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 freshmen come to campus with a unique welcoming conversation that blends tradition with fresh new ideas.

It's nurtured by innovative programs like the Teaching-Learning Academy and through unique internship and mentoring programs with alumni and community members. There are also hundreds of opportunities for students and faculty collaboration on scientific research, original music and dance, imaginative art, community service and other creative ventures. At the heart of this campus of creativity 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.'"

And what did the newly composed music sound like? "It sounded like the past," Ager said.

"We had completely conditioned all ... the ... creativity and experimental courage out of the kids."

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 Scholarship in 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 Werder ('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.

Students are creating innovative, fuel-efficient cars at the Vehicle Research Institute; joining with community members to form a robotics club; meeting with business leaders in Seattle to discuss leadership; and working with faculty to conduct environmental research, choreograph new dance performances and make new music.
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Send your letters to Window on Western, MS-9011, WWU, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA, 98225-9011.

-- Matthew R. Evich, 1980

-- Carol Cumming ('73)

-- Dell Abbein, 1957

-- Arthur Hicks

--- LITERATURE, POLITICS

--- ARTHUR HICKS MIXED

--- BRIEFLY
WWU student conducts research in submersible

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 Seabed, Squallium, 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.

The DLC is a nonprofit organization established to improve access to educational opportunities and learning resources by providing high-quality educational materials, online courses and technology tools for Washington's students and teachers.

In its second year of a two-year pilot phase, the DLC is an initiative by former Gov. Gary Locke. It offers some of the following: college and career planning materials, instructional support tools, a digital resource library, online courses in a variety of subjects and levels and electronic tools that include portfolio management, discussion board, peer review and survey creation.

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.

Future teachers and high schoolers connect online

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Western carefully considers potential partnerships along Bellingham's waterfront

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 possibility 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 three forums this fall to learn about the project, the draft principles and to brainstorm programmatic ideas.

Now I invite you to visit the Web site at http://www.wwu.edu/president/waterfront.htm to learn more about the project and share in the discussion about this attractive opportunity.

There you'll find links to the Port of Bellingham and Waterfront Futures Group's vision document, as well as summaries of the campus forums, announcements of future meetings and the committee's draft guiding principles. I'd like to hear from you about your ideas as we consider this opportunity for Western.

To rekindle your memories, I urge you to return to Bellingham sometime this year to visit your alma mater, savor the campus you knew and connect with the remarkable developments since your graduation.

While you're here, be sure to stop by Alumni House, visit with the friendly alumni staff and say hello to Bill Parkas, our alumni director.
Famous professors’ influence endures for many years

Who was your favorite professor at Western?

The list of famous professors continues to grow. From geography professor Thomas Treadwell, who “made the Palouse Hills of Eastern Washington sound fascinating,” to Matthew R. Evich (’80) to Arthur Hicks, professor emeritus of English who kept students on their toes with “pop” quizzes.

Responding to a survey in the Jan. issue of Window on Western, alumni continue to express their appreciation for faculty members who transformed their lives at critical junctures.

Athletes earn good grades on grad rate

An NCAA report on graduation rates shows Western student-athletes graduating at a rate higher than student-athletes at most other schools. They also are better in graduation rates than their Western peers.

The 2004 NCAA findings showed 71 percent of Viking student-athletes receive their degrees in six years or less. That’s 18 percentage points higher than the average for student-athletes in NCAA Division I. In 1994, 63 percent of student-athletes graduated in six years or less.

Student-athletes are defined as those who received athletics aid such as scholarships for at least one year and graduated in six years or less.

The graduation rate report is based on student-athletes who entered universities during the 1997-98 academic year and graduated in six years or less. Student-athletes are defined as those who received athletics aid such as grants, scholarships, tuition waivers or other assistance from the institution upon enrollment.

Last year, Western won the GNAC all-sports championship for the third straight year, winning league titles in football, volleyball and men’s cross country.

The Vikings placed third nationally in women’s rowing, fifth in women’s golf, ninth in men’s golf and 13th in men’s cross country. Vikings also made national appearances in women’s basketball and volleyball.

The WWU football team finished 6-4 overall for its 2004 season and 3-3 in the GNAC to clinch its fifth winning record in the last six years.

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 working with legislative and community relations, communications, and marketing 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 great 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 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 scholarship sponsorship level includes an 11 a.m. private reception with Mulally and WWU President Karen W. Morse.

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

Reservations for single tickets or table sponsorship are also available online at http://www.wwu.edu/sbf or by calling John Doherty at the Special Events office at (360) 417-6521.
The WWU Foundation raised a record $8.6 million in scholarship money in an 18-month scholarship 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.

WWU President Karen W. Morse said she was grateful to the hundreds of donors for their commitment to students. "Our thanks go out to all the individuals, businesses and foundations who have helped fulfill the educational aspirations of our state's brightest young people," she said.

Among the largest gifts to the scholarship campaign were the commitment by Frank and Mary King in 2003 for $75,000 annually for athletic scholarships and an estate gift from Oscar "Skip" Olson ('52) to benefit students in the sciences and in the fine and performing arts.

Two other scholarships that are providing tuition aid to current students were recently created by Peter and Maureen Bottig.

Peter Bottig, president and CEO of the W.A. Bottig Co. in Woodinville and a member of the WWU Foundation board, saw the scholarship campaign as a great opportunity for him and his wife Maureen to provide scholarships they believe in.

"We wanted to give back to our community and thought this would be a fun way to do so," said Peter Bottig, who attended WWU in 1962.

Maureen created the Maureen Bottig Women's Golf Scholarship for a student on the women's golf team since both Bottigs are avid golfers who want to encourage more females to be involved in the sport. The golf scholarship is for $1,500 annually.

Peter Bottig created the Peter A. Bottig 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. "I remembered no scholarships were available for students interested in band or fine arts at Sultan High School where I graduated. This sparkled his idea to create one."

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

Freshman music major Leah Drake, winner of the Peter A. Bottig 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.

Maureen and Peter Bottig

"But an unexpected phone call from WWU last August and the generosity of the Bottigs dramatically changed the saxophonist's mind and lifted her spirits."

"I was told the amount and almost passed out," she said.

"At first I didn't believe the amount and thought there was a mistake, and it was supposed to be for $1,200 and not $12,000. I don't know what I would have done without it," Drake said.

"This is exactly what the Bottings had in mind."

"It appears there are many scholarships for men, but not as many for women," Pete Bottig said. "We want to encourage more women to become interested in the sport and possibly make a career out of it."

Alumnus' estate creates two scholarships

Oscar "Skip" Olson ('52) 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 an 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.

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The WWU Foundation now owns his 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.

"Golf is not a spectator sport, and with a team of eight, it is hard to get funds," Menlove said. "It means a lot to get this scholarship and it reminds me that we do have fans in the community. Golf is a sport that seems to be overlooked, especially women's golf, and this support makes it that much more fun to play."

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Maureen and Peter Bottig

WU golfers Candice Wagner (left) and Kate Menlove are both scholarship recipients.

Kate Sheehan photo

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

Kathy Sheehan photo

Jason Burrell, captain of the 2003-04 basketball team, was one of four WWU athletes who benefitted from the Wade King Scholarship.

The Oscar Edwin Olson Arts Scholarship for students in the College of Fine and Performing Arts and the Oscar Edwin Olson Sciences Scholarship for students in the College of Sciences and Technology will be awarded next year.

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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 from 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.

"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.

Paradox of creativity:
Don't think about creating

Is the creative process inherent to artists? Is something that can be learned in a methodical fashion? We asked graphic designer Art Chantry ('78) about where his creativity springs from. Here's what she had to say.

"The creative process is always going on in our minds," Chantry writes from his studio in St. Louis, Mo.

"Even though you might think you don't have a creative bone in your body, the truth is, that it's inherent in everyone and can be accessed just as you drive a car. You don't think about driving while you drive; you think about anything but driving. Yet, you are driving marvelously."

"Creativity is a similar activity that is going on in the unconscious, or at least not the 'forward' part of your brain. The trick is to learn how to access that process. That's the hard part to learn.

"I've learned from both experience and practice to 'drag out' the creative part of my thinking by using relaxation and distraction. Both of these processes have been utilized throughout history by creative people -- some of them extremely famous."

"If you can just remove the 'idea' of 'creating' and simply allow yourself to create without the concentration, it seems to happen magically. The truth is you are simply getting the conscious part of your thinking to step out of the way, and then the creative part simply flows out of your hands."

"Sounds strange, doesn't it? It works."
Musician gets creative to combat disease

by Sarah Freeman

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 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 got it done.

"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 before multiple sclerosis, I think 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.

While at Western, Thomas arranged music for bands of various sizes and performed with all of them at his senior jazz recital. His saxophone colleagues spent thousands of hours practicing, performing and writing music.

"The music program at Western inspired me to become the best musician I could," he said. "It 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 saxophone 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 Westmead High School, spent 16 days on a Russian ice breaker, Kaptan Khlebnikov, 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. He ceded Asplund’s Outdoor Sports in Winnetuache after 33 years and plans to take a group of skiers to Kvitfjell, Norway, in the spring.

1964 - Bob Hall and his wife, Lynn, have been living on the Oregon coast (Mad Bay) for five years. They retired from their regular jobs but still operate the Bob Hall Ski & Snowboard School at Park Butte.

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 Unit Serv representative for the Oregon Education Association. He then started the Lower Columbia and Olympic Unit Serv councils in Washington state. He was hired by the Washington Education Association in 1980 as its political action director and retired as the deputy executive director in 1996. Steve started a consulting firm, Lighthouses in Education, to advance 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 J.T. Wells Award." Dennis is the mayor of Wenatchee and owner of Pacific Apparel Associates, and Sharron is a librarian at Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

1968 - Dale Henley, president and CEO of Haggen supermarkets, was appointed a director of Haggen in 1991 and will become president in two years. Dick McNeely exhibited a collection of photos taken in the Pacific Northwest, "Nature’s Windows," at the Roeder Home and at the Bellingham Cruise Terminal. Charlotte (Larson) Trayer and her husband celebrated their wedding anniversary with a trip to Alaska in May. They stayed at the Ballymore B&B.

1970 - Debbie Adelstein 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 Langell is the president and CEO of Whatcom Credit Union in Bellingham.


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

1978 - Scott Johnston is the fleet manager for Dief Holland in Bellingham.


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

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

1983 - Marina E. Wiesenbach used her visual communications degree in photography by working as a printer in photo labs 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, Bumbershoot 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 lumiunist, works in oil, pastel, charcoal and crayon. Carol Reid-Jones of Bellingham authored a children’s biography, "Hildagard of Birgen: Woman of Vision." She writes and gives assemblies and poetry workshops at schools throughout the Northwest.

1985 - Mike Massey often threshes the car for a leisurely kayaking 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 Lubykes LP 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 ACME program at Allied Arts. David Puhlin loads a grocery team that selects, merchandises 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. Seems he can never get away from "Western." Venema can be reached at thvenema@uoivo.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 Wisconsin.

1991 - Maureen Kane led the Whatcom Library Council through a successful library 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. Scott Ryan and his wife Kristen celebrated the birth of their son Atticus on June 22, 2002. Scott White serves as the chair 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 work along with wills and estates.

1994 - Mark Heinie is an attorney in Bell­ ingham with Adelstein, Sharpe & Sons. 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 Irene DeDapper has been granted the Certified Fraud Examiner credential by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. The ACFE
2000 – Richard P. Major was promoted to Marine Corps corporal. ... Jessica Marden has been clerking for Justice Mary Kay Beckmann of the Washington State Court of Appeals. She received her law degree from the University of Washington Law School.

2002 – Kim Anderson is an administrator at the Nature Conservancy in San Francisco. Anderson can be reached at kim.anderson@nature.org. Navy seaman, John Beckholt completed U.S. Navy basic training at Beaufort Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill., with honors.

2003 – Venice Grace Coral Marchant is manager of sales and marketing for SonosTech, 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 Unity Group, a Northwest Washington insurance agency.

2001 – Stakeholders in the education system are rock the band Death Cab for Cutie. The band participated in the Vote for Change tour with Pearl Jam, R.E.M. and Springsteen, to promote voter registration and voting. The band’s material also graced the soundtrack to the recent film “Wicker Park.”

Golden VIKINGS planning 5-day reunion on campus

The Golden VIKINGS Reunion Committee is hard at work planning an extended 2005 reunion for graduates of 1955 and earlier.

This year’s reunion will be held over five days, Wednesday, July 13, through Sunday, July 17, and all Golden VIKINGS are invited to stay at Edens Hall during the reunion.

The annual 50-year alumni reunion will also include workshops through Woodring College of Education, a campus art walk and the opportunity to attend Summer Stock shows.

The Alumni Association will also be offering a Bellingham Bay history cruise.

Invitations will be sent in the spring. For more information, contact Kristie Lundstrom at (360) 650-3533 or (800) 676-6885, or e-mail Kristie.Lundstrom@wwu.edu.
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.

One 1961 graduate wrote, "This Western Wire is a great idea that just keeps giving info." Another graduate e-mailed: "It is nice to keep tabs on what is going on with Western. Keep 'em coming."

Western Wire is a newsletter that is e-mailed to 12,000 grads

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 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 Baikse ('88) at (360) 650-7283 or wusskitosea@gmail.com.
Alumni scholarships continue to increase

The Alumni Association is supporting more than 20 students this year with scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $3,000, and many may be renewed up to four years. Scholarships that allow current and future students to achieve their potential could not exist without generous support from Western alumni.

There are numerous ways to give to the alumni scholarship fund, which has a growing endowment of $566,000. The WWU collegiate license plates show Western pride and $28 of the initial and annual renewal fee is donated to the alumni scholarship fund.

Graduates can also become life members of the Alumni Association by donating a one-time gift of $500, or $650 for a joint membership. Other great ways to support scholarships include using the Western credit card or donating directly to the WWU Foundation.

Have you connected at wwualumni.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 to both team and individual national records during that season.

Venable, now the principal at Carl Co­ fer Elementary School in Bellingham, was an honorable mention NAIA All-America in 1989 and 1990. He helped the Vikings to their only national soccer tournament appearance in 1989 when they won District 1 and Area I titles.

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 grad launch successful careers with Target."
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  
Tickets: $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 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 “Levertown” 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 Bocic 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, Bocic is able to create her own connections between time, nature and humanity.