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Faculty, staff and alumni publish creative and intellectual works

Diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, Prince-Hughes says she believes people with autism spectrum disorders have a predisposition to excel in academia, despite the numerous obstacles they may endure.

Taking a different approach to communicating with students, Huxley College of the Environment Dean Bradley Smith's world renown textbooks "Environmental Science: A Study of Interrelationships" and "Environmental Science Field Guide and Laboratory Manual" (McGraw-Hill, $79.19 and $39.06) were both released in their ninth editions in March.

Used in more than 500 colleges around the globe and translated into Chinese and Korean, Smith's text discusses major environmental issues, including nuclear energy and the study of ecosystems.

Also from Huxley, environmental science chair John "Jack" Hardy's text "Global Climate Change: Causes, Effects and Solutions" (John Wiley & Sons, $120) was printed in April.

Hardy addresses the climate change challenge the world faces today. Focusing on fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases, Hardy discusses how these issues have altered the chemistry of the Earth's atmosphere.

Nationally recognized for his expertise on the electoral process, political science professor Todd Donovan explores the idea of cumulative voting in his new book "Electoral Reform and Minority Representation" (Ohio State University Press, $47.95).

Released in March, Donovan's book examines a system in which a voter may pool votes for a single candidate rather than casting one vote for each position. For example, instead of voting for each position on a ballot, a voter may use all votes toward one single position.

Also published by Ohio State University Press, "Sexual Borderlands" ($29.95) was released early this year.

"Aquamarine Blue 5: Personal Stories of College Students with Autism" (Above, left) The jacket of Sarah Clark-Langager's book shows Bruce Nauman's "Stadhirn of Western's internationally celebrated Outdoor Sculpture Collection, accompanied by text that offers a unique perspective on the 22 works in the collection. Clark-Langager says the book gives "equal voice to the art historian and artist."

The sculptures include New York-based artist Nancy Holt's "Rock Ring" found on south campus, and Isamu Noguchi's "Skyviewing Sculpture" located in Red Square.


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Shannon Point garners presidential honors,  
grant for marine science program and diversity

Under the wing of the Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes, the Minorities in Marine Science Undergraduate Program has earned two coveted national awards. In a March 18 White House ceremony, Shannon Point director Stephen Sulkin accepted the 2002 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematic and Engineering Mentoring. The National Science Foundation administers the award, which carries a $10,000 grant.

A day later, MMSUP’s founding director Brian Bingham, associate professor of environmental sciences, received a Coastal and Ocean Resource Management Excellence Award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One of six people in the nation NOAA honored for research and community endeavors related to coasts and oceans, Bingham was specifically cited for "promoting diversity." Shannon Point also received an $86,000 National Science Foundation grant to extend its unique, nationally recognized minority education program through 2008.

Woodring partners with “best” teachers

A new partnership between Woodring College of Education and teachers who have achieved recognition as the “most accomplished” in their field will assist teachers in the region to apply for and successfully complete a rigorous one-year national certification process. Woodring faculty and teachers certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will help applicants from north Snohomish County to the Canadian border demonstrate that they are among America’s most effective teachers.

Western alumni who are among the state’s 215 nationally certified teachers are: Joan Borstal (’86), Bob Frey (’64), Janet Goldsmith Fleischer (’51), and Kathy D. Sheehan (’90).

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Window on Western

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Peace Corps ranks WWU alumni tops

Western has been ranked fourth in the nation among medium-sized institutions in the Peace Corps’ list of Top Producing Colleges and Universities. Gaddi Vasquez, director of the Peace Corps, said the 46 WWU alumni working to fight hunger and poverty in the developing world "apply the skills and knowledge they acquired during their time at your institution to help improve the lives of many people in need." The ranking "clearly reflects the high caliber of the students who attend your institution," he added.

Whatcom Creek film documents ecosystem, cultural, social resource

The history and future of Whatcom Creek as an economic, cultural and social resource—most remembered since 1999 as the pipeline explosion site—is the focus of a new 30-minute documentary film. Produced by the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies at Western, "Creek Story" is funded by a grant from the Whatcom Community Foundation.

"Like the water that runs through it, Whatcom Creek’s tale flows through the history of the region,” says Elizabeth Joffrin, an archivist at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies who worked on the film. "Creek Story" features interviews, conducted and narrated by WWU faculty, with notable community members, including Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson (’76), environmental leaders and Whatcom County businesses.

County businesses aided by SBDC

Although 2002 was a challenging year for Whatcom County businesses, the Small Business Development Center saved or created 388 jobs while counseling 429 businesses. A service of the College of Business and Economics, SBDC aided 7 percent of the county’s companies in 2002.

STUDY CANADA in 25th year at WWU

Teachers, librarians and French language instructors will have the opportunity to learn how to incorporate the study of Canada into their curriculum during two K-12 STUDY CANADA workshops offered June 22-27 at Canada House. Participants will earn two credits. Both workshops are $500 with a $100 nonrefundable deposit due with the application for registration. Additional expenses for parking, curriculum materials, and campus room and board for five days are covered by grant funding. For more information: (360) 650-7370.

2 WINDOW ON WESTERN
Western will have two new colleges in the fall: the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Science and Technology.

Acting on the recommendation of President Karen W. Morse, the Board of Trustees in December unanimously approved the creation of two colleges from departments currently in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"The formation of the two colleges is an important opportunity that will strengthen the university and its central mission of teaching and scholarship," Morse said. "The result should be a better student learning environment at a time when we face a more complex, rapidly changing environment in higher education."

Board chair Betty Woods said dividing the College of Arts and Sciences, which contains 57 percent of Western's faculty, "places Western in a stronger position to serve some of the finest students in our state and to attract resources that will enhance an already excellent academic reputation."

The board authorized searches for deans of both colleges and supported development of administrative plans, in collaboration with the faculty, to set up "strong and viable colleges."

Board members noted that creation of the two colleges will enable the university to better respond to a changing academic and economic environment and to meet future educational demands.

They also determined that the ability of the two smaller colleges to focus more closely on educational, programmatic and fund-raising opportunities will benefit students and faculty.

Viking basketball players set school records

Senior forward Stacey Miller of Bellingham was a first-team Women's Basketball Coaches Association, unanimous GNAC-All-Star and a Daktronics West Region all-star. She finished second nationally in 3-point percentage, scoring on 57 of 123 shots beyond the arc, and she set a school career record of 44.3 percent for 3-pointers (155 of 350).

Leading the men's team was center Mike Palm, a senior from Puyallup, the team's leading scorer and leading rebounder in school history with 874. Speaking of books, English professor Nancy Johnson received this year's ABA/Award and the National Science Foundation with a Faculty Early Career Award.

One of our many creative alumni returned to Western in March to perform with the Montréal Danse Troupe during the American College Dance Festival, hosted at Western for the first time by dance program director Nolan Demeester and his faculty. Abbie Anderson joined the company after her 2002 graduation. Her short-range plans include working with children, first in Seattle, then in an orphanage in Ghana, before further pursuing her own dance career.

Innovation thrives across the spectrum of disciplines. Under the guidance of industrial design associate professor Arunas Odapas, for example, two students won first place awards at the sixth annual Industrial Design Resource Awards contest in Kanagawa, Japan, topping 200 entries from schools in 23 nations. Three others earned honorable mention or recognition, giving Western five distinguished winners, more than any other competing school.

National recognition has recently come to history professor Alan Gallay whose latest book, "The Indian Slave Trade: the Rise of the English Empire in the American South, 1670-1717," won this year's Bancroft Prize. It also was a Choice magazine selection as an Outstanding Academic Title for 2002. Associate chemistry professor James Vryyan, was honored by the National Science Foundation with a Faculty Early Career Development award.

This is just a glimpse of the breadth of creativity our faculty, alumni, staff and students exhibit throughout the year. You can read more about their accomplishments in this, and every issue of Window on Western. But, please, come back and see for yourself, in spring when the campus is in full bloom — or in any season.
1922 — Pearl Mead celebrated her 100th birthday on Nov. 8 at Colonial Vista in Winetka.

1935 — Mary Hash is constantly on the go since retiring from the Enumclaw School District as a teacher. Hash volunteers with the juvenile court system, Enumclaw Community Hospital Foundation, Relay for Life, Cups for Kids and other cancer walks. Hash is undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

1958 — Gary Radliff was inducted into the Washington State High School Coaches’ Hall of Fame. Radliff coached the varsity basketball team at Enumclaw High School for 25 years.

1970 — Gary Tollefson was named president of Skagit Valley College by the board of trustees.

1972 — Paul Herbold, Jr. is the senior management corporate safety director for Diamond B. Constructors in Bellingham. Dean Sandell retired from the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Department after 34 years of service. Jerry Witty, owner of San Juan Electronics in Bellingham, was selected by the National Marine Electronics Association as technician of the year. Witty has been in business in Whatcom County for more than 30 years.

1973 — Timothy Ely has published three books and is currently working on nine different books in his studio/homestead in Colfax. Ely is also an artist and some of his works can be viewed at the Museum of Modern Art, the Library of Congress, the National Gallery of Art, Victoria & Albert Museum in London and many other public museums throughout the world.

1974 — Linda Rotmaker is director of the Pacific County Economic Development Council in Raymond. Guy Strickler has published "Americans in Kodachrome 1945-1965." Susan Bondurant has just opened a solo law practice in Port Angeles. She had been practicing in New York City after receiving her J.D. in 1989 from New York Law School. Bondurant is also a calligrapher and painter and is enjoying the beauty of the pen and ink work.


1999 — Krista Alciati and Brian Frederickson, Jan. 21; Amanda Ayers and Warren Wright, Sept. 21; Cathlynn Johnson and Michael Evans, Dec. 27; Alden Linn and Tisha Edelman, Sept. 7.

1999 — Kristin Hendrickson and Nathan Ludvigne, Aug. 24; Jasmine Jordan and Nicholas Rubert, Aug. 24; Meghan Lake and Aaron Toso, Aug. 10; Janna Martin and Dillon Forino (’02), Aug. 2; Renee Miller and Joshua Any’l (’01), July 19.

2000 — Dillon Forino and Janna Martin (’01), Aug. 2; Sonoch Ihh and Beth Warter (’04), Aug. 1; Michael Levine and Lisa Schneider, Oct. 19; Sara Peters and Cory Warnock, June 1.

2002 — Pearl Mead celebrated her 100th birthday on Nov. 8 at Colonial Vista in Winetka.

1997 — Valerie Payne and Mark Custodio, Aug. 3; Elizabeth Smith and Curtis Crammplecher, July 27.

1998 — Cheryl Atwater and Vall Miller, Sept. 14; Karen Bryant and Matthew Smith, Aug. 17; Karin Erickson and Kevin Schuyverm, Sept. 28; Norine Faber and Jay Faustino Villano de le Pena Jr. (’90), Aug. 24; Carrie Palmer and Justin Hall, Sept. 14; Jeanne Petry and Sony Van Corbach, Aug. 31; April Sass and Scott Santorius, July 13.

WEDDINGS

1989 — Brett Lange and Tamara Bailey, Oct. 5.


1994 — Scot Cehringer and Heather Ferris, Sept. 28; Jaymie Johnson and Kevin Lint, Nov. 16. Renee Marx and James Quick, Oct. 5.

1995 — Erica Klein Neplo and William O’Shea, Jan. 25; Aaron Maddux and Christy Vath, Sept. 7; Julie Skillings and Jason Robertson, June 22.

1996 — Courtney Bertsch and Steven Martin, Aug. 17; Jason Mccarthy and Billie Jo Fulton, Aug. 17.

1997 — Valerie Payne and Mark Custodio, Aug. 3; Elizabeth Smith and Curtis Crammplecher, July 27.

1999 — Monica Beth Miller (’02), who works for KPMG in Seattle, was No. 1 in the state.

1999 — Rachel Price (’01) earned fourth place at Western. She was president of the UW regent’s association.

2000 — Meghan Dougherty is in her third year teaching at Kent Catholic. Meghan does volunteer work for the “Abraham’s House” charity and is an artist. Meghan’s artwork is displayed at Café Mercato in downtown Kent. She is the owner and operator of Fools Onion Catering and Professional Catering Services.

2001 — Kristin Hendrickson and Nathan Ludvigne, Aug. 24; Jasmine Jordan and Nicholas Rubert, Aug. 24; Meghan Lake and Aaron Toso, Aug. 10; Janna Martin and Dillon Forino (’02), Aug. 2; Renee Miller and Joshua Any’l (’01), July 19.

2002 — Dillon Forino and Janna Martin (’01), Aug. 2; Sonoch Ihh and Beth Warter (’04), Aug. 1; Michael Levine and Lisa Schneider, Oct. 19; Sara Peters and Cory Warnock, June 1.

Alumni score high in CPA exam

Three Western accounting alumni earned top scores in Washington state’s 2002 Certified Public Accountant exam. The exam is national but given at the state level. It is required for those who wish to become auditors.

The following Western alumni were top scorers:

- Melissa Jackson Miller (’02), who works for KPMG in Seattle, was No. 1 in the state.
- Rachel Price (’01) earned fourth place in Washington. She works in Everett and is an assistant state auditor.
- Cambrin Plante (’01) was No. 9 in the state.
- Megan Leavell and Lisa Schneider, Oct. 19; Sara Peters and Cory Warnock, June 1.

Anderson returns to WWU stage

Abbie Anderson (’02) rejoined Mountaineer Dance Team and leap and flip through familiar floorboards in March for a performance as part of the annual American College Dance Festival, hosted this year in Western. Her former coach is the Canadian dance group after her graduation in August 2002. She was with the group from mid-September to the end of October 2002. She was given the rare opportunity to lead the group as a dancer when a dancer was injured on the eve of a three-week tour.

"Working with Mountaineer Dance helped my self-esteem," she said. "In performing, I feel like I realized new potential in myself."
IN MEMORIAM

1952— Gene Nye, 73, a retired state employee, in Olympia, Nov. 5. ... William Van Brocklin, 72, a retired teacher and principal, in Stanwood Dec. 24.
1954— Helen Macy, 103, a retired social worker, in Bellingham Nov. 29.
1957— Robert Duval, 72, a retired teacher, in Olympia Nov. 25. ... Robert Ercrett, 69, a retired teacher, in Shelton Jan. 21.
1959— Greta Bayes, 90, a retired teacher, in Lynden Nov. 10.

1972— Vincent Martin, 78, a retired millwright, in Spokane Nov. 2.
1986— Linda Gojeno, 60, a teacher at Everett Community College and WMU, in Everett Feb. 12.

Jerome Glass, a music professor and conductor at Western for 28 years, Feb. 20. Recently inducted into the Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame, Glass also conducted the Seattle Philarmonic Orchestra for 11 years and the Jewish Community Centre Chamber Orchestra in Vancouver, B.C.

Beverly Hanna, 79, an administrative secretary in the speech pathology department from 1968 to 1983, Jan. 5.

Retired Western librarian Miriam Snow Mathes

Miriam Snow Mathes, 97, a professor of library science from 1934-1973 and the daughter-in-law of the late Edward T. Mathes, Western's first president, died Jan. 31 in the Panorama City Convalescent Center in Lacey.

After college and study at Columbia University’s School of Library Service in New York, she accepted a position at the then Bellingham State Normal School in 1934. Intending to stay only a year or two, she served as children’s literature librarian, Campus School librarian and professor of library science until retirement in 1971.

In 1936, she helped found Western’s program to prepare teachers as school library and library media center professionals.

In 1951, she married Homer B. Mathes, son of Western’s first president. He preceded her in death.

A prolific contributor to the professional literature of children’s and school librarianship, she donated $50,000 to the Western Washington University Foundation in 1991 to establish the Edward Tilden Mathes scholarship in memory of her father-in-law.

Several years later, she presented her extensive collection of reading figurines to Western, pieces of which are often displayed in Wilson Library.

Surviving are stepsons H. Bernard Mathes and Grahm E. Mathes and their families.

Michael K. Mischakow

Michael K. Mischakow, 85, professor emeritus of economics who taught in the College of Business and Economics for 24 years, died April 13, in Bellingham.

Mischakow helped establish Huxley College and served as interim dean during 1977-78.

In 1984, he received the Outstanding Teacher Award, Western’s highest recognition of teaching performance.

He was a founder of the Annals of Regional Science, a journal on urban, regional and environmental research and policy. He was instrumental in creating the Pacific Regional Science Conference and was voted “Honorary President for Life.”

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Faculty, staff are prolific at authoring

Continued from page 1

by history professor Kathleen Kennedy was released in January.

An anthology of essays on the history of sexuality, Kennedy's book explores topics such as how immigration laws have shaped the formation of family in both China and the United States, and how the changes in sexual values influenced a presidential race in the 1800s.

Suzanne Paola and Brenda Miller, associate and assistant professors of English, have put together a new text titled "Tell It Slant: Writing and Shaping Creative Nonfiction" (McGraw-Hill, June 2003). The book is the first comprehensive text covering all aspects of nonfiction writing and features an anthology of collected readings.

Paola also had a collection of poems published in November titled "Lives of the Saints" (University of Washington Press, $13.95). Paola, recipient of the National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship for 2002-2003, explores the interactions between spirituality, secularity and other topics including nuclear power and war. She is the author of three award-winning poetry books, and her prose memoir "Body Toxic" was a New York Times Notable Book of the Year for 2001.

Also produced by an English department faculty member is "Pocket Animals" (Egress Studio Press, $12.95, Jan. 2003), a collection of poetry by lecturer James Bertolino. Bertolino says he uses unusual imagery and surprising twists of language to create moments of openness for readers. Bertolino also has a long list of prose publications, but he says "poetry is my primary involvement, my art."

Physical education, health and recreation faculty have also recently released texts.

Diana K. Burnham's book on competitive sports psychology "The Mind-Body Connection" (Human Kinetics, $19, January 2003) presents teaching skills for coaches of eight different sports, including football and volleyball.

Professor Ralph Vernacchia has written "Inner Strength: The Mental Dynamics of Athletic Performance" (Wadie Publishing, spring 2003), a book outlining his approach to enhancing mental skills and improving personal performance. His model focuses on what he calls the "Four Cs:" concentration, confidence, composure and commitment.

For the past three years, Vernacchia has taught a Peak Performance class, open to the public, which has helped both competitive athletes and ordinary people improve performance.

Vernacchia has given presentations to several community groups and has worked as a sports psychologist for the U.S. Olympic track and field team.

Associate professor Dennis Caine had his book "Scientific Aspects of Women's Gymnastics" (Karger Publishers, $147) published in October. He explores how to bridge the gap between the science and the culture of the sport.

The book incorporates more than 20 years of Caine's research on injuries and growth of gymnasts. Caine, a consultant for U.S.A. Gymnastics' Sports Science Reference Network, also serves on the review board for the Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine and for The Physician and Sportsmedicine, a medical journal.

Chair of the FEHR department Kathleen Kuzmier released the second edition of her textbook "Biomechanical Basis of Human Movement" in February (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, $69.95).

WWU's Alan Gallay wins Bancroft Award

History professor Alan Gallay has won Columbia University's prestigious Bancroft Prize for his latest book on Native American studies, "The Indian Slave Trade: The Rise of the English Empire in the American South, 1670-1717" (Yale University Press).

Gallay's book is the first ever to focus on the traffic of Indian slaves during the early years of the American South. Twelve years in the making, it documents how the trade operated, the processes by which Europeans and Native Americans became participants, and the intense consequences for the South and its residents.


Gallay has been at Western since 1998.
off the Shelf

More books, poetry and books in progress

Assistant professors Stan Tang (Fairhaven College) and Paul Piper (Wilson Library) have co-authored "Father Nature: Fathers as Guides to the Natural World" (University of Iowa Press, $30) and will be released in June. They will have a reading at Village Books on Father's Day.

Martin Osborne, a computer science professor, had the second edition of his textbook "Java, A Framework for Program Design and Data Structure" (Brooks/Cole, $76.95) released last year.

Political science professors Kenneth Hoover and Todd Donovan will have the seventh edition of their nationally used text "The Elements of Social Scientific Thinking" (Thomson/Wadsworth, $20.95) released in July.

Hoover will also have his book "Economics as Ideology: Keynes, Laski, Hayek, and the Creation of Contemporary Politics" (Rowman and Littlefield, Inc., $24.95) published this August.

A native of Guemes Island, Deach now lives on Camano Island.

Georgie Bright Kunkel's 82 years and the ailments that have come with them inspired her to write a memoir of her early life, "You're Damn Right I Wear Purple: Color Me Feminist." Kunkel ('44) included two humorous essays about aging.

Kunkel has been involved in a video premier "Hamage on the Hill" in which she and several other elderly women were interviewed and honored. She has also completed a manuscript of her husband's memoirs from World War II, which is now ready for final editing and publishing.

Deach, diagnosed with bipolar disease in 1995, has used her talent in drawing to keep herself focused. Her illustrations grace the book by Lory Britain, "My Grandma Died: A Child's Story about Grief and Loss.

The Resurrectionists

Michael Collins of the English department had his novel "The Resurrectionists" (Scribner, November, $24), chosen for student-athletes to use to excel in both the classroom and life, released in its second edition in December. It has been used recently in a PBDR course and provides tools for students to excel in both the classroom and on the field.

Orion Polinsky ('03), has written "A Biodiesel Handbook," filled with information about the renewable, biodegradable and clean alternative to petroleum diesel.
Four honored with annual awards

Seattle city councilman, mountaineer and geology educators named distinguished alumni for 2003

by Kathy Sheehan

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Seattle City Councilman Richard J. McVee (76) has received the 2003 Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award from the WWU Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association also honored with separate Distinguished Alumni Awards mountain climber Carlos Buhler (78) and the geology teaching team of Suzanne Beske-Diehl and Jimmy Diehl ('98, '72).

“"These four outstanding graduates have distinguished themselves as teachers, researchers, collaborators, leaders and lifelong learners,” said WWU President Karen W. Morse. “Western is proud to honor them for their achievements and service to the community.”

Richard McVee

McVee, a Fairhaven College graduate, has been a local and national leader in the fields of housing, community and economic development, planning and urban renewal. He is executive director of the Washington Association for Community Economic Development, a coalition of community-based nonprofits working to revitalize disadvantaged communities.

The annual Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes McVee’s 30-year history of achievement in creating housing and job opportunities in Washington and across the nation.

McVee’s private and non-profit sector experience includes his position as development director at the Tacoma Housing Authority a decade ago. He was also director of the Community and Economic Development Assistance Center in Washington, D.C., and of rehabilitation advisory services for the National League of Cities in the 1980s.

He was employed by the city of Seattle’s Planning and Community Development Department from 1967 to 1980 and worked as a private management consultant from 1984 to 1991.

McVee is a “true member of the community, one who has spent his life working to help those members of our society who are less fortunate than others,” said Larry Taylor (’72).

McVee was appointed to a vacancy on the Seattle City Council in January 1997 and was subsequently elected and re-elected to four-year terms. He serves as chairman of the council’s Housing, Human Services and Community Development Committee.

Carlos Buhler

Buhler, a graduate of Huxley College of the Environment, was designated “Best of the Best Mountainiers” by EverestNews.com last year and has been an informal ambassador for Western as he scaled more than 100 of the world’s tallest peaks.

He was photographed on Mount Everest in Tibet and K2 in China, the world’s highest and second highest mountains, holding a Huxley College flag.

Buhler is the first North American to have climbed four of the world’s 14 peaks over 26,250 feet. Buhler, who is also a motivational speaker, was recognized not so much for his climbing ability, but his success in using small, efficient teams and lightweight tactics that are friendly to the environment and the local community.

“He is a leader in converting the sport of alpine climbing from an assault mentality to one of group centered, strategic planning; mutual respect between climbers and sherpas; use of high tech gear; and best environmental practices,” said nominator Ted Mischakov (’88), a member of the Western Washington University Alumni Association board and the Alumni Association board of directors.

Buhler lives in Bremerton, Mont., and travels the country consulting on organizational development and managerial expertise with two primary presentations, “Product and Process: The Path to Excellence” and “Greater Results with Fewer Resources: The Commitment to Efficiency.”

Jimmy Diehl and Suzanne Beske-Diehl

Buhler’s quest for excellence and his commitment to teaching others is shared by co-recipients Jimmy Diehl and Suzanne Beske-Diehl, geophysics and geology professors at Michigan Technological University.

The couple, who met at WWU while pursuing master’s degrees in geology, has shared a single faculty position for nearly 25 years at MTU where they established a Ph.D.-level research program in paleomagnetism and applied rock magnetism.

Both have received numerous National Science Foundation research grants and were instrumental in obtaining NSF funding for a state-of-the-art environmental magnetism laboratory at MTU.

“They are a team in all aspects of their professional as well as personal lives,” said geology professor emeritus Myrl Beck, who noted that the concept of a shared academic appointment was largely anathema 25 years ago.

“It is only fitting that they jointly receive this award because their successes have evolved out of their astonishing ability to work together,” added Robert Mitchell, associate professor of geology at WWU who attained his master’s and Ph.D. degrees at MTU under Beske-Diehl and Diehl.

“They have been an inspiration in my life and I directly give credit to them for nurturing my passion for learning,” he said.

Among his many honors as a scientist and teacher, Jimmy Diehl was named “Outstanding Teacher” at MTU in 1995 and served as associate editor for the Journal of Geophysical Research from 1994 to 1997.

At MTU, Suzanne Beske-Diehl was associate dean at the College of Engineering from 1994 to 1997 and spearheaded the establishment of a Presidential Commission for Women on campus in 1992, which brought an awareness of gender and racial diversity issues to the campus and creation of a child care center.

“I think she changed the culture in the college through her effective advocacy,” said Fredrick J. Dobney, former provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at MTU.

She has been secretary of the Geo-magnetism andPaleomagnetism section of the American Geophysical Union, an organization of 40,000 earth scientists. She has recently been named director for faculty success and diversity for the College of Engineering and is organizing a mentoring program for new assistant professors.

The couple is also involved in community service in Houghton, Mich., where Jimmy Diehl has served as treasurer for a youth swimming team and coach for an after-school program called Odyssey of the Mind.

The four were to be honored at a May 2 banquet.
Scholarship recipient: Lisa Hobbs

Lisa Hobbs, a senior from Redmond, is the recipient of the Alumni Association's Lifetime Member Scholarship, a renewable scholarship of $3,000 a year.

She is one of more than 20 students attending Western this year on Alumni Association scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $3,000. The scholarships are funded through the dues of life members of the Alumni Association.

Hobbs' Lifetime Member Scholarship is funded through the dues of life members of the Alumni Association.

More than 1,500 graduates from the Class of 1910 to the Class of 1954, are invited to return to campus June 20-22 for a weekend of "Golden Memories," the theme for this year's reunion.

You can be a mentor!

Alumni mentors have impact on current WWU students

Do you want to have an impact on current Western students? A new program matches WWU alumni and other supporters who contribute to Alumni Association scholarship programs.

You can become a mentor, contact Susan Bakke, director of Alumni Programs and Outreach: (360) 650-7283 or susan.bakke@wwu.edu

WWU's Career Services Center will collaborate in the program, advising sophomores and juniors on various career paths and graduating seniors on interview techniques and resume development. Mentors also may invite their students to "job shadow" them for a day.

For more information about how you can become a mentor, contact Susan Bakke, director of Alumni Programs and Outreach: (360) 650-7283 or susan.bakke@wwu.edu

Parents play an active role as partners and ambassadors

More than 150 parents of current Western students are participating in activities to support WWU's student population.

Members of the Parent Volunteer Group act as ambassadors to parents of prospective students and encourage business contacts to learn more about Western's corporate partnership opportunities.

Levels of involvement vary from playing an active role welcoming parents of prospective students during family weekends to developing new opportunities for students.

Some members of the Parent Volunteer Group also host events in their homes to introduce university representatives to potential supporters.

For more information about the group, contact Anna Carey at New Student Programs/Family Outreach, (360) 650-3846 or acarey@wwu.edu

"Golden Vikings" return to campus for June reunion

More than 1,500 graduates from the Class of 1910 to the Class of 1954, are invited to return to campus June 20-22 for a weekend of "Golden Memories." The theme for this year's reunion.

The exciting weekend of activities features induction into The Golden Vikings Society, our newest alumni group, which honors those who have been WWU alumni for 50 years or more.

The Alumni Association will also be recognizing members of the Class of 1943 (60 years), 1948 (55 years) and 1953 (50 years) at the reunion as well as members of the Class of 1954, who will become members of The Golden Vikings Society next year.

Alumnus, Pew fellow is keynote speaker at Scholars Week

Mark Shetabi ('93), winner of a $50,000 Pew Fellowship in the Arts late last year, returns to campus to keynote the fourth annual Scholars Week, May 16-18, which celebrates the importance of undergraduate research and creative activity at Western.

The Bellingham native lives in Philadelphia where he works in the editorial and graphics department of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

There were 300 applications for the annual Pew award, which focuses on artists and writers at a crucial time in their careers when concentration on growth and exploration is most likely to have the greatest impact on long-term professional development.

Although primarily known as a painter, Shetabi's recent work has been installation art. He was given the award for his installation, "The Oasis," a simulated office hallway with a drop ceiling.

The gallery is also installing 50 prime examples of the famed chair collection in an adjacent room as a permanent exhibit.

For more information about Scholars Week, call (360) 650-6578 or go to http://www.wwu.edu/scholars

Home economics reunion will kick off Homecoming, Oct. 18-26

The theme was "Gone But Not Forgotten" in 1995. At the first home economics department reunion, hats were the centerpieces, and the day was filled with memories.

It's time once again to reunite alumni, faculty and staff Oct. 18 for the second reunion since the department closed a decade ago.

The reunion will coincide with the opening of the Western Gallery exhibition featuring "A Painting for Over the Solos" (That's not necessarily a painting). Blue sofas from the Western chair collection will also be part of the exhibit.

The gallery is also installing 50 prime examples of the famed chair collection in an adjacent room as a permanent exhibit.

The home economics reunion will kick off the weeklong 2003 Homecoming activities. Look for more information about Homecoming in the next issue.
New faculty bring their research to teaching

by Kathy Sheehan
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

New faculty at Western often hit the ground running when they arrive on campus in September.

Such is the case with three newly arrived researchers and teachers who have received research funds to explore writing and language systems in Africa, dolphin behavior in Costa Rica and machine learning, a type of artificial intelligence.

Jianna Jian Zhang

Jianna Jian Zhang, an assistant professor of computer science, is working on two projects involving machine learning. One is a learning model that involves teaching a computer how to pronounce Chinese words correctly so that it can then teach WWU students Chinese pronunciation.

The Chinese Language Learning Model would be a type of virtual environment that students could use to practice what they learn in the classroom. Zhang and two other faculty members at Western, Janet Zhiqun Xing and James Hearn, have applied for a National Science Foundation grant to build the practice environment and support student research.

Fallou Ngom

In the department of modern and classical languages, students are learning about the history and evolution of French and African languages from Fallou Ngom, an assistant professor of French and linguistics who joined the faculty in September after receiving his Ph.D. in French linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ngom, who grew up in an urban area of Senegal, is conducting pioneering research into the linguistic and cultural implications of colonization, Islamization and Christianity on sub-Saharan languages.

Many African languages have been wrongly classified as Arabic, he said, because the European scholars who first studied them thought the writing systems were the same or similar to Arabic.

"There is a lot of literature that is based, that is unknown," Ngom said. "People don't realize that it exists."

He is currently studying, with a grant from WWU's Bureau of Faculty Research, how French, English and Arabic speakers have influenced the grammar of his native Wolof, the language spoken by 80 percent of the people in Senegal.

Other cultures have influenced Wolof and other African languages so much that they are losing many of their characteristics, he said.

For example, most European languages describe actions in the three tenses: past, present and future. However, Wolof speakers talk only about actions that are completed and actions that are not completed, and they focus more on the manner in which the action was conducted (quickly, while talking, without assistance, etc.).

But even those aspects of the language are changing as more international citizens live in Senegal, especially for people in urban centers who now speak a language Ngom calls "Urban Wolof."

"In Urban Wolof, we are losing many aspects as a result of the influence of European languages," he says.

A. Acevedo-Gutierrez

In the biology building, Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez, assistant professor of biology and science education, is involving undergraduates in a research project in the San Juan Islands this summer.

Acevedo-Gutierrez is an international scientist and educator who specializes in the study of cetaceans (whales and dolphins) in the wild. He is the principal investigator of a study aimed at determining whether two distinct species of dolphins in the wild: bottlenose and tucuxi, are producing hybrid offspring.

Hybrids are common among dolphins in captivity, but scientists have confirmed through genetic testing only two types of cetaceans that produce hybrids in the wild: whales and porpoises.

Acevedo-Gutierrez says he suspects the Costa Rican bottlenose and tucuxi are producing hybrid offspring in the wild as well. "We just haven't confirmed it yet," he said.

Acevedo-Gutierrez says one of his long-term goals is to set up a regular research program in the Costa Rican wildlife refuge where WWU students could study marine ecology and animal behavior.

"I'm working to produce a long-term study of the response of these predators to varying fish densities in the water."
PARTNERSHIPS
Proud alumni promote WWU at the workplace

By Robin Duranleau
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Key partnerships among Western alumni, the university and primary Puget Sound businesses are growing stronger than ever through the efforts of many alumni working within their corporations.

Alumni at Microsoft, Starbucks and Moss Adams, for instance, are expanding their partnerships with Western by mentoring, advising and providing internships for students, serving as guest lecturers and speakers in classrooms and recruiting new employees on campus.

Alumni at those organizations create scholarships, provide software and other learning resources to students and faculty and tell their non-alumni colleagues about opportunities that benefit both Western and the company.

Moss Adams LLP accounting firm, with nearly five down WWU alumni counted as employees, has hired more new graduates from Western in the last four years than from any other West Coast university. It is also one of the biggest corporate supporters of Western’s accounting program.

Rick Anderson (’73), president and chief operating officer, and Russ Wilson (’79), managing partner of the Bellingham office, say they are pleased with the high quality graduates Western’s accounting department produces.

The two Moss Adams partners presented WWU President Karen W. Morse with a $30,000 check in January to add to their already-established endowment, which helps purchase research services, fund student awards and enhance faculty teaching and research for Western’s accounting department.

"We hope our contributions help ensure the quality education that I and many of my partners and associates received," Wilson said. "I see the results of our efforts every day, reflected in the Western graduates working at Moss Adams."

Moss Adams also sponsors the Seattle Business Forum and supports the Beta Alpha Psi chapter on campus by hosting meetings, dinners and informal socials between students and Moss Adams employees.

Alumni at Microsoft, who number more than 300, are also major partners with Western, especially through the company’s matching-gift donation program.

Microsoft software design engineer Brian Daugherty (’94) became involved with the company’s matching gift program nearly six years ago when he created a Web community for WWU graduates to publicize the matching gift program internally at Microsoft. Former WWU trustee David Cole (’84/’94), senior vice president for MSN and personal services, goes even further by hosting meetings of both alumni and non-WWU alumni at Microsoft to encourage them to make gifts to Western, too.

Over the years, Microsoft and its employees have donated nearly $4 million worth of software to Western. That includes recent contributions of Windows and Office XP, organized by Jason Tafoya (’91).

After last year’s fire in the College of Business and Economics, Microsoft employees rounded up software replacements totaling nearly $29,000.

“I know having a shortage of resources makes (college) that much harder,” Daugherty said. “I’m glad to be able to help provide resources.”

At Starbucks, Denny Organ (’73), director of international manufacturing, encourages Western alumni at Starbucks to utilize the opportunity to have contributions matched by the international coffee company, up to $1,000.

Organ, who serves as advisory board vice chair of WWU’s manufacturing and supply chain management program, wanted his involvement to target that program.

“This very strong and relevant program, built out of a partnership between industry and the university, deserved more funding for scholarships and programs than was available," Organ said. "By focusing on industry and graduates for donations, we have been able to raise $50,000 to $100,000 each year for Western." The donations are used for scholarships, paid student programs, support for professors and software and materials to keep the curriculum up-to-date.

Organ said he also feels donating helps maintain the high quality of work he sees in employees recruited from Western.

"Our fund raising truly creates a win-win situation," Organ said. "This helps the university attract top students to a high-caliber program, while industry benefits by hiring outstanding entry-level employees ready to contribute from their first day on the job."

Stephanie Bowers, vice president of University Advancement at Western, appreciates the role alumni play in assisting the university.

"Alumni have a tremendous impact on our programs, and these are some of the many who have gone above and beyond for Western," Bowers said.

"By creating and strengthening corporate relationships, both our students and the businesses that hire them benefit." For more information about alumni corporate partnerships, contact Dave Brown, director of corporate and foundation relations, (360) 650-4485 or dave.brown@wwu.edu.

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May
2 Alumni Association: Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet, VU
3 Alumni Association: Board meeting, on campus
3 Reunion: Human Services graduates, on campus
3 San Diego Alumni Chapter: Tour and dinner at the Marsten House
17 Alumni Association: Life Members cruise to Victoria, B.C.
24-25 Whatcom County Chapter and Student Alumni Association: Ski-to-Sea Festival participation
27 Seattle Alumni Chapter: Twisted Flicks Event

June
1 Summer Stock tickets on sale
3 Outstanding Graduating Senior Awards and Reception
17-28 Concert Choir tour of Bulgaria
20-22 Reunion for Classes 1952, '53, '54 and before, on campus
21 San Diego Alumni Chapter: Tailgate at the Padres/Mariners game
30 Woodring Hospitality Reception, WASA/AWSP Conference, Spokane

July
11 Summer Stock opens. Performances throughout the region through Aug. 23.

Fall Events
Sept. 11 Key Bank/Viking Night Dinner and Sports Auction to raise scholarship funds for WWU student-athletes, 5 p.m. at Carver Gym. $75 per person; $500 for table of six; $600 for table of eight. Tickets on sale now. Information: (360) 650-3109.
Sept. 13 Seattle Alumni Chapter: Fall Send-off
Sept. 23 WWU Convocation
Sept. 26 Alumni Association: Night at the Mariners game

Homecoming:
October 18-26
Oct. 18 Homecoming activities
Oct. 24 Fireworks, bonfire and live band
Oct. 25 Homecoming football game against Central Washington University. Pre-game and post-game activities.
Oct. 26 Fun Run at new Recreation Building, to raise money for scholarships

TICKETS & INFORMATION
http://calendar.wwu.edu

Alumni events
(800) 676-6885
Athletics
(360) 650-3109
Box Office for PAC/
Theatre Arts
(360) 650-6146

Theatre Arts/
Summerstock
(360) 650-3879
Western Gallery
Info Line
(360) 650-3900
Wilson Library Hours
(recorded)
(360) 650-3049

Ralph Munro for Teachers

The annual political science seminar is an intensive and interactive civic education course aimed at K-12 teachers. It features political insiders such as legislators, lobbyists, political consultants and media specialists who describe how the policies that shape our democracy are made. $550 for Washington residents ($400 for non-residents) covers food, lodging, materials and tuition for two graduate credits.

Summer events to entice you to back to campus

Summer Stock 2003
July 11-Aug. 23
This year's Summer Stock repertory theater features: West Side Story, Cheaper by the Dozen, Boy Meets Girl, Comedy of Errors and GI Jukebox. Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors will tour throughout the region. (360) 650-3876.

Marrowstone Music Festival
July 27-Aug. 17
Produced by the Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestra, the festival brings 200 students and three dozen exceptional faculty to participate in intense musical study on campus and in public concert series. (206) 362-2300. On the Web http://www.marrowstone.org

WWU Summer Youth Programs
June 23-Aug. 8
Adventures in Science and Arts Summer Program provides a full week of in-depth investigation of a favorite topic in the arts or sciences for youthful scholars in grades 3-12. Students in grades 5-12 may experience college living by staying on campus in a residence hall or they may commute from home.

For information, call (360) 650-3469.

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Bellingham, WA 98225 - 9030

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