$16

April

6 PAC Series: Live Sat. Acts, an evening of daring physical performance, 7:30 p.m., PAC Concert Hall, $12-$18
6 Alumni Chapter: South Puget Sound hosts dinner and Hair at the Capital Playhouse in Olympia
10-21 Theatre Arts presents Keefy and Dav, 7:30 p.m., April 10-13 and 17-20 and at 2 p.m., April 21, $4
11 Board of Trustees meets, 8:30 a.m., Old Main 340
13 Western Preview 2002: Newly admitted freshmen and their families explore campus

2012 Calendar

Tickets & Information

Adventures in Science and Art Camps

Contact

Phone: (360) 650-6822

Western Washington University
516 High Street
Bellingham, WA 98225-9030

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