Spring 2004

Window on Western, 2004, Volume 10, Issue 03

Kathy D. Sheehan
Western Washington University

Alumni, Foundation, and Public Information Offices, Western Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: https://cedar.wwu.edu/window_on_western

Part of the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation
https://cedar.wwu.edu/window_on_western/29

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Publications at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Window on Western by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.
Western students, faculty, staff and alumni are leaders in pursuing long-term economic, social and environmental solutions for sustainability.

Nowhere is the search for sustainable strategies more evident than at the renowned Vehicle Research Institute, founded in 1971 by Michael Seal ('65). As director of the VRI for the past 33 years, Seal and the thousands of students he trained have worked to produce innovative, fuel-efficient cars that have won international awards and captured the attention of top automobile manufacturers.

Seal has won national acclaim as one of the country's top engineering faculty members and won the 1983 Ralph Teetor Outstanding Engineering Educator Award from the International Society of Automobile Engineers. He has also been recognized by The Seattle Times as one of Washington's five leading contributors in the field of science.

Seal retires in June after personally overseeing the production of some three dozen cars. After a family vacation, he plans to return to the VRI as a part-time volunteer and will work with Eric Leonhardt, the incoming director.

Seal's work at the VRI reflects the work of many departments at Western. Classes, clubs, committees and faculty groups exist to further examine ways to make Western, Bellingham, Whatcom County and beyond, a more sustainable place.

2-4 Campus Connections
Items of interest about the university, athletics and the Teaching-Learning Academy.

5 Investments in Excellence
Western has a number of corporate partners interested in sustainability.

6-7 Profiles in Sustainability

8-9 Class Notes, Weddings, Memorials

10-11 Accent on Alumni
New alumni leaders have big plans to connect with you.

12 Calendar

CONTENTS
Fountain sculpture returns

The historic fountain sculpture "Rain Forest," first installed in 1960 outside Haggard Hall, has a new home near the main entrance to the Wade King Student Recreation Center. A major work and the first of Western's famed Outdoor Sculpture Collection, "Rain Forest" welcomes campus visitors and reminds them of the process of renewal through recreation and education. Installation of the relocated bronze sculpture, created in 1959 by Northwest artist James Hitzgerald, was completed March 26. The relocation was made possible by contributions from the family of Ted E. Gary ('48); by Western students; and through an art allocation for the recreation center, which opened for use in fall 2003. The center was also chosen in April for the Outstanding Sports Facilities Award by the National Intramural Recreation Sports Association.

Edie steps down as VP

Robert G. Edie, vice president for external affairs since 2000, stepped down from his administrative position in February due to continuing personal health issues. He remains at Western in an advisory role to the president until his retirement. "With more than 28 years of experience in state government and higher education, Bob has done an excellent job for Western," said President Karen W. Morse.

WWU is 'fertile ground' in Peace Corps rankings

Western has once again ranked high in the U.S. Peace Corps' list of top-producing colleges and universities. In the 2004 list, Western ranks sixth among medium-sized colleges, with 48 Western alumni representing the United States abroad. "Western has always been fertile ground for the Peace Corps," said Nicole Meinzinger, Western's Peace Corps recruiter. "I think we have just the right mix of different kinds of people."

'04 election to be focus of Ralph Munro Seminar

This summer's Ralph Munro Seminar for social studies teachers and future educators will feature sessions on the 2004 campaign and candidates, Native American tribal power and politics, and efforts to involve youth in government. The six-day seminar, "Politics and Government in the 21st Century: A Changing Process," begins July 11 on campus. Named after Ralph Munro ('66), Washington's former secretary of state, the seminar will have sessions led by WWU political science professors Don Alper and Gene Hogan as well as state legislators, party chairs, campaigns consultants, judges and civic activists. For more information, call Alper at (360) 650-3469 or visit http://www.ac.wwu.edu/polisci/ralph_munro/.

Demmet wins award

Education professor William Demmett received the SPU medalion award from one of his alma maters, Seattle Pacific University, for his years of service and accomplishment in the field of Native American education. Demmett, in his 11th year at Western, was recognized during SPU's winter Homecoming celebration for his 44 years of service to the field of education.

Drama students read with playwright Tony Kushner

Two theatre arts majors received the thrill of a lifetime when Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Tony Kushner invited them to read on stage with him during a Distinguished Lecture Series presentation in January. Adam B. Shankweiler of Newcastle and Lindsay Welliver of Port Orchard joined Kushner at the Performing Arts Center to read the first scene from his new play, "Only We Who Guard the Mystery Shall Be Unhappy." Welliver's fiancé, Chad Evans ('03) also attended. A video of Kushner's appearance, including an on-stage interview by theatre arts professor Jim Lortz, is available for viewing in the Special Collections department of Wilson Library from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by appointment by calling (360) 650-3193. Lortz directed Kushner's two-part, "Angels in America" at Western in January. Kushner's "Millenium Approachers" won SPU's Mainstage three years ago.
Ethnic Studies Association is moving to WWU

The headquarters of the National Association for Ethnic Studies is moving to Western from Arizona State University.

The association, founded in 1972, provides an interdisciplinary forum for scholars and others concerned with the national and international dimensions of ethnicity. It promotes activities and scholarship in the field of ethnic and cultural studies and publishes a twice-yearly newsletter and a national journal, "Ethnic Studies Review."

"To house the national office will enhance Western's efforts to increase comparative research and continued dialogue centered on the issues of race and ethnicity in the Americas," said Larry Estrada, associate professor and director of the American Cultural Studies Program at Fairhaven.

Estrada, president of the NAES board of directors, said Western will provide office space and support through Fairhaven College and the Office of the President.

The move also will "reinforce Western's various diversity initiatives, the stature of ethnic/cultural studies on this campus and the quality of teacher education, as well as supporting Western's increasingly diverse student population," Estrada said.

"Selection of Western as the national home site of NAES also says a great deal about the quality of faculty and scholarship engaged in cultural and ethnic studies on this campus," he added.

We're pleased to support the work of NAES, an organization whose efforts in the area of ethnic studies underscore the mission of Fairhaven College," said Ron Higgins, dean of Fairhaven College.

Through mutual agreement with Arizona State University, the NAES board sought bids from other universities interested in becoming the host institution for the organization.

Link to full text: [Ethnic Studies Association is moving to WWU](https://www.wwu.edu/)

Students, graduates, faculty shine throughout campus

by Karen W. Morse

After the gray darkness of winter, the welcome arrival of spring brings new life and creativity to the campus. No event is more symbolic of this season than Western Showtime Family Weekend, May 14-16, offering outstanding performances, a nature and bird watching cruise and student events. It's a time to show off the campus, our students and their activities, and Bellingham in bloom.

Following immediately after Showtime weekend, Scholars' Week, May 17-21, gives students a chance to share their research and creative projects, achieved with talented faculty mentors, with the campus community. The week's activities included a stimulating national traveling exhibit, "Her Lab in Your Life: Women in Chemistry," highlighting women chemists' contributions to such fields as pharmaceuticals, materials, computer technology, cosmetics, and environmental science, and their impact on our everyday lives.

Link to full text: [Students, graduates, faculty shine throughout campus](https://www.wwu.edu/)

Women's hoops team has historic season

by Michele Girard and Katie James

Western's women's basketball team celebrated a historic season this year, breaking school records and making its seventh straight national appearance, the last six as a member of NCAA Division II.

The Vikings became the 15th NCAA school to win 700 basketball games after a contest against Seattle University on Jan. 17. The Vikings have averaged 22 wins per season during the program's 33-year history, and a March 1 win over St. Martin's clinched a school-record seventh straight 20-win season.

Three Western alumnae coaches have played pivotal roles in the Vikings' success. Sara Nichols (00), the 2004 season interim head coach, led the team to a 21-8 record. Nichols, a four-year letter winner as a player for the Vikings, has been part of Western's seven national appearances as either a coach or player.

Carmen Dolfo ('86/99), who was on one year leave of absence this season, has a 278-105 record in 13 seasons at Western, and she has led the team to six straight national appearances.

Vikings athletic director Lynda Goodrich ('66/73), the women's head coach for 19 years from 1972 to 1990, had a 411-125 record and was only the third NAIA women's hoops coach to reach the 400-win milestone in career victories.

Western collected 710 wins by the end of the season, including a first-round win in the West Regional tournament against Sonoma State University. A loss to nationally No.1-ranked Seattle Pacific University in a semifinal contest on March 13 ended the Vikings' season.

The women will lose only two players to graduation in the off-season, forward Tessa DeVoor and center Jenn McGillivray.

The move also will "reinforce Western's various diversity initiatives, the stature of ethnic/cultural studies on this campus and the quality of teacher education, as well as supporting Western's increasingly diverse student population," Estrada said.

"Selection of Western as the national home site of NAES also says a great deal about the quality of faculty and scholarship engaged in cultural and ethnic studies on this campus," he added.

We're pleased to support the work of NAES, an organization whose efforts in the area of ethnic studies underscore the mission of Fairhaven College," said Ron Higgins, dean of Fairhaven College.

Through mutual agreement with Arizona State University, the NAES board sought bids from other universities interested in becoming the host institution for the organization.

Link to full text: [Women's hoops team has historic season](https://www.wwu.edu/)
Football team ready for second ‘Battle in Seattle’

Academy promotes active community of scholars

Faculty, students show commitment to sustainability

Western alumni, get ready to rumble with Vikings football on Saturday, Sept. 25. Archrivals Western and Central will square off in a rematch of last year’s “Battle in Seattle,” a fierce intercollegiate contest played at Seahawks Stadium.

Tickets for the second annual Wells Fargo “Battle in Seattle” presented by Comcast are available at prices ranging from $10 to $35 at Ticketmaster, the Seahawks Stadium box office or through the Alumni Association.

The Alumni Association has secured a limited number of $25 tickets that will ensure you will have the best seats in the stadium for the 6 P.M. kickoff and no chance of getting stuck next to a Central fan. Call (360) 650-333-53 or e-mail alumni@wwu.edu.

The Vikings will be the home team for this year’s “Battle.” Last year, the game drew 16,392 spectators, the largest crowd ever to attend a non-Division I football game in the state. Western fought hard in a 29-20 loss.

This year’s battle will feature pre-game festivities with music and family activities for all Viking fans in the Seahawks Stadium Exhibition Center at 3 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

The “Battle” will be one of six home games on the Vikings’ schedule this year.

This is a very balanced schedule,” said coach Rob Smith, who begins his 16th season as head of the football program and who will be going for his 100th career victory in the season opener on Sept. 4 at Civic Stadium. “We’re excited to be back at Seahawks Stadium for the Battle in Seattle.”

All 10 games on the schedule are against NCAA Division II competition, including the Oct. 16 Homecoming game against Humboldt State.

“The NCAA II playoffs expand to 24 teams this year,” Smith said. “Having all Division II opponents means that if we do our part, we’ll be positioned for consideration for a playoff berth.”

The university has been involved in teaching and learning research with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning since 1996 and officially formed the TLA in the fall of 2000. WWU participants in this scholarship have won national acclaim for involving students in a national dialogue about teaching and learning.

For more information on the TLA, call (360) 650-7809 or visit online at http://www.wwu.edu/depts/tla.

invited Heggem to sit in on a discussion group during one of her visits to Bellingham. Heggem said she was immediately hooked by the academic stimulation and with the opportunity to give back to her alma mater.

“The discussion is so good,” said Heggem, who owns and operates Amy E. Heggem Tutoring in Redmond. “I come up, and I just feel rejuvenated.” Heggem says she looks forward to driving to Bellingham every other Friday to participate in one of several TLA study groups.

“For me, that’s giving back, and that’s what I can do to give back.”

The $1.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation will help recruit the nation’s top student scholars to conduct graduate research in science and work in middle school classrooms in Whatcom and Skagit counties. The grant, “Catalysts for Reform: A University-Schools Partnership in Northwest Washington,” covers tuition and stipends for eight WWU graduate students per year for the next three years. Five advanced undergraduates will also be selected each year.

Assistant professor Nicholas Zaferatos discusses possible ways transportation can be improved around Western’s campus with students. From left: Nick Bond, Zaferatos, Seth Christian, Ted Olsen, Mark Hamilton and Tyler Schneider.

FAIRHAVEN'S GARY BORNZIN offered a course, "Visions of Sustainable Futures: Whatifopia" during spring quarter.

Students in Huxley’s "Planning Studio" researched sustainable transportation systems for the campus in an environmental studies seminar during winter quarter. The class is taught by Nicholas Zafaratas (’79).

Huxley Dean Bradley Smith is co-chair of the Governor’s Sustainable Washington Advisory Panel and was named president of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors. He will serve three years as the university liaison from the United States for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The Institute for Watershed Studies conducted free well water nitrate testing for Whatcom County residents last October, as part of national Make-A-Difference Day.

Students in a College of Business and Economics course gained global perspectives on cultural, business and environmental issues impacting the People’s Republic of China during a 10-day study tour in March. They studied transportation- and related environmental planning and policy, with a focus on the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

The Center for Canadian-American Studies has participated in a tri-university course in which students from Western, the University of British Columbia and the University of Washington work cooperatively to examine environmental issues facing the Georgia Basin/Puget Sound ecosystem. The transborder ecosystem is a priority for students of Canadian-American studies.

Don Alper, director of the TLA and professor of the center who taught the course, is a Canadian-American studies professor at Western. Don Alper, director of the TLA and professor of the center who taught the course, is a Canadian-American studies professor at Western.

Amy (Senger) Heggem (’98) is the first WWU graduate, not otherwise connected to the university, to be invited to the TLA.

Whatcopia” during spring quarter.

The Institute for Watershed Studies conducted free well water nitrate testing for Whatcom County residents last October, as part of national Make-A-Difference Day.

Students in a College of Business and Economics course gained global perspectives on cultural, business and environmental issues impacting the People’s Republic of China during a 10-day study tour in March. They studied transportation-related environmental planning and policy, with a focus on the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

Huxley College of the Environment and the engineering technology department will begin offering a new minor in the fall in sustainable design. The minor provides basic foundations in environmental studies and design and allows for individualized tailoring according to students’ interests.

Fairhaven’s Gary Bornzin offered a course, "Visions of Sustainable Futures: Whatifopia" during spring quarter.

Students in Huxley’s "Planning Studio" researched sustainable transportation systems for the campus in an environmental studies seminar during winter quarter. The class is taught by Nicholas Zafaratas (’79).

Huxley Dean Bradley Smith is co-chair of the Governor’s Sustainable Washington Advisory Panel and was named president of the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors. He will serve three years as the university liaison from the United States for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

The Institute for Watershed Studies conducted free well water nitrate testing for Whatcom County residents last October, as part of national Make-A-Difference Day.

Students in a College of Business and Economics course gained global perspectives on cultural, business and environmental issues impacting the People’s Republic of China during a 10-day study tour in March. They studied transportation-related environmental planning and policy, with a focus on the 2008 Olympics in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai.

As a $1.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation will help recruit the nation’s top student scholars to conduct graduate research in science and work in middle school classrooms in Whatcom and Skagit counties. The grant, "Catalysts for Reform: A University-Schools Partnership in Northwest Washington," covers tuition and stipends for eight WWU graduate students per year for the next three years. Five advanced undergraduates will also be selected each year.

Assistant professor Nicholas Zaferatos discusses possible ways transportation can be improved around Western’s campus with students. From left: Nick Bond, Zaferatos, Seth Christian, Ted Olsen, Mark Hamilton and Tyler Schneider.
Students of land and wildlife management now use Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest for research and study.

"Western takes pride in being able to offer students and faculty use of the forest for both research and recreation," said WWU President Karen W. Morse.

Another local company, Akoia Primary Metals, has contributed $10,000 to fund research and interpretive materials.

Gary Goodman, refinery manager for ConocoPhillips and member of the WWU Foundation Board of directors.

Board members issue $100,000 challenge

Sam Baker, partner of the law firm Oles Morrison Rinker & Baker and chairman of the Western Washington University Foundation Board of Directors, has established a $100,000 challenge grant.

President's Club gifts can be designated to the department, program, scholarship or athletic program of your choosing. One hundred percent of every gift benefits the area designated, and as a President's Club member, you will receive a variety of benefits, including invitations to special events and the opportunity for a Huxley graduate student to conduct research.

"This property has tremendous potential for restoration," said Karen Payne, manager of environment, health and safety at BP. "We all will benefit from the effort."
Although many of their farming practices and products are organic, the Thornton's are committed to the larger issue of sustainability. "We are talking about health and the environment," says Cheryl Thornton, a member of the Nooksack Valley School Board. For example, Cloud Mountain Farm's pest management program doesn't solely rely on organic pesticides. "Organic sprays are designed to kill things. It's not OK," she says. Instead, the Thornton's evaluate and use the best products from both organic and conventional sources. They look at long and short-term environmental issues, proper timing for application, stream buffers and planting for wildlife. That's pest management," she said.

"There are bigger issues here," adds Tom, and that kind of information needs to be passed on to their customers. The Thornton's see their customers not as people who spend money at Cloud Mountain Farm, but friends and neighbors who can help them create sustainable environments, from the family level to global corporations. That's why they consider education such an important part of their business. "We give you the plants. You pay for the information," Tom says, sort of half in jest.

Ancillary to the occasional Cloud Mountain Farm customer can't be persuaded that fruit trees are not yard furniture and that food doesn't really come from the grocery store. Tom Thornton, a 1978 Fairhaven graduate, says that their work educating consumers about gardening, food, health and natural resources pays off in big ways. A board member of the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association, he says he frequently sees his customers volunteering to plant or weed in the Nooksack River watershed after they've purchased fruit or ornamental trees from his farm.

"The best thing I think anyone can do for sustainability is (to) work in your yards," adds Cheryl Thornton, a Huxley alumna who worked at the Outback Farm in the 1970s. "If they have those connections, that evolves beyond their yards ... It's an evolution of their awareness."

The Thornton's promote shopping at local businesses, and have partnered with local restaurants and other businesses to give customers the information they need to be good citizens in a sustainable community. As owners of the 20-acre farm that includes commercial orchards, a retail nursery and a landscape business at the foot of Sumas Mountain, the Thornton's recognize that they owe their success to being good stewards of the land and by providing customers with the information they need to be good citizens in a sustainable community.

Another Huxley alumna, Wendy Scherrer (76/88), executive director of NSEA, sees that type of awareness and community connections growing as well. The organization, which was formed in 1990, now works with 100 volunteer stream stewards, 2,000 other volunteers and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to recover the genetic stock of Spring Chinook salmon, threatened species, in the Nooksack River. In 1990, fish experts counted only 10 fish returning to spawn in the river. With the establishment of a Spring Chinook restoration program in which fry are released to the wild in the Upper North Fork of the Nooksack near Glacier, more than 3,500 Spring Chinook survived to make their final journey up the Nooksack in 2003.

Scherrer, who has always been interested in how humans interact with natural systems, has made her job her life's work. "I want to leave the world a better place for my children and grandchildren," she says.

As owners of the 20-acre farm that includes commercial orchards, a retail nursery and a landscape business at the foot of Sumas Mountain, the Thornton's recognize that they owe their success to being good stewards of the land and by providing customers with the information they need to be good citizens in a sustainable community. As owners of the 20-acre farm that includes commercial orchards, a retail nursery and a landscape business at the foot of Sumas Mountain, the Thornton's recognize that they owe their success to being good stewards of the land and by providing customers with the information they need to be good citizens in a sustainable community.
‘Green’ builders promote health, conservation

There are numerous alumni and friends of the university who work on sustainable development in their communities and in the world. These are just three.

George Swanson ('75), a certified building biologist, is an architect and president of Swanson Associates in Austin. The firm specializes in environmentally conscious building design and construction. He has completed more than 40 low toxic fully “breathing” buildings in 11 states, including homes and commercial buildings using wetland septic systems, rooftop water collection systems and solar voltaic energy systems. To make the buildings “breathe” and have little to no effects on the occupants’ health, Swanson uses straw bale, rammed earth, “Faswall,” woodchip clay block and “Hebel” aerated concrete block wall systems. He was listed in “Who’s Who” in America in 1996 for his contributions to sustainable technology.

Jeffrey Utter ('87) has been working on alternative and renewable energy solutions and energy conservation since he designed his liberal studies major around sustainable development in his teaching career when he bought the construction firm that has since won awards for sustainable construction and pollution prevention. A-1 Builders specializes in remodeling, what he calls “the oldest form of green building,” and donates salvaged items from remodeling jobs to the REStore, a Bellingham company he helped found. Dubrow is a founder and board president of Sustainable Connections, a business network in Whatcom County that supports a local living economy, and he is on a steering committee for Pro-Whatcom, an organization promoting stable population and building growth.

WWU marine scientist finds many willing partners

By Paul Cocke

Paul Dinnel believes the best way to protect and sustain fragile Northwest marine life is to develop and foster coalitions of interested partners to support such efforts.

Dinnel, resident scientist at Western’s Shannon Point Marine Center, has been active with both local and regional organizations that blend well-founded science with a community-based grassroots approach to marine conservation.

As chair of the Northwest Straits Commission, he has worked with governments in Clallam, Island, Jefferson, San Juan, Skagit, Sooke and Whatcom counties where local Marine Resources Committees have been established.

The committees are now seeking to restore nearshore, intertidal and estuarine habitats; improve shellfish harvest areas; support salmon and bottom fish recovery; and identify and urge establishment of marine-protected areas.

Paul Dinnel

Dinnel has been particularly active with Skagit County’s Marine Resources Committee, a group of appointed volunteers who protect marine resources through cooperative “bottom-up” projects with local residents, tribes, industry, community organizations and WWU students.

They have planted millions of oyster seed – of both Pacific and native Olympia oysters – in Fidalgo Bay, Padilla Bay and near Fidalgo Island. For instance, at Fidalgo Bay, near Anacortes, the Skagit MRC planted native Olympia oysters to see if the native species can be brought back to harvestable numbers.

Oysters have many beneficial effects on the marine environment, Dinnel said, including filtering water to maintain water quality.

“Their shells also provide habitat for other animals, especially juvenile Dungeness crab, and settlement surfaces for both Pacific and native oyster larvae,” Dinnel said.

The Swinomish, Upper Skagit and Samish tribes also are working with the Skagit MRC to plant Pacific oysters on Fidalgo Island beaches to provide enhanced opportunities for both tribal and non-tribal persons to harvest the popular shellfish.

Seed planting at Bay View State Park has served as an educational tool about sustainable oyster farming and an incentive to the nearby Bay View community to improve local water quality. Signs at each oyster enhancement site will inform the public about the projects.

Shannon Point Marine Center, the Shell and Tesoro refineries near Anacortes, the state Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation and Fish and Wildlife departments, Padilla Bay Reserve, Skagit County Conservation District, state and county health departments and volunteers from other groups all were part of one or more of the oyster-planting projects.

In addition, Dinnel is working with the Skagit MRC to investigate possible protected areas – called marine reserves – to provide marine sanctuaries for bottom fish, to allow them to recover from overfishing during the last three decades. The committee also is involved with removing derelict fishing gear from local waters, surveying intertidal habitats and removing the invasive saltwater weed Spartina from along shorelines.
2002 - Mary Baldwin joined the Skagit Valley College Foundation. She presented a program titled "Exploring Mars" for families with kids in February. She also works as an adjunct professor at Western Washington University.

2000 - Joel Phillips won the 58th annual State University Press, 2005). works as an field photographer for the Seattle Times. Malerie Mather, the commercial Historic Preservation officer. Alyssa Powers works for the Fremont Public Association in Seattle as an AmeriCorps/VISTA program coordinator. She and Daniel Hickey (97) were married in August 2001. ... Amy and Mike Pederbaugh are now trading as RUSTY ORCHID.

1998 - Edith Moreau was the winner of the 20th annual College of the West Award for excellence in education. She is currently a professor at Linn-Benton Community College. She has taught at California State University, Fullerton, and the University of Oregon. She earned her Ph.D. in education from the University of Oregon in 1989. She is a member of the American Education Research Association and the American Psychological Association. She has published several articles and book chapters on student retention and persistence. She is currently working on a book on student engagement in higher education. She is also a consultant to educational institutions and government agencies.

Grad wins prize for rhetoric book

David Frank (78/79), professor of rhetoric and communication studies at the University of Oregon, has been awarded the 100,000 Kohs-Campbell Prize in Rhetorical Criticism for his co-authored book, "Land/Conflict- ing Identity: Trajectories of Israeli and Jewish Symbol Use" (Michigan State University Press, 2002). Frank, a graduate assistant and assistant director of the Center for Rhetoric at Westem University, is the first recipient of this prize. The prize is sponsored by the University of Oregon and the American Council on Education. The prize is awarded for "outstanding scholarship in the field of rhetoric and communication studies."
Where do you wear your Western gear?

Roger Fletcher (’71) proudly stands by his race car wearing a WWU Alumni sweatshirt. He participated in the 2004 Southern Festival of Speed in New Zealand in February.

FACULTY, STAFF & FRIENDS

Marven Eggert, R3, a former WWU trustee and Whidbey Island labor leader, March 13.

Herbert B. Heaney, ’93, who retired in 1974 as associate director of Wilson Library, after working there 33 years, April 18 in Bellingham. He was elected to the WWU Alumni Hall of Fame in 1981. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the RHETTI Scholarship Fund, c/o the WWU Foundation, MS-9034, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9034.

Ivy May Sinclair, 75, who was head of the library collection in the Western Library, June 15 in Seattle. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the RHETTI Scholarship Fund, c/o the WWU Foundation, MS-9034, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9034.

Dorothy A. Ramsland, 83, professor emeritus who taught history and economics at Western for 37 years before retiring in 1986, April 15 in Bellingham. Her extensive and design tours and field trips abroad enabled her to establish an enviable teaching collection of furniture, art, textiles and art objects. Her outstanding achievement is now preserved in the Western Library. Memorial gifts may be sent to the Chair Collection, c/o the WWU Foundation, MS-9034, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9034.

Ivy May Sinclair, 75, who was head of the library collection in the Western Library, June 15 in Seattle. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the RHETTI Scholarship Fund, c/o the WWU Foundation, MS-9034, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9034.

George E. Witter, 80, who taught mathematics and computer science at Western from 1955 to 1983, Jan. 9. He was the first director of the Western Computer Center and played a major role in introducing computer science as an academic discipline on campus.
Western's Alumni Association honored 17 current and former elected officials of Whatcom County as Distinguished Alumni for 2004.

"These distinguished graduates of Western represent the commitment to public and community service exemplified by generations of WWU alumni," said William Farkas, executive director of the Western Alumni Association.

"We honor them during this 100-year celebration of the city of Bellingham for their leadership and contributions to this community, recognized nationally as among the best places to live."

The elected officials were honored at a May 7 banquet on campus, along with a number of "Builders of Bellingham" who have played significant roles in shaping the city that it is today.

Bellingham's Centennial is an 18-month-long celebration of the city's history, concluding at the end of this year.

Western is participating in the Bellingham Centennial in a number of ways. The Center for Pacific Northwest Studies, for instance, designed a special curriculum package on local history for students and teachers in the Bellingham School District.

"This community resource gives a first-hand sense of life in Bellingham a century ago," said Elizabeth Joffrion, archivist at the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies.

The Distinguished Alumni listed here are those whose names were known by the deadline for this issue. Those honored are:

- Louise Bjornson ('91), a Bellingham City Council member since 1988
- Laurie Caskey-Schreiber ('84) a Whatcom County Council member since 2002
- Pebble Griffin ('71), elected to the Blaine School Board in 1997
- John Herrmann ('64), who served on the Bellingham City Council from 1974 until 1992 (No photo available)
- Bariie Hall ('72), who was elected to the Blaine School Board in 1999
- Stephen Jones ('74) a member of the Nooksack School Board since 1989
- Betty Kiner ('81), who served as a Bellingham City Council member in 1988
- Keith Willnauer ('78), who serves as the Whatcom County Assessor. He was first appointed in June 1989 and elected in November 1989.
Angelique Davis is new Alumni Association president

By Michele Girard
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

When Angelique Davis (’94), attended Western as an undergraduate, she received some much needed scholarship support. Now, as the new president of the WWU Alumni Association, she plans to be involved in fund raising for scholarships so current students may have the same opportunities she did.

“I wanted to give back,” she said.

Davis will now be traveling to Bellingham at least once a month as the new president of the Alumni Association.

Top-level alumni program is goal of new director

By Bill Farkas
ALUMNI RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Within a month of arriving at 709 High St. and the Alumni House at WWU, I uncovered one important, certain thing about WWU. Every alumni who has graduated from Western should be very proud—proud not only for the educational experience you received, but proud of the beautiful campus (which I now get to walk through every day), proud of the high-quality faculty and staff who are here because of their passion for the students—ah, yes, the students: amazing they truly are. It is a special place, and I challenge anyone not to get excited about working in this environment. I know alumni programming. My challenge will be to learn Western’s culture, and I ask each of you to help me with that task.

In future articles, I would like to share the Western family ways that alumni can become reconnected and involved in the life of their institution. These opportunities will take various forms and will be available for alumni no matter where you call home.

In the beginning of any new relationship, it is good to establish expectations and I hope to expand upon what you can expect from your Alumni Association, the Alumni Relations staff and, in turn, what your alma mater should expect from you.

It is a bond that should begin at commencement, not end, which is really what commencement means: a "beginning"—the beginning of a lifelong relationship.

I am excited about the opportunity that I have been given at Western and look forward to meeting and working with the Viking alumni to make Western the very best.

I encourage you to contact me or anyone in the Alumni Relations office. I can be reached at William.Farkas@wwu.edu or by phone (800) 676-6885 or (360) 650-3353.

On Sunday, Oct. 17, the Alumni Relations Office will host a farewell brunch for the travelers and others in the community.

Estimated cost for the one-way trip is $100 for a reserved coach seat and $120 for a sleeper compartment. Prices drop proportionately for departures north of San Diego.

If you are interested in this potential opportunity to travel to Bellingham on the "WWU Viking Express," contact the Alumni office at (800) 676-6885 or e-mail Kathi.Howard@wwu.edu.

If enough people are interested, the planning will move to the next phase to ensure the trip is a delightful adventure for all.

Golden Vikings

Reunion June 18-20 for "Golden Vikings"

Western’s "Golden Vikings" will be honored during Reunion Weekend this year with a banquet, campus tours and a picnic at Lakewood.

All WWU graduates who have been alumni for 50 years or more are eligible to be inducted into the Golden Vikings Society at a June 19 banquet at the VU Multipurpose Room.

For more information, contact Kristie Lundstrom at (800) 676-6885 or (360) 650-3598.

Interest sought for Homecoming “Viking Express” train

By Susan Baker (’88)
ALUMNI RELATIONS/WWW FOUNDATION

Calling all WWU Alumni on the West Coast!

The Alumni Association has the opportunity to charter one or more of Amtrak’s Coast Starlight Train cars at special group rates during Western’s Homecoming week, Oct. 11-17, 2004. Imagine riding the rails to Bellingham on Thursday, Oct. 14.

The idea of chartering a train car is in the initial planning phase, and Alumni staff needs to know how many people would be interested in pursuing this further.

Here’s the plan:

The "WWU Viking Express" would leave San Diego, Calif., on the morning of day one and travel up the coast, making numerous stops along the way for WWU alumni to hop on board.

Activities on Saturday, Oct. 16 include the Homecoming tailgate party and football game against Humboldt State and possibly a special dinner for the adventurous travelers.
### Calendar of Events

**June 3:** WWU Alumni Night at the Ballet for the performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Marion Oliver McCaw Hall, 321 Mercer St., Seattle, 6 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. performance, $38

**June 11:** Alumni Association hosts awards ceremony and reception for outstanding graduates, 7 p.m. at the PAC

**June 12:** Spring Commencement, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Carver Gym

**June 18-20:** Golden Vikings Reunion, with various events on campus for Western alumni who graduated 30 or more years ago

**June 20-25:** Study Canada Institute for K-12 teachers, on campus

**July 7-11:** National Storytelling Institute on campus

**July 11-16:** Ralph Munro Seminar for Teachers, on campus


**July 17:** Alumni Sunset Sail from Seattle waterfront, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., $40

**July 25-Aug. 15:** Marrowstone Music Festival, summer program with Seattle Youth Symphony Orchestras, on campus

**Aug. 6:** Athletics/Alumni Golf Tournament, 1 p.m. at Avalon Golf Club, Burlington. $125 covers all fees, prizes, dinner. See http://www.wwuwikings.com

**Aug. 7:** Alumni Hike IS Twin Falls State Park for WWU alumni, new and current students and their parents, St. Edward's Park

**Aug. 9:** Key Bank Viking Night, dinner and sports auction, 5-9 p.m., Carver Gym, $75 per person, $600 per table of eight

**Sept. 11:** Olympia Alumni Chapter's Fall Send-off Picnic/BBQ for WWU alumni, new and current students and their parents, in St. Edward's Park

**Sept. 22:** Fall classes begin

**Oct. 11-17:** Homecoming - Alumni Association event with various activities during the week

**Oct. 18:** Whatcom County Alumni Chapter's Fall Send-off Picnic/BBQ for WWU alumni, new and current students and their parents, on campus

**Sept. 25:** "Battle-in-Seattle": WWU vs. UW in Seahawks Exhibition Center at 3 p.m.

**Sept. 26:** "Battle-in-Seattle": WWU vs. CAN in Seahawks Exhibition Center at 3 p.m.

**Sept. 29:** Whatcom County Alumni Chapter's Fall Send-off Picnic/BBQ for WWU alumni, new and current students and their parents, on campus

**Sept. 30:** Whatcom County Alumni Chapter's Fall Send-off Picnic/BBQ for WWU alumni, new and current students and their parents, on campus

### Tickets & Information

Visit http://calendar.wwu.edu for tickets and information. For more information, contact Erik Robinson at (360) 650-3040 or erik.robinson@wwu.edu.

### Alumni Web

**NEW Alumni Web**

**http://www.wwu.edu/alumni**

**Alumni events/Homecoming "Battle in Seattle"**

(360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885

"Adventures" Camps (360) 650-6822

**Athletics**

(360) 650-3109

**Box Office for PAC/Summer Stock**

(360) 650-6146

**Marrowstone Festival**

(360) 362-2300

**Munro Seminar**

(360) 650-3469

**Study Canada**

(360) 650-7370

**Summer Stock**

(360) 650-3676

**Western Gallery Info Line**

(360) 650-3900

**Wilson Library Hours**

(360) 650-3049

The online community is the most extensive part of the new alumni Web site, and can be used by simply logging in with your Western alumni ID and password. Checking the mailing label on this issue of Window on Western for your Western ID and password. The site at http://www.wwu.edu/alumni now has more content and features than ever before. The online community offers unrestricted access to areas such as jobs and networking, where alumni can post business cards and resume profiles; message boards, where goals can discuss a broad range of topics; alumni chat room; store; events calendar; dues information; and news.

In addition to being able to start conversations with old classmates and find out what exciting alumni events are coming up, the site features photo albums with pictures from alumni events such as the annual ski trip, the Sko-to-Sea Parade and race, Homecoming and chapter events. Personal alumni photo submissions are also accepted and can be viewed on the site. Two groups have already been set up for the rowing team and journalism graduates.

Contact Kathy Patrick at (800) 676-6558 or Kathy.Patrick@wwu.edu with questions.

The online community can be found at http://www.wwualumni.com.