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: Mahabalipuram, 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 “Skyviewing 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 “Skyviewing 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.
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 Aroman Oslapas, associate professor of industrial design, and Nicholas Zaferatos, 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.

Steven Garfinkle selected for NEH fellowship

Ancient history professor Steven Garfinkle has been awarded a fellowship and $40,000 stipend by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Garfinkle will spend the 2005-2006 academic year studying the origins of commerce in ancient 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.

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 (59)

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. session. At the first session, I discovered that man was the instructor, Dr. Myole Cederstrom.

Sometime during that quarter, Dr. Cederstrom asked me why I rarely said anything in class. He told me 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 back from my comments to the right track, without embarrassing me.

Through my career as a teacher, and as a student of education, Dr. Cederstrom's kindness has been an example of how to treat students and colleagues.

—Rita J. Novak (59)

A TRUE PATRIOT

Your tribute to Herbert C. Taylor was most touching. He was a competitor of mine in the Washington Air National Guard. We served together at the Bellingham unit, 262nd 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.

—Marli McFarland (70)

Send your letters to Window on Western, MS-9011, WWU, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9011. Letters are sometimes edited for length.
Western Washington University counselors James Orr assessed and treated mental conditions of English-speaking relief volunteers at the Bong Woan refugee camp in Thailand this winter. He says the camp was "busier than an ant nest and less private than a fish bowl."

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 rows 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 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. "We have 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 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.

"Improving warning systems is especially important because population trends indicate that people in the United States and in other countries are moving into areas prone to disasters. It is especially important that people know the warning signs of a disaster and how to protect their families and property," he said.

In January, one month after the Asian tsunami, Western students observed a "Day of Remembrance" with a candlelight vigil and memorial ribbon campaign. Donations were collected at all events to help fund international and local relief efforts. In addition, the university community organized a fund drive to raise money for the Mount Baker Chapter of the American Red Cross to aid victims of the Asian tsunami as well as provide local disaster assistance.

Spring heralds celebration of scholarship and creativity

By Karen W. Morse
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

As this column is being written, the trees on campus are 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 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 worldwide solve their water quality problems through sustainable design. Music professor Roger Briggs received one of two Goddard Lieberson Fellowships, awarded to mid-career composers of exceptional gifts, while industrial design associate professor Anunas 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 week 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 Work," a two-part exhibit of never-before-seen photographs by the famed sculptor as well as dance inspired by his on-campus cube "Skywarping." 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/campusrec/kidscamp.

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

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.

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.

Ernie Sams recognized for long and meritorious service

By Amy Cloud
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

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.

Eleven presidents have come and gone since Sams started at Western. He remembers Dr. Haggard leaning out his office window to holler at students to "get off the lawn!" There were only 400 students then. "Everyone knew everybody. We were all friends," he says.

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.

Making a personal difference

By Meelena Eaton
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Sixteen-year-old Moises had already endured tracheotomy 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.

Robert DeBoard and Todd 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 tracheotomy 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.

"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 the capital city. He was a really fast learner, and I knew I would be making a big difference in his life, but I had no idea how big," Youmans said.

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.
INVESTMENTS in Excellence

Gift ANNUITIES
A great way to support scholarship and increase retirement income

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.

A lifetime reserved gift is another way to leave an educational legacy while retaining the resources you need during your lifetime.

In 1999, Lucille Barron deeded her condominium as a life estate reserved gift to the Western Washington University Foundation. Until her death last September, she was given full and unrestricted use of the property and continued to receive a guaranteed income for life. Lucille's husband, Donald, retired from Exxon Mobil after 27 years, and when he died, Lucille decided to donate the condominium to Western.

The Thorsons received an annual 7.1% annual return on the annuity principal and will benefit financially for the rest of their lives. The annuity principal will eventually go to Western and will benefit students for generations to come.

Features of a Charitable Gift Annuity

• Provide meaningful support for Western Washington University.
• Earn a fixed income for life (a portion of which may be tax-free).

Your gift annuity investment is protected, backed 100% by the assets of the Western Washington University Foundation.

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 Mobil 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.

How Charitable Gift Annuities Work

When you give securities or cash as a gift annuity, the Western Washington University Foundation sends you a guaranteed payment every year for the rest of your life. You can establish a gift annuity with a minimum gift of $10,000.

Current annuity rates, determined by the age of the income recipient, are reflected below:

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If you would like a personalized illustration or more information, please call or e-mail Deborah DeWees, associate director of planned giving, at (360) 650-3622 or deborah.dewees@wwu.edu.

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 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.

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 email deborah.dewees@wwu.edu.

New office location for Western Washington University Foundation

The Western Washington University Foundation has moved. While still located on the fourth floor of Old Main, the staff is now housed in Old Main 430. The office telephone number, (360) 650-3612, individual telephone extensions, fax number, (360) 650-2832, mail-stop address (9034) and email addresses all remain the same.

We are always pleased to receive visitors. Be sure to stop in at Old Main 430 the next time you're on campus.
Celebrating Connections Between ART and MATHEMATICS

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

August de Morgan (1806-1871), professor of mathematics, University College, London

By Dee Johnson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Posters decorate the file cabinets in Jerry Johnson's office. One, a quote by August de Morgan, serves as a reminder that imagination is the moving power of mathematical invention. Johnson, professor of mathematics, tells students that "math isn't just factoring and trinomials and doing other such computations, it's part of everything we do."

"A Celebration: Building Connections Between Art and Mathematics," held on campus April 22-23, illustrated that part of everything we do, "math isn't just factoring and trinomials and doing other such computations, it's part of everything we do."

The symposium opened with a keynote address Friday evening by Bulent Atalay, author of "Math and the Mona Lisa." About 400 people were in attendance. Atalay's address focused on Leonardo da Vinci, a Renaissance mathematician, scientist, inventor and artist famous for his paintings of the Mona Lisa and the Last Supper.

Atalay is a professor of physics at the Institute of Advanced Study/University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. "Math and the Mona Lisa" has had six printings since its introduction in April 2004 and has been credited with showing, in accessible language, how da Vinci's model can assist in bridging the cultural divide prevailing in our age of specialization.

In his presentation, Atalay suggested that da Vinci may have used geometric underlayings with intent when he painted the Mona Lisa. While he admits that we never can know with certainty whether that was da Vinci's unerring eye, or whether it was purposeful, Atalay clearly demonstrated that the Mona Lisa synthesizes art and mathematics. Atalay explained the Fibonacci Series, a sequence of numbers whose ratio of adjacent numbers approaches 1.618, and showed how this sequence was repeated in the Mona Lisa. The value 1.618 is called the golden ratio or divine proportion and is a basic part of anatomy. It has been identified in the double-helix of DNA and repeatedly shows up in nature and in art, music, architecture and industrial design. The ubiquitous and unconscious use of this structure confirms studies which indicate its universal appeal.

At noon on Saturday, Western mathematician professor Branko Curgus presented a mathematical view of Isamu Noguchi's "Skyviewing Sculpture," part of WWU's Outdoor Sculpture Collection and visits to the Western Gallery where a collection of works by Isamu Noguchi is currently being displayed.

Carol Edwards, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, observed that the weekend's activities encouraged a collection of works by Isamu Noguchi, and afterward, "We teachers attending Jill Britton's workshops created tessellating templates and went home with software that enables us to create tessellating artwork on their own computers. The workshop focused on the art of M. C. Escher, a Dutch graphic artist who used tessellations (repeating geometric patterns) to create works with mathematically complex structures and spatial illusions that require a "second look" to discover all there is to see. Britton teaches mathematics at Camosun College in Victoria, B.C.

"A Celebration: Building Connections Between Art and Mathematics" was sponsored by the Whatcom and Skagit Mathematics Partnership, a three-year program funded by the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of the partnership is to increase math achievement and to narrow math achievement differences between diverse student populations.

Students, parents and art teachers participated throughout the day in a variety of self-directed activities, including visits to Western's Outdoor Sculpture Collection and visits to the Western Gallery where a collection of works by Isamu Noguchi is currently being displayed.

Carol Edwards, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, observed that the weekend's activities encouraged a collection of works by Isamu Noguchi, and afterward, "We"
Changing how we look at mathematics

By Dee Johnson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

That was a very demanding period in her life. "You had to give up a lot to make sure you were in voice. If you had a concert, if you had a program, if you were in an opera, if you had an audition, you couldn't be out in the cold air, you couldn't be around smoke, you couldn't be up late, you couldn't use your voice incorrectly." She was concerned that even if she made those sacrifices, she would not be able to support herself with her music.

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 one other instrument. By the age of five, she knew she would be taking piano lessons. It was a natural progression. Johnson went into vocal music, was classically trained, and performed with an opera company in New York.

Like artists, Ray says mathematicians like to take ideas, think about them, and see what those 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 (GUR) pre-calculus class conduct experiments to learn about the effects of changing variables. Johnson welcomes the opportunity to teach GURs because "they give us one last opportunity to interest students who have decided that they hate mathematics."

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 make 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 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 work. Then you go back and you adjust this, and you adjust that, and you keep jiggling 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 get 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 are given to you. That to someone else, it's not quite work. Then you go back and you adjust this, and you adjust that, and you keep jiggling 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 get 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 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 thought 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."

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.acaweb.wwu.edu/eesp/summer/images/italy-bro.pdf.

S P R I N G  2 0 0 5 7
Conservation award recognizes importance of sea grass study

Richard Gwozdz (’03) recently awarded a $10,000 Budweiser Conservation Scholarship to continue his research on 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, such as freshwater diversions and proposed management plans, could impact the sea grass habitat.

Gwozdz hopes his research will contribute in two areas. “I want to add to the existing body of information about sea level and climate change and its effects on ecosystems. I also hope my research will potentially help natural resource managers consider the effect of different watershed management scenarios on sea grasses and associated fauna,” he says.

The Budweiser Conservation Scholarship Program annually awards at least 10 scholarships of up to $10,000 each to students demonstrating academic achievement and an ability and commitment to developing innovative solutions that address issues related to wildlife and plant conservation.
side, is into photography and running, and is still active in the equine world with dressage side, is into photography and running, and is WWU's women's basketball coach, was named 2004 ARIA Award and the 2004 Richard Tucker Award. Hunter has been an adjunct member of student engagement and multicultural counseling part-time and working on grants and incarceration. In 2001 she wrote and published "On the Rocks," a multimedia production opened an Edward Jones office in Tumwater. Williams has an accredited asset management designation.

2000 - Cedric Bolton, the coordinator of international programs and multicultural affairs at Syracuse University in New York. Sherri Daymon is employed at WWU's Student Development Center and recently achieved certification through the center for marketing, human resources, financial aid, and business plan development. Jessica Marden recently passed the bar and is clerking for Judge Mary Kay Becker on the Court of Appeals. Marden graduated from Failing High College with an interdisciplinary concentration called "Citizenship, Social Justice and the Law" - Jamie O'Brien spearheaded several fund raising events in Bellingham to help the survivors of the Asian Tsunami.

2001 - Mari McFarland works in China in a town in Zhejiang province called Ningbo as a buyer for an American company's branch office. McFarland rides a bicycle to work across the river every day, hangs wet laundry from bars installed over her balcony, and has a Chinese boyfriend who runs his own fashion boutique. She hopes to bring him to visit the United States and to introduce him to WWU professors (an Xing and Ho-Chin Yang, who had a tremendous impact upon her career choice.

2002 - Dan Hammill received a 2005 Bellingham Mayor's Media/Film Award for "Creek Story," a 30-minute documentary of Whatcom Creek.

2003 - Pipa Breakspear wrote "On the Rocks," a multimedia production written, directed and produced by herself and Leo, a fifth-grade teacher at Newcastle Elementary School in Bellingham.

1992 - Agnes Martin, a retired professor, was named Steep 101 Volume 1: Maggie Cumes Boring." Hu's disc is a compilation of class lectures in which she will help people battle insomnia as the lectures contained on the disc were able to put him to sleep during the middle of the day. Hu's web site is www.sleep101.net. Matt Lehman joined the team at Moss Adams LLP in Bellingham. Andrew Hu created a compact audio disc, "Steep 101 Volume 1: Maggie Cumes Boring." Hu's disc is a collection of class lectures in which she will help people battle insomnia as the lectures contained on the disc were able to put him to sleep during the middle of the day. Hu's web site is www.sleep101.net. Matt Lehman joined the team at Moss Adams LLP in Bellingham.

2006 - Darin Johnson

Clarke received the 2006 High School Principal of the Year Award from the Washington State Association of Secondary School Principals, the high school component board of the Association of Secondary School Principals (WSSP). Clarke is principal of Bellingham High School, a position he has held since 2000. Before then, he served as 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 is named Washington's High School Principal of the Year

Steve Clarke (85) 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 Secondary School Principals (WSSP). Clarke is principal of Bellingham High School, a position he has held since 2000. Before then, he served as 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.

2005 - Stephanie Sawhill ('03) received the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award.

Stephanie Sawhill ('03) is the recipient of the "2004-2005 Distinguished Master's Thesis Award" presented by the Western Association of Graduate Students (WAGS). The award includes $1,000 honorarium and an invitation to address the WAGS annual meeting. Stephanie Sawhill ('03) received the Distinguished Master's Thesis Award.

Western Association of Graduate Students (WAGS)
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 pre-game function 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’re hoping to see even more fans between two legendary rivals. Mark your calendars.

The WWU cheer squad will be there to make it fun for fans of all ages.

We’ll have music and good food, and that will be fun for fans of all ages. We’re hoping to see even more fans between two legendary rivals. Mark your calendars.

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

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.”

By Kathleen Howard
ALUMNI RELATIONS

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.

Get a bonus. Send us a photo of you and your car with WWU plates and we’ll send you a WWU Alumni license plate frame. Send your photos to Alumni Relations, 516 High Street, Bellingham WA 98225-9199 or email kathi.howard@wwu.edu.

For more information, call a Washington State Department of Motor Vehicles office or visit www.dol.wa.gov. Or call the WWU Alumni Relations Office at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885.

$100,000 for scholarships

By Susan Baxk
ALUMNI RELATIONS

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.
Alumni Happenings

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.

Skiing in B.C.

The 42 alumni, family and friends who participated in your Alumni Association’s 8th Annual Ski Trip to Big White Resort in British Columbia enjoyed a perfect weekend for skiing. The Hawaiian theme we celebrated was definitely a very private place, reserved for those who 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 to one special friend.

Stay connected at www.wwualumni.com

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.

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.

Staying connected

To receive information about next year’s trip, email kristie.lundstrom@wwu.edu.

Networking

The Golden Vikings Reunion Committee has met several times this year to plan the first ever five-day Golden Vikings Reunion. Pictured from left to right are Dianne Beatty (’55), Joan Wolgemuth (’55), Jim Shook (’51), Arthur Heald (’54), Persis Shook (’50), Ruby Johnson Smith (’51), Don Davis (’52), Kappy McMullen Brittin (’52) and Roger Pederson (’51).

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The proceedings are observed by an outsider who provides insight and commentary on the complexities that make up modern relationships. Throughout, Sondheim’s songs express the irrepressible hope of a young girl learning to live in the world. Written by Larry Gelbart and Bart Shewlowe

This hysterical, perfectly constructed story by Larry Gilbert (of “MAM’SH” and “City of Angels” fame) features unforgettable zany characters and witty Stephen Sondheim songs that are both catchy and timeless. Pseudolus, a crafty slave, is promised his freedom if he can win the hand of the beautiful, but slow-witted courtesan, Philia, for his young master. Written by Larry Shue

A boxing match takes place and the main event consists of the boxing in the ring. Written by Robert E. Lee, Jr.

A Sondheim musical revue

At a cocktail party in New York City, two couples—one a middle-aged married couple, the other young lovers just starting out—reflect through Sondheim’s songs on the complexities that make up modern relationships. Throughout, the proceedings are observed by an outsider who provides insight and commentary on the goings-on. Presented in cabaret format. Written by Lucy Maud Montgomery

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