Alumni Relations Launches Online Career Connector

By Kira Freed
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

When Laurie Rossman (’86), Alumni Relations marketing and communications coordinator, began sending emails to alumni inviting them to register for a new online career and networking directory, the result was overwhelming. Within one month, more than 800 alumni responded, volunteering to help current students and recent graduates seeking networking advice and career guidance.

To date, more than 1,000 alumni have registered to be a mentor or contact for Western students.

Many of the alumni responding say they wish they had access to a similar resource when they were students.

Alumni Association Executive Director Deborah DeVries says the generosity of WWU alumni makes her proud to be a part of the University.

"Western alumni joining together to help recent graduates and their fellow alumni makes perfect sense," DeVries says. "Western is a special place that draws incredible students who go on to be generous, involved alumni. If that includes sharing their professional expertise or contacts, they are happy to do it."

Bill Boyd ('82) was one of the first to register. "It is an honor to give back to WWU in a way that makes a direct, positive impact on the lives and futures of our students," he says. "It's all about leaving a legacy. Giving time and expertise and sharing the passion for one's career, that's tremendously important."

Susan Bakse ('88), Alumni Relations program director, agrees. "It is evident that giving back to the University makes our alumni feel good. Participating in the Alumni Career Connector and helping students launch their post-college careers is one of the best gifts we can give to graduating students."

Students and alumni using the online directory will be able to search for information in multiple categories, including job field, degree, employer and geographical location.

The directory offers alumni volunteers various levels of involvement and commitment. Alumni may choose to offer students a resume review, a tour of their workplace or assistance with interview skills, or they may offer to be a phone or email contact.

Increasing levels of involvement include offering internships and providing mentoring opportunities that entail developing a relationship with a student or alumni, frequent communication, insight into a given career field and professional development.

The Alumni Career Connector also allows users to post job announcements and resumes.

The online version of the Alumni Career Connector has been in development since February. It is an updated and more dynamic version of a print directory, which was published and distributed to graduates beginning two years ago. Rossman says the most important benefit of converting to an online resource is that volunteers now can change or update their information at any time. Volunteers can increase or decrease their level of involvement or turn off their listing if they go on an extended vacation or circumstances change.

The online Alumni Career Connector is a part of Western's alumni online community, available at www.wwualumni.com.

To participate in the Alumni Career Connector, see page 6 for a step-by-step guide or go to www.wwualumni.com.

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Western Is Named a Best Value School

Western is ranked number 48 in a listing of the nation’s 100 best value schools. The rankings, published in the February issue of Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine, listed the top public colleges and universities that “combine outstanding value with a first-class education.” Academic quality, admission rates, freshman retention rates, student-faculty ratios, four- and six-year graduation rates and tuition, mandatory fees, costs for room and board and available financial aid were considered.

Schuster and Smith Honored as Environmental Heroes

Jim Schuster, director of Western’s Viking Union facilities, and Dennis Smith (’76), former manager of the University’s solid waste program, have been honored as Environmental Heroes of 2007 by RE Sources for Sustainable Communities. Schuster was one of the early administrators overseeing the recycling program on Western’s campus. Smith first became involved with the program as a student worker for the Associated Students. Faculty and students at Western’s Huxley College of the Environment started the University’s recycling program in 1971. The program has served as a model for other campus communities.

Estrada Presents at Oxford Round Table

Larry Estrada, director of American Cultural Studies and associate professor at Western’s Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, traveled to England in March to present at the Oxford Round Table; a discussion panel convened to consider education policy. Since 1989, the Oxford Round Table has been bringing together selected individuals from around the world to “promote human advancement and understanding through the improvement of education.” Estrada, one of only six or seven delegates invited to present, lectured on “Labor Organization and Activism within U.S. Immigrant/ Ethnic Communities Post-1965.”

Northwest Women’s Hall of Fame Honors Zoro

Peggy Zoro, a WWU trustee, was inducted into the Northwest Women’s Hall of Fame in March. Zoro also serves on the board of directors for the Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access and is past chair of the Bellingham-Whidbey Economic Development Council and the WWU Foundation Board of Directors.

Mabel Zoe Wilson received the Northwest Women’s Hall of Fame posthumous Legacy Award for her work as WWU’s first full-time librarian.

WWU Art Magazine Receives NEA Grant

The Bellingham Review, a nonprofit literary arts magazine published by WWU, has received a $5,000 Access to Artistic Excellence grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The Bellingham Review publishes nationally recognized writers such as Tess Gallagher, Charles Wright, Gary Soto and Stephanie Strickland, as well as promising new writers. Brenda Miller, associate professor of English, is editor in chief.

Kuntz Receives Arts Award

Pamela Kuntz, a WWU College of Performing Arts professor and choreographer, has received a 2007 Bellingham City Mayor’s Arts Award for recognition of her work to create a Bellingham Repertory Dance Company.

U.S. House Subcommittee Invites Nelson to Testify

On May 15, George "Pinky" Nelson, director of the Science, Math and Technology Education (SMATE) program at Western’s College of Sciences and Technology, testified before a U.S. House subcommittee seeking educators’ perspectives on working with science, technology, engineering and math education (STEM) programs. STEM programs are supported by several federal agencies, including NASA, NOAA, EPA, National Institute of Standards and Technology and Department of Energy. Nelson, a former NASA astronaut, is chair-elect for the Education section of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), an International nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science around the world. Before coming to Western, he was director of Project 2061, a long-term program to reform science education throughout the United States.

Dorr Receives Ron Battles Excellence Award

Tom Dorr, director for the WWU College of Business and Economics Small Business Development Center (SBDC), is the recipient of a Ron Battles Excellence Award presented by the Western Small Business Development Center Network. Dorr, nominated by clients and peers, was one of three advisors to receive the award. In 2006, the SBDC assisted local businesses in saving or creating $16 jobs and helped clients secure over $27 million in loans and new investments.

Lockhart Is 2006 Outstanding Accounting Educator

Julie Lockhart is the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Accounting Educator for Washington State award presented in February by the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants. Lockhart is chair of the Accounting Department at Western’s College of Business and Economics.

Demmert Receives Harvard Alumni Achievement Award

William Demmert, a professor of Elementary Education at Western’s Woodring College of Education, received an Alumni Achievement Award presented in March at the Alumni of Color Conference at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). The award recognizes and celebrates the work of HGSE alumni of color by honoring individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of education. Demmert received a doctorate in education from Harvard in 1973. He was one of four Harvard alumni selected to receive the award this year.

Coalition Receives National Awards

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) has honored the Western Washington University/City of Bellingham Campus Community Coalition with national awards recognizing outstanding programs and innovative services in higher education. The Coalition is the winner of a NASPA Gold Medal Award and the prestigious NASPA Grand Silver Award, which is selected from among all Gold Medal winners in all categories. The awards were presented in recognition of the Coalition’s innovative efforts to promote working relationships and communication between the WWU campus and local community and particularly for its efforts to increase student involvement in local neighborhoods.
Protecting the Environment

WWU President Karen W. Morse has joined with other university presidents in signing a letter of intent for the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment to cut greenhouse gases and fight global warming.

The Climate Commitment provides a framework and support for America’s colleges and universities to become climate neutral. The commitment recognizes the unique responsibility that institutions of higher education have as role models for their communities and in training students to develop the social, economic and technological solutions to reverse global warming.

More than 100 colleges and universities nationally have signed onto the commitment.

Western has a long tradition of national environmental leadership. The University’s Huxley College of the Environment, one of the first environmental colleges in the nation, is internationally recognized for the caliber of its faculty, programs and research.

Western’s new Academic Instructional Center (AIC), which is now under construction, will include a number of sustainable-design elements, such as use of natural ventilation, solar shading, sustainable materials, an energy management system, occupancy sensor lighting controls, waste-heat recovery and water-efficient landscaping. The 120,000-square-foot center will house two lecture halls, classrooms, computer labs, collaborative study seating areas and new office and clinic space for the Psychology Department and Communication Sciences and Disorders.

A student-led effort more than two years ago resulted in Western obtaining 100 percent of its electricity from renewable resources. In addition, the University has been actively reducing its energy consumption on campus through facility upgrades and conservation measures. In spring 2005, President Morse appointed members to a Sustainability Committee, which is developing institutional policy and coordinating academic and administrative efforts toward sustainable practices at WWU.

Kinship Conservation Fellows from around the world will meet on Western’s campus from June 21 through July 21 for intensive leadership-skills workshops addressing sustainable development, collaborative conservation and finance mechanisms to promote conservation. The mission of Kinship Conservation Fellows is to develop a community of leaders dedicated to applying market-based principles to environmental issues.

Western’s Wade King Student Recreation Center has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The certification, which recognizes advanced achievements in sustainability, is a first for this type of facility at any university recreation center in the nation.

Proud to Be Part of a University
Passing Knowledge Forward

By Karen W. Morse
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

In reflecting on their university experiences, alumni often tell me they appreciate the personal attention they received from faculty and staff at Western.

We have a strong commitment to maintaining that personal attention by providing students with opportunities to work side-by-side with professors to put into practice what they are learning.

Several examples of student achievements show how well this approach is working.

A student team from the Engineering Technology Department’s Vehicle Research Institute (VRI) and Huxley College of the Environment received a top award this spring, being named one of six winners of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s national People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Award. Working with VRI Director Eric Leonhardt, the students have developed a system to refine biomethane from a Lyndon dairy farm to power a hybrid vehicle. The award included a $75,000 grant for further development.

Using the grant award, students and faculty from Western will work with community leaders to develop a pilot transportation system that uses the gas from the local Vander Haak dairy farm to power buses. If such a system were to collect biomethane from all the dairy farms in Whatcom County, it could power more than 30,000 vehicles per year.

With the mentoring support of their professors, College of Fine and Performing Arts students accepted full responsibility this year for a very successful Theatre Arts Department performance schedule. They selected, directed and marketed the plays that were produced, designed the sets and costumes and handled all the technical issues that we, as audiences, never see. These students took several awards at both the regional and national Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival competitions.

You can see how these projects meet our goal to encourage and foster students’ abilities to achieve their best as scholars and as individuals prepared to make positive contributions in their communities and their professional spheres.

Another proof of our commitment to engagement is measured by the continued support we provide to our students after they leave the University.

A very recent example is the positive launch of the new online Alumni Career Connector, sponsored by Alumni Relations. Within the first month of being contacted, more than 800 Western alumni signed up to mentor students and recent graduates. These alumni, busy with their careers, are willing to share their knowledge and the experience they have gained to help students transition to the workplace.

I am proud and grateful to be involved with a university where passing knowledge forward extends far beyond our physical boundaries and the limits of time.
EESP Youth Programs to Celebrate 25th Anniversary in July

Have you participated as a student, instructor or resident advisor in a SPY Camp, youth theater troupe, Viking sailing excursion, Western Kids Camp, College Quest or any other youth programs sponsored by Western's Extended Education and Summer Programs (EESP)? If so, you are invited to a special reception marking the 25th anniversary of Western's youth programs.

This event will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m., Friday, July 13, in Aimeezen Hall. For more information and to see program histories, go to www.wwu.edu/youth or contact Debbie Gibbons at (360) 650-6820 or debbie.gibbons@wwu.edu.

WWU to Host Research Conference on Adult Education

A West Coast Regional Research Conference on the Education of Adults (WRRECA) will be held on Western's campus Oct. 12 to 14. The conference, sponsored by Woodring College of Education and the Continuing and College Education Program, is a collaborative effort of 12 universities and graduate programs engaged in the study of the education of adults. This year's conference will examine the Program, is a collaborative effort of 12 universities and graduate programs engaged in the study of the education of adults. The keynote speaker is Sharan Merriam, a member of the faculty of the University of California.

College Quest Has Lasting Effect on Students

By Arielle Mulenos (06) College Quest Alumna

Two years ago, if you were to ask me where I wanted to go to college and what I wanted to study, I would have probably stared at you blankly. Sure, as a little kid, I always wanted to grow up to go to Stanford and be the first woman on Mars, but as life moseyed on, and I realized those were pretty unrealistic goals, I suddenly had no idea what to shoot for.

So I just blundered through each day of my freshman year in high school, not really knowing what I wanted to do, just doing what I needed to get by. This not knowing, coupled with a pair of chronically infected tonsils (which took me out of school for a month), resulted in my not performing to my full potential. Both my parents and I were aware of this, so one day when I came home, my dad suggested I attend Western Washington University's College Quest program. I would spend a week studying an actual course on campus in a dorm without parents. This sounded like a pretty good deal to me!

Both my parents went to Western. They went to different campuses that I will probably never admit what exactly what my dad had in mind. What was important to me was not only that I went to a good, academically challenging school, but also that I was happy with the environment. It mattered more to me that I was able to venture out and find beauty in the environment and in the people than to work myself to the bone and look good doing it. WWU somehow satisfied all of this for me.

Where am I going to college? Who knows. What am I going to study? I'll figure it out. It doesn't matter that Western is my parents' school. I'm applying there because of that one week in July.

Connections

Window on Western

College Quest Was Turning Point

In the Winter 2006 edition of Window on Western, I wrote an article about my daughter's experience at the WWU College Quest program, a summer program open to high school students that provides a one-week immersion in college life. My goal then was to advocate this program publicly as a success and as the treasure I believe it is. It had been a turning point in my daughter Arielle's high school life, and I wanted my fellow alumni to know about it.

It's been a year and a half since Arielle's College Quest experience, and she is now a junior in high school. I was surprised when Debbie Gibbons, the WWU Extended Education and Summer Programs director, contacted me recently to check in on Arielle's progress in school. I thanked Debbie for calling and told her Arielle was doing great and that I was still the proudest father on the planet.

But Debbie didn't stop with pleasantries. She asked me specifically if College Quest had influenced Arielle's approach to college admissions, what she remembered most, and how she felt about applying to WWU. I had a feeling I was in trouble when I first heard those assignment-like questions, and I knew I was toast when I posed them openly to Arielle. How many times has your teenager said, "Sure, Dad (or Mom), you can speak for me." Yeah, right. Time to let go some more, Dad....

So, fellow alumni, I give you to my daughter Arielle, in person, and the downstream effects of the WWU College Quest Program from the teenage perspective. [See story above.] I propose to you that her experience, in her own words, is a window into the possibilities that the WWU College Quest program gives to all teenagers who attend.

Finish reading, consider the teenagers in your life, and give Debbie Gibbons a call. One could easily question my sentimental motivation, but the endorsement of a 16-year old is precious and a terrible thing to waste. Carpe diem!

—Jim Mulenos (78)
Wilder Construction Donation Used for Development of Outdoor Learning Center

By Shauna Kroeger
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Wilder Construction, a company that spends its time building roads that allow us to take the expressway through life, has enhanced our opportunities to leisurely experience the scenery that borders Huntoon Drive.

Huntoon Drive, a road now closed to drivers, winds from the base of Sehome Hill Arboretum to its peak.

In 2000, Wilder Construction made a generous donation to the Western Washington University Foundation. That donation was used to fund a Sehome Hill Arboretum Resource Education (SHARE) grant to build the recently completed outdoor learning center on Sehome Hill.

David Engebretson, professor of geology, wrote the grant and coordinated the work that was done.

Engebretson would like to see a little more man-made additions to a minimum. He would like to make information about the geology of the hill more accessible to hikers. Plans include building signs behind Miller Hall and you will see a man-made additions to a minimum. He would like to see a little more man-made additions to a minimum. He would like to make information about the geology of the hill more accessible to hikers. Plans include building signs for different parts of the hill and publishing brochures that people can take with them describing the birds, flowers and plant life.

Engebretson also would like to build a geologic clock and rock walk consisting of various rock samples from the last 450 million years. These would be set up chronologically along the path to the outdoor learning center. A history and description of each rock would be posted. Each step would represent a time span of a half million years.

More information is available at www.ac.wwu.edu/~share.

Huntoon Drive winds through a tunnel near the peak of Sehome Hill Arboretum. The 180-acre natural forest habitat is cooperatively managed by the city of Bellingham and Western Washington University.

Alumni and Friends Donate More than $110,000 at Seattle Business Forum

Alumni and friends donated more than $110,000 for student scholarships and University support at Western’s 10th annual Seattle Business Forum, held April 3 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

The keynote speaker for this year’s event was Kerry Killinger, chairman and CEO of Washington Mutual.

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

Kerry Killinger, shown here with WWU President Karen W. Morse, was the keynote speaker for this year’s Seattle Business Forum, sponsored by Western Washington University and the WWU Foundation Board Western-in-Seattle Committee.

Your license to support WWU scholarships

Get a WWU Collegiate License Plate! It’s a minimal cost to you that pays big benefits to WWU students.

HERE’S HOW IT WORKS: Buy a WWU Alumni License plate for just $40 through the Washington State Department of Licensing, and $26 of it will go directly to support student scholarships awarded by the WWU Alumni Association. Best of all, every year you renew your plate, you contribute to the scholarship fund. With your help, we can build this program into a legacy of education and opportunity.

“WWU license plate scholarship has enabled me to worry less about finances and focus more on my academic pursuits, I appreciate the opportunity that the alumni here have given me and look forward to one day being a member of the WWU Alumni Association.”

Contact the Department of Licensing: www.dol.wa.gov/ovjspecialtyplates/wa-collegiate phone: (360) 676-6740
New Programs Help Students and Alumni Make Connections

By Dee Johnson
University Communications

Jean Carter (’79) says the benefits of mentoring travel in both directions. “It’s great to be in contact with younger people who are just starting their careers, and it’s interesting to find out about the new things they are studying,” she says.

Carter participates in Western’s College of Business and Economics (CBE) virtual mentoring program because it provides an opportunity to connect with students and to give something back to the University. The fact that all contacts are by email has made her current transitional period possible. Her career as an international investment manager has taken her all over the world. Personal meetings would have been difficult to manage.

Carter, who retired last year from the Russell Investment Group based in Tacoma, calls her current transitional status “retirement with a little r.” She is looking for opportunities that will utilize her experience and knowledge in new ways and expects that she may utilize her experience and knowledge in new ways and expects that she may manage.

mentoring offers by signing up for Western’s CBE virtual mentoring program administered through a management class taught by associate professor Kristi Tyran. “Students sometimes struggle recognizing the importance and practical application of the skills we teach,” Tyran says. “We thought this link to successful practitioners would give them a real-world perspective, and it has.”

Mentors participating in the CBE program agree to respond promptly to at least four emails each quarter. Initially, the student and mentor exchange biographical information. After that, at set intervals, the student submits three questions specific to the student’s individual interests but related to coursework being covered in the management class. The student writes a final paper reflecting how those conversations enhanced the academic experience.

The WWU Alumni Career Connector, recently introduced by Western’s Alumni Association, covers all academic disciplines and career interests and also offers a way for students and alumni to connect online. An expansion of a printed directory first published two years ago, the Alumni Career Connector is a searchable database of WWU alumni who have volunteered to be a resource for Western students and alumni seeking career advice and networking opportunities.

Participants, both alumni and students, can register online and choose the level of involvement that best fits into their schedules.

Carter says she focuses on bringing a real world perspective to the academic concepts students are learning. Some of that perspective includes the general advice she found helpful when she was starting out. “A boss and mentor I had early in my career told me: ‘Don’t pick your job; pick your boss. Always try to work for someone you respect, someone you think you could learn from.’” Carter says that advice has served her well. “If you do that, it almost doesn’t matter what the work is. You are going to learn things and get opportunities and progress in your career.”

Adding to that, Carter tells students it is important to have a good understanding of “what’s going to make you happy, where you are going to thrive and where you are going to do your best work. It may not always be the job that’s the obvious next step or the job that’s more prestigious or even the job that offers more money.”

In talking about their careers, Western alumni often mention managers and friends who offered career advice and help along the way. “I certainly learned a lot from people I worked with, but there was no formal mentoring program going on,” Art Stavig (’84) says. Stavig is the founding president of a company based in Seattle that provides financial consulting to hospital administrators. He has connected with several students through Western’s CBE virtual mentoring program. “I feel I owe a lot to Western because I’m not sure I’d be in the position I’m in had I not gone to Western,” he says. “This program allows me to give back to the school, and it’s a program that I believe is beneficial to students. It’s something I would have liked to have had available when I was a student, and it doesn’t take a lot of time.”

Todd Lindley (’83), a financial investment planner, went into business for himself shortly after graduating from Western. He also had several mentors, people he trusted who had a little more experience than he did. “When you’re starting out, to have someone answer some of your questions and give you some idea of what you’re getting into, that’s a great service. And then to be able later to help out someone else, that’s a good feeling,” he says. Lindley has mentored two Western students and plans to continue connecting with students by email.

Dave Mann (’82) has worked in several roles as a mentor to students at Western. He also worked with Accounting Department faculty to put together the CBE Think Tank that helps connecting students connect with professionals. He has remained actively involved in that program and currently serves as an advisor. He also serves as a trustee for the Western Washington University Foundation.

A former CFO, Mann began his career working for a big eight accounting firm. He then moved into the health care field, working for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and then for Immunex. He encourages students to ask lots of questions and determine what is it that they want before they accept any position. “Ask the person who is interviewing you why they work for the company,” he says. “That kind of question shows your real interest in...”
It is important to be able to establish meaningful goals and articulate them so people understand what they are working toward. It’s been my experience that most new managers don’t know how to do this very well. They want to be liked, but the way to be liked is to help other people be successful. And to help other people be successful, you have to understand what needs to get done. I like being liked, but the more important thing is to be really clear about the work that needs to get done.

—Jean Carter (’79)
Schoenfeldt Receives Critical Incident Lifetime Award

Mary Schoenfeldt (79) was awarded the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award at the ninth World Congress of the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation. The foundation is recognized by the United Nations as the world’s premier disaster mental health organization. Schoenfeldt, owner of Schoenfeldt and Associates, has been providing training and consulting in crisis response for more than three decades. After graduating school very young and trauma response programs, she is the author of the crisis response model used by all schools in California. More information is available at www.sater-schools.com.

1970 - Carl Angell is co-owner of State Street Insurance in Bellingham. The company is a 2006 Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and Industry Small Business of the Year finalist. Larry West has joined Whidbey Island Bank as assistant vice president and branch manager of the Northwest Avenue branch in Bellingham.

1971 - Edward G. Carson has been named chief operating officer of HITCO Carbon Composites, Inc., a subsidiary of German-based SGL Group, The Carbon Company. Phil Rosemary is the new head boys basketball coach at Justin-Siena High School in Napa, Calif. Rick Tremaine has been promoted to executive vice president of Business Bank at Stagg County and Whatcom County.

1972 - Francisco Ivarra is serving on the Veterans Levy Oversight Board in King County. Bob Lightfoot is retiring after a 35-year career at Wilson High School in Tacoma. His career at Wilson included 21 years as the school’s head football coach.

1973 - Connie Bolce is retiring after a 30-year career with the Washington State Parks system. Margie Lee is the author of Kissful, a book about 100 years ago that details the lives of six of her ancestors living in the upper Midwest and Pacific Northwest.

1974 - Tina Nunally received a Distinguished Alumna Award from the University of Washington College of Arts and Sciences. In May, Nunally has translated more than 40 books, mostly from the Arabic of North African fiction into English. Michael J. Sullivan has been elected state Superior Court judge for Whatcom and Pacific counties. He was appointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire to fill a position, completing the term of Patrick Beyer who was appointed to the District II Court of Appeals by Gov. Gary Locke.

1975 - Carol C. Devine is the winner of the 2007 T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry sponsored by Truman State University Press, Kirkdale, Mo. The collection is available at Andromeda, a bookstore in the Arms of Aqualik, will be published in the fall. Davis teaches English and creative writing at Santa Monica College, Los Angeles. She is the author of two chapbooks, The Violin Teacher and Letters from Prague and a bilingual collection, It’s Time to Talk About..., published in Russia.

1976 - John Carmean received the National American Legion Post’s Choice Award presented in December in Tacoma for his Bowl of Hope sculpture. Carmean is a firefighter in the Tacoma Fire Department’s Hazardous material unit. Gary Luke was promoted in January to president and publisher of Saratooq Books in Seattle. He served for 12 years as editorial director. Scott Richardson is co-owner of the Pioneer Insurance in Bellingham. The company is a 2006 Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and Industry Small Business of the Year finalist.

1977 - Larry West has joined Whidbey Island Bank as assistant vice president and branch manager of the Northwest Avenue branch in Bellingham. The company is a 2006 Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and Industry Small Business of the Year finalist.

1978 - Bob Bidgely, the owner of Binary Recording Studio and owner of more than 200 vintage plastic records from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, is working on a documentary about owners of these collections. Bidgely’s psychology degree helped in collecting. He would like to hear from alumni who have a collection of old recordings and are willing to talk about why they collect. You can reach him at binarystudio@yahoo.com.

1979 - Virginia Gardner Troy is the author of The Modernist Textile: Europe and America, 1920-1945, published in November by Lund Humphries Publishers in London. She is an associate professor of art history at Berry College in Georgia. After receiving a bachelor’s degree in art history from Skidmore College, she was trained to earn a master’s degree in art history from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in art history from Emory University.

1980 - Bob Phillips plans to climb Mount Rainier on July 15 to 17 as part of the 10th annual Mount Rainier to Fight Breast Cancer. More than 100 women and men will be scaling six different peaks on those same dates to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research. John Wilson, owner of Wilson’s Furniture, has moved his business to a new 35,000-square-foot building just off I-5 between Bellingham and Ferndale.

1981 - Bill Roulette is the owner of Applied Geology Research in Portland. The company recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

1982 - Kattie Carman has been awarded tenure at South Seattle Community College. She teaches developmental and college level English and has been a faculty leader in developing and offering online courses.

1983 - Chase Franklin has been appointed to the board of direction for Osmia, an innovator in mobile imaging technologies.

1984 - John Cruikshank has joined Business Bank of Whatcom County as senior vice president of commercial loans. Mary Evitt has returned to Snohomish County and is the president of commercial loans at Bank of Whatcom.

1985 - Bill Rose is the owner of Applied Geology Research in Portland. The company recently celebrated its 10th anniversary.

1986 - Nancy J. Delaney is the owner of jlll Furniture, has moved his business to a new 35,000-square-foot building just off I-5 between Bellingham and Ferndale.

1987 - Steve Kirkelie has been promoted to research specialist at UW Tacoma, was part of a team that developed mobile imaging technologies. Eric Hartstein is coordinator of the South Western Connecticut Counseling Center at the University of Connecticut. He is the new owner of the John Rose photograph collection.

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1992 - Zoe Johnson is a coastal planner for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in Annapolis. Nick Karvia is the new bookstore director at Fullerton College in Fullerton, Calif.

1993 - Craig Packard and Vince Ciotto (96) have opened a small film company called Big Plans, a movie about three high school students who come up with a plan to change their junior year grades are perfect.

1994 - Jennifer Berke received an RN in January and is working toward a master’s degree in nursing. She has also opened Passion-Fruit Photography in Bell­ingham.

1995 - Steve Donovan has been promoted to senior planner for Wallow Walla County. Hans Dunshee re­elected to the state House of Representatives, representing the 44th Legislative District. Dunshee is the youngest member of the House of Representatives and has been a member since 1993. He is a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Finance Committee.

1996 - Laura Deming has been promoted to senior counselor’s compensation rep­resentative for AAI, an insurance company based in Bellingham, Wash.

1997 - Mischa Burnett is the new principal of the Business Center at Acuity Bank. She formerly served as vice principal for Vista Middle School, also in Ferndale. Jill Cameron Damasco, a community college profes­sional and a principal at K-12 school, is serving on the Vet­erans Levy Oversight Board in King County.

1998 - Kim Carman has been appointed to the board of direction for Osmia, an innovator in mobile imaging technologies. Eric Hartstein is coordinator of the South Western Connecticut Counseling Center at the University of Connecticut. He is the new owner of the John Rose photograph collection.


2000 - Nick Papa has been promoted to research specialist at UW Tacoma, was part of a team that developed mobile imaging technologies. Eric Hartstein is coordinator of the South Western Connecticut Counseling Center at the University of Connecticut. He is the new owner of the John Rose photograph collection.


1931 - Claire L. (DeLeau) Pierce, 95, a former elementary teacher, on Feb. 20 in Clarksville, Va.

1933 - Inez Lorraine (Williams) Merritt, 92, a homemaker and former teacher, on Dec. 13 in Seattle.

1935 - W. Frank (Floyd) Bond, 90, an accomplished pianist and retired teacher, on March 5 in Des Moines, Wash.

1942 - Polly Helf Winkelman, 86, a retired teacher and owner/manager with her husband, Bob Winkelman, of the Big Lake Trees farm, on Nov. 20 in Mount Vernon.

1950 - George Youngkin, 78, a retired teacher and coach, on Feb. 11.

1951 - Blanche (Hamilton) Hutchings Calliere, 100, a school teacher, librarian and author, on Nov. 19 in West Seattle. Eugene Kermit Lively, a retired Burlington Edison High School teacher and former secretary of the Burlington Kiwanis... [Janes] "Jim" Everett Shook, 78, a former educator and salmon fisher, on Dec. 7 in Tacoma. Shook was an active member of the WWU Alumni Reunion Committee and in 2002 introduced the concept of the Golden Vikings to include all who graduated 50 or more years earlier. The first Golden Vikings reunion was held in 2003.

1954 - Hazel Elizabeth Rule, 98, a retired teacher, on March 7.

1955 - Kenneth B. Pederson, 73, a former curriculum specialist at the Office of Education, research associate at the University of Washington, and executive director of the Northwest Center for the Retarded, on Dec. 3.

1956 - Colleen Leadbecker, a homemaker and music teacher, on April 12 in Bellingham. (Murphy) Outlette, 101, a retired teacher, on March 10.

1957 - John W. Blake, 75, a retired teacher, on Jan. 23 in Palm Springs, Calif.

1959 - Ethel Jeanne Francis, 83, a retired teacher, on March 29. ... Cooke's "Billie" (Martin) Cary, 84, a former teacher and community volunteer, on Nov. 28 in Spokane. ... Robert William Lebeau, 74, a retired teacher and coach, on March 7 in Everett.

1960 - Gerald C. Blankenship, 79, a retired history teacher and basketball coach, on Feb. 4. ... Elizabeth Louie (Van Eaton) Myers, 79, a retired teacher, on Oct. 22. ... Ina Lucille (Austeng) Williams, 87, a retired school teacher, on Nov. 23. "Grand Gosh," director of the Outdoor Camps at Mars Hill College near Asheville, N.C., recently led five students on a trip to look for snow leopards in the Himalayas. To keep expenses low, the students used Gosch's grandmother's home in the Seattle area as their headquarters and borrowed camping equipment from Wes and Cassandra McKinnon. ... John and Lois, first water resource manager for McHenry College. ... She was a three-time All-American at Western, ... Taylor Freeland has received a master's degree in criminal justice from Trinity University in Alabama. ... Jason Quick is using his skills as a teacher, juggler and unicyclist to teach circus arts to children. He is also completing requirements for certification as a family counselor.

1965 - Kelly Dubs has produced a new snowboarding film, "Sentimental Values." To support snowboarding as an Olympic sport, Dubs formed the American Snowboarding Foundation, based in Bellingham and summers in Chile. He has produced four other snowboarding videos. ... Clifford "Griffith" Mack joined Moss Adams LLP as a staff accountant. ... Adam Johnson is the owner of Calypso Greek restaurant in Minneapolis, Minn. ... Sally Krumdiack won her first pro pankration fight, held in Helsinki, and took home a $1,000 purse. ... Angela Martin is a staff accountant for Moss Adams LLP. ... Morgan Woff spent time in April during a two-week lease from Iraq to visit; with pen pals at Talfon Elementary School in Arlington, Woff, an Army 1st Lt., is with the First Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas and serves as a distribution platoon leader.

2006 - Dylan Bergeson presented This Body is a Prison, his 48-minute documentary film about children in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, at the Tooldo Film Festival held in February. ... Karen Hicks has joined Moss Adams LLP as a staff accountant. ... Jana Law has joined Moss Adams LLP in Bellingham as a staff accountant. ... Annea Leonard has been promoted to director of marketing for the Elves Enlightening Professional minor league basketball team in the International Basketball League. ... Joseph Lindquist, a financial advisor associate at Smith Barney in Mount Vernon, has earned the firm's Financial Planning Specialist Designation. ... Paul Coss, president of the Everett City Council, a position he was elected to in November, has partnered with Barclay Adams LLP as a staff accountant. ... Evan Malacz, recently joined Northwest Clear Air Agency, recently completed an air emissions inventory and needs help for the city of Lynn­ dale. ... David Merwin is a staff accountant for Moss Adams LLP in Bellingham.

Harold Heiner (66) is retiring in June after a career at Whatcom Community College that has seen remarkable growth.

Heiner came to the college as dean of instruction in 1978 and was appointed president in 1984. At that time, the college had approximately 1,000 students enrolled and no campus. Classes were held in various buildings scattered throughout Whatcom County. Whatcom Community College now has a 70-acre campus and serves approximately 7,000 students.

Heiner was named to the college's Hall of Distinction at ceremony held Sept. 20.
Larson's Hattie Big Sky Earns Newbery Honor

By Shauna Kroeger

"I can pinpoint the exact moment," said Kirby Larson ('76) when asked what her inspiration was to begin writing.

"When I turned the last page of Arnold Lobel's Idling Lo Moves the Mountain, a switch went off inside me," she said. "I wanted to learn how to write stories that would touch others the way this book had touched me."

The American Library Association calls her latest book, Hattie Big Sky, an "engaging first-person narrative." Hattie Big Sky is one of only three books named by the association this year as a Newbery Honor Book.

Larson visited the class in May. She talked about the multiple aspects of research and the many drafts of the text it took to arrive at the final version of Hattie Big Sky. She also talked about the challenges and disappointments of the writing life, emphasizing that for most writers, rejection becomes a daily part of life. She said it took her 10 years to get published. She sold her first book in 1993.

Hattie Big Sky is Larson's first young adult novel. She is also the author of The Magic Kerchief, winner of the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award, Second-Grade Pig Pals, and Cody and Quinn. Sitting in a Tree, nominated for the Missouri Show Me Young Reader's Choice Award. Her website is www.kirbylarson.com.

Larson faced her long-standing fear of history and began the immense amount of research that went into making Hattie Big Sky. During this phase, she discovered the reason her great-grandmother had homesteaded alone in Montana during WW1.

Intrigued by this bit of information, Larson began uncovering after her grandmother, who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, randomly told her: "The only time Mom was ever afraid was in the winter, when the wild horses stampeded."

Wondering what her grandmother was talking about, Larson began asking all her relatives. Eventually she found out that her great-grandmother had homesteaded alone in Montana during WW1.

Intrigued by this bit of information, Larson faced her long-standing fear of history and began the immense amount of research that went into making Hattie Big Sky. During this phase, she discovered the reason her great-grandmother was afraid of wild horses in winter. Fierce winters in Montana brought on piles and piles of snow—snow that piled so high that houses and barns were often covered. Homesteads, sitting alone on the prairies, were especially vulnerable. Stampeding horses could not tell the difference between snow-covered prairie land and snow-covered houses.

Larson spent four years researching, writing, and rewriting Hattie Big Sky. The details she included gave the book authenticity. Nancy Johnson, WWU professor of English, noticed those details when she read an advance copy of the novel last summer. She invited Larson to talk to students in her Studies in Young Adult Literature class.

"I wanted my students to understand how writers—all writers, even those who publish for young audiences—do an enormous amount of research," said Johnson.

Nancy Johnson is a recipient of the International Reading Association's Arbysrow Award and was one of 15 literature experts chosen in 2003 to select that year's Newbery Award winner.
Alumni Happenings

Golden Vikings Reunion
August 24-25 — If you graduated in 1957 or earlier, you'll want to join the Golden Vikings for two days of exciting activities concluding with a gala Saturday evening reception and dinner.

Celebrate the golden memories of your time on campus as we induct the class of 1957 into the Golden Vikings Society. All alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago are especially invited. We encourage you to also bring your family and friends.

The reunion schedule is packed with educational sessions, tours and activities designed to help you reconnect with former classmates. (See page 12 for a program schedule.)

For information or to register, contact Susan Bakse ('88) at (360) 650-7283 or toll free at (800) 676-6885. All alumni and friends are invited to participate. Presentations are free, but reservations are required.

Alumni Board Meetings
July 21 and Oct. 20 — The Alumni Association Board of Directors will meet in Bellingham on July 21 and in Seattle on Oct. 20. Both meetings will begin at 9 a.m. All WWU alumni are invited to attend. For details, contact the Alumni Association at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885 or email alumni@wwu.edu.

Join the WWU Alumni Online Community
Add www.wwualumni.com to your online favorites list and visit on a regular basis to check out upcoming events in your area, start a discussion group, share photos, sign up for the WWU Alumni Career Connector and network with other Western alumni. Use your WWU login to join. Call our toll free number (800) 676-6885 or email alumni@wwu.edu.

Campus School Reunion and Celebration
August 24-25 — Western is hosting a celebration and reunion of Campus School and Normal Training School alumni, parents, professors and student-teachers Aug. 24 to 25. There will be opportunities to share memories, rekindle friendships, view an impressive exhibit of memorabilia and tour Miller Hall.

Generations of children were educated at the Campus School, opened in 1901 to provide practical experience for teachers in training. The Campus School moved from Old Main to the bell-tower section of what is now Miller Hall in 1942. The school was closed 40 years ago, in 1967.

This celebration, part of a four-month-long focus on the Campus School at the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, is co-sponsored by Woodring College of Education, WWU Special Libraries, WWU Alumni Association and the Whatcom Museum of History and Art. For more information, contact Carole Morris ('94) at (360) 650-4419 or carole.morris@wwu.edu. To view photos and read personal accounts related by Campus School alumni, go to www.thecampuschool.com.

DeWees, Roselli and Rossman Join Alumni Staff
Deborah DeWees joined the WWU Alumni Association as executive director in June. She will also serve as the senior director responsible for Alumni Relations in the University's Advancement Office.

DeWees is excited about the opportunities working with alumni presents. "Western alumni are incredible," she says. "Whether they graduated 50 years ago or two years ago, there's a common thread I have seen, a depth of character I feel honored to hear the life stories and fond memories of Western they hold."

In her new role, DeWees says her first priority is to spend time listening to those stories so that she has a clear understanding of the connections WWU alumni want to have with Western and how the WWU Alumni Association can help them make those connections.

"As the proud parent of a future WWU alumnus, class of 2011, I am looking forward to creating a team that will drive a dynamic, exciting and vibrant alumni association through programs and services that make sense in today's real-time environment," she says.

DeWees came to Western nine years ago and has served as a director of development and planned giving for the Western Washington University Foundation. During her tenure, she has provided fundraising support for the Department of Athletics, Western Libraries and every WWU college.

Chris Roselli ('99) has been appointed assistant director of young alumni and student programs, a new position. He will be working to further develop Western's GOLD program (Graduates of the Last Decade) and encourage involvement of young alumni with Western through a variety of venues.

As an alumnus, Roselli says he is proud of Western. "Western continues to grow in its reputation and name recognition, and our degrees continue to look better and better every year." He says Western is not only a great school, it's a great place to be. "I hope to build on that excitement by expanding on the opportunities young alumni have to stay involved."

After receiving a degree in communications, Roselli remained at Western, taking a position with the University's Office of Admissions. He has been an admissions counselor for eight years and has visited high schools and talked in large group settings and individually with prospective students. He and his wife Amy (Kitchin) Roselli (01) have a 14-month-old daughter named Lexi.

Laurie Rossman ('86) is the new Alumni Relations marketing and communications coordinator. Rossman handles a variety of duties related to alumni events and coordinates the recent launch of the WWU Alumni Career Connector. In addition to meeting on a regular basis with alumni, students and faculty, Rossman publishes Western Wire, the alumni e-newsletter, and manages website content for Alumni Relations, the Alumni Association online community at www.wwualumni.com, and the WWU Foundation.

Rossman has been employed at Western for the past 21 years and was formerly a graphics design supervisor for the University's Publishing Services.

She served on the Whatcom County Alumni Chapter Steering Committee and has been co-president of the chapter since 2001.

"I am continually humbled when I meet with Western alumni. They give generously of their time and wisdom and experience to help new generations of students," —Deborah DeWees

"I was formerly a graphics design supervisor at Western, and I am excited to be part of the Alumni Association," —Laurie Rossman

"I am delighted to work with the Alumni Association team," —Chris Roselli
**July**

13  WWU Youth Programs, 25th Anniversary Celebration, 2:30 p.m., Arntzen Hall
21  Alumni Board Meeting, 9 a.m., on campus

**August**

24–25  Golden Vikings Reunion, on campus
24–25  Campus School Reunion, on campus
25  Commencement Ceremony, 10 a.m., Carver Gym

**September**

8  Annual WWU Alumni Salmon BBQ, Olympia

**October**

17  Distinguished Lecture Series, Brian Green, physicist and superstring theorist, 6:30 p.m., on campus, free but tickets are required, information at (360) 650-7545 or www.lectureseries.wwu.edu
20  Alumni Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Seattle
20  Battle In Seattle, WWU vs. CWU, pre-game celebration at 4 p.m., game at 6 p.m., Qwest Field, Seattle
26–28  Fall Family Open House, Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet, Viking football and volleyball, special events all weekend for alumni, students and their families, on campus

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**Golden Vikings Reunion**

Friday, August 24

8 a.m.  Breakfast, Edens Hall
9 a.m.  "Politics in the 21st Century," presentation by Ken Hoover, professor emeritus of Political Science, Viking Union
10 a.m.  "International Immigration and Its Effect on the U.S. Economy," presentation by Steve Globerman, Kaiser Professor of International Business, Viking Union
11 a.m.  "What are Online Social Networks and Can I Use Them?" presentation by Sherry Mallory, special assistant to the vice president of student affairs, Viking Union

noon  Lunch, PAC Plaza ($10/person)
2 p.m.  "100 Years of the American Honeymoon," presentation by Kris Bulcroft, vice provost of undergraduate education, and Linda Smeins, professor or art, Viking Union
3 p.m.  "What Defines a Western Student Today?" presentation by Chris Roselli, assistant director of Alumni Relations, Viking Union

5:30 p.m.  Welcome Reception, Viking Commons ($20/person)

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**Saturday, August 25**

8 a.m.

9 a.m.

10 a.m.

11 a.m.

noon

3 p.m.

5:30 p.m.

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**September**

8  Annual WWU Alumni Salmon BBQ, Olympia

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**Golden Vikings Reunion**

TBA Afternoon presentations to be announced

8 a.m.

9 a.m.

10 a.m.

noon

5:30 p.m.

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**Golden Vikings Celebration Lunch with WWU President Karen W. Morse, Viking Union**

All alumni and friends are invited to participate. Presentations are free, but reservations are required. To register, call Alumni Relations at (360) 650-3353.

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**Summer Stock**

**The King & I**


PAC Mainstage Theatre
July 19, 21, 22 and 25, 26, 27, 28
Directed by Gregory Pulver
Show Sponsor: The Bellingham Theatre Guild

**Alice in Wonderland**


PAC Underground Theatre
August 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Directed by Deborah Currier
Show Sponsor: Village Books

**The Tempest**

A classic tale of love and power combining the elements of tragedy and romantic comedy and posing questions that, like life itself, are never completely resolved. This adaptation, based on the William Shakespeare play, is suitable for all ages.

Outdoor Performances
Selected Whatcom County Locations
July 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 24, 29
August 2, 3, 4, 5
Directed by Jim Lutes

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**Tickets & Information**

http://calendar.wwu.edu (360) 650-6146

Alumni events (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885
Athletics (360) 650-3109
WWU Box Office (360) 650-6146
Western Gallery (360) 650-3900
Wilson Library (360) 650-3049