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Creative campus

By Kathy Sheehan
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Western's reputation is increasing as a creative place where students and faculty are inspired to excel at innovation and experimentation.

The tone for this climate of originality and creativity is set the very first week as freshmen come to campus with a unique welcoming convocation that blends tradition with fresh new ideas.

It's nurtured by innovative programs like the Teaching-Learning Academy and through unique internships and mentoring programs with alumni and community members. There are also hundreds of opportunities for students to conduct environmental research, choreograph new dance performances and make new music.

At the heart of this campus is a mentoring programs with alumni and community members. There are also hundreds of opportunities for student faculty collaboration on scientific research, original music and dance, imaginative art, community service and other creative ventures.

At the heart of this campus is an understanding that you can't really "teach" creativity, and certainly not in a single formulaic way.

Phillip Ager ('52), a retired WWU administrator and teacher, can recall the old ways of teaching students how to create new music.

"Before a kid could be a composer, we had all these prerequisites" (in the music department), Ager said in a 2003 interview for the Western Libraries Oral History Program. "You had to have traditional theory, traditional harmony; all of these things from the past. And then as a junior, or more likely a senior, you'd say (to the student), 'OK, compose.'"

Ager's mentorship set the stage for students to create new music. "We had completely conditioned all ... the ... creativity and experimental courage out of the kids," Ager said.

It wasn't done consciously, said Ager, an associate professor emeritus of music who also served as dean of Fairhaven College from 1978 to 1982. In fact, the generally held position in education in the 1950s and '60s was that a formal education in theory should precede experimentation in the discipline.

Today Ager and those involved with improving the quality of education and nurturing a climate of creativity at Western understand a better way to achieve creative excellence.

"What you have to do is create a place where students can be creative," Ager said from his home in Winthrop. It can be tricky, he said, because students need some structure and boundaries to avoid hodgepodge music compositions.

"It's a difficult balancing act," he said. Yet, Fairhaven College successfully pioneered a style of creative learning in the 1970s with its student-designed majors.

That type of student-centered learning has spread across the entire Western campus, influencing virtually all departments and programs with creative teaching and learning models.

In fact, WWU has become a national leader in the creative scholarship of teaching and learning.

A year ago, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, in cooperation with the American Association of Higher Education, designated the Teaching-Learning Academy at Western a national research hub for a cluster of colleges studying best practices for learning.

Western created the TLA several years ago as a forum for faculty, students, staff and administrators to meet regularly as a community to research new and more effective approaches to academic life.

The Carnegie Foundation cited WWU for its creative focus on the student's voice and the student's role in undergraduate learning.

"We are leaders of one of 12 national clusters," said Carmen Weeder ('68), director of the TLA. "And we are the only cluster focusing on the role of students as co-inquirers in studying relationships between teaching and learning."

Fairhaven professor Marie Eaton, an expert in innovative learning techniques, said the TLA is a great example of the nurturing creative climate at Western. "One part of creativity is a sense of autonomy and authority, where you are engaged and gain authority over a new plan or your own work," Eaton said. "In the TLA, the students who are collecting data on the undergraduate learning experience at Western have the power to create new knowledge."

The TLA isn't the only initiative that has led to WWU's reputation as a creative campus.

Just turn your eyes and ears anywhere on campus, says Eileen Coughlin, vice president for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services.

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The Carnegie Foundation cited Western's scholarship in innovative learning, stating that the university is "... the ... creativity and experimental courage out of the kids."
Fall 2004 enrollment rises
Western welcomed 12,940 students in fall 2004, including a record 1,892 students of color. For fall quarter, Western enrolled 2,456 new freshmen, up from 2,213 last year, and 995 new transfer students, 79 percent of whom came from the state’s community colleges. Average high school GPA of freshmen was 3.52. Leading counties of residence for students are King, Whatcom, Snohomish and Pierce.

WWU hires new director for Equal Opportunity Office
Sue Guenter-Schlesinger is the new executive director of Equal Opportunity Services at Western. Guenter-Schlesinger has been at Utah State University since 1991 where she was executive assistant vice president for Affirmative Action and Diversity.

CBE faculty honored
Peter Haug, professor of manufacturing management, has been named the College of Business and Economics’ Distinguished Teaching Fellow. The three-year fellowship is sponsored by CBE’s Center for Excellence in Management Education. Julie Lockhart, professor of accounting, and Craig Tyran, associate professor of decision sciences, also were honored with CBE’s Captain Chase Franklin Excellence in Teaching Award.

REI executive named trustee
Gov. Gary Locke appointed Dennis Madsen, president and CEO of Recreational Equipment, Inc., to Western’s board of trustees in September. Madsen, whose son and daughter are graduates of Western, is president of the Western Washington University Foundation Board of Directors.

Demmert wins life award
Education professor William Demmert received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the National Indian Education Association in October. He was honored for helping to develop federal legislation for Native student education and for his role as a former administrator in the U.S. Office of Education and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Can-Am Center gets funds for research, internships
The Center for Canadian-American Studies, one of only two federally designated National Resource Centers for the study of Canada, has secured a $116,894 grant for speakers, research, internships and outreach programs next year.

COACH ‘LAPPY’ AHEAD OF HIS TIMES
In your fall edition of Window on Western, I was happy to see Coach Lappenbusch remembered. Watching football at all levels you will see the “1” formation that Lappy introduced in the mid-1930s. Basketball teams are using a full court press that Coach wrote about as part of his Straight Line Philosophy. Of course, it does not bear his name. Charles Lappendnbusch was a man recognized as being ahead of his times.

STUDENTS FELT ‘MAGIC’ WITH DAVE RAHM
When I received the fall ’04 Window, I looked to see whether my favorite professor might already have been named by others. Since he was not, I feel compelled to honor Dave Rahm, go-b-c już, from my class of political junkies (graduate school). His lectures with hundreds of his own color slides and stories, and even offered students opportunities to fly with him to view the geologic wonders of Puget Sound and the Cascades first hand. Some of my fondest memories of my years at Western include breathtaking flights around the peak of Mount Baker and soaring in and around the Three Sisters. Talk about "real world" education!

ARTHUR HICKS MIXED LITERATURE, POLITICS
I would like to pay tribute to my favorite professor, Dr. Arthur C. Hkks. I was privileged to have taken 24 quarter credits from this gentleman.

THOMAS TERICH

DICK PAYNE INSPIRED CLASS OF ‘POLITICAL JUNKIES’
Your fall edition made me recall my favorite professor. Dick Payne was an inspiring political science professor who came to Western after some tumultuous experiences in the South in the 1950s. He had served as a clerk to the U.S. Supreme Court, and he was a devout student of the court and the Constitution. He shared his devotion intensely with undergraduates (and] was ardently determined to help students understand each judge’s positions, how they evolved, and how they shaped America’s future. His tests were an ordeal for which we studied for weeks. Literally.

By the time my class of “political junkies” graduated, a number of us had taken enough hours of Dr. Payne’s courses that we could have majored in political science. We felt so fortunate to have his instruction that we asked then U.S. Rep. Lloyd Moots to take a sworn record of Dr. Payne’s very worn favorite text to the Supreme Court. Moots had the text autographed by every justice and obtained a letter to Dr. Payne written and signed by justice William O. Douglas. We presented the text to Dr. Payne the night before graduation. Most of us never saw him again. But his contributions to our understanding of American politics and history shaped many careers, including mine.

— Judy McNickle, 1966

THOMAS TERICH

WAS NEVER BORED
In the late 1970s, geography professor Thomas Terich stated: “I can travel literally anywhere in the world and find no locale boring; every part of this planet has its own unique topography.”

His physical geography course was the most comprehensive and thorough class I took at Western. Terich seemed to tie everything together, from explanations of Earth to ocean dynamics to plate tectonics. I later applied many of these principles to my own elementary school teaching career.

The last time I talked with Dr. Terich, he was headed for a circumnavigation of the globe on a teaching ship. He probably found the trip too long, but I know he would not find it boring! This man even made the Palouse Hills of Eastern Washington sound fascinating.

— Matthew R. Evich, 1980
Richard Davis, who's pursuing a master's degree in biology, dove nearly a mile deep in a manned submersible to collect samples from vents at an underwater volcano in the Pacific last fall.

The volcano, Loihi Seamount, is 29 kilometers southeast of the island of Hawaii and will eventually become the next island in the Hawaiian island chain. Loihi Seamount experienced a major eruption in 1996 and since then has been expelling large amounts of hot hydrothermal fluids.

Davis successfully participated in one of the seven dives made to the volcano from Oct. 18 to Oct. 28. He collected microbial mat samples near Pele's Pit, a large crater near the volcano's summit.

They then worked at Sehome, Sequim, Bellingham and Options high schools to help students and teachers there access the DLC.

"We've received a great deal of positive feedback about the DLC resources at this beginning stage of development," said Tim Keiper, associate professor of secondary education.

The DLC will enable WWU to build stronger relationships with the public high schools in the area and allow the student instructors, especially prospective teachers, a teaching experience prior to graduation.

"This project serves as an indicator of the research opportunities afforded through Western's biology department," Moyer said. Both graduate and undergraduate students work with faculty on cutting-edge scientific and oceanographic research.

The underwater work was conducted in conjunction with the Iron Microbial Observatory (FeMO) project, a five-year study funded by the National Science Foundation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Undersea Research Program funded the submersible dives.

**Future teachers and high schoolers connect online**

Students and faculty at Woodring College of Education are partnering with the Digital Learning Commons to train students from the four public high schools in Bellingham on the use of digital resources.

Last fall, six students from Woodring and Western's Academic Technology and User Services underwent professional training to make this vision become a reality.

They have also been invited to participate in three forums this fall to learn about the project, the draft principles and to brainstorm programmatic ideas.

WWU President Karen W. Morse

During the forum, the draft principles and to brainstorm programmatic ideas.

**Western carefully considers potential partnerships along Bellingham's waterfront**

By Karen W. Morse

University President

For over a century, careful attention to planning has produced the beautiful campus we all treasure. I have often tried to imagine how the founders felt as they decided how and where to position Old Main and other early buildings.

At each step of the way, Western has been fortunate in having people who have devoted their talents to developing the campus and its programs into what we now call "The Western Experience."

Envisioning the future of the university is an exciting process and one on which we will be focusing over the next few years. As new buildings rise in the south end of campus, changes in the area occupied by the Georgia-Pacific mill to the northwest are presenting some unique partnership possibilities for our university.

Port of Bellingham officials are examining the feasibility of acquiring 137 waterfront acres from G-P and redeveloping the site for homes, offices and shops.

Community residents, Port officials and members of the Waterfront Futures Group, appointed by the mayor to develop a long-range vision for the site, have asked Western to consider having a presence on the waterfront, especially the area directly to the west of campus.

This is a very intriguing prospect but one that calls for a great deal of careful thought and discussion.

In November 2003, I wrote to members of the Western community inviting comment on the future of Western in terms of possible enrollment growth and potential for involvement in the Bellingham waterfront renewal project.

Following discussions on campus, I convened a committee of faculty, students, administrators and staff in May 2004 to discuss these issues.

That group has continued to meet this fall and has developed a set of draft guiding principles for discussion and decisions about programmatic possibilities for Western on the waterfront.

Members of the Western community have also been invited to participate in these discussions on programmatic issues.
Who was your favorite professor at Western?
The list of favorite professors continues to grow. From geography professor Thomas Terich, who "made the Palouse Hills of Eastern Washington sound fascinating" to Matthew R. Evich, who was "fascinating" to Matthew R. Evich ('80).

Favorite professors' influence endures for many years

Who were your favorite professors at Western? The list of favorite professors continues to grow. From geography professor Thomas Terich, who "made the Palouse Hills of Eastern Washington sound fascinating" to Matthew R. Evich ('80), who was "fascinating" to Matthew R. Evich ('80).

Western appoints Frazier as new VP of External Affairs

Robert F. Frazier, university executive vice president at the University of Montana, has been named the new vice president for external affairs at Western.

Frazier, who will begin at Western May 1, succeeds Robert G. Edie, who retired from the position in February 2004.

"I am confident that Vice President Frazier will be an excellent advocate for Western, both externally and internally, and I am looking forward to welcoming him to campus," WWU President Karen W. Morse said.

"He has a great deal of experience in higher education, a strong background in management and administration and will be a strong addition to Western's administrative team."

Frazier said he looked forward to working at a highly regarded university.

"I appreciate the accomplishments of this university and look forward to working with President Morse, the faculty, staff, students, and administrators," he said.

Frazier is serving as acting chief executive officer and dean of the University of Montana's Helena campus. He has been at the University of Montana since 1990, serving as a special assistant to the president, executive assistant to the president and the university's chief lobbyist for state and federal relations. He was appointed university executive vice president in 1997.

Boeing executive to keynote at Seattle Business Forum, April 5

Alan Mulally, executive vice president of The Boeing Co. and president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, will be the keynote speaker at Western's eighth annual Seattle Business Forum, Tuesday, April 5, in the Westin Hotel ballroom.

Doors will open for the luncheon event at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is served at noon, with Mulally's keynote address at 12:45 p.m.

Sponsored by the Western Washington University Foundation, the Seattle Business Forum attracts a large audience of business and civic leaders along with WWU alumni, family and friends.

Mulally is responsible for Boeing's commercial airline programs, with sales of more than $22.3 billion in 2003. General manager of the 777 series, he is senior executive of Boeing in the Pacific Northwest and a member of the Boeing Executive Council.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Individual tickets for the luncheon are $100 per person. Two levels of table sponsorship are also available for $1,000 and $2,500. The $2,500 sponsorship includes an 11 a.m. private reception with Mulally and WWU President Karen W. Morse.

Tables at the forum seat 10. Sponsors fill nine seats and WWU fills the 10th seat with a student or administrator.

Reservations for single tickets or table sponsorship may be made online at http://www.wwu.edu/alu or by calling John Dooley at the Special Events office at (360) 650-3629.
The WWU Foundation raised a record $8.6 million in scholarship money in an 18-month campaign that ended in December.

Thanks to the generous contributions by more than 1,100 donors, the funds will support both annual and endowed scholarships for current and future students.

"Surpassing our original goal of $5 million, as well as our extended goal of $8 million, is such a testament to the dedicated people who made this campaign work," said Dennis Madsen, Foundation board president. "Their commitment to Western students is inspiring, and the financial impact they are making for WWU students will be felt forever."

Western made specific scholarship categories a priority: Recruitment scholarships to encourage outstanding students to attend Western; department-based scholarships for declared majors; scholarships to encourage diversity and provide access to a university education for qualified students who might otherwise not attend; and athletic scholarships.

"We are delighted to be able to take part in the scholarship campaign," Peter Rotting said. "It is a win-win situation. Recipients benefit as well as the university."

Freshman music major Leah Drake, winner of the Peter A. Rotting Scholarship in Music for a Sultan High School graduate attending Western. This scholarship provides full tuition, books, room and board for four years to one student. Peter said he remembered no scholarships were available for students interested in band or fine arts at Sultan High School where he graduated. This sparked his idea to create one.

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Freshman music major Leah Drake, winner of the Peter A. Rotting Scholarship, was considering not attending Western because of the tuition cost and excessive loans she would eventually have to pay back. With a full load of classes and a full-time job, she questioned when she would have time to even sleep.

Leah Drake says she can now afford to buy a better saxophone.

Maureen and Peter Rotting want to encourage more females to be involved in the sport. The golf scholarship is for $1,500 annually.

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Alumnus' estate creates two scholarships

Oscar "Skip" Olson ($2) died in June 2002 at the age of 72, but his generosity will benefit Western students for generations to come.

What started out as Olson's walnut farm became a thriving 14-acre vineyard in Calistoga, Calif. Olson's affection for his grapes was expressed in a poem: "Crushed, they weep with joy. Their tears transform to pleasure," he wrote.

The fruits of his labor are now shared with Western students, as his will created a scholarship endowment ultimately to exceed $2.5 million.

The WWU Foundation now owns its vineyard, and the endowment receives annual income under a pre-existing lease. The endowment also receives annual payments on a deed of trust from an earlier land sale.

The Olympia native dreamed of being a physician when he was a pre-med student at Western Washington State College of Education. After four years in the Air Force during the Korean War era, Olson became a surgical technician.

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How does WWU define creativity?

Campus is full of innovation and experimentation

by Kathy Sheehan
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

How does a university define and measure creativity? Creatively, of course. Stephen J. Tepper, writing in the Chronicle of Higher Education about "The Creative Campus," defined creativity as the process of mixing old elements in new ways or producing something entirely new to increase knowledge and innovation.

"Creativity reflects those activities that involve the application of intellectual energies to the production of new ways of solving problems (as in science and mathematics) or of expressing ideas (as in art)," Tepper wrote in the Oct. 1, 2004 issue.

"Creativity is not simply about self-expression. It is about producing something new (or combining old elements in new ways) to advance a particular field or add to the storehouse of knowledge." Tepper argued that universities could measure how creative a campus is by focusing on conditions that encourage originality and resourcefulness, like opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural collaboration. Or they might award time and resources for independent study and research and encourage risk-taking by "tolerating failure" in the search for successful innovation.

So, how does Western rate as a place where students, faculty and staff can be creative and excel at innovation? Exceedingly well, according to Eileen Coughlin, vice president for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services. Coughlin, whose doctoral dissertation at Northern Arizona University was in the area of creativity, said Western has created a culture that encourages independence and values student involvement in the learning environment.

From the world-renowned Vehicle Research Institute where teams of undergraduates design and build award-winning experimental cars to simple innovations such as asking for student input in the rituals for Convocation, "fresh perspectives are the hallmark of a Western education and of creativity. "One of the things Western does exceedingly well," Coughlin said, "is to recognize that students are at the heart of many of our creative processes."

"Dedicated faculty members have created a learning environment that encourages independent thinking, which is responsible and respectful of others," she said. "We are not just asking students for their opinion. We are pushing to get them thinking and engaged."

Western's fall Convocation, which was revived about 10 years ago, is an example of how collaboration and the addition of time and resources can lead to creativity.

First-year students attending Convocation the evening before classes begin in September are asked to write down their goals for their years at Western. Then they walk in a procession from the Performing Arts Center to the steps of Old Main to deposit their goals in a memory box similar to the memory box in which graduates place items at each Commencement. Along the short route, which is lined with luminaries, a human corridor of upper division students, faculty and alumni cheer the incoming students.

"How did that happen?" Coughlin asked about an event that became an instant ritual at Western. "It all emerged from asking students," she said.

The Teaching-Learning Academy at Western is another example of creative collaboration between students, faculty and staff. It has won national recognition for inviting students to participate in a national dialogue about teaching and learning, and it has become a national research hub for the scholarship of teaching and learning.

WWU set aside time and resources several years ago to form the TLA, which provides a campus forum for enhancing the learning culture at Western. It uses students as co-researchers rather than objects of research about teaching and learning. Students are thus empowered to take an active role in their own learning, which research suggests will lead to deeper learning.

For example, student, faculty and staff members of the TLA collaborated with the Office of Institutional Assessment, Research and Testing to create a midterm teaching evaluation form.

"When I started looking at the problem, I was so in the box," confesses Kathy Patrick ('01), a facilitator with the TLA. "The students did it in a creative way" by visiting classrooms and asking obvious questions, such as: Is it comfortable? Is it noisy? Reaction to the new form has been positive, Patrick said.

"I was excited because it was really student-driven," said Kathy Sheehan, University Communications.
Musician gets creative to combat disease

By Sarah Freeman
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Garner Thomas (’79) knows what being creative is all about. He is a professional musician, third grade teacher in North Hollywood, Calif., and is challenged by a daily fight with multiple sclerosis.

While some people may see the disease as a stopping point, Thomas sees it as a path to find innovative ways to continue doing the things he loves.

Doctors were unable to diagnose Thomas for the first six months he had difficulty walking, writing, moving his fingers, keeping his balance and even speaking. Finally doctors pinpointed the disease in August 2001.

“I was terrified about losing everything I worked so hard for,” Thomas said. “But the worst thing was not knowing what was wrong with me.

“I had to think, ‘OK, What can I do?’”

Thomas said he quickly realized that he could still control his practice schedule, get enough rest and a good diet, and work on maintaining his physical strength. “Once I figured out what I had to do, I did it.”

Even with medication and proper physical and emotional care, Thomas said he feels great some days while other days, without warning, he has difficulty getting out of bed.

To counter this constant change in health, Thomas has become a time management and organization expert. He keeps a daily schedule book with him at all times, and notes in it everything he must accomplish during the day.

“If I don’t write something down, there’s a good chance I’ll forget about it,” he said. “It works for me because it helps me prioritize what must be done. Following the same routine also keeps me on track and organized.”

Thomas also meets weekly with personal trainers to help maintain motor skills and build strength. He maintains his life and music with rest, exercise and a healthy diet, and he feels he is “in better shape than I was 20 years ago.”

Although the disease has slowed his reactions and agility, it hasn’t slowed his musical talents and passion to perform.

“Since I don’t have the technical prowess on saxophone I used to possess, I try to make up for it in other ways,” Thomas said. “I rely more melodically when I solo. I don’t rely on my dexterity as much.

“In a strange way, multiple sclerosis has made me more creative when I play saxophone,” Thomas said.

Members of the TLA have also conducted research about which physical attributes of a classroom help learning. As a result of their findings, and a grant obtained by geology professor David Ingbretson, TLA members are now clearing an area in Sehome Arboretum for an outdoor learning space.

“You’ve got a forest all around you and blue sky,” said Pat Clingman, a senior and TLA member. “It would be great for creativity.”

“It’s the aesthetic value of being in the woods,” adds TLA member Gabe Prestella, a French major who is participating in the TLA this year.

WWU has a long history of promoting a creative campus through its surroundings, which include a world famous Outdoor Sculpture Collection, and by challenging students to find unique ways to solve scientific, social, educational and other problems.

Fairhaven College pioneered innovative teaching methods when it was founded in 1966, encouraging students to take an uncommon degree of responsibility for the structure and content of their education.

The idea that students should design their own majors and carry out independent study projects with faculty has now spread throughout campus.

“While at Western, Thomas arranged music for bands of various sizes and performed with all of them at his senior jazz recital. He even wrote a book of songs and colleagues spent thousands of hours practicing, performing and writing music.

“The program at Western inspired me to become the best musician I could,” he said. “I was surrounded by peers and mentors who were dedicated to creating beautiful, expressive music. All of us lived and breathed music. The environment really fostered my creativity.”

From the time he was a toddler, Thomas was exposed to many classical and jazz recordings. He began formal musical training at the age of eight on piano, and as he delved into classical piano studies, his mother guided him toward the saxophone.

Over the years, he has had the honor of playing with Prince, Diane Schuur, Sammy Davis Jr., the Temptations and the Four Tops.

Thomas’ first international CD release, “When You Hold Me,” features contemporary jazz music with saxophones and vocals in a style that integrates funk, R&B, pop and blues.

Thomas credits Western’s music program for helping him think outside the box and for providing him invaluable learning opportunities.

“This is the type of exceptional environment I chose to be part of and that puts me and others like me from Western in the ‘creative class,’ standing out from the crowd,” he said.
1961 - Bill Asplund, a retired chemistry teacher from Wenatchee High School, spent 16 days on a Russian ice breaker, Kapten Kliflenkoff, traveling the Northwest Passage, America’s route. This ship broke ice up to seven feet thick and visited Inuit villages along the way to Resolute, Canada. Hecled Asplund’s Outdoor Sports in Wenatchee after 33 years and plans to take a group of skiers to Kutefjell, Norway, in the spring.

1964 - Bob Hall and his wife, Lynn, have been living on the Kalathas (Mad Bay) for the years. They retired from their regular jobs but still operate the Bob Hall Ski & Snowboard School and Pass Por.

1966 - Steve Kink co-authored "Class Size, The Story of the Washington Education Association 1965 to 2001." The book chronicles the major events in WEAs history and in public education as told by those who played significant roles. After graduation in 1966, Steve taught in Florence, Ore., for four years before becoming a Unser representative for the Oregon Education Association. He then started the Lower Columbia and UniUnser councils in Washington state. He was hired by the Washington Education Association in 1971 as its political action director and retired as the deputy executive director in 1996. Steve started a consulting firm, Lightwood in Education, that focuses on parent involvement in education through cooperative programs involving administrators, teachers and parents. Today, he continues to write and enjoy retirement.

1967 - Dennis and Sharron Johnson received the 2004 Central Washington Hospital Foundation’s "Spirit of A.Z. Wells Award." Dennis is the mayor of Wenatchee and owner of Pacific Appliance Associates, and Sharron is a librarian at Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

1968 - Dale Henley, president and CEO of Haggen supermarkets, was named an officer of the Western Association of Food Chains. Henley served as secretary-treasurer in 2004 and will serve as president in 2005. In 1998, Dick McNeely exhibited a collection of photos taken in the Pacific Northwest, "Nature’s Windows." In 2002, he moved to his oceanfront home at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal. Charlotte (Larson) Trayer and her husband celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a trip to the Midwest and to attend a class reunion in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The Trayers have one son and one grandson.

1970 - A dabie Alred was appointed the chief deputy auditor for Whatcom County. Karen L. Workentin is dean of Student Enrollment Services, Office of Undergraduate Admission & International Admission, at the College of the Southwest in Hobbs, N.M.

1971 - Wayne Langel is the president and CEO of Whatcom Credit Union in Bellingham.


1976 - Christopher Serret is the owner of the Silver Company, which provides utility poles.

1978 - Scott Johnston is the fleet manager for Dohi Ford in Bellingham.


1980 - Mike Voori has written a second history book, "Outpost of Empire: the Royal Canada Mounted Police and the Occupation of Upper Island," published by Northwest Interpublic Association and distributed by the University of Washington Press. Voori’s previous effort was "The Pig War: Standoff at Griffin Bay," published in 1999 by Griffin Bay Bookstore and distributed by Partners West. Voori is the chief interpreter/historian for San Juan Island National Historical Park.

1982 - Teresa Lynell Hunt won Northern Michigan University’s 2004 Distinguished Faculty Award and will begin, in January, become Interim Assistant Vice President for Instruction at Northern.

1983 - Marina E. Wiesenbach used her visual communications degree in photography working as a printer in a photo lab for 18 years. Wiesenbach has exhibited her own fine art photography in many shows, including at the Bellevue Art Museum, King County Arts Commission Gallery, Bumberger Street and the Los Angeles County Fair. Her early morning image of a lavender-tinted Bellingham, as seen from across the bay, was printed across two pages of the coffee table book "USA One Day," sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Wiesenbach attended Shoreline Community College in Seattle from 2001-2003, to update her skills. She is currently interning at Experience Music Project in the video curatorial department. Wiesenbach is also an award-winning documentary filmmaker. Her 19-minute video, "Why Legalize Same-Sex Marriage?" was screened at the 2003 Seattle Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. She also works as a freelance video editor, plays percussion and sings jazz in Seattle. Contact her at: marina_e@hotmail.com.

1984 - Michael Deeb is a Bellingham artist who has had his work exhibited at Meoly & Company. Deeb, a contemporary minimalist, works in oil, pastel, charcoal and crayon. Carol Reid-Jones of Bellingham authored a children’s biography, "Hildoged of Birgen: Woman of Vision." She writes and gives assemblies and poetry workshops at schools throughout the Northwest.

1985 - Mike Massey often eschews his car for a leisurely kayak trip from Fairhaven across Bellingham Bay to his job as a computer science instructor at Bellingham Technical College. He sometimes sees seals on his commute to work. Kathleen Nelson was elected to partnership with Lane Powell Spears Lubersky LLP in Seattle. Nelson focuses her practice on commercial litigation, environmental insurance litigation, maritime and class actions.

1986 - Carolyn Brown received her Ph.D. in education from UCLA in September. Brown teaches full time at California State University, Dominguez Hill.

1987 - Tim Johnson is executive editor of "The Bellingham Weekly." The free paper circulates in Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan counties and is a keystone member of Sustainable Connections.

1988 - Janet Hardin teaches watercolor classes at Whatcom Community College and color-theory and drawing classes for the AIC program at Allied Arts. Dalton Paul works a grocery team that selects, markets and promotes items in the company’s largest division for Brown & Cole. Theodore (Ted) Venema, who got his Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma in 1993, is an assistant professor of audiology at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. Venema may never get away from being at "Western." Venema can be reached at thvenema@uwo.ca.

1989 - Eric Heintz works at KOMO radio in Seattle as a news editor and sports anchor.

1990 - Danielle DeBruine earned her first pink Cadillac with Mary Kay Cosmetics. Richard Smith is an assistant professor of agroecology in the department of plant sciences at the University of Wyoming.

1991 - Maureen Kane led the Whatcom Literacy Council through a successful literacy accreditation process and expanded the level of service to the community. Kane will now pursue graduate studies.

1992 - Scott Ayers is the opinion page editor at The Bellingham Herald. Michelle Brown accepted a position at Laird Norton Tyre in Seattle as a client advisor after spending 12 years at Moss Adams LLP in Seattle. Sherry Minninger joined the Cartwright Creative Group in Bellingham and is responsible for office management and accounting services. Scott Ryan and his wife Kristen celebrated the birth of their son Atticus on June 22, 2002. Scott White serves as the chair emeritus of the Metropolitan King County Council in Seattle.

1993 - Jeff Lustick answers legal questions that are phoned in or sent by e-mail on KGMI in Bellingham. Lustick is a defense attorney whose practice includes criminal defense along with wills and estates.

1994 - Mark Heine is an attorney in Bell ingham with Adelstein, Sharpe & Sherks. Joann Linville is the vice president for Student Services at Arizona Western College.

1995 - Keith Boyd and Leslie (Keller) Boyd (’97) are proud to announce the birth of their first son, Aidan Reid, on July 10. Aidan weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. James Bristow is an estimator for Remco-Deacon, a subsidiary of SD Deacon Construction, a general contractor. Previously, Bristow worked as an estimator for Napierco, Inc., a commercial demolition company. Kimberly Klise DeDapper has been granted the Certified Fraud Examiner credential by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The ACEF

**WEDDINGS**

1979 & 1982 - Deanna Rine (’79) and Steven Keller (’82), Feb. 14.


1996 - Sarah Bayless and Jason Stobing, Aug. 29.


is a global, 30,000-member professional association. DeDupper can be reached at Kim.Humphreys-Moblich@wwu.edu.

1996 – Coral R. Bertrand graduated from the California Institute of Integral Studies with a M.A. in East-West psychology last May. Bertrand can be reached at TBWA/Chiat/Day – New York as creative account director. Dominguez will be based in Seattle where she is participating in coming campaigns for Nustar, Apple Computer, Nissan, and Absolute.

1997 – Leslie (Keller) Boyd gave birth to Aiden Reid at 5:41 a.m. July 10. Proud papa is Keith Boyd (’95). … Jill (Carnell) Danesco is the public information office at the University of Washington, Tacoma. Danesco lives in Kent and can be reached at carnelf@uwashington.edu. … Chris Walla, Nick Hancock, Death Cab Can Gig with them in the rock band Death Cab for Cutie. …

2009 – Richard P. Major was promoted to Marine Corps personnel corporal. … Jessica Marden has been clerking for Justice Mary Kay Beckworth at the Washington State Court of Appeals. She received her law degree from the University of Washington Law School. … Jessica McCaslin is the financial advisor at Waddell & Reed. McCaslin specializes in financial planning and retirement education funding. … Laura Mieras joined the labor and employment practice group at Lane Powell. Spears Lupton LIP in Bellevue. … Greg O'Brien is a sales rep and his brother, G & R AutoSports in Bellingham. Verbarendse featured car audio, performance parts and home theater electronics.

2001 – Erica Gric Coral Marchalt is manager of sales and marketing for Sonotech, a world leader in ultrasonic-couplant development in the industrial sector. She also is in the Avanti String Ensemble in Bellingham. … Jodi Siper, a Keller Williams Realty agent in Bellingham, participated in the school drive for shoes for Blue Skies for Children, a non profit group that provides donations for foster children. … Russ Wildenberg was promoted to sales associate at the Unite Group, a Northwest Washington insurance agency.

2002 – Kim Anderson is an administrator at the Nature Conservancy in San Francisco. Anderson can be reached at 707/576-0086 or kanderson@nature.org. … Navy seaman, Jon Becker completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois. … She was married to her wife, Mary Jo, and daughter Kristin, a Keller Williams Realty agent in Bellingham. …

IN MEMORIAM

1917 – Alma Gertrude Keithley, 97, a retired elementary school teacher and recipient of the Golden Accorn Award from the Washington Congress of Parents and Teachers, Oct. 7 in Tacoma.

1926 – Corinne Werner, 97, a retired special education teacher whose scholarship for special education majors at WWU/benefits Woodland students, Oct. 23.

1927 – Burton W. Adkinson, 95, a retired educator, Sept. 15 in Seattle.

1942 – Ellen Caspara Rundquist, 84, in Bothell on Aug. 30.


1951 – William Diambrz, 75, a retired science teacher and coach, in Renton Aug. 20.

1953 – Howard Raines, 73, a retired teacher and wrestling coach at Snohomish High School, in Snohomish Sept. 4.

1954 – Kenneth Timkhon, 72, a musician and music teacher, in Centralia Sept. 15.

1966 – Jeffers Chetok, 60, founding dean of the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Eastern Washington University, 5 a.m. at 2WU, he also served as professor and chair of the sociology department and was retirement president.


1982 – Rebecca Jo Eaton, 45, an educator and research medical technologist, in Seattle May 15.

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Western Wire e-mailed to 12,000 grads

by Kathy Patrick ('01)

ALUMNI RELATIONS

The Western Wire may be short, but it will never short out on you.

The Wire is a newsletter that is e-mailed to more than 12,000 Western graduates on the first Wednesday of every month. Begun last May, it’s designed to reconnect alumni to Western.

A constant in the newsletter is the “Athletics Update” where the latest information about Viking football, basketball and other sports can be found.

The newsletter features news about upcoming alumni events with links to the Alumni Association’s Web site at http://www.wwualumni.com so readers can immediately sign up for an activity online.

There are also highlights from academic departments and links to selected WWU Web pages where you can learn about new programs and accomplishments by faculty and students.

The first issue of the Wire was mailed to about 8,000 recipients, and circulation has grown to some 11,000 subscribers.

If you would like to be wired to Western, please e-mail alumni@wwu.edu with your full name, graduation year and e-mail address.

Gift from ’25 alumna Vera Hansen creates teacher development center

Thanks to the late Vera Doljenjak Hansen ('25), Woodring College of Education now has a state-of-the-art Professional Development Center.

The center, which uses computer technology to provide professional development training for Woodring faculty, staff and students, was dedicated last fall.

Hansen had a short career as an elementary school teacher before marrying Archie Hansen in 1928.

She lived life richly, traveling abroad, hiking in the Cascades and boating in the San Juan Islands. When she died in 2002, two weeks shy of her 97th birthday, she left $65,000 to her alma mater, specifically for Woodring.

Her pride in her status as a college graduate and her experience as a teacher left her with a commitment to the profession and to WWU.

Her generous gift has already proven its worth by helping Woodring faculty, students and staff grow and learn together.

For more information about the Hansen Professional Development Center, call (360) 650-4419.

Ski to Sea teams forming; WWU to have parade float, too!

by Carrie Allen

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The WWU Alumni Association is inviting all Western graduates to get involved in the Ski to Sea activities this spring. Alumni can sign up now to be part of the Ski to Sea race May 29; help build and create Western’s Ski-to-Sea float; or join in the parade on Saturday, May 28.

The Alumni Association plans to sponsor three teams for this year’s race. The race includes seven legs performed by an eight-member team. Individuals can cross-country ski, downhill ski, run, road bike, mountain bike or kayak and two people can canoe.

The scenic course begins on beautiful Mount Baker and ends at Marine Park in historic Fairhaven. Sign up now to race as a WWU graduate on an all-women’s team or a co-ed team. The Alumni Association will also sponsor a student team.

If your idea of fun isn’t a 36-mile bike ride or a six-mile run down Mount Baker highway, you can still get involved. The Whatcom County Alumni Chapter needs help designing and assembling the Western float for the pre-race parade Saturday, May 28.

The parade is a great time to show your Western pride. Graduates and their families can decorate bikes to ride in the parade or join fellow Western alumni on the float (at left), courtesy of Western Forest Products.

The parade route begins at the corner of Alabama Street and Cornwall Avenue in Bellingham and travels down Cornwall for approximately two miles.

The Ski to Sea tradition traces back to 1911 when local residents participated in the Mount Baker marathon. Since 1973, Ski to Sea has been in its current form (at left), with the whole community celebrating Bellingham’s unique outdoor playground on Memorial Day weekend.

For more information, contact Susan Bakse ('88) at (360) 650-7283 or wwskitosea@gmail.com.
Hall of Fame honors three more Vikings

A distance runner who earned All-America honors in two sports and two All-American soccer players who competed on the best WWU men’s and women’s teams ever are the newest members of the university’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

The inductees, who bring the hall’s membership to 103, are Marilyn Thibodeau ‘82, who competed in both cross country and track and field for the Vikings; Tom Venable ‘91/99, a midfielder in men’s soccer; and Debbie (Carter) Walford ‘97, a midfielder in women’s soccer.

Thibodeau, a bookkeeper for Pink Elephant Car Wash in Auburn, was named Western Female Athlete of the Year for 1981-82. She was a two-time All-American in track, finishing second in the 1,500 meters and sixth in the 3,000 at the 1982 NAIA National Championships.

She helped the Vikings place sixth in both national meets during that year. A NAIA National Scholar Athlete in track in 1982, Thibodeau set three school records that spring. She earned two letters in track and three in cross country before graduating with a degree in environmental health.

Venable, now the principal at Carl Cotter Elementary School in Bellingham, was an honorable mention NAIA All-American in 1986, leading Western to a 13-4-2 record and third-place at the NAIA Region I playoffs. She also was a first-team NAIA District 1 and Northwest Collegiate Soccer Conference all-star that season, scoring 11 goals and assisting on six others.

A four-year letter winner in soccer, she helped the Vikings to three district titles and three regional playoff appearances. During her career, she scored 32 goals and had 10 assists.

Walford was a member of Western’s undefeated and untied 14-0-0 squad as a freshman in 1983 and regional playoffs in 1984.

She is the co-founder of the Kirkland Dance Center where she serves as vice president and treasurer. She also teaches Irish hardshoe dancing and completed the Chicago Marathon in 1993.

Center offers career services for alumni and students

Western’s Career Services Center, which hosts several job fairs, resume-writing workshops and other career-enhancing events every quarter for students and alumni, has teamed up with Target Stores in a collaboration that has resulted in jobs for about 20 WWU graduates in western Washington.

And Target Stores donated $3,000 to the Career Services Center, in recognition of the center’s support of their recruiting efforts.

“We’re thrilled with this generous gift from Target, which so clearly demonstrates how much they value Western and the services of our office,” said Tina Loudon, the center’s director. “We’re also very proud to have been able to help so many of our graduates launch successful careers with Target.”

Brooke Grandinetti, campus recruiting coordinator and store team leader of the Target store in Bellevue, said WWU has been “an awesome campus to recruit on.”

The center in Old Main also offers individual career counseling and store team leader of the Target store in Bellevue, said WWU has been “an awesome campus to recruit on.”

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For more information about the Career Services Center, call (360) 650-3240 or go online to http://www.careers wwu.edu.
**CFPA “Taste of the Arts”**
Saturday, March 5, 5:30 p.m.
PAC Lobby and Mainstage Theatre, $50 per person
Join us for a fund-raising gala to benefit the College of Fine & Performing Arts. Sample hearty appetizers, wine and spontaneous student art experiences, followed at 7:30 p.m. by the comic opera, “Die Fledermaus,” a joint production of the music, theatre, dance and arts departments. For more information, contact Jill Clark, 650-2829.

**SANFORD PIANO SERIES**
Sponsored by the Spirit Fund of Whatcom Community Foundation. Proceeds support the music department’s Arthur Hicks and Ford Hill Piano Scholarships.

**Paul Roberts**
Friday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
PAC Concert Hall
Ticket: $8-$14

**Natasha Paremski**
Saturday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.
PAC Concert Hall
Tickets: $8-$14

**THEATRE**

**Die Fledermaus**
March 4-12
PAC Mainstage
Tickets: $10

**The Story of Susanna**
April 27 - May 7
The Underground Theatre
Tickets: $4

**The Cider House Rules**
May 18-28
PAC Mainstage
Tickets: $6

**Western Gallery exhibit**

“**Birds of All Feathers**”
Through March 12

The kinds of houses they build help us to understand birds and their relationships to habitat and community. “Birds of All Feathers,” an exhibit at the Western Gallery, delivers a powerful parallel.

The three-part show features exhibitions that “depict the visual and poetic power of our feathered friends,” says Sarah Clark-Langager, director of the Western Gallery. The show includes a collection of artist-created birdhouses entitled “It’s for the Birds,” as well as Linda Mary Beech’s “Big Crow” and “Incarnation Series” by Susan Bock. “It’s for the Birds” presents bird-houses designed by artists such as Robert Huff, Helene Brandt, Hugo Moro and Vincent Casari, who built a “Levittown” of six identical houses, distinguished one from the other with coverings of sheepskin, camouflage and faux leopard skin.

Using his birdhouse as social commentary, Bill Stewart’s “Snowbird” - a rooster on wheels - reflects the human habit of travelers to roost anywhere when we hunger.

Linda Mary Beech’s “Big Crow” is exactly that: a massive form crouched to fit within a human space, underscoring the artist’s message of an “uneasy border” between urban and natural environments. The crow’s towering presence evokes questions of co-habitation, ownership and territory.

In the “Incarnation” series, Susan Bock has placed taxidermied birds in theatrical settings. With extensive experience staging photographs in a tableau format, ranging from Dutch still life to natural history dioramas, Bock is able to create her own connections between time, nature and humanity.