Karen W. Morse has announced that she will retire as president of Western Washington University Sept. 1, 2008. She is in her 15th year as president and is the longest-serving president of all four-year institutions in the state.

"Western's reputation as one of the finest universities of its kind in the country is a tribute to President Morse's leadership and vision," said Kevin Raymond ('80), chair of Western's Board of Trustees. "We are so grateful for all that she does on behalf of Western and higher education in the state of Washington."

President Morse has provided leadership that has fostered a collaborative student-centered academic environment; innovative faculty teaching and faculty-student research collaboration; new programs, buildings and resources that enrich the learning process; and recognition of Western as one of the premier public master's-granting universities in the nation.

"I care deeply about the mission of Western as an institution that provides high-quality academic opportunities," President Morse said. "The many accomplishments since I began as president are a tribute to the efforts of our faculty, staff, administration and students."

Since she began her tenure as president in 1993, enrollment has grown from 9,300 to 12,100 full-time equivalent students. Campus infrastructure has markedly improved, with construction of new buildings including the Chemistry, Biology and Science, Math and Technology Education buildings, the Communications Facility building, Wade King Student Recreation Center and Campus Services facility; the transformation of Haggard Hall, Bond Hall and Wilson Libraries; major renovation of the Viking Union and Edens Hall; and current construction of the Academic Instructional Center, the largest construction project in Western's history.

President Morse also has personally led planning for expansion of Western to the Bellingham waterfront, which has led to siting Huxley College of the Environment there. The University is part of an Innovation Partnership Zone and will be involved in converting an existing tissue warehouse to use for research and collaboration between business and area educational institutions.

As impressive as these measures are, the growth Western has experienced, and the recognitions the University has received during the past 14 years do not express the personal connections President Morse has made with students, alumni and members of the community.

"Her style is to attend to things by focusing quietly and getting people's attention when something needs to get done. Her hands have been in everything we've accomplished," says Eileen Coughlin, vice president of Student Affairs and Academic Support Services.

Associated Students President Ramiro Espinoza says President Morse has "provided the leadership critical to several defining initiatives on campus, such as green energy and alternative transportation. It has been a pleasure to witness her personal mentorship to students, something not commonly found in institutions of higher education, big or small," he says. "President Morse has significantly defined the excellence of this institution and will be greatly missed."

President Morse is well known for being involved in campus activities and for offering personal encouragement to students.

"We expect our students to expand their interests and perspectives, and they live up to those expectations," she says. "One of the most rewarding aspects of being at Western is having opportunities to share in the successes of our students and alumni."

President Morse and Stephanie Bowers, vice president for University Advancement, spent some time last year on the East Coast meeting with alumni. "Over and over, alumni we talked with expressed their appreciation to Western, citing especially how the encouragement they received helped them go on to achieve successes in their professional lives," Bowers said.

During that trip, President Morse and Bowers attended the Metropolitan Opera debut of Aaron St. Claire Nicholson ('96). Nicholson remembers the encouragement President Morse personally offered to him while he was still an undergraduate student. "Aaron, when you have your debut at the Metropolitan, I will come," she told him. Nicholson remembers that she said when, not if.

The timing for President Morse's retirement from the University reflects her determination to allow for a smooth transition and to provide leadership on key initiatives, including: completion of the University's accreditation process; securing a solid Legislative budget; building on Western's fund-raising capacity; continuing planning for future development at the waterfront and completing the first contract for a faculty union.

"I believed we would be well positioned in these areas by Sept. 1, 2008, and worked with the trustees for several years to plan retirement as president of this very fine University," President Morse said, adding that she will continue her active leadership of Western during the final year of her presidency.

"The opportunity to lead Western has been, and will continue to be, a privilege. I expect to be active and not retired or retiring this year."

Her post-retirement plans include visiting family, traveling and scheduling time for writing and consulting.

She is married to retired Western chemistry professor and director of Science Education Joseph G. Morse, whom she met while both were pursuing their doclorate degrees at the University of Michigan. They have two adult sons, Robert, an attorney in Washington, D.C., and Geoffrey, an assistant professor of biology at Arizona State University West, and two granddaughters, Sophia and Victoria.

**CONTENTS**

1. Change Service Requested
2. Campus Connections
3. Accent on Alumni
4. Honor Roll of Donors
5. Western Inspirations
6. Honor Roll of Donors
7. Class Notes, Weddings, Memorials
8. The Arts at Western

**FALL 2007**

**NEWS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**VOL 13, NO 3**

**WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**516 High Street**

**Bellingham, WA 98225 - 9830**

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Send change of address to Window on Western, MS-9030, WWU, Bellingham, WA 98225-9030, or call (360) 650-3069. Or send e-mail to alumni@wwu.edu.
Waterfront Project Receives Innovation Grant

WWU is part of an Innovation Partnership Zone recently awarded a $31 million grant from the state of Washington to create lab-to-market economic development programs. Western's College of Sciences and Technology, Husky College of the Environment and the College of Business and Economics are exploring partnership opportunities with private industry in the zone. The University will be involved in converting a former tissue warehouse to a marine trades center that will include programs fostering research and collaboration between business and educational institutions.

Alper Receives International Award

Don Alper, director of Western's Center for Canadian-American Studies and professor of Political Science, has been awarded an International Council for Canadian Studies Certificate of Merit. The annual award was established in 1988 and recognizes the exceptional contributions made by individuals to the development of Canadian Studies. Alper led WWU's establishment of the Border Policy Research Institute in 2005 and was influential in having WWU selected as home for the American Review of Canadian Studies. Western's Center for Canadian-American Studies is one of only two federally recognized and funded National Resource Centers for the study of Canada.

NSF Grant Will Continue Research on Climate Change

Eric DeChaine, assistant professor of Biology, has received a $419,000 National Science Foundation grant to continue his research on climate change and how it affects biodiversity. The grant will pay for DeChaine to take two undergraduate research assistants with him next summer, when he will conduct samplings on islands in the Bering Sea. DeChaine has spent three summers doing research in the National Petroleum Reserve on Alaska's North Slope and on federal lands such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

NSF Grant Funds Plastic Electronics Research

WWU Chemistry Professor James Vyvyan has been awarded a $204,473 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the enzyme responsible for catalyzing the production of the natural product, ylang-ylang. Vyvyan's research has shown that this enzyme can be isolated and purified in larger quantities from the fruit of the Cananga odorata (ylang-ylang) tree, native to the Philippines and Micronesia. Vyvyan is working to develop a way to produce these compounds in larger quantities.

NSF Grant Funds Plastic Electronics Research

WWU Economics Department Chair Paul Storer is doing research that will shed light on the complex relationship between external government tariffs and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and cross-border trade between the United States and Canada. He hopes to be able to point to a potential cost savings in the billions of dollars if streamlined rules regarding NAFTA and cross-border trade could be implemented. Storer will present his findings at a conference later this fall in Toronto. His research is funded by a $30,700 Border Research Award from the Border Policy Institute at Western.
Western's VRI Receives 2007 Brilliant Award

Western's Vehicle Research Institute (VRI) has been named the 2007 Brilliant Award winner by The Discover Brilliant International Conference and Expo held in Seattle in September.

Awards were presented in 14 categories to honor innovative solutions that go beyond ‘green’ to generate real economic value while mitigating negative environmental impact.

The award presented to the VRI, in the “Brilliant Innovations: Waste to Energy” category, recognized the institute’s work in creating Viking 32, a vehicle powered by biogas produced by anaerobic digestion of cow manure at a local dairy, its development of a system to remove hydrogen sulfide and excess carbon dioxide from raw biogas, allowing it to be used for transportation in compressed natural gas vehicles.

VRI Director Eric Leonhardt (’95) reports that Viking 32 produces less than 25 percent of the greenhouse gases produced by the average automobile.

Western's VRI team was one of six student teams from across the country to win an Environmental Protection Agency People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) awards this year. To fulfill the second phase of that award, students and faculty from Western will work with community leaders to develop a pilot transportation system that uses biogas to power buses.

Viking 32 was the only car fueled by refined biomethane entered in the 2007 Tour de Sol. Competing against cars using biodiesel, Viking 32 placed second in hill climb, third in autocross and third in climate change emissions.

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BP Cherry Point in Ferndale awarded $10,000 to the VRI last spring to support development of Viking 32, which is powered by biogas.

The VRI recently received a 2007 Brilliant Award for development of Viking 32, which is powered by biogas.
U.S. News & World Report Ranks Western First in Northwest

Again this year, Western Washington University is first among top public masters-granting universities in the Pacific Northwest and second in the West, according to rankings of universities and colleges published by U.S. News & World Report. Only two public schools are ranked in the top 20 among master's-granting universities in the West, a region stretching from Texas to the Pacific Ocean.

Western was ranked in the top five percent in a study measuring the percentage of baccalaureate-degree recipients who go on to earn a research doctorate. The study, conducted by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago, looked at information from 1996 to 2005 collected from 560 institutions granting master's degrees.

WWU Hall of Fame Welcomes Three Newest Inductees

Football coaching legends Rob Smith and Terry Todd and All-American running back Jon Brunau gh ('96) are the newest members of the WWU Athletic Hall of Fame. They were formally inducted in a ceremony held Oct. 6 on campus.

As head football coach from 1989 to 2005, Smith accumulated 109 victories in 17 seasons for a winning percentage of .640. His victory total ranks third all-time among collegiate head coaches at Pacific Northwest schools. A total of 48 student-athletes earned All-American recognition during his tenure. Smith recently was named director of athletics at Grays Harbor Community College.

Todd was an assistant coach at Western for 20 years. As a Viking aide, he was part of six conference championship teams and coached six All-Americans—their running backs, including Jon Brunau gh, and three specialists. WWU’s football inspirational award is named after him. He also was a recipient of the “W” blanket award.

As a student-athlete, Brunau gh reached the magic 4,000-yard plateau in career rushing. In 1995, he had career highs of 1,127 rushing yards and 80 points and had a school-record seven 100-yard games. A member of the University’s Century Team, he became the first WWU player to lead the team in scoring four times and the third to top the squad in rushing for four seasons.

Western Football Clinic for Women Includes Hands-on Drills

Western’s second annual Football Clinic for Women, held in August, was served up with professional coaches and tables heaping with hors d’oeuvres. The social atmosphere was purposely planned to help participants relax and get ready to have fun.

Hands-on, interactive drills helped clarify the roles each team member plays. “Keep your butt down and your head up,” Klayton Adams, offensive line coach, instructed. “That way you can see what’s coming, but you’ve got the leverage to hold your position—and protect the quarterback.”

Susie Schmidt, who attended the clinic with a support group of friends, says high stepping over cushion barriers, shoving away tackling dummies and practice taking a snap from center, then dropping back to pass, helped her discover what football is all about. “I always thought it was the arms,” she said. “I was surprised to learn how important the footwork is.”

Ginni Engen, a Western employee attending the clinic, was surprised by what she learned. “Now football feels more like a sport, rather than a battle,” she said. “Makes me want to play the game.”

New Academic Year Brings Changes to Western’s Campus

Dennis R. Murphy ('69, 70) has been appointed to the position of provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. He assumed his new duties Aug. 15 and will serve until a permanent provost is selected.

“Dennis Murphy is widely recognized for the leadership of his college and his dedication to Western,” said President Karen W. Morse when the appointment was announced.

Murphy retired earlier this year after a distinguished career as dean of Western’s College of Business and Economics. He was appointed dean of the College in 1982.

Murphy succeeds Andrew Bodman, who left the provost position to return to teaching.

Brian Burton, associate dean of the College of Business and Economics, has been appointed to serve a two-year limited term as dean. Burton has been at Western since 1995 and previously served as associate dean for Administration and Graduate Programs.

Burton also served as director of Western’s MBA program, which was recently ranked in the top 100 programs worldwide by the Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of social and environmental values through nonpartisan studies and research. Approximately 600 business schools were invited to participate in the survey. MBA programs were ranked not only on mainstream academic content, but also on the institution’s efforts to integrate social and environmental concerns.

Ron Riggins has been appointed to serve a two-year limited term as dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Riggins serves as acting dean of Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies from July 2000 until he was named dean in July 2002. He stepped down as dean in 2006 and was succeeded by current Fairhaven College Dean Roger Gilman.

Riggins was interim dean of Fairhaven College from 1993 to 1994 and served as acting dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts from 1994 to 1995. He joined the Western faculty in 1977 and taught in the Recreation degree program for 23 years, serving as department chair in Physical Education, Health and Recreation from 1988 to 1992.

Riggins succeeds Carol Edwards, who left Western to become dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Texas Tech University.

Rhonda Allen has been named vice provost for Faculty Relations, a newly established position, and will work with the WWU provost to provide vision and leadership with regard to faculty issues.

Allen previously was assistant dean for faculty Development and associate professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Before that, she was director of the Faculty Development Center, Office of Academic Affairs and associate professor in the Division of Politics, Administration and Justice at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). She received a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Southern California, a master’s of Public Administration from CSUF and a doctorate in Public Administration and Policy from the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany, State University of New York.

Douglass C. Nord has been named director of the Center for International Studies. He is the former executive director of the University Center for International Education at Wright State University in Ohio. He was also Campus Fulbright Program representative at Wright State and chair of the Ohio International Education Consortium. He earlier served as professor of International Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia and was the university’s founding dean of the Faculty of Management and Administration. Nord has taught and conducted research at a wide number of institutions abroad and has been published extensively in the areas of international relations and comparative politics, Canadian-American relations, migration studies and comparative public policy. He earned a master’s degree and doctorate in Political Science from Duke University.

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Family Ties Bring Pair of Cousins to Western

By John Thompson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The long road that has brought cousins Jayce Lindley and Zach Dale to Western for incoming freshmen this fall started with a snowball fight one cold, clear night more than 25 years ago, outside the Birnam Wood residence hall.

Rick Dale ('83) and some friends were celebrating the cancellation of classes due to snow with a vigorous snowball fight when Dale accidentally (but fortunately for him) popped Julie Pyle ('83), who happened to be standing nearby.

"She was completely unimpressed with me, and had a few choice words ... but the pursuit was on," Dale says. "It took quite a while for her to go out with me."

Meanwhile, across campus, Todd Lindley ('83) was spending equal amounts of time focused on his degree in business and on Gerrilynn Pyle, the younger sister of Julie. Todd met Gerrilynn two years earlier at an orientation at the Beta residence hall.

As the two relationships prospered, Todd and Rick grew to become lifelong friends. On Oct. 22, 1983, a few months after graduation ceremonies for Todd, Rick, and Julie (Gerrilynn, two years younger than her sister, finished up at Evergreen after she and Todd moved south), the pair of sisters celebrated a double wedding and their new lives away from the campus began.

"Western in general, and the College of Business and Economics in particular, prepared me for the outside world. Since leaving school, I've held senior-level executive positions at Fortune 50 companies such as PRC/Northrup Grumman and MCI. I've worked with executives, staff, and colleagues with graduate and undergraduate degrees from institutions like Yale, Columbia, West Point, Penn—very prestigious universities," he says. "But in the end, they all reported to me, a Western grad, because when I left school, I was prepared."

Now, a quarter-century later, the Dales and Lindleys walk across the campus, recalling good times and noting the many changes since their tenure.

"We didn't have all the technological advances the kids have these days," says Todd. "Back then, if you had even just an electric typewriter, everybody wanted to be your new best friend."

Gerrilynn agrees, but adds that some things have obviously remained unchanged.

"The student population then was bigger than my hometown (Shelton), but I never felt intimidated. In fact, the campus always felt like home, and it still does," she says.

Julie says the campus still possesses the elements that attracted her to it when she was a high school senior.

"It is the perfect size, and has such a nice, comfortable feel. And you could always be who you wanted to be—you were never dealing with the pretentious attitudes so common elsewhere," she says.

It was this type of atmosphere that played a large role in bringing both Zach Dale and Jayce Lindley to campus this fall. Both cousins were top students in high school (Zach in Scottsdale, Ariz., Jayce in Montesano) who could have gone to a variety of schools, but both grew up listening to their mother, father, aunt and uncle talk about life on campus in Bellingham, of caring and engaging faculty, and of a diverse and inclusive student body. Both students visited the campus and both decided that Western was where they wanted to be. Jayce hopes to pursue a major in Engineering Technology; Zach plans to follow his father's footsteps as a business major. "CBE all the way," he says.

Jayce says his visit played a huge part in his decision to apply to and attend Western if accepted.

"The school is much larger but more laid-back than I imagined it would be, and the hands-on teaching style in the mechanics and plastics classes I was able to sit in really surprised me. It was just what I was looking for," he says.

Their parents couldn't be happier. "We have very fond memories of Western," says Todd. "We made great friends, got a quality education, and fell in love here. Hard to beat that."

Alumni Awards Celebration Is Expanded

A full day of celebrations and events honoring WWU alumni was held Friday, Oct. 26, when this issue of Window on Western was going to press. The Alumni Awards Celebration, formerly known as the Distinguished Awards Ceremony, was expanded to include campus tours, informal get-togethers with students and faculty, a tea and reception with President Karen W. Morse and Vice President for University Advancement Stephanie Bowers, and a gala awards banquet.

Honors included an Alumnus Lifetime Achievement Award, a Young Alumnus Award (presented to an alumnus under 40 years of age), a Legacy Family Award and seven Distinguished Alumnus Awards (presented to an alumnus from each WWU College).

A special Larry "Go Vikings!" Taylor Alumni Service Award was created this year. The inaugural award was presented in September to Larry Taylor ('72) in recognition of his service as a volunteer and as a Western Foundation board member, WWU Board of Trustees member and Alumni Association board member.

Other alumni honored with 2007 awards include:

**Lifetime Achievement Award**
John Fetheringham ('55), Western Washington College of Education

**Distinguished Alumnus Awards**
Steve Clarke ('85 & '91), Woodring College of Education
William Dietrich ('73), Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Elsie Vasaldis Ellis ('74 & '77), College of Fine and Performing Arts
Margit M. Loeber ('50), College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Heather Fehringer (merchant ('77), Hixley College of the Environment
Laurie Vitt ('67 & '71), College of Sciences and Technology
Shaun Wolfe ('89), College of Business and Economics

**Young Alumnus of the Year Award**
Richard Law ('93 & '95), College of Humanities and Social Sciences
R. Ethan Yarbrough ('92 & '95), College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Legacy Family of the Year Award**
The Hickenbottom Family

**Inaugural Larry “Go Vikings!” Taylor Alumni Service Award**
Larry Taylor ('72), College of Business and Economics

Other alumni honored with 2007 awards include:

- Steven Clarke ('85 & '91), Woodring College of Education
- William Dietrich ('73), Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
- Elsie Vasaldis Ellis ('74 & '77), College of Fine and Performing Arts
- Margit M. Loeber ('50), College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Heather Fehringer Merchant ('77), Hixley College of the Environment
- Laurie Vitt ('67 & '71), College of Sciences and Technology
- Shaun Wolfe ('89), College of Business and Economics
- Richard Law ('93 & '95), College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- R. Ethan Yarbrough ('92 & '95), College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Kendrick Elfa ('95), College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Legacy Family of the Year Award**
The Hickenbottom Family

**Inaugural Larry “Go Vikings!” Taylor Alumni Service Award**
Larry Taylor ('72), College of Business and Economics
ACCENT on Alumni

Reunion Events Bring Nearly 500 Alumni to Campus

Elaine Bailey (50) was one of the nearly 500 alumni who came back to Western’s campus Aug. 24 and 25 to celebrate the reunions of Campus School students and Golden Vikings. The two events were held concurrently.

Western’s Golden Vikings get together for a reunion every year to share experiences, connect with former classmates and induct new Golden Vikings. Alumni from the class of 1957 were inducted this year. Golden Vikings include all Western alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago.

The Campus School reunion was a signature event. For some alumni, this reunion brought them back to Western for the first time in more than 40 years. Others, like Bailey, have been able to maintain closer ties. She still lives in Bellingham and says that graduates of her Campus School class have gathered together regularly to reminisce. “Western is one of those very special places we hold in our hearts,” she says.

Bailey’s connections to Western run very deep. Her sister, uncle, mother and two of her sons have attended the University or the Campus School. Bailey attended the Campus School through ninth grade. Later, she returned to Western to study nursing.

Bailey was accompanied to the reunion by her husband (also an alumnus), one of her sons, and her 102-year-old mother, Edwina Hoover Zwaschka (23). Zwaschka began her elementary school career at the Campus School and later earned a teaching certificate from Western, then called the Whatcom Normal School.

Many friendships were rekindled. Classmates traveled from Europe and from points all over the U.S. to reconnect with classmates.

At a celebration banquet held on Saturday, Joel Connelly expressed the sentiment heard often during the weekend. “Western is a special place. No matter when we were students here, or what we are doing now, we all have one thing in common—we are alumni of Western,” he said.

Connelly, a columnist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, is a member of the 1959 Campus School sixth grade class. The Campus School, open from 1901 to 1967, provided practical experience for teachers in training.

Record-breaking Crowd Attends Alumni Pre-game 'Battle' Celebrations

The WWU Alumni Association hosted more than 900 alumni, students and family members at the pre-game celebrations for the fifth annual WWU vs. CWU Battle in Seattle at Quest Field on Oct. 20, 2007.

The increase in participation in pre-game activities was up more than 750 percent over last year.

“We are very pleased with these numbers,” said Deborah DeWees, executive director of the Alumni Association. “They confirm that we are putting together the programming you want. We have a dynamic, creative staff and we have been listening to what you tell us.”

Each of the packages sold out weeks before the game. More than 550 Western supporters joined the fun in the Pre-game Fox Sports Network Lounge Party. For the hundreds of students who were reunited with their parents at the pre-game party, an extra bonus was riding one of the six student Battle Buses that left campus early that afternoon. As a parent of one of these students proclaimed, “This was the greatest program. I miss my boys so much, so I thought, sign me up!”

Not to be outdone, the voices of 230 young alumni filled the rafters at the inaugural Young Alumni Pre-game Bash at the Pyramid Ale House. “Everyone who came had a good time reminiscing with friends and former classmates. I look forward to many more events like this in the coming future,” said attendee Douglas Leek (99).

“It was awesome to see young alumni reconnecting in such a fun and energetic atmosphere. The turnout was so outstanding that we have booked Pyramid Ale House again and are considering early registration for next year’s bash,” said Chris Roselli (99), assistant director of young alumni and student programs.

“This is the beginning of a new and exciting era for the Alumni Association,” said DeWees. “Keep your eye out for new programming coming in 2008.”
Investments in Excellence

The Western Washington University Foundation and Western Washington University are pleased to recognize the generous private financial support received during the 2006-2007 year (July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007).

During the year, 12,550 alumni, parents, friends, and businesses contributed nearly $4 million to Western.

Your gifts enhance all university programs and provide significant advantages to both faculty and students.

Listed on these pages are the names of donors contributing $100 or more.

Each contribution is deeply appreciated. On behalf of all who invest in Western Washington University, you are making an impact.

Generous support from President's Club members provides funds that are essential to maintaining Western Washington University's leadership in undergraduate education.

President's Club level gifts may be designated to the Campus Enrichment Fund, which supports the most critical needs of campus-wide programs and projects, or to a specific college, department or program. For information on how you can support Western through the President's Club, please call Angie Vandenhaak at (360) 650-7647 or email angela.vandenhaak@wwu.edu.

President's Club levels of participation include:

- **Benevolents**
  Cumulative commitments of $100,000 or more (listing is carried in perpetuity)
- **Lifetime Members**
  Cumulative total of $25,000 or more (listing is carried for life)
- **Honors Council**
  Annual gift of $5,000 or more
- **Annual Members**
  Contribution of $1,000 to $4,999
- **Young Associates**
  Contributions of $500 to $999 from individuals age 39 or younger
Old Main Society

The Old Main Society recognizes alumni and friends who have made arrangements to provide gifts through their estate plans or other planned giving options and provides the opportunity for Western to acknowledge generously during their lifetimes. These gifts provide for future needs and are an important resource of funding for Western Washington University. Membership in the Old Main Society begins once documentation is completed naming Western as a beneficiary through a bequest, trust, annuity or life insurance plan. If you have included Western Washington University in your estate plans, please notify us so we can also recognize and thank you through the Old Main Society.

For more information, please contact Betty Kejej at 360-692-2502 or email betty.kejej@wwu.edu.
President’s Club

Tom Aschenfelt
Michael and Akiko Anderson
Amber and Andrew Adamson
Josh Barnhill
Jennifer Lee Beckmann
Tom Black
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President’s Club

Fred O’Brien (‘74) was the first member of his extended family to earn a college degree. He did not have high expectations for himself when he came to Western.

Looking back on the years that have passed since then, says life has been good, much better than he could ever have imagined.

This year, O’Brien made an endowment gift to the University in honor of his extended family. The Lew Yorkians.

Endowment Honors Huxley Professor

Fred O’Brien (right) and emeritus professor Lynne Robbins (left) have maintained a friendship over the years. O’Brien says, “Looking back on the years that have passed since then, says life has been good, much better than he could ever have imagined.”

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Grad Student Pioneers
New Method to Monitor Volcanoes

By John Thompson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Western Washington University graduate student Angela Diefenbach has always been passionate about her two favorite pastimes, photography and geology. Now she is using her experience in these two areas to develop a technique for monitoring volcanoes that could conceivably save thousands of lives.

Diefenbach, who will defend her master’s thesis in geology this fall, is pioneering a new method for the study and evaluation of active volcanoes and their risk for eruption, research that could lead to easier and more cost-effective evaluation and risk assessment by geologists and volcanologists across the globe.

Diefenbach is using a technique called photogrammetry that involves taking pictures of an active volcano. Using commercially available software, she marks plot points on the pictures that the software is able to evaluate and turn into three-dimensional models. The models then be compared to past models to determine the volume and rate of growth, key indicators of volcanic activity. Diefenbach’s test subject is the volcanic dome inside the crater of Washington’s Mount St. Helens.

Prior to Diefenbach’s research, this type of data was collected by government organizations such as the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) using airplane overflights for the pictures, which were then sent to Denver, Colo., to be collated and plotted using equipment that costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Diefenbach calls the process she is using the poor volcanologist’s toolkit. “We can get data that is 95 percent as accurate as the other method, at a fraction of the cost. We can shoot our photos from a helicopter and process them on a laptop using equipment that costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.”

Diefenbach’s first interest as an undergraduate was in biology, but after a summer spent on a geology field course—taken at the prodding of her geologist sister—she was hooked. She initially came to WWU to work with her thesis advisor, associate professor of Geology Juliet Crider, on a project measuring geologic changes on Mount Baker. She changed the focus of her research after an internship with the USGS that took her to the Cascades Volcano Observatory on Mount St. Helens during its active eruption. There she began accumulating the data needed for a newly revised thesis on photogrammetry and its applications in volcano monitoring.

"The two scientists I worked with from the USGS thought some photos we had taken from the helicopter could be used for some kind of quantitative analysis, so we started brainstorming and looking on the internet for software. I’ve been working toward that goal for the past two years,” she says.

Crider says Mount St. Helens is the perfect test site for Diefenbach’s research. "Mount St. Helens may be the most closely monitored volcano in the world, with dozens of instruments on the ground and teams of researchers interpreting the data. Angie can test her method against the work of others at Mount St. Helens to see how close her results are to estimates of the same quantities made by more sophisticated instruments,” she says.

Potential uses

The success of Diefenbach’s pilot project is something she hopes to be able to present to agencies and groups at conferences after she has defended her thesis this fall. Her goal is for geologists across the globe who may not have access to the latest equipment to be able to incorporate her system into their volcano research, a goal Crider says is of enormous value.

"Most volcanoes in the world have no continuous monitoring, and many are so remote that flying over them in a helicopter may be one of the only ways to get information about an eruption. With Angie’s technique, it will be possible to get quantitative information, rather than just pictures. This will help volcanologists track the progress of an eruption and evaluate the hazards, even without fancy instruments on the ground. Because the technique is relatively low cost—less than a few thousand dollars for a camera, computer and software—it is accessible to many more researchers than other methods. We imagine it being used by volcanologists in developing nations or anywhere that funding for science is limited."

Dr. Arlan Norman, dean of WWU’s College of Sciences and Technology, says this type of research is a continuing focus at Western.

This photo of Angela Diefenbach and Daniel Dzurisin, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist, was taken by U.S. Geological Survey team member Steve Schilling. Schilling also took the photo on the facing page of Angela Diefenbach. The photo pictured below of Mount St. Helens from the northwest face was taken by Jim Vallance (76), also a member of the U.S. Geological Survey team studying the volcano’s activity.
“Many of the research challenges faced by developing countries and their scientists can be addressed only if lower-cost ways can be found to do the research. Often, finding ways to get the results we need, using less costly methods, really takes immense imagination and creativity and should be a goal of some of our research efforts,” he says. “A hallmark of our research programs in Geology—and in the College of Sciences and Technology in general—is that they involve both undergraduate and graduate students in all aspects of the research, making the educational experience and research environment somewhat unique.”

**Research and conclusions**

Diefenbach's data shows that the lava dome inside the Mount St. Helens crater is growing at a rate more than double that of its first growth surge in the 1980s. She says this isn't necessarily cause for concern.

“It could continue at its present rate for years without necessarily having another major eruption, or it could start to slow down tomorrow and become inactive, as it did from 1986 to about 2000. You just never know,” she says.

Flying around the inside of a volcano crater in a helicopter is not a typical graduate student activity, but Diefenbach says it's one of the highlights of her thesis work. "It's a blast—especially when the doors are open."

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**WASHINGTON GET PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

By Dee Johnson (’96)
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Although a successful career in government has taken Chuck Odell (’52) away from Western and the WWU campus, he has maintained close ties with the University. He is a member of the President’s Club and has been an active participant in Alumni Association programs.

He took notice 10 years ago when the Washington state GET program was introduced and immediately purchased GET units for his four grandchildren. His grandson, Charles Kyle Odell, began using GET units last year when he enrolled at Western. The proud grandfather notes that Charles Kyle finished his freshman year with a 4.92 GPA.

Charles Kyle is one of more than 550 students on Western’s campus who are currently using GET units to pay all or a portion of their tuition.

Western has some special ties to the Washington GET program. Director Betty Everett Lochner (’76, ’87) has been involved with the GET program for seven years. She met her husband Ken Lochner (’79) at Western. Their daughter Kalli Mae Lochner, now a high school senior, has applied to Western.

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**California Elementary School Adopts Western**

By Lance Henderson (’07)
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Western T-shirts, hoodies and souvenirs will soon be in high demand at Valley View Elementary School in Riverside, Calif.

Catherine Green’s kindergarten class is adopting Western Washington University as part of its application to the “No Excuses University” network, a program used to promote awareness and excitement about higher education options in elementary schools.

Greer is committed to promoting college readiness for every one of her students and is excited to be a part of the No Excuses University network. She is also looking forward to the connections she will build with WWU.

Her daughter, Deb Currier, is an assistant professor in the University’s College of Fine and Performing Arts, so Greer already knew that Western, like Valley View Elementary, is focused on helping students reach their highest potentials.

Greer has also discovered that Valley View and Western share another common bond: they are both Viking Schools.

Joanne Carney, associate professor of instructional technology and elementary education at Western’s Woodring College of Education, knows just how powerful connections to a university can be. She saw the proof of that after sending her 10-year-old niece, who lives in Massachusetts, a postcard of Western’s campus.

Carney’s sister reported back that her daughter excitedly went to the Western website to find out more, and she then decided that she wants to come to Western to become either a teacher or a scientist.

“Is my niece likely to come to Western from Massachusetts?” she asked. “Probably not, but she nonetheless has an image in her mind of a very attractive place she can attend later if she dedicates herself to learning in her elementary school now.”

Carney says it’s very important for elementary school teachers to make all students aware of higher education options.

“Establishing those kinds of expectations for children provides them with real-life goals and gives meaning to what they are learning in the classroom,” she says.

She also points out that elementary teachers have an opportunity to give students from low-income families these kinds of college-bound mental images.

“They may not have a college-oriented family, but elementary school is a good time for them to think about what is wanted for their future,” Carney says.

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Rep. Larry Springer Re-elected to State House of Representatives

Rep. Larry Springer (69) D-Kirkland, is the majority floor leader for the Washington state House of Representatives. He was recently re-elected to his second term serving the 45th district.

A former public school teacher, Springer was elected to the Kirkland City Council in 1993. He served in that position until 2004, when he left to run for the state House of Representatives. He has also served as mayor of Kirkland. An advocate for economic development, social responsibility and the arts, Springer was instrumental in bringing a Performing Arts Center to Kirkland. He is the owner of The Grape Cafe, a small wine shop located in downtown Kirkland.

1965 - Bob Storms taught music in Ferndale for 38 years and has recently published a book that includes a collection of columns he wrote for the Ferndale Record-Journal relating stories from his teaching days.

1961 - Donna Thompson was featured on the Today show on July 27 in an interview with Matt Lauer regarding playground safety. She is the executive director of the National Program for Playground Safety at the University of Northern Iowa. Thompson is the 2005 recipient of the Western Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award.

1962 - Dennis Myers has been inducted into the Washington Officials Association Hall of Fame for his diverse contributions to basketball officiating, which include serving as three-time president of the Snohomish County Basketball Officials Association and writing the association's constitution and by-laws. He is the first official from Snohomish County to receive this honor.

1967 - Jim and Sandy Swanson recently retired and decided to close Swanson's Shoe Repair in Bothell. The store has been a fixture on Bothell's Main Street for the past 40 years. The couple met while attending Western...

WEDDINGS

1963 - Gary Gerhard and Tamara Reis, on April 28
1978 - David Lee and Bonnie Coffee, on June 2
1987 - Stuart Jones and Hool Dinh, on July 9
1994 - Matthew Henderson and Michelle Elliott (00), on March 3
1997 - Carol Franco and Lance E. Ingles, on July 7
1998 - Jeffrey Dwyer and Carol Hathaway, on June 16
1999 - John Miles and Katie Callahan, on June 30
2001 - Michael Dashell and Margaret Truck, on March 10
2002 - Charlie Heggem and Kelly Kangas, on March 17
2003 - Justin Spinelli and Margaret Newland, on May 11
2004 - Allen Parker and Kimberly See, on April 14
2004 - Jason Urkw and Emily Johnson, on May 6
2004 - David Schute and Julie Jones, on April 14
2005 - Eric Mathews and Amy Byegde, on June 23
2005 - Peter Ahn and Lydia Steele, on March 16
2005 - Robert Jackson and Kendra Speelman, on June 8
2005 - Emily Samuels and Joshua Sebastian, on March 24
2006 - Jonathan Shaffer and Elizabeth Marsh, on March 16

1969 - George Drew was named winner of the 2007 Stephen Dunn Poetry Award and first runner up for the 2007 Louisiana Literature Prize and the Fugue Poetry Prize. He is the author of two full poetry collections, including the recent. The Honors Name was Physics.

1971 - John W. Schutt was honored with a service award from The Metropolitical Society, an international organization devoted to the study of space matter. Since 1986, Schutt has been guiding scientists across the polar ice sheets of Antarctica in search of meteors...

1972 - Lila Pinson has released her third book, May Mon, which takes place in the Quinault village where she was born and raised. Patricia Wood Weber retired from Olympic School District after serving nearly 31 years as a teacher and librarian.

1974 - Karen Johnston has had her art displayed at the Art in the Park in Boise, Idaho and the University of Washington's Henry Art Gallery. One of her large wall hangings is in the private aircraft of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. ... Greg Colfax, a Makah carver, fisherman and poet, recently presented a lecture on the "Origins and Fears of North West Coast Native Art."
of a design and marketing firm in Green Lake. ... Brendolyn Johner received an Amer­
Murphy Award from Mount Technological University. In 2006, she received a dual
of recent hires to the WWU Alumni Association, died Oct. 5. He was 57. ... football player, joined with three other musicians to
of 2006 in Sequim. ... and foster parent of 26 children, on April 25 at Warm
1973 - Dianne Louise Crosslin, 50, a former
1972 - Mary L. Burke, 82, a former
1969 - Theodore M. Bondurant, 71, a Lutheran pastor and
1971 - Gladys I. Kennedy, 89, a gardener, organist and
1973 - Dianne Louise Crosslin, 57, a former elementary
1973 - Richard "Dick" Morris, 66, a musician and former
1976 - Douglas S. Ewing, 53, a former teacher and
1978 - Sheila D. (Smith) Rogers, 72, a former high school
1948 - Robert B. Dickson, 91, an enthusiastic adventurer on Aug. 11 in Kahuku, Hawaii.
1975 - Margy (Smith) Moisten, 53, a lifelong educator, on June 20 in
1955 - Mary Ann (Bailey) Brumsickle, 72, a former
1968 - John Paul Olson, 66, a former teacher and retired
1956 - Douglas S. Ewing, 53, an attorney and political
1949 - Mary Anne (Moore) DeGolier, 69, a former teacher, on Oct. 25, 2006.
1971 - William A. "Bill" Tomaras, 85, a former director of Men's
1960 - Ilia Lucile (Ackles) Williams, 87, a former elementary
1958 - Palma Solberg Hoover, 72, a retired teacher, on Sept. 21.
1968 - Paul E. Smith, 83, a World War II veteran, former
1966 - John C. Gall (Smith) Moisten, 53, a former
1958 - Erika Godwin, 20, a punter/kicker for the Atlanta Falcons for
1959 - Sarah Price, 23, a homemaker, on April 1 in Louisville, Ky.
1959 - Thomas Adrian Nils Alberg, 53, a former
1973 - Andrew Joslyn, 47, a teacher, software special­
1972 - Mary L. Burke, 82, a former elementary
1967 - Beatrice (Moore) DeGolier, 69, a former teacher, librarian and world traveler, on May 7 in Bellingham.
1958 - John Paul Olson, 66, a former teacher and retired
1950 - Betty Lou Williams Erickson, 88, a former educator and United Way Fund, Camp Fire Girls, PTA, the City of Diamond Bar and the Brea Hospital Auxiliary, on July 8.
1956 - John Holgraf, 77, a former real estate
1955 - Mary Anne (Moore) DeGolier, 69, a former teacher, on May 16 in Shelton.
1954 - Harry Loring, 87, a former Washington state speaker of the
1969 - John Paul Olson, 66, a former teacher and retired
1957 - John Holgraf, 77, a former real estate
1974 - Brenda Ridenhour, 49, a former teacher and recipient of the Parent Teacher Associa­
1971 - William A. "Bill" Tomaras, 85, a former director of Men's
1961 - Mary A. (Holgraf) Holgraf, 88, a former teacher and counselor, on Nov. 3, 2006 in Everett.
1960 - Ilia Lucile (Ackles) Williams, 87, a former elementary
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Performing Arts Center Series

Trio Mediaeval
Thursday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m.
The Trio Mediaeval repertoire features polyphonic music from old ballads and songs and contemporary works, a seamless and precise blending of voices and impeccable intonation. 

PAC Concert Hall – Tickets: $16-$25

Le Trio Joubran
Friday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Well known throughout the Arab world, the three Joubran brothers deliver rich and beautiful vocal harmonies showcasing traditional Palestinian influences.

PAC Concert Hall – Tickets: $16-$25

Quartet San Francisco
Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.
Performing with tango dancers, Quartet San Francisco redefines chamber music and brings classical music to a new level with genre-bending world influences.

PAC Concert Hall – Tickets: $16-$25

On Ensemble
Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m
On Ensemble employs traditional taiko rhythms to conceive an original sound combining acoustic instruments, electronic influences and Tuvan overtone singing.

PAC Concert Hall – Tickets: $16-$25

Sanford Piano Series

Ian Parker
Friday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m

PAC Concert Hall – Tickets: $9-$16

Robert Roux
Friday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m

PAC Concert Hall – Tickets: $9-$16

Orion Weiss
Friday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m

PAC Concert Hall – Tickets: $9-$16

The Sanford Piano Series is sponsored by the Spirit Fund of Whatcom Community Foundation. Proceeds support the Arthur Hicks and Ford Hill Piano Scholarships.

Tickets & Information
http://calendar.wwu.edu

"Rigger Big Chair," a sculpture by Bay Area artist David Ireland, is the newest addition to Western’s acclaimed Outdoor Sculpture Collection.

The new sculpture, inspired by a chair and described by the artist as "micro-architecture," is made of coated steel plate and measures 8 feet high and 12 feet long. It was installed in September on Fairhaven Ridge, located between WWU’s Buchanan Towers residence hall and Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Ireland grew up in Bellingham and attended Western’s Campus School. He earned a master’s in Fine Arts at the San Francisco Art Institute. His first solo show was at the Whatcom Museum of History and Art in 1976. A recent retrospective of his work was hosted at the Oakland Museum of Art. Ireland has had numerous one-person exhibitions at major institutions and museums. A leader in functional art form, he is known for his creative solutions to existing architectural spaces.

Western’s Outdoor Sculpture Collection was named one of the 10 best on-campus public art collections in a survey published last year in Public Art Review magazine.

The Western Gallery opened its 2007-2008 season with the "Fabric of Identity" exhibition of textiles and fiber/multimedia installations exploring the representation of identities from a number of different perspectives. The exhibition runs through Nov. 30.

Photo by Lance Henderson ('07)