Summer 2006

Window on Western, 2006, Volume 12, Issue 03

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Western Washington University

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Recommended Citation
Johnson, Dee Alumni, Foundation, and Office of University Communications, Western Washington University, "Window on Western, 2006, Volume 12, Issue 03" (2006). Window on Western. 35.
https://cedar.wwu.edu/window_on_western/35

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Western Introduces Bachelor's Program in Emergency Management

By Dee Johnson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, inland flooding, tornadoes... accidents on the ground and in the air... the continuing threat of terrorist activity...

These events regularly remind us that we need strategic thinkers trained to plan for, mitigate and respond to emergencies.

Western Washington University is responding to this need by introducing the first bachelor’s program in the Northwest focused on emergency planning and management.

Brad Smith, dean of Huxley College of the Environment, began receiving inquiries from all around the country before any official announcements were made. “The students will come,” he says. “The challenge will be to go slowly and build carefully.”

The program will be offered through Huxley College and will be ready to take up to 25 students this fall.

Western’s Border Policy Research Institute hosted a Roundtable in March focusing on the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). The Roundtable was convened by President Karen W. Morse and moderated by U.S. Sen. Patty Murray. Panelists included U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen; Jeffrey Parker, Canadian Consul General in Seattle; Frank Moss, U.S. Department of State; Jim Williams, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; elected officials representing Northwest communities and representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and other federal agencies. In addition to gaining technical knowledge, students will see how policies are developed and implemented. They will also have opportunities to do the kinds of networking that can assist a national job search.

On an international level, Western is already working with partner universities in The Netherlands and Japan that have long histories of dealing with natural disasters and have similar degree programs in place. “We’ll be training students for global careers in the area of hazard mitigation and emergency management,” Smith says.

An advisory board made up of industry and government professionals is being formed to offer advice and provide ongoing curriculum review.

As part of this program, Western is developing an Institute for Hazard Mitigation and Planning. Berardi-Allaway says the institute will involve students through research projects, internships and various service learning opportunities.

The Legislature’s supplemental state budget, passed in March, included $250,000 for program support. Western will use this appropriation to hire two new faculty and a project director for the institute.

Western’s Extended Education and Summer Programs will continue to offer an online emergency management certificate designed for professionals already working in fields requiring planning, mitigation and response.

The curriculum will also include examination of practical concerns related to growth management and planning principles—where and how communities are built.

The scope of the program will be international, national and local.

With a port facility, an international border, two refineries, homes sitting on faultlines, an active volcano, major watersheds, rivers prone to flooding and forests susceptible to fire, Whatcom County provides an ideal laboratory for the program and career opportunities for students who want to remain in the area.

On a national level, students will gain experience working with Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and other federal agencies. In addition to gaining technical knowledge, students will see how policies are developed and implemented. They will also have opportunities to do the kinds of networking that can assist a national job search.

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Sheila Fox, Director of University-School Partnerships and administrator of the professional certificate program at Western's Woodring College of Education, has been appointed to a four-year term on the 16-member State Board of Education. The board oversees educational requirements for kindergartners through 12th grade. Fox is also a member of the Professional Educator Standards Board, which sets teacher preparation requirements for the state.

WWU English Professor John Purdy has been named to the state's Humanities Washington commission. The commission, a nonprofit organization supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities and local contributors, makes grants to support programs that foster public understanding and appreciation of the humanities.

Arlan Norman, Dean of Western's College of Sciences and Technology, is serving a second two-year term on the Washington Technology Center (WTC) board of directors. The 20-member board serves as an advisory arm to the WTC, a statewide economic development agency.

$688,000 RECEIVED FOR GREEN TIDES RESEARCH

Kathryn Von Alstyne, a marine scientist at Western's Shannon Point Marine Center, and Timothy Nelson, a professor at Seattle Pacific University, have received research grants from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and National Science Foundation (NSF) totaling $688,000 to study the effects of harmful algal blooms in Washington coastal waters. These large blooms of green seaweeds, often called green tides, have been shown to be detrimental to sea grass beds, which are important nursery grounds for local fish and shellfish. The blooms also cause offensive odors when the seaweeds drift to shore and decompose.

GRANT FUNDS UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

WWU’s Shannon Point Marine Center has received a $335,000 grant from the Ocean Sciences Division of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to extend its Research Experiences for Undergraduates site program for another five years. Shannon Point’s program recruits eight students annually from WWU and colleges throughout the U.S. to participate in independent, supervised research for a nine-week period in the summer. Students work with individual faculty members to design a research project, carry out experiments and observations, and write up the results in scientific format. Group activities include training in laboratory and field investigative techniques, field trips to local marine environments, and workshops on scientific ethics, research presentation techniques and graduate school application procedures.

Shannon Point has operated the undergraduate research program continuously since 1991. More than one hundred fifteen applications were received for the 2006 program.

BUELL TRANSLATING MONGOLIAN ENCYCLOPEDIA

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded a $40,000 fellowship to WWU Adjunct Professor Paul Buell. The fellowship will allow Buell to complete a translation of the "Huihui Yaofang," a general encyclopedia of Islamic Medicine believed to have been written for the Mongol rulers of China during the early Ming Dynasty.

HARBOR SEAL STUDY RECEIVES $720,000 GRANT

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a $720,000 grant to WWU’s Biology Department to continue researching the response of harbor seals to the density of rockfish in Puget Sound. The research was begun about two years ago by graduate student Adria Banks with support from WWU Assistant Professor Alejandro Acevedo-Guzman. Graduate student Katie Luxa joined the research team this year and is examining the contents of the predators’ diets. The five-year grant will enable researchers to pay graduate and undergraduate student assistants, buy supplies and new equipment and cover the costs of collaborating with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center.

AMUNDSON EARNED FULBRIGHT AWARD

Garth Amundson, associate professor of art, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture and do research at the Universidad Latina de America in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico during the 2006-2007 academic year. Amundson will be conducting photographic research based on Morelia’s historic sites and teaching an advanced photo seminar. He plans to facilitate an exchange exhibition between Western art students and students from the Universidad Latina de America after his return.

MATERIALS SCIENCE FACILITY OPENED

WWU has opened a Materials Characterization Facility (MCF) furnished with state-of-the-art research equipment purchased with a $398,000 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). In keeping with the University’s focus on promoting interdisciplinary research and teaching, the center is open to faculty and to students at all levels in several departments. The facility also is available to researchers at area technology companies who previously had to travel to Seattle or Vancouver to access similar equipment.

HOOPER AWARDED LEOPOLD FELLOWSHIP

David Hooper, associate professor of biology, has been awarded a 2006 Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellowship and will participate in a leadership program focused on improving methods to effectively deliver scientific information to policy makers, the media, business leaders and the public. The program, based at Stanford University’s Woods Institute for the Environment, awards up to 20 fellowships annually to mid-career academic environmental scientists. Fellows are chosen for their outstanding scientific qualifications, demonstrated leadership ability and strong interest in communicating science beyond traditional academic audiences.

LIVINGSTON IS NWHSU EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Morgan Livingston earned the 2006 Educator of the Year Award at the Northwest Human Services Association (NWHSU) conference in April. Livingston has worked with Western’s Human Services Program at Woodring College of Education since 1977 and is a lecturer in the college’s off-campus Everett program.
Ice Age Fossil in Protective Custody at WWU

By Kari Neumeyer
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Fossils of a 20,000-year-old mammoth tusk are attracting visitors to Western's Environmental Studies building.

When it was dug up, the Ice Age fossil was waterlogged and soft to the touch, said Research Technologist George Mustoe, who is monitoring the find.

The tusk has been drying out in plastic display cases, where Mustoe can regulate the humidity. After a couple of months, the fragments no longer are soft to the touch or damp-feeling, he said.

"As I expected, the ivory is beginning to show a chalky luster, but so far there has been no problem with cracking or fragmentation, which was the main worry," Mustoe added.

Fossils of Columbian mammoths usually bones or teeth are discovered about every 10 years in Western Washington. Mustoe said. But few are as large or as well-preserved as this one.

This particular tusk appears to be from an adult mammoth that lived 20,000 years ago during the late Pleistocene age, Mustoe said. The rest of its bones likely are scattered throughout the Skagit Valley.

Columbian mammoths lived in this area during the last Ice Age. They mostly died out 10,000 years ago.

"Everybody thinks of the woolly mammoth," Mustoe said. "The Columbian mammoth is the official state fossil." Elementary school students labored to have the mammoth designated as Washington's official fossil in 1998, according to the Legislature's website.

The first North American mammoths migrated across the Bering Strait from Asia down through Alaska about two million years ago. Part of the elephant family, mammoths lived to be 60 to 65 years. Males grew as large as modern adult elephants and adult females grew to about half that size.

The tusks fragments can be viewed in the Environmental Studies building, just outside Mustoe's office, room 208. The building is open seven days a week when school is in session, between 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Celebrating Achievements and Opportunities at Western

By Karen W. Morse
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Spring Commencement is one of my favorite days of the year. As I talk with our graduates, I learn about the many achievements they have already realized and about their exciting plans for the future. I am filled with tremendous pride for them and for what we are doing at our University.

Our efforts were best exemplified by "Scholars Week," an entire week devoted to students' intellectual and creative efforts and accomplishments. Working together with faculty, our students constantly develop new ways to discover through research and examination of the world around us.

Western's Materials Characterization Facility makes state-of-the-art equipment available to faculty and students from throughout the University. Its instrumentation is used in undergraduate courses taught through several departments, as well as in a variety of different research programs.

At Western's Vehicle Research Institute (VRI), students are working on a "scrubber" to convert biomethane into natural automotive gas that could cost less than gasoline and reduce our dependence on limited energy resources. The scrubber's ability to purify fuel is being tested in Viking 32, a natural gas car built by VRI students.

In the Chemistry Department, students led by Professor Mark Bussell are researching ways to improve the production of ultra-clean fuel, developing catalysts intended to remove impurities from oil more efficiently.

Students and faculty are involved in cutting-edge marine studies that have attracted the attention of the scientific community. Research being conducted by graduate students Adria Banks and Katie Luxa and Assistant Biology Professor Alejandro Acevedo-Gutierrez measures the response of harbor seals to the density of rockfish in Puget Sound. Their research, recently awarded a $72,000 National Science Foundation grant, may help determine the suitability of setting aside marine-protected areas to restore declining stocks of bottom fish.

To better support our faculty and student research efforts, the Marine Education Center opened in March at Shannon Point Marine Center. The $4.9 million state capital project provides much-needed faculty office space, student study areas and analytical and chemistry laboratories.

Western's varied mix of academic programs will be expanded this fall as well. We are building on the momentum of our admission initiatives and significant growth in the last few years.

They placed Viking 32 third in the hybrid and alternative fuel category, second in acceleration, second in hill-climb, third in autocross and third in climate change emissions.

Viking 32 and the biomethane scrubber have been featured in an ABC "Good Morning America" news segment, Seattle's KING 5 News, AP wire stories and other media.

The Governor and Legislature recognized the need for such a program by allocating $250,000 in the supplemental state budget. They also supported two other Western funding priorities — $480,000 for Western's planning and development efforts on the Bellingham waterfront and $250,000 for Western's Border Policy Research Institute.

The waterfront funds will facilitate Western's coordinated planning efforts with the City of Bellingham and the Port of Bellingham, which have been joined forces to redevelop 137 waterfront acres acquired by the Port from Georgia-Pacific. Western is planning what its presence on the waterfront will be.

The multi-disciplinary Border Policy Research Institute received $1 million in federal funding last year. The Institute focuses on issues related to transportation, trade, environment and security affecting the U.S.-Canadian border and is the research arm of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region organization.

Please join me in celebrating the enormous opportunities for and the talents of our students by visiting Western this summer to learn more about how we are meeting the challenges of the future.
We welcome your letters. Send them to Window on Western, MS-9011, WWU, 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225-9011 or email alumni@wwu.edu. Letters are sometimes edited for length.

New Marine Education Center Opens

Staff and students at Western's Shannon Point Marine Center near Anacortes moved into a new 12,000-square-foot building this spring.

The new Marine Education Center, the result of a $4.9 million state capital project, provides office space, student study areas, and analytical and chemistry laboratories, as well as additional computer and information technology resources.

The new building connects to the existing Sundquist Laboratory, providing elevator access to all three floors of both buildings as well as a common reception area. The building is designed to take advantage of natural light and ventilation to conserve energy.

Stephen Sulkin, director of Shannon Point Marine Center, said the project design provides not only additional space in the new facility, but also permits more effective use of previously existing space in the older Sundquist Laboratory.

"For example, space originally designed for lab use in the Sundquist Laboratory, but necessarily occupied as offices for the past 20 years, can now be returned to its original purpose," Sulkin said. "In addition, space previously used as a chemistry lab can now be used as an additional lab/classroom utilizing the running seawater system available in the Sundquist Laboratory."

Sulkin added that the new space in the Marine Education Center provides students with study space and room to work on independent projects. The new laboratories will better support the marine center's ongoing research and training in chemical ecology and food web dynamics, using geochemical and biochemical tools.

The new facility was designed by MBT Architecture of Seattle and constructed by Newland Construction of Everett. Construction took about one year.

NSF Grant Funds New Shannon Point Research Vessel

Earlier this year, Western's Shannon Point Marine Center was awarded a grant of $149,458 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to purchase a new academic research vessel. The new vessel will replace an aging existing trawler that has served the marine center for more than 15 years.

The new vessel will be of aluminum construction, 32 feet in length, with inboard diesel power, and an A-frame and winch system capable of supporting trawling, dredging and water column sampling.

Shannon Point programs have been hampered in recent years by the existing trawler's slow speed and low lifting capacity. "The new vessel will increase speed by 300 percent and lifting capacity by 730 percent," Sulkin said. "We are very excited by the additional opportunities this new flagship vessel will provide in support of instructional and research programs at Shannon Point."

The new vessel is expected to be in service by the end of the year.

In addition to the new vessel and the trawler it will replace, the Shannon Point Fleet includes two other smaller research vessels and several small boats.

Western's Shannon Point Marine Center, located on a 78-acre campus west of Anacortes, supports academic programs in the marine sciences at the university. For more information, visit www.wwu.edu/spnc.

Appreciates Window on Western

I received Window on Western yesterday. I'd like to continue receiving a paper copy. (I live in Japan.) I enjoy the paper all the time, especially when I find my college friends and/or favorite professors mentioned.

It has been a while since I returned to Japan. Receiving Window on Western makes me feel that I still have a connection to the U.S. Thank you very much for always mailing it to me. —Megumi Tsuuruoka ('93)

Has Career in International Aid

I graduated from Western in 1974 (BA in music). I have just started a position as an Africa Regional Specialist with the United States Agency for International Development, Bureau of Global Health.

I joined the agency from the Measure Evaluation Group, where I provided technical assistance in program monitoring and evaluation to a national HIV/AIDS program in the eastern Caribbean and Jamaica. Last year I was in Sudan (Darfur) on a nutrition consultancy with UNICEF. The previous one and a half years I was based in Uganda with the Save the Children organization. Before that I was in Washington, D.C., office providing monitoring and technical support to the "Children in Emergencies and Crisis" programs. I have traveled to Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor, Guinea, Palestine/West Bank, Indonesia, Nepal, Vietnam, Montenegro and elsewhere.

If any WWU alumni or students want to contact me to learn more about pursuing a career in international relief and development, they can reach me at lartisan55@yahoo.com. —Laura Arntson ('74)
Moss Adams Makes $43,000 Donation Toward Second Endowment

The Moss Adams Foundation has matched employee and partner contributions to donate $43,000 to its newest endowment with Western Washington University.

The Moss Adams Fellow in Accounting Endowment recognizes and supports accounting faculty as they conduct research at Western.

Rick Anderson (’73), Moss Adams CEO, presented the $43,000 check in February to WWU President Karen W. Morse and Stephanie Bowers, vice president for University Advancement and executive director for the WWU Foundation.

Russ Wilson (’79), chair of the Moss Adams Foundation and managing partner of Moss Adams in Bellingham, says the company’s goal is to fully endow the Moss Adams Fellow in Accounting Award with a $150,000 endowment by 2007.

In 2001, Moss Adams employees and the Moss Adams Foundation joined to fund the first Moss Adams Foundation endowment of $100,000 to support ongoing Accounting Department initiatives at WWU, including student scholarships, classroom resources and learning enhancements.

For more information about the endowment, contact Deborah DeWees at (360) 650-3622 or deborah.dewees@wwu.edu.

Scholarships Fuel Student Dreams

By Shannon Hutchinson

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

On April 18, I sat down for lunch with Jim Copacino, co-founder of the Seattle advertising firm Copacino and Fujikado, and 700 other guests at the 2006 Seattle Business Forum. The lights dimmed as Microsoft CEO and keynote speaker Steve Ballmer took the stage.

Mr. Ballmer highlighted the importance of universities graduating quality college students and the importance of scholarship support to the future of our country’s workforce. His message rang true for me and for many of my peers.

Scholarships build foundations for our futures. They are catalysts that fuel our dreams.

I can testify first-hand. In the past two years I have been fortunate to receive seven scholarships, including the President’s Scholarship, a two-year Multicultural Achievement Program Scholarship and the Puget Sound Marketing and Communications Scholarship, which was organized by Mr. Copacino and his peers.

These awards, coupled with student loans, have enabled me to truly be a student. I believe my scholarships are a testament of my donors’ belief in me—what I have already achieved as well as what I have yet to accomplish. Their support allowed me to fully commit myself to my studies and utilize my additional time serving as Western’s Associated Students’ President. Scholarship donors positively impacted my future. Their belief in me supported my experience and interests in leadership, enabling me to fully immerse myself in the life of Western’s campus.

So when I say scholarships fuel our dreams, they both relieve the financial stress that may serve as roadblocks to success for many college students and affirm the value of our progress.

To me, scholarships reinforced my efforts; hopefully, they instilled pride in the donors as they share in my accomplishments. By contributing to Western Washington University Foundation scholarships, donors empower students who continuously do great things. We are the future of Washington and the nation and, with thanks for the support we have received, we are prepared for the challenges before us.

Shannon Hutchinson graduated with a bachelor’s in journalism in June.

More than $100,000 Raised at Seattle Business Forum

Alumni and friends donated over $100,000 for scholarships and University support at Western’s ninth annual Seattle Business Forum, held April 18 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

An estimated 700 business and community leaders came out to support the University and to hear Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer talk about how education and support for students increases our competitiveness. Ballmer stressed that the key to success is people. “Empower the people in a company, and you empower the company,” he said. “It’s that simple.”

Ballmer said he is optimistic about the future of business in the United States and Canada, but that optimism is predicated on our ability and willingness at both public and private levels to continue supporting students, the innovators and decision makers who will come behind us. He warned that our competitiveness is at risk if we fail to develop local talent through education.

The Seattle Business Forum is sponsored by Western Washington University and the WWU Foundation Board Western-in-Seattle Committee. Chairs for this year’s event were Doug MacLean (’71), Sam Baker and Pete Borsting.

Avis Stewart Has Special Western Memories. Do You?

Avis Joanne Stewart graduated from Western Washington College of Education with a degree in elementary education in 1938. Soon after graduation, she moved to Hawaii to teach and ultimately made Arizona her home.

Although it has been nearly 70 years since she took her last class at the University, Western always has had a special place in Avis Stewart’s heart. The time she spent there was significant, and the support and encouragement she received made a meaningful difference in her life. She decided to honor that special feeling she has held for Western over the years through a bequest to provide scholarships for deserving students to realize their educational dreams.
Sky Magic and Heavenly Legends

By Dee Johnson UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The sky, like the Earth below it, is now enjoying its summer season. Star gazers who visit WWU's planetarium for a 50-minute American Indian Starlore presentation learn about all the seasons of the sky, view selected stars and constellations and hear some of the lyrical Native American stories unlocking the mysteries that live high above us.

Private presentations of this popular program, and several others, can be arranged for groups that include as many as 55 people. Audiences can also participate in a bit of time travel. The Planetarium's full-color Konica Minolta Mediaglobe projector can show the sky at any time period from any location on the Earth, moving 30,000 years into the future or retreating 30,000 into the past. Projected onto a 24-foot-wide Planetarium dome, the Mediaglobe can display 6,000 stars, the sun, the moon, planets, comets and meteors.

Visitors watch all this magic from the comfort of plush, reclined seats made possible by contributions from donors.

The Planetarium, located on the third floor of Haggard Hall, also features award-winning astrophotography, including works by B.P. Snowder and RL. Dietz, original paintings of astronomical subjects by Ralph Aeschliman and exhibits that include a 1915 brass telescope, a wind-up clock drive, antique optical devices and models of NASA spacecraft. Included is a model of the Hubble space telescope and international station space.

Tickets are $5/adults and $3/students. For more information about the WWU Planetarium, visit www.planetarium.wwu.edu. To arrange for a presentation, contact Planetarium manager Brad Snowder at planetarium@wwu.edu.

The American Indian Starlore presentation is appropriate for viewers age 6 and older.

Western Kids Camp, a day camp for students in grades kindergarten through 6, offers educational sessions in the mornings and recreational activities in the afternoons. Lisa Fitzpatrick, a WWU budget analyst, sent both her daughters to Western Kids Camps last summer. "My girls delved into science and art projects, kept up with their reading skills, learned about other cultures and had the opportunity to try lacrosse, archery, rock climbing and other sports they wouldn't have been exposed to," she said.

Educational themes for Western Kids Camps this summer include superheroes, Earth science, seashore explorations, careers, indigenous people, world travel and the Olympic games.

Western's SPY camps offer youth in grades 4 through 12 a chance to spend an entire week away from home investigating fascinating topics, conducting hands-on experiments and participating in field trips. Students stay in residence halls and eat in a campus cafeteria. Camps focus on the arts, computers, science, technology and outdoor adventure. Some of the programs offered this summer include filmmaking, digital photography, performance art, computer science, engineering technology, marine biology and geology.

For ambitious high school students, Western's College Quest program offers a weeklong immersion in college life. Students complete a one-credit college course in environmental studies and document their research in a video. For more information, see the article by Jim Mulenos (75) in our Winter 2006 issue. For a reprint of this article, email news@wwu.edu or call (360) 650-3350.

The youth camps described here are administered through Western's Extended Education and Summer Programs. For more information or to register for a program, call (360) 650-6622 or visit www.wwu.edu/youth.

by Brittany Goins UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Ten-year-old Jacob Stocklass has conducted a crime scene investigation, learned about gravity and its effects on life forms, re-created the planet Mars, and built a space vehicle.

Jacob is a four-time alumnus of Western's Sleeping Over with Science program. His mother, Annette Stocklass (98), enrolled him after learning about the program from her daycare provider.

Stocklass likes the program because it promotes independence and learning in an environment that is safe. She has observed a variety of projects on display. "Even I would like to stay and play sometimes," she said.

Sleeping Over with Science turns a regular Friday night into a learning adventure where children in grades kindergarten through 8 spend the night in an environment that is safe. She other students who are there to have fun and learn more about science.

Typical opportunities include visiting Western's planetarium, conducting gravity experiments, creating a space vehicle and quizning former NASA astronaut and Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Director George "Pinkly" Nelson.

A concurrent program, Sleeping Over with Arts, allows children to explore their artistic and creative talents. Children who participated early in May experienced the culture of Mexico by joining a Fiestas de Cinco de Mayo. They learned some Spanish songs, sang traditional Spanish songs, played Spanish games and made a piñata filled with special treats.

Weeklong programs offered on campus include Western Kids Camp and Summer Programs for Youth (SPY).

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Godspell Leads Off Summer Stock 2006

July 7 to August 15

Godspell
Written by Stephen Schwartz

Reflecting on the life of Jesus with a message of kindness, tolerance and love, Godspell was one of the biggest off-Broadway and Broadway successes of all time. Godspell draws from various theatrical traditions, such as clowning, pantomime, charades, acrobatics and vaudeville and includes well-loved songs by Stephen Schwartz.

Various Parks in Whatcom and Skagit counties

July 14 to August 19

The Sound of Music
Written by Richard Rodgers & Oscar Hammerstein II

This much loved musical tells the story of Maria, a girl longing to be a nun but not well suited to the discipline required. She is sent to the house of a retired naval officer, Capt. Von Trapp, to care for his seven difficult children. Maria teaches the children to sing, bringing music and joy back into their lives. Later, she and Von Trapp fall helplessly in love.

PAC Mainstage Theatre

July 14 to August 19

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Written by Tennessee Williams

This classic Tennessee Williams drama tells the story of Brick, an alcoholic ex-football player who drinks away his days and resists the affection of his sultry and very bitter wife, Maggie. His reunion with his father, Big Daddy, who is dying of cancer, jogs a host of memories and revelations for both father and son.

PAC Underground Theatre

Visual Journalism Conference
July 22–23

Western's Journalism Department is inviting journalists, photographers and graphic designers to explore new avenues for visual storytelling and upgrade their skills. Attendees can have their portfolios critiqued by leaders in the field of visual journalism.

Presenters include Kevin Jackson, executive editor of ESPN.com; Seattle Times photojournalists Betty Udesen and Rod Mar; freelance photojournalists Harley Sockets, Barry Wong and Phil Schofield; Michael Brown, 2003 College Photographer of the Year. Meredith Birnett, MSNRC senior multimedia producer; Jay Drown, Sporting News; Russ Kendall, photo editor of The Bellingham Herald; Scott Terrell, photo editor of the Skagit Valley Herald; and Brad Howard, associate professor in Western's journalism department and a specialist in geographic information systems (GIS) and mapping the news.

The conference will include a silent auction of photographic prints to benefit the Jimi Lott Memorial Scholarship. For more information, call Carol Brach at (360) 650-3252.

Speleological Society Convention
August 7–11

Caves, from small to mammoth, enjoy exceptional uses. They have served as storage rooms, hiding places and gateways to commodities such as saltpeter, coal and water. Large caves have occasionally been used to provide for unique domiciles or elegant restaurants; Le Cave in Tours, France is one of the most famous examples.

Caves welcome both casual visitors and serious explorers. A large number of these serious explorers—somewhere between 700 and 900—will convene on Western's campus in August for a National Speleological Society Convention. Speleology, the scientific exploration of caves, is a field of study involving several sciences. Topics addressed at the convention will include hydrology, geology, karst, geography, biology, cartography, paleontology and sedimentology. Challenges and adventures in cave photography also will be discussed. Geologic field trips to coastal Washington, lower B.C. and the North Cascades will illustrate lectures.

Community members are invited to register and attend all sessions for a fee of $125. Learn more by visiting the convention website at www.rsx2006.com.

Snow Goose Exploration
September 29–October 1

Voyagers signing up for this exploration will board the 65-foot research vessel Snow Goose at Bellingham Bay and travel to the San Juan Islands. You'll explore the rich diversity of this spectacular archipelago, discover hidden plants and marine mammals, take guided walks into Pacific Northwest forests and along beaches, search the sky for eagles and other raptors, and kayak along island shorelines.

No experience in natural history is required. Just bring your curiosity and a sense of adventure.

An excursion price of $395 per person includes meals, on-board lodging (bring a sleeping bag), use of double kayaks and a 12-person skiff, land tours and instruction.

For more information about these and other Extended Education and Summer Programs, visit www.wwu.edu/~summer.
Laurie Rossman ('86) ran the Boston Marathon for the first time this spring and finished at a very respectable 4 hours 15 minutes. "I had hoped to come in under 4 hours, but I accepted a Popsicle toward the end of the race and slowed down to eat it," she says. "I was at that point where your mind doesn't want all this to end—it's such a glorious experience—but your body is ready to keep going." Rossman is shown here in the foil blanket athletes are wrapped in when they cross the finish line. Rossman is co-chair of the Whatcom County WWU Alumni Chapter. She works on campus as a graphic design manager for Western's Publishing Services.

1944 - George Bright Kunstel and her husband Norman C. Kunzel have co-authored WWII Liberator's Life: An Ambulance Driver's Choice, a book about his life, their courtship by mail during WWII, his service in the AFS Ambulance Corps during the war and how he helped to liberate women from Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in Germany. To purchase a copy of the book, contact g.kunzel@juno.com.

1957 - Dell Abellien retired from teaching in 1969 and worked 33 seasons for a Denver Nordstrom store. His work memoirs have been placed into the Wyoming Park Archive.

1960 - Gil Thurston is an active volunteer with the Whatcom County School Retirees' Association and serves as a consumer advocate for the nonprofit Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access. He is also a member of the South Hill Neighborhood Association land-use committee, which works with the Northwest Regional Council for Senior Services. Thurston retired from Bellingham School District after a 26-year career, serving as principal in seven schools.

1965 - Stan Lund, vice president of the Class of 1965, retired in January after 40 years in the hearing aid business. Myers joined the Seattle Association and serves as a consumer advocate for the nonprofit Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access. He is also a member of the South Hill Neighborhood Association land-use committee, which works with the Northwest Regional Council for Senior Services. Thurston retired from Bellingham School District after a 26-year career, serving as principal in seven schools.

1968 - Jack Myers retired recently after 40 years in the hearing aid business. Myers, a member of the South Hill Neighborhood Association land-use committee, which works with the Northwest Regional Council for Senior Services. Thurston retired from Bellingham School District after a 26-year career, serving as principal in seven schools.

1973 - Michael W. Balen has been promoted to senior vice president/chief operating officer of Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation in Houston, Texas. He previously served as senior vice president of exploration and production at Cabot Oil & Gas.

1975 - Megan (Reley) Davidson ('77 and '98) and her husband have moved to New Zealand. She will be teaching in a middle school there. Two of their sons are attending Western. Kay Walter is the special education teacher/paraprofessional for Good Beginnings Preschool in Sedro-Woolley.

1976 - Jo Ann Kauffman is the owner of Kauffman & Associates, a management consulting firm. Under 95 percent of the firm's business is focused on Native American issues. The company is based in Spokane and has branch offices in Kamiah, Sacrament, Calif., and Washington, D.C.

1977 - Wendy Griffin is coauthor with the Whatcom County Historical Society of Whatcom County's History of the City of Bellingham, published by Whatcom Historical Society. She was previously a reporter for the Bellingham Herald. Griffin is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Whatcom County Historical Society and served as a director of the organization from 1982 to 1992.

1980 - Shirley Burgett was selected as general manager for the Cullman County Public Library District in Seattle, Washington. She formerly served as assistant director of the Cullman County Library District and has a master's degree in library science from the University of Alabama.

1985 - Bill Aslett has been reselected to the Burlington City Council.

1987 - Elizabeth Corcoran has joined the accounting firm of Moss Adams LLP in Bellingham.

1988 - Neil McCarthy is a board member of the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra.

1992 - Jeanne (Lyrene) Burns was named Small Business Person of the Quarter in December by the Jacksonville/Orrin Slow Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Council. She is owner of The Physical Therapy Clinic, in Jacksonville, N.C. Laurie Casley-Schneekel was re-elected in November to a four-year term on the Whatcom County Council and served in 2006 as vice chair of the council. She also serves as a board member for the Clean Air Agency and the Community Council. Michael Vance has been promoted to Colonel in the U.S. Army.


1999 - Jeff Logren, principal at Central Elementary School in Swannow, was awarded the Elementary School Principals Association of Washington 2006 Distinguished Principal Award.

2001 - Anne Schreivogel was the featured artist for Women's History Month at the University of Arizona. Her work was featured on the 2005 and 2006 Arizona Women's History Month calendars. In December, she had a solo exhibition at the G. Valmont Thomas is returning for his eighth season with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and has landed the juicy role of Falstaff in The Merry Wives of Windsor. He is also a member of the ensemble in Cyrano de Bergerac. The Tony Award-winning troupe opens its 71st season on Feb. 24 and continues through Oct. 8. Michael Vance earned a Master of Fine Arts in directing at Penn State University after receiving his B.A. in 2001. He is currently teaching at a professional school in New York.

2002 - Carla Bertrand is executive director of the Chico Community Shelter Partnership, a nonprofit organization that manages the Torres Homeless Shelter in Chico, Calif. Arneil Blancas is the executive director of the Greens Harbor College Foundation and director of resource development. Mark Fickel is CNC machinist for Fickel Design and Development in Seattle, an inc. magazine "Top 500 Company" specializing in professional lighting. Dan Dardt is a professional tennis player and has landed the juicy role of Falstaff in The Merry Wives of Windsor. He is also a member of the ensemble in Cyrano de Bergerac. The Tony Award-winning troupe opens its 71st season on Feb. 24 and continues through Oct. 8. Michael Vance earned a Master of Fine Arts in directing at Penn State University after receiving his B.A. in 2001. He is currently teaching at a professional school in New York.
Frank Lippincott in "Wonderful Town," performed at the New Amsterdam Theatre in April. ... Kelly Kerwick has been appointed exhibitors and curatorial facilitator for the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art in Eugene. ... The University of Oregon. ... Kyle Young is co-founder of Transition Bicycle Co. in Ferndale. The company specializes in building sturdy bikes designed for specific "free-ride" mountain biking experiences. ... Shari Spalding works for D.A. Davidson & Co. in Wenatchee. He has extensive experience working with investors and is responsible for the Community Bank Association of Securities Dealers. ... Carlene Kennedy graduated in March from the U.S. Navy Induction School and was assigned as a lieutenant junior grade at the naval hospital at Camp Lejeune, N.C. ... Sam King was promoted to detective for the Anacortes Police Department in December. He joined the department five years ago and served as a patrol officer. He gained experience at Western by working campus security while earning his B.A. degree. ... Mattie Aleson Larson Green, 100, a retired educator, Feb. 24 in Arlington. ... Joan "Joanne" Lorenzen, 75, a retired teacher and school counselor, on Jan. 1. 

380 - Frances Caroline (Hall) Leander, 88, a retired teacher and coach, on Oct. 25 in Sedro-Woolley. ... Ann Byers, 75, a retired educator and naval officer, on April 22 in Friday Harbor. ... Barkley, 70, a former teacher and coach, on Jan. 17 in Bellevue. 

1965 - Mary E. (Howe) Foltz, 62, a teacher, on Jan. 17 in Bellingham. ... Donald L. King, 75, a public relations for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top female student in plastics engineering, a second annual scholarship for the top 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Melinda Barrett Is New Alumni Relations Director

Melinda Barrett is Western's new director of Alumni Relations and executive director of the WWU Alumni Association.

"I am incredibly excited to be joining a University whose faculty, staff and students exemplify the core beliefs I have—the importance of quality education, embracing diversity and community service," Barrett said. "Strong alumni relations are key to connecting alumni to the community campus and creating a lifelong loyalty and pride in support of the University. I'm excited to be one of those who will be working to create and sustain those connections."

Barrett earned a bachelor's in business administration, graduating Magna Cum Laude from Montana State University, Billings. She previously served as executive director of the YWCA of Yakima, where she directed a staff of 36 and a volunteer corps of more than 200 community members. She was instrumental in leading that organization through a strategic planning process and was the driving force behind the development and implementation of new programs to support women and families.

Barrett fills the position previously held by William Farkas and filled on an interim basis by Kay Rich.

July 13-16
Golden Vikings reunion

We're looking forward to a fantastic four-day reunion of Golden Vikings. We've added some new things this year—in addition to workshops, campus and community tours, Planetarium shows, dinner and a Bellingham Bay history cruise and cultural events.

In the library reading room we will have a display and hear about the creation of the Dick and Jane books, written by Western alumna Elizabeth Ryder Montgomery.

We will also hear a presentation by Chuck LeWarne ('55) about the "Search for Utopia in Northwest History." He recently collaborated on a book tracing the history of Snohomish County from geological times to the present. A copy of this book, which includes over 400 pages and more than 400 photographs, most of them history, will be presented to the Western Libraries during the Golden Viking reunion. Other collaborators involved in researching, writing and illustrating this book include Larry O'Donnell ('59), Jack O'Donnell ('60), David Cameron, the late M. Allan May and Snohomish County artist Bernie Webber.

President Morse, Alumni Honored

By Brittany Goins
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

WWU President Karen W. Morse was inducted into the Northwest Women's Hall of Fame in March. She was honored for opening doors to future leaders.

Morse became Western's 12th chief executive in 1993. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Whatcom Symphony.

Morse was inducted into the Hall of Fame along with five other women who all have, coincidentally, some Western affiliation.

Jody Guenster ('74) and Pam Sine (71) were named for "nurturing a generation of young children." They are founders of Bellingham's Sandhill School, which will celebrate its 20th anniversary this year.

Catherine Tally (1926-2003) was instrumental in creating the Little Bear Creek Elders Center.

Auschwitz survivor Noemi Ban, who lectures on the Holocaust throughout the state and nation, was cited "for creating tomorrow's hope from yesterday's pain." She is on the advisory board of the Northwest Center for Holocaust Education, administered by Western's Woodring College of Education. Jim Lortz, associate theatre professor, is making a documentary about Ban and will accompany her on a return visit to Auschwitz this summer.

Helen Loggie (1895-1976), an icon of women's activities in the Northwest and Athletic Director Lynda Goodrich ('66), honored in 2000.

The Northwest Women's Hall of Fame honors distinguished Whatcom County women who have promoted opportunities for women or served as role models for women and girls and have accomplished something of lasting significance. They must have demonstrated the drive, perseverance, and vision to face obstacles and challenge barriers in order to promote the well-being of their community. Nominations can be made throughout the year by contacting the YWCA of Bellingham.
FUN IN THE SUN
March 25-27 (Peeoria, Ariz.) — With more than 100 alumni from Arizona, California, Nevada and Washington in attendance, it's safe to say this event was a home run. Several alumni stopped by, including Kevin Ward from Northfield, Minn. who just happened to be in the neighborhood.

The Peoria Sports Complex is a beautiful, intimate field—the kind of field that should host all baseball games. Making the day even more perfect, we enjoyed lunch in our own private tent.

We’re already thinking about next year, so get on our invitation list for tickets. If you already have tickets, join the WWU team for lunch. Add the WWU Alumni Association website www.wwualumni.com to your favorites list and log in with your W# to access Western Wire and up-to-the-minute information about next year’s Fun in the Sun and other alumni events.

WWU ANNUAL VOLUNTEER DAY
April 22 — More than 240 alumni, family and friends turned out to clear brush, pull weeds and build trails in Bellingham, Seattle, Olympia and Vancouver, Wash. and in San Diego, Calif.

Joan and Joel Carlson (’57) enjoy a fun day in Phoenix. Over 100 WWU alumni gathered together to watch baseball and catch up with the latest news.

GRADUATION FAIR
April 26-27 – Our first WWU Graduation Fair welcomed soon-to-be new members of the Alumni Association. Your Alumni Association, the AS Bookstore, the Registrar’s Office, Career Services and Royal-T joined forces to provide a one-stop shop for graduating seniors.

In addition to signing up for the June 2006 commencement ceremony and purchasing caps and gowns and other graduation items such as announcements and class rings, students were welcomed to the Alumni Association. Each future alum received a complimentary WWU license plate frame and information about the WWU Alumni online community and license plate scholarship program. Thanks to all of you who participated!

More than 340 students attended. The Career Services staff provided information about job search services. A person from the Registrar’s Office was there to answer that all important question—How many tickets will we get for graduation?

WWU DAY AT THE KENTUCKY DERBY
May 6 – WWU alumni, family and friends met at Emerald Downs in Auburn to celebrate the Kentucky Derby. The races were exciting, the spectators were enthusiastic, and the ladies in their large festive hats were stunning!

NEED TRANSCRIPTS?
Official transcripts are available from the WWU Registrar’s Office for $7 (a 15% increase over last year). Unofficial faxed transcripts are $10. Call (360) 650-3355 or email registrar.office@wwu.edu.

Creating a History Book
By Steve Dunkelberger
CLASS OF ’94
The first steps of my journey—creating a history book—started some 15 years ago, when I was a budding journalism student attending classes in College Hall. Those classes have moved over to the new communications building, but the impact of College Hall is felt every day of my life.

As a journalism student, I was taught to be fair and accurate and to also be a planner and a goal setter. My goal was to write a book by the time I turned 35. It seemed far off at the time, but I felt safe that I could get it done in 11 years.

I graduated in 1994 and returned to Lakewood to work as a reporter at the local paper. I wanted to finally set down roots after two decades of living the life of a military brat, shuttling to Army bases around the world just long enough to unpack my suitcase. I set out to learn all I could about my adopted home. After all, good reporters need to know about the community they serve.

The library had little local information about a patch of unincorporated Pierce County, and the lack of a city hall meant researching the history of the area would require a bit more leg work than I first thought. Lakewood didn’t even have a historical society, so I turned to the elders in the community and pieced together the area’s history of pioneer life, rich-and-famous mansions and working-class expansion. My contacts with these people became a regular column in the newspaper.

Incorporation came in 1996. A city hall soon followed. As the new community of Lakewood took shape, its past began disappearing. I wanted to do my part to preserve the area’s history—and get my book started.

The Lakewood Historical Society was formed in a friend’s backyard with the goal of preserving photo albums and artifacts of the city’s past. I remain the youngest member of the 100-person group. Some people on the board have grandchildren older than I am. But we share the interest of local history, so our ages don’t much matter other than the occasional oddity caused by the generation gap. That’s a story for another time.

The newspaper basement became an unofficial repository. I was the editor at this point, so I had free reign over the newspaper’s resources. That stopped in 2000 when the newspaper ceased publication, and I landed a job in nearby Tacoma.

I saw this as a mere setback and not a death knell for my book and the historical society, so I pressed on during my off hours and weekends. Monthly meetings and email exchanges kept the effort going slowly but steadily.

I found a book publisher and set a deadline. My former boss at the Lake­wood Journal, Walter Neary, agreed to coauthor the book and assist as best he could. We worked independently and connected whenever we could to keep the effort on task. We only met a few times during the passing weekends because our life schedules didn’t permit us much free time. I had become the editor of the Business Examiner, and Neary had changed jobs between the time we signed the book contract and the manuscript’s deadline. There were times when we didn’t think we could make it work, but the journalistic training always kicked in and forced us to meet the deadline. We gathered some 800 photos from some 30 different sources to donate to the historical society’s fledgling photo collection. About 200 photos went into the book, which is now the promotional centerpiece of the historical society’s effort to land a museum site.

The book arrived on my door two weeks before my 34th birthday. I had met the goal I had set at Western. I even had a year to spare.


JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY
... at www.wwualumni.com. Add the WWU Alumni website to your favorites list and visit on a regular basis to check out upcoming events in your area, start a discussion group, share photos, post resumes and network with other WWU alumni. Use your W# to log in. Call our toll free number (800) 676-6885 (or 650-3355) in Whatcom County if you need assistance.

YOUR LICENSE TO SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS
Want to help support WWU scholarships? It’s easy—simply buy a WWU collegiate license plate. It’s yours for life regardless of how many vehicles you purchase. Each plate sold and renewed provides $28 to WWU scholarships.

Go to a Washington State Department of Licensing office and request a specialized plate. Or go to www.dot.wa.gov/sv/specialtyplates/tr-spp.html#college. Simply fill out the application and send it with your renewal and payment as directed.

CLASS OF '94
Wendy Otto ('94), Marin Brustuen ('98), Roberta Langworthy ('76) and Susan Bakse ('88).

SPRING/SUMMER 2006
Junior high jumper Clara Cook earned All-America honors by placing sixth at the NCAA II National Track
For the second year in a row, WWU took home the NCAA II Women’s Rowing
Tina Donahue, forward on the women’s basketball team, received All-America and all-region honors and
was named GNAC Player of the Year for 2005-06. She has been signed to play professional basketball with
Men’s basketball player Grant Dykstra is the winner of the 2006 V Foundation Comeback Award, presented
At the NCAA II Women’s Rowing National Championships in New Jersey, Viking women successfully
defended their national title, winning both the varsity four and varsity eight grand finals.
The latest NCAA report on graduation rates shows Western student-athletes graduating at rates 28 percent­
age points higher than the average in the 10-team Greater Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) and 25
points higher than the national average for schools in NCAA Division II.

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defended their national title, winning both the varsity four and varsity eight grand finals.
Junior high jumper Clara Cook earned All-America honors by placing sixth at the NCAA II National Track
and Field Championships, becoming the third athlete in Western history to earn All-America honors in that
event, and the first since 1984.

Men’s basketball player Grant Dykstra is the winner of the 2006 V Foundation Comeback Award, presented
annually to a student-athlete who has accomplished a personal triumph in the face of adversity. Dykstra
also is Western’s first consensus All-American and was named this year’s WWU male Athlete of the Year and
co-GNAC Athlete of the Year.

Tina Donahue, forward on the women’s basketball team, received All-America and all-region honors and
was named GNAC Player of the Year for 2005-06. She has been signed to play professional basketball with
the Mackay Meteorettes of the Queensland Australian Basketball League.

Discus thrower Jessica Telleria made a second showing at the NCAA Division II National Championships, placing 10th this year. A three-time GNAC academic all-star, she set a school record with a national provisional qualifying mark of 156-2 and became the league’s first four-time event winner at a GNAC Championship. Telleria
was named 2005 National Scholar-Athletes by the U.S. Cross Country Coaches Associa­
tive year.

Four-time GNAC academic all-star Scott Romney took league indoor titles in 2006
for pole vaulting and set a school outdoor record, clearing 15-11.
Laura Trevellyan earned West Region cross country all-star honors and finished
fourth at GNAC Championships to earn all-star recognition for the third consecu­
tive year.

Men’s basketball guard Ryan Diggs received honorable mention All-America honors
and scored 25 points to earn co-MVP honors at the first NABC Division II Senior
All-Star game.
Golfer Katja Trygg placed fifth at the NCAA II National Championship, the high­
est finish in Western’s history, and was named a first-team National Golf Coaches
Association All-American and West Region all-star for the second straight year.

WWU cross country runners Erin Deasy, Keith Lemay and Laura Trevellyan were
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