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*Western Washington University*

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

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WWU brings Isamu Noguchi's World to West Coast April 4–June 10

By Sarah Clark-Langager  
WESTERN GALLERY

Joining a national celebration of the centennial of Isamu Noguchi's birth, the Western Gallery is presenting a two-part exhibition (April 4 through June 10) that will include photographs never before displayed outside of Japan or the Noguchi Museum in Long Island City, N.Y.

The exhibition coincides with Japan Week at Western (the week of May 2), which was introduced in 1997 to stimulate cross-cultural exchanges and foster intercultural understanding.

"Noguchi: The Bollingen Journey Photographs 1949–1956" represents the results of Noguchi's study of "the physical environment of leisure... its meaning, its use and its relationship to society." The artist's photographs of his travels through Europe, Egypt, India, Southeast Asia and Japan provide a visual diary of how various cultures have perceived leisure time and space, especially the "contemplative uses of leisure." This exhibition was organized by curator Bonnie Rychlak for the Isamu Noguchi Foundation and Garden Museum.

During this period of his travels, Noguchi noted that burgeoning industrialization, along with diminishing religious expression, signaled "a renewed search for the meaning of existence, a re-creative process which demands the utmost from artists of every kind in order to build an environment equal to our needs."

Noguchi's photographs provide a record of lifestyles and places that no longer exist as they once did, including images of two historic sites in Southeast Asia that were damaged in the Dec. 26 tsunami: Mahabodhipuram, a coastal sanctuary founded in the seventh century, and the 13th century Sun Temple of Koranak on the shore of the Bay of Bengal.

The Western Gallery, under director Sarah Clark-Langager, organized the "Noguchi and Dance" exhibition focusing on Noguchi's interdisciplinary creations, particularly his desire to create designs for dance—a type of environment with spatial and spiritual dynamics. The exhibition demonstrates the relationship among Noguchi's stage sets, sculpture and furniture designs and highlights models for his "Sky-viewing Sculpture," which has been on display in Western's Red Square since 1969. This sculpture was influenced by Noguchi's photograph of an East Indian observatory, as well as a dance set Noguchi designed for the Martha Graham Dance Company.

The exhibition also includes a DVD, in large-scale format, of Western's own dance group utilizing Noguchi's "Sky-viewing Sculpture" as a stage set.

Western Gallery exhibitions are funded, in part, by the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and the Homer B. Mathes Endowment Fund. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, except Wednesday when the gallery is open until 8 p.m. Saturday hours are noon to 4 p.m. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.westerngallery.wwu.edu or call (360) 650-3900.
Steven Garfinkle selected for NEH fellowship

Ancient history professor Steven Garfinkle has been awarded a fellowship and a $40,000 stipend by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Garfinkle will spend the 2005-2006 academic year studying the origins of the ancient city-state of Mesopotamia. His research will include trips to various locations to study unpublished clay tablets.

Green energy fee approved

Western's board of trustees has approved a student fee to be utilized for the purchase of renewable energy, positioning Western to become a national leader in the renewable energy field as the second largest purchaser of green power in higher education and the 15th largest purchaser of green energy overall. A student-led initiative on green energy passed with 84.7 percent approval last spring.

Marine center at Shannon Point undergoing expansion

Construction began this spring on a 12,700-square-foot addition to Western's Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes. The contract for building the $4.9 million project, designed by MBT Architecture of Seattle, was awarded to Newland Construction Co. of Everett.

BRIEFLY

WWU sustainable design team wins $40,000 award

A $40,000 grant was awarded for a winter quarter WWU project which applied technology design solutions to solve water quality problems in rural, isolated communities. Only three proposals were selected nationally for this award, sponsored by Procter & Gamble and the Industrial Designers of America.

Students participating in the project focused on a rural community in Greece dependent on rainwater as a primary source of water. They were assisted by Arunas Oslapas, associate professor of industrial design, and Nicholas Zaefaras, assistant professor of planning and environmental policy at Western's Huxley College of the Environment.

Roger Briggs receives Goddard Lieberson Fellowship

Roger Briggs, professor of music, has been selected to receive one of two Goddard Lieberson Fellowships presented this year. The fellowship, awarded to mid-career composers demonstrating exceptional gifts, is endowed by the CBS Foundation and includes a $15,000 stipend.

Briggs’ music has been performed by the London Symphony Orchestra, the Prague Orchestra, the Warsaw Philharmonic and the Seattle Symphony. He joined WWU’s music department in 1989.

EDUCATION BUILT SUCCESS

I believe the education that I received in the Bellingham school system, capped off with the first-rate program at Western, is responsible for the success I have had—two Supreme Court wins and president of the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys. Western taught me how to think, not to fear change and fostered a desire to be of service. It is a great school.

—Martin F. Muench (’69)

CEDERSTROM IS A FAVORITE

I was a shy freshman registering for classes. Dismayed at discovering that the section was closed for the humanities discussion group I wanted, I stood at the desk pondering the choices that remained. Very quietly, a man at the desk told me to enroll in the 8 a.m. section. At the first session, I discovered that man was the instructor, Dr. Myrtle Cederstrom.

Sometime during that quarter, Dr. Cederstrom asked me why I rarely said anything in class. I told him the other students seemed to know a lot more about the topics than I did and I was reluctant to voice my opinion. He told me my ideas were just as valid as theirs and that the other students were not always correct in what they were saying.

I had Dr. Cederstrom as instructor in a variety of classes. Quite regularly he called on me to share my ideas aloud. His smile was the only recognition that was given sometimes to the validity of what I had said. If he thought I was off-track, he gently brought the discussion from my comments to the right track, without embarrassing me.

Through my career as a teacher, and as a part to Dr. Cederstrom’s kindness.

—Kay McMurphy (’64)

A TRUE PATRIOT

Your tribute to Herbert C. Taylor was most touching. He was a compatriot of mine in the Washington Air National Guard. We served together at the Bellingham unit, 264th Communications Squadron. Herb, not Bud, was not only a mentor of mine, but a true patriot. I do regret, however, that you did not mention his wife and survivor, Carol Taylor. It was my distinct pleasure to know and respect both.

—Milton H. Towne (’59)

CREDITS WWU FOR CAREER

I graduated with a bachelor's in linguistics and a minor in Chinese. I found Chinese to be a very interesting and challenging language to study, especially with the help of teachers like Janet Xing and Ho-chin Yang.

Working through the Chinese Teaching Program at WWU, I found that for a modest fee I could go to China, work as a teacher and study Chinese on the side. In August 2001 I found myself on a plane heading for a small town called Wenzhou in Zhejiang province, near the East China Sea.

I taught English in Wenzhou for two years, then moved to a different town in Zhejiang called Ningbo. I am now working with an American company as a buyer. I do interpretation/translation as well. I am helping my Chinese co-workers speak better English, attending trade shows all over the country, looking for new products and factories to supply them, and of course, helping colleagues visiting from the United States get around in China.

I have a Chinese boyfriend and hope to someday introduce him to Janet Xing and Ho-chin Yang. It would be no exaggeration to say that without them, I would never be where I am now.

—Maril McFarland (’01)
Improving the lives of tsunami survivors

By Paolo Mottola
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Western Washington University counselor James Orr assessed and treated mental health needs in Phuket, Thailand to conduct a project on natural disaster survivors since 1989 and has studied the effects of hurricanes in Hawaii and the Gulf Coast and earthquakes in India, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Los Angeles.

Orr was vacationing in northern Thailand when he learned that a tsunami had struck. He joined a Thailand Ministry of Mental Health team of volunteers.

The team met in Bangkok, flew to a psychiatric hospital in southeastern Thailand, and took a three-hour bus ride to a refugee camp serving the 3,000 survivors of Ban Nam Ken fishing village. Volunteers made early diagnoses of the victims' mental and physical health, allocated supplies and built row of small shacks for temporary housing.

Orr was able to work with the Pfizer Corp., which donated $10 million to tsunami reconstruction efforts. He co-wrote a grant using some of the donated funds to support a conference held in February that addressed mental health needs in the wake of the tsunami.

In March, Western associate professor of psychology David Sattler traveled to Phuket, Thailand to conduct a project examining mental health issues related to the tsunami. Psychology graduate student Adam Moller accompanied Sattler on the trip to assist with data collection.

"I am very pleased to have put together a diverse research team," Sattler said. He had interviewed many people whose lives were threatened by the tsunami, asked about psychological distress and coping strategies, and identified primary needs. We hope this project can help improve intervention and recovery programs.

Sattler will present his findings at the American Psychological Association conference this August.

Sattler has been conducting research on natural disaster survivors since 1989 and was awarded $40,000 by Procter & Gamble Honors for their work. As just a sampling of these faculty and staff have received recognition for their research and creative activities of our students and faculty. On May 16 through 20, we will be sharing the undergraduate and graduate students of the Asian tsunami. Results will be used to examine how intervention and recovery programs can be improved.

Spring heralds celebration of scholarship and creativity

By Karen W. Morse
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

As this column is being written, the spring on campus is bursting into leaf and flower in what is an early spring. It is the season when we especially salute the scholarship and creativity that has taken place on campus during the academic year.

May brings Scholars Week. As a community of scholars, we celebrate providing a stimulating learning environment for students and faculty. On May 16 through 20, we will be sharing the undergraduate research and creative activities of our students and their faculty mentors. Participants from departments in all seven colleges will present papers and posters or creative performances demonstrating their work.

Recently, a number of our students, faculty and staff have received recognition for their work. As just a sampling of these honors, a team of Huxley College and industrial design faculty and students was awarded $40,000 by Procter & Gamble and the Industrial Designers Society of America (IDSA) for their proposal to help remote communities world-wide solve their water quality problems through sustainable design. Music professor Roger Briggs received one of two Guggenheim Fellowships awarded to mid-career composers of exceptional gifts, while industrial design associate professor Arunas Oslapas received a Mayor's Art Award for arts education and leadership and Pat Fabiano, director of Prevention and Wellness Services, received a Northwest Women's Hall of Fame award for her service to the community.

Many of you who are also parents of current students will take the opportunity to visit during Western Showtime Family Weekend, May 13 through 15, when the campus is in full bloom. A weekend of activities including games, a concert, Bellingham Bay bird-watching or kayak tours and a family golf tournament have been planned. Even if you are not parents, I invite you to visit campus sometime during the spring or summer months to enjoy its beauty, its outdoor sculpture and perhaps a Summer Stock theater performance.

On campus this spring at the Western Gallery is "Isamu Noguchi's World," a two-part exhibit of never-before-seen photographs by the famed sculptor as well as dance inspired by his on-campus cube "Skyviewing." Part of a national celebration of the centennial of his birth, the photographs, taken from 1949 to 1956, explore how people in different parts of the world thought about leisure. Be sure to visit this extraordinary exhibit.

If you are not able to be on campus, I want to cordially invite you to participate in one of the number of activities the Alumni Association has planned for this spring and summer. From cruises to chapter activities, there is something for everyone. And registration is opening for this summer's Western Kids Camp, open to children entering grades K-8. For more information, visit www.wwu.edu/camp-pure/kiidcamp.

I encourage you to "connect" with us. Come see us!
Plan now for Western's
Really Big Weekend
NOVEMBER 4-6

Final plans are being confirmed now for an event that offers a unique opportunity for alumni to return to Bellingham.

Western’s Really Big Weekend will offer something for everyone. Events and activities will be centered on family fun, continuing education, open houses for the academic departments, multiple athletic events and exciting performances in the Performing Arts Center.

Mark your calendars now for Nov. 4-6 and plan to join us on campus for this exciting weekend. Look for more details to be mailed to you later this summer.

By Amy Cloud
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Ernie Sams was recognized at Winter Commencement for his 59 years of service to the Western community.

Making a personal difference

By Melena Eaton
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Sixteen-year-old Moises had already endured tracheostomy surgery when he arrived in the United States after a flight from Guatemala. He was nervous, but excited at the possibility of talking for the first time in almost five years.

Roberta DeBoard and Tedd Judd were there to welcome him into their home as a host family for the Healing the Children program.

Healing the Children sends physicians and nurses abroad to provide medical care for underprivileged children. On one of these visits Moises was discovered by a nurse practitioner. Surgeons examined his tracheostomy and decided that he would need to come to the States to have it repaired.

After three unsuccessful surgeries, DeBoard and Judd requested that Moises be allowed to stay in Bellingham longer so they could enroll him in the speech therapy program at Western’s Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic.

“Moises came to the clinic from Guatemala where he is living just outside the capital city. He was nervous, but excited at the possibility of talking for the first time in almost five years,” Youmans said. “I knew I would be making a big difference in his life, but I had no idea how big.”

In December, Moises returned to Guatemala where he is living just outside the capital city.

“Moises gained more than just a physical voice. The training helped him regain his personal voice to share his thoughts and feelings with others,” DeBoard said.

Graduate student clinician Melissa Youmans planned Moises’ sessions and worked with him during his quarter at Western.

“We had been aware of the clinic’s good work for a long time,” DeBoard said.

Moises received a scholarship to cover his treatment costs and began to come into the clinic for sessions that would show him how to use alternative speaking methods, such as esophageal speaking, a method of trapping air in the esophagus and bringing it out on command, and speaking with an electro-larynx.

“Moises came to the clinic from September to December for three 50-minute sessions each week,” associate professor of communication and science disorders Lina Zeine said. The beginning sessions focused on how to use an electro-larynx.

The mimeograph office is now a distant memory, but Sams still has an office in Old Main.

For his service to the country during World War II, Ernie Sams received a Bronze Star for meritorious achievement.

For his service to Western Washington University, he was likewise honored for meritorious achievement, this time with special recognition presented during Western’s Winter Commencement ceremony on March 19.

Following World War II, Sams swapped his infantryman camouflage for khakis and enrolled at what was then Western Washington College of Education. To help meet expenses not covered by the GI Bill, he began working in the mimeograph office in Old Main.

Ernie Sams was recognized for long and meritorious service to the Western community.

The Wade King Student Recreation Center has partnered with WWU Extended Education and Summer Programs to offer an exciting hands-on, skill-building Western Kids Camp. Weekly camps will run from June 20 through September 2. Activities will revolve around a distinct theme each week. Weekly morning educational programs will be followed by supervised afternoon sessions that will include crafts, swimming, rock climbing, archery, theme-related sports and more.

For information call (360) 650-4094 or go online to download camp details and registration information at www.wwu.edu/campusrec/kidscamp.

The fifties and sixties were decades of great growth, and Sams’ career grew as well. The former accounting student moved from the mimeograph office to the business office, went on to become acting business manager and then was named director of institutional research.

Sams was meticulous in his work. In the seventies, when student enrollment plunged, his careful tracking of “institutional activity” helped Western survive a budget crisis.

Sams retired on Feb. 28, 1982—and returned to work on a part-time basis, as a planning analyst, the very next day. He’s still crunching numbers, a job he enjoys more than ever despite the university’s exponential growth over the past decade. “I wouldn’t be here now [after 59 years] if I didn’t enjoy it—and I do,” he says.
Western Washington University Foundation's gift annuity program is providing meaningful income to people who want extra financial support while they are living and a guaranteed way to include an educational legacy as part of their estates. In many cases, a significant portion of the income they receive from their gift annuity is tax-free.

The income support a gift annuity provides has made a real difference in the lives of the alumni, family members, close friends, and former professors who have established annuities with the WWU Foundation.

Marjorie Thorson attended Western for a short while after World War II. She said the time she spent here was significant and the support and encouragement she received made a meaningful difference in her life.

When her husband, Donald, retired from Exxon Mobil after 27 years, the couple decided to donate highly appreciated Exxon stock to Western through the charitable gift annuity program. The Thorsons receive an annual 7.1% annual return on the annuity, part of which is tax-free.

Payments are guaranteed for the rest of their lives. The annuity principal will eventually go to Western and will benefit students for generations to come.

As with other gifts, the donor of a life estate may designate the gift to be used in a specific way. Lucille Barron specified that the sale of her condominium, a life estate reserved gift, be used first to increase the principal of the Declan Barron Scholarship fund to $50,000 and then to endow a Lucille Reimer Barron Scholarship.

Lucille Barron and her husband, Declan Barron, both taught at Western. They devoted their lives to scholarship and to enhancing educational opportunities for students.

Lucille Barron was an associate professor in home economics with a special interest in clothing textiles and textile design. She brought an interdisciplinary approach to her classes, weaving in the study of art history. Barron taught at Western from 1945 until her retirement in 1978.

She continued to work on behalf of education after her retirement. Her extensive volunteer efforts were spent in fundraising for educational fellowships. In 1994 the Bellingham branch of the American Association of University Women named a fellowship to her in her name.

Declan Barron taught at Western from 1946 until his death in 1967. He recognized the many different approaches to learning and served on the steering committee to establish Fairhaven College. The Declan Barron Scholarship was established with an endowment from his estate.

For information on planned gifts through the Western Washington University Foundation, please contact Deborah DeWees at (360) 650-3622 or deborah.dewees@wwu.edu.

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The moving power of mathematical invention is not reasoning but imagination.

August de Morgan (1806-1871), professor of mathematics, University College, London
Changing how we look at mathematics

By Dee Johnson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Branko Curgus, professor of mathematics, has wondered aloud why it is that math and numbers have a bad public image. "Numbers, the same as words, can be exciting, intriguing and mysterious," he says.

"Somehow we have done a very effective job of destroying what mathematics is," says Millie Johnson, associate professor of mathematics. "People think math is a static subject, a closed book of rules that you just continue to copy. But math is changing all the time. We expect that in music and art, but not in mathematics."

Johnson believes we need to reassess the way we look at math, and the way we teach it. "I was a curious child, always asking why, and in math classes I was continuously put off," she recalls. "Teachers would tell me, 'You'll find out in the next class. These are the rules you need to know for this course.' I couldn't understand why they were hiding information, holding it out of my reach."

Johnson continued taking math classes, in self-defense, she says. She was determined to find the answers to her questions, to see the reasoning behind the rules she had been told to simply accept. The excitement of discovery offered in advanced-level courses kept her interest alive.

Johnson also had a strong interest in music and interrupted her undergraduate studies to pursue a promising career in opera. Her parents were musicians, and her six brothers and sisters all played the piano and mastered at least an opera company in New York. Johnson went into vocal music, was classically trained, and performed with an opera company in New York.

She returned to school, earned undergraduate and advanced degrees in mathematics, and went into teaching. She has found that teaching fulfills her need to live creatively.

She wants her students to also live creatively and made a commitment early in her teaching career to take a different approach, to show students that mathematics is a changing, exciting discipline not limited to therote memory of rules and formulas.

Five years ago, Johnson started performing with a local klezmer band. The music provides more freedom than her classical training allowed. "Klezmer music has its roots in 15th century Eastern Europe. It's very ethnic," she says. "There's lots of room for improvisation so you can write parts where all the instruments are playing wildly different things, and then you bring them back together."

"When I'm writing a piece of music, I have the sound in my head. I know what I want it to do and what instruments I want to use and how I want it to come together, and then somebody plays it, and I hear it, and it doesn't quite match, and I have to build on it by piece by piece. I have to keep adjusting until it matches the sound in my head."

"The same applies in mathematics, where you have a problem, you have sort of an idea that the solution should be about here, and you work on it, and you test it, and it doesn't quite work. Then you go back and you adjust this, and you adjust that, and you keep juggling your variables until you understand the behavior of a phenomenon and which variables are relevant. It's very similar to music. It's a very exciting process. That doesn't mean that you bliss the results. You have all this data, you see the result, and you figure out what variables have been changing to make that happen. It's all about tweaking variables."

"What makes people afraid of math is that they think it is very black and white, that it's reduced to rules that you follow, to get to the right answer. That approach creates a sterile environment that discourages students. We lose the students we need most, the students who are creative thinkers. They don't like a sterile environment."

Johnson draws a parallel to an unhappy experience with a piano teacher. "I spent an entire year practicing scales, doing nothing but playing scales. I got there was any enjoyment in playing the piano. There was no transfer to making music."

She sees that same paradigm in the way mathematics has traditionally been taught, with its emphasis on rules and formulas and exact answers. "There's no transfer to reality, to the variables that make mathematics exciting and creative and relevant."

Like artists, Reay says mathematicians like to take ideas, think about them, and see what these ideas can produce. "And then you think about how you can show that to someone else," he says. "That's what teachers do."

Pictured below is a permanent model Reay created for his students to demonstrate how a link could be brought into a second hole by bending, stretching, pushing and pulling, but never tearing, a rubber model.

The exercise is representative of methods used in topology, a branch of mathematics also referred to as rubber sheet geometry. Reay is accomplished on the bassoon and clarinet and has played for several years with the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. He says it's the challenge of working within a framework of rules to create something new that motivates mathematicians, artists and musicians.

Art students going to Italy

Western is offering a summer art program (June 22 through July 15) which will give students the opportunity to visit and study in Rome, Florence, Tuscany and Venice and to participate in discussions with guest artists and art historians. Enrollment is limited to 16 students. For information, call (360) 650-3660 or download a brochure at www.acfweb.eds/nesp/summer/images/italy_bro.pdf.
with development of a strong dynamic civil society. In partnership with Atlin University and elected local executives and legislators, Nielsen will be opening a new NDI program in Turkey focusing on good governance issues and will conduct a pilot project in six cities to establish mechanisms for soliciting and incorporating citizen involvement in public policy decisions at the local level.

1964 - Chris Vance was re-elected in January to serve a second term as Chairman of the Washington State Republican Party. Vance served as 13th District representative on the King County Council from 1994 to 2001 and as a state representative for the 31 st Legislative District from 1991 to 1993.

1985 - Kathleen Nelson has been elected to partnership in the firm of Lane Powell Spears Lubker LLP in Seattle. Nelson is licensed to practice law in three states, Washington, Idaho and California, and focuses on commercial litigation, environmental enforcement, waterfront litigation, maritime and class actions.

1986 - Anne Baunach is the fund development director for Comprehensive Health Education Foundation (CHEF) in Seattle. Baunach previously served as resource development director for Green River Community College in Puyallup, Washington.

1988 - Bill Recke is the fund development director for the Waterfront Artists Society in Bellingham. In 2004 the board of directors of the North Olympic Peninsular Art Association awarded Recke a Spirit of the Peninsula Award on behalf of the Waterfront Artists Society for outstanding community service.

1991 - Lynn Jones was elected as a member of theclery Board of Directors for First Citizens Bank in Aberdeen.

1994 - Rex Rhodes achieved certification through WWU's Small Business Development Center. Certification emphasizes marketing, human resources, financial analysis and business plan development. Rhodes is a Native American business specialist serving eight tribes in Whatcom, Skagit and Shuswap counties.

1996 - Tammy Zoltick received a 2005 Bellingham Mayor's Arts Education and Leadership Award on behalf of the Waterfront Artists Society for supporting and mentoring local artists.

1997 - Maureen Kane recently resigned as director of the Whatcom Literacy Council to pursue graduate studies. Kane served as executive director for eight years.

1999 - Todd Eisworth is the owner of Bellingham Benefits, a special-events promotion company, and the founder and chief promoter of Bellingham Traverse, a race that is similar to Sis-to-Sea in that it allows teams and individuals to compete by running, riding mountain and road bikes, and kayaking. Eisworth was recognized by the Bellingham Herald as one of 10 people and organizations that have made a difference in Whatcom County in 2004.

2000 - John Harrison has been named as principal of the new middle school in Ferndale. Harrison is a graduate of Heritage High School in Ferndale and joins the school system to become the associate principal for administration with a focus on student achievement.

2005 - Philip Bierman was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Washington State Legislature for the 19th legislative district. Bierman still drives and remains active in his church, the United Church of Christ in Blaine, and is a member of the Sunnyside Lions Club.

2006 - John Harrison has been named as principal of the new middle school in Ferndale. Harrison is a graduate of Heritage High School in Ferndale and joins the school system to become the associate principal for administration with a focus on student achievement.

2007 - Brian Vervynck is the Director of Development at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Vervynck was promoted to Director of Development and has been with the hospital since 1994.

2008 - Richard Law ('93) is the Director of Development at the University of Washington Medical Center. Law is responsible for the identification, solicitation, and management of all charitable gifts to the hospital.

2009 - David Gwozdz is collecting data to predict how environmental alterations impact sea grass habitats.

Conservation award recognizes importance of sea grass study

Richard Gwozdz ('03) was recently awarded a $10,000 Budweiser Conservation Scholarship to continue his research of sea grasses in Puget Sound, an estuary at the northern edge of the Skagit River delta. As part of his graduate study program through Western's Huxley College of the Environment, Gwozdz is collecting data used to predict how environmental alterations impact sea grass habitats. His research is collecting data to predict how environmental alterations impact sea grass habitats.

Richard Gwozdz is collecting data to predict how environmental alterations impact sea grass habitats.
Clarke is named Washington's High School Principal of the Year

Steve Clarke (83) has been named High School Principal of the Year by the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals, the high school component board of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). Clarke, principal of Bellingham High School, has a position he has held since 2000. Before then, he served as planning principal while the school’s building was closed for a major remodel and helped students handle the resulting transitions. He also worked during part of that time at Sehome High School as interim principal.

Clarke was selected from an initial pool of 12 regional finalists from around the state and is now Washington state’s nominee for the National High School Principal of the Year program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and MetLife. He received his bachelor’s degree in education from WWU in 1985 and his master’s, also from WWU, in 1991.

FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS

Laurence W. Brewster, 89, a professor of speech in Western’s communications department (from 1948 to 1980), on March 6.

David Schantz: Melland, 69, a lecturer in geography at WWU (from 1969 to 1973), on March 29.

Lorraine “Lorrie” Murial Mortimer, 67, wife of former WWU president Kenneth P. Mortimer, on Feb. 4. She came to Bellingham with her husband in 1988 and lived in Bellingham until 1993, when her husband accepted a position as president of the University of Hawaii. She immediately took an active role in university life, working closely with the fledgling WWU Foundation. Before she left, she spearheaded several efforts including fundraising and marketing. In addition, she was a member of the National Association of Women in University Management. In 2008, she opened an Edward Jones office in Issaquah.

Mortimer received her bachelor’s degree in education from WWU in 1961 and her master’s, also from WWU, in 1964.

Joan Funt, 69, a professor of speech in Western’s communications department (from 1969 to 1973), on March 29.

Lorraine “Lorrie” Murial Mortimer, 67, wife of former WWU president Kenneth P. Mortimer, on Feb. 4. She came to Bellingham with her husband in 1988 and lived in Bellingham until 1993, when her husband accepted a position as president of the University of Hawaii. She immediately took an active role in university life, working closely with the fledgling WWU Foundation. Before she left, she spearheaded several efforts including fundraising and marketing. In addition, she was a member of the National Association of Women in University Management. In 2008, she opened an Edward Jones office in Issaquah.

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Brent Hunter, 32, a fifth-grade teacher at Northview Elementary School in Issaquah.

Shaughnessy Breslin, 31, a flight attendant, on Nov. 5 in Bonney Lake.

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The Battle in Seattle continues

The third annual Battle in Seattle will take place at Qwest Field (formerly Seahawks Stadium) on Saturday, Oct. 8. Your Alumni Association is hard at work planning a game that will be fun for fans of all ages. We'll have music and good food, and the WWU cheer squad will be there to boost our team spirit.

You will have many opportunities this weekend to reconnect with friends and fellow graduates. More than 11,000 fans turned out for last year's Battle in Seattle event. We'll have music and good food, and that will be fun for fans of all ages.

Your Alumni Association has arranged for special group rates for overnight accommodations on Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Oct. 8 at the Marriott SpringHill Suites in downtown Seattle. A suite with a king bed and pull-out sofa (sleeps 4) is $89; a suite with two double beds and pull-out sofa (sleeps 6) is $104. These prices include a full breakfast. All suites are equipped with a refrigerator, microwave, separate living room and complimentary high-speed internet access. For more information, call the hotel directly at (206) 254-0500 or check online at www.marriott.com/SEADB. Reservation codes are BISBISA for kingbed suites and BISEISB for suites with two double beds.

Bill Farkas, executive director of WWU Alumni Association and director of the office of alumni relations, will resign in early June to take a position as CEO of Lambda Chi Alpha, a national fraternity established in 1909. "I am leaving with mixed emotions," Farkas reported. "I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with Western alumni, and I'm proud of the solid foundation we have built together."

$100,000 for scholarships

By Kathleen Howard

Since 1998, Western alumni have contributed over $100,000 for scholarships and it was easy!

How did you do it? You purchased WWU vanity license plates. They're fun, they're easy to get, they announce your Viking pride and they're surprisingly affordable.

Over 850 customized WWU vanity license plates have been sold since this program was introduced, generating more than $100,000. Money from this program has helped several undergraduate students pursue their dream of earning a college education.

It's easy to support scholarship by displaying a WWU license plate:

• Pay a one-time fee of $40 (standard for any vanity plate).
• Renew your tabs as usual (renewal cost will be pro-rated depending on the date of renewal).

Each year when you renew your tabs, $30 will be added to your plate renewal fee; $28 of the one-time fee and the renewal amount will go directly to Western's Alumni Scholarship Fund. This $28 is tax-deductible, and your WWU license plate can be transferred to any car you own. It's yours for as long as you like.

$100,000 is a nice round figure, impressive and very much appreciated. But we could easily double that amount. Are you up for the challenge?

WWU alumni clean up on Volunteer Day

By Susan Bakse

Western alumni marked the beginning of this year's National Volunteer Week with a program on Saturday, April 16 that put volunteers to work in their communities.

By participating, alumni made meaningful contributions in their home communities, enjoyed time together with friends and family in a casual atmosphere, and enhanced Western's image in their hometown areas.

As a way of saying "thank you," your WWU Alumni Association provided each volunteer (family and friends included) with a distinctive WWU alumni T-shirt.

The Volunteer Day alumni team program was introduced last year, with alumni teams participating in four communities. The program was expanded this year to include six different locations. Projects focused on trail maintenance and beautification of the following areas and natural habitat areas:

• South Bay Trail (Bellingham),
• Priest Point Park (Olympia),
• Mission Trails Park (San Diego),
• Starkey Property (Vancouver/Portland),
• Randall Park (Yakima).

Due to rain, a scheduled clean up of the Green Lake Habitat Area in Seattle was postponed to May 21.

"Inspire by Example" was the theme of the 2005 National Volunteer Week. "That's something WWU alumni do on a regular basis. We're very proud of the contributions Western graduates are making to their communities," says Bill Farkas, Alumni Relations director.

National Volunteer Week was established in 1974 and is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation.
Supporting scholarship

On May 14, the San Diego WWU Alumni Chapter will host a private tour of the wild animal park at the San Diego Zoo, with the proceeds going toward completion of an endowed scholarship established by the chapter. A special thank you goes to WWU parents, David and Robin Sheriff, who worked with the park’s administration to secure complimentary passes and parking for all WWU alumni and their family members. Admission will be by donation; we hope you, your family and friends will join us on this fun adventure in the wild!

Networking

The month of June brings several alumni events to areas in Northern California. Your Alumni Association will host three networking/happy hours and a special barbecue complete with Northwest salmon and wines from Washington state.

Dates and locations for the networking/happy hours are Monday, June 13 (6 p.m.) in San Jose, Tuesday, June 14 (6 p.m.) in San Francisco and Wednesday, June 15 (6 p.m.) in Santa Rosa.

The salmon barbecue dinner will be held at the home of Gene and Ann Langille on Friday, June 17 (6:30 p.m.) in Point Richmond, just north of San Francisco. Mark your calendars now, and watch for your invitation.

Cheering our team

In December, the Viking men’s basketball team traveled to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas to compete in the High Desert Classic. Alumni, parents and die-hard fans from Washington, California and Nevada attended to cheer our team. Viking fans rallied at the Hard Rock Café before the Saturday night game and enjoyed a dinner and visit from head basketball coach Brad Jackson. The event was sponsored by the WWU Alumni Association.

Skating in B.C.

The 42 alumni, family and friends who participated in your Alumni Association’s 5th Annual Ski Trip to Big White Resort in British Columbia enjoyed a perfect weekend for skiing. The Hawaiian theme we celebrated was definitely rekindled friendships and great memories, so save the dates on your calendar: (Wednesday, July 13 through Sunday, July 17) and make plans to join us on campus.

All Golden Vikings are invited to stay at Edens Hall during the reunion. Please call to make your reservation.

The 2005 annual 50-year reunion will include workshops offered by Woodring College of Education, a history cruise on Bellingham Bay, campus/community tours, opportunities to attend WWU Summer Stock performances, and an art walk.

Your invitation will arrive in May. If you do not receive information about the reunion and would like to attend, please contact Kristie Lundstrom at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885 or email kristie.lundstrom@wwu.edu.

Stay connected at www.wwualumni.com

Your FAVORITE PLACE

Where did you go on campus to spend an afternoon reading? To catch some extra Zzzzzs or rays of sun? To compare notes with study partners?

Perhaps your favorite place was somewhere shared, the place you and your friends always gathered. Perhaps it was a very private place, reserved for those times when you needed space alone. Or perhaps it was a space known only to you and one special friend.

Please tell us about your favorite place on campus. Send your story and photos to alumni@wwu.edu or mail to WWU Alumni Association, 516 High Street, AL 100, Bellingham WA 98225.

Golden VIKINGS are coming back to school

5-day reunion planned July 13 – 17

The Golden Vikings Reunion Committee has planned the first ever five-day reunion for alumni who graduated in 1955 or earlier. This is an event that will rekindle friendships and great memories, so save the dates on your calendar (Wednesday, July 13 through Sunday, July 17) and make plans to join us on campus.

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November 4-6
Upcoming Events
October 8
October 29
21 Golden Vikings Phonathon, 6 p.m., Basketball arena.
18 "Cider House Rules" Opening Night Dinner, 5:30 p.m., on campus
14 Alumni Whale Watching Trip aboard Victoria Clipper, 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m., leaving from Seattle's downtown waterfront to Friday Harbor (round trip)
13 Alumni and Parents' Dinner, 6 p.m., Petroleum Club of Alaska, Anchorage, Alaska
14 Alumni Whale Watching Trip aboard Victoria Clipper, 7:45 a.m. to 7 p.m., leaving from Seattle's downtown waterfront to Friday Harbor (round trip)
12 Alumni Reception, 6 p.m., Alaskan Heritage Museum, Anchorage, Alaska
11 Juneau Alumni and Parents' Dinner, 6 p.m., Anchorage, Alaska
28 Ski to Sea Parade (WWU alumni entry), 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Bellingham
29 Ski to Sea Race (WWU alumni teams), Mount Baker to Bellingham Bay

Summer Stock
Tickets are on sale now. Call (360) 650-6146.

Proof
Written by David Auburn
One of the most acclaimed new plays in recent years, David Auburn's "Proof" was a hit on Broadway and won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award for Best Play. When a disputed mathematical proof is found among the abandoned notebooks of a brilliant but unstable professor, his daughter begins a search for the truth and is forced to confront her family's twin legacies of madness and genius.
PAC Underground Theater
July 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 19, 21, 27, 30 and August 2, 5, 9, 12, 16

The Foreigner
Written by Larry Shue
A fishing lodge in rural Georgia sets the scene for this story in which a shy man who pretends to speak no English hears more than he should about the man who pretends to speak no English. Featuring a fast-talking, energetic Anne Shirley as she moves toward fair maidenhood, and in the process uproots the placid lives of Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert—Based on the turn-of-the-century novel by L. M. Montgomery.

Anne of Green Gables
Written by Lucy Maud Montgomery
This production expresses the irrepressible hope of a young girl learning how to love and be loved. We glimpse the innermost joys of red-headed, fast-talking, energetic Anne Shirley as she moves toward fair maidenhood, and in the process uproots the placid lives of Marilla and Matthew Cuthbert. Based on the turn-of-the-century novel by L. M. Montgomery.

College of Fine and Performing Arts
Department of Theatre Arts
http://calendar.wwu.edu