Spring 2008

Window on Western, 2008, Volume 14, Issue 02

Paul Cocke
Western Washington University

Alumni, Foundation, and Office of University Communications, Western Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: https://cedar.wwu.edu/window_on_western

Part of the Higher Education Commons

Recommended Citation
https://cedar.wwu.edu/window_on_western/39

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Western Publications at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Window on Western by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact westerncedar@wwu.edu.
Karen W. Morse Gave Students a Lift; Western Soared During Her Presidency

By Paul Cocke
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

When Karen W. Morse first visited Western Washington University in 1993, she was surprised to see the University library still using an outmoded card catalog system.

"I thought we could do better than that," says Morse, the president of Western, who will retire Sept. 1.

Indeed, the University has reached many more goals than Morse might have imagined possible when she started as president at Western 15 years ago.

The University has grown and prospered. New, modern academic buildings grace south campus; many other buildings have been added to or extensively refurbished. The latest technologies have been embraced, enrollment has steadily climbed and Western's academic reputation has soared. The campus looks to the future with plans to expand to the Bellingham waterfront.

In the midst of so many changes, Morse has maintained an unerring emphasis on what is best about Western—its devotion to students and to the value of a liberal arts education.

"Commitment to the student by the entire University is a hallmark of Western," Morse says. "Our faculty, students, staff and Administration all are engaged and work extremely hard to make this a great place to learn."

A resolve to engage the campus in looking for ways to creatively and consistently improve the educational climate is a core facet of her leadership of the University.

"Her guiding principle has always been what's best for the education of students," says Kevin Raymond, chair of Western's Board of Trustees. "That focused, determined leadership has served the University extremely well."

During her tenure, Western has been ranked for 11 consecutive years as second among the top master's granting universities in the West, according to U.S. News & World Report. Kiplinger's magazine now ranks WWU among the top public colleges in the nation offering a combination of outstanding academic quality at an affordable price tag.

"Under the stewardship of President Morse for the past 15 years, Western Washington University has fostered a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence and is regarded as one of the top colleges and universities of its kind in the nation. President Morse has been a strong and articulate advocate for higher education. Her service to the state of Washington is deeply appreciated," says Gov. Chris Gregoire.

The Western Experience

Western Art Professor Rosalie King recalls driving to campus on a cold, frosty morning. Up ahead, she saw a student walking along a sidewalk toward campus with a backpack and carrying a large black portfolio case that was being buffeted by the wind. A car stopped next to the student, and the driver opened the passenger door. The student smiled gratefully and got in.

"When I arrived at my morning class just minutes later there was the same delighted young woman who had just ridden to school with President Morse. She was the envy of the class," says King, adding that she often heard of similar acts of kindness by Morse.

More than a few students hoisting it up steep hills to campus in the rain have seen her car stop as she offered rides. Morse never advertised the fact; she just thought it was the right thing to do.

"We chat about the University, about being a student here," Morse says. "I learn a lot."

Learning has been a lifelong constant for Morse, and she has been a pioneer in a field that for years was not exactly crowded with women in top science or academic leadership posts.

CONTENTS

2 Briefly
University news

3 Campus Connections
Items of Interest about the University

4 Investments in Excellence
Award Landmark

5 Western's New President

8 Class Notes, Weddings, Memorials

10 Accent on Alumni
Reflections on a New Era, Alumni Commencement Speakers

12 Drive with Western Pride

Western President Karen W. Morse is honored by the Washington State Senate while her husband Joe looks on. The State House of Representatives also honored her.

Western's New President Karen W. Morse is honored by the Washington State Senate while her husband Joe looks on. The State House of Representatives also honored her.
WWU Ranked Third in Peace Corps Volunteerism

Western ranks third among the top medium-sized colleges and universities with alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 2007. Fifty-three Western alumni currently are serving as volunteers. Since the Peace Corps’ inception in 1961, 732 Western alumni have served. In the rankings for medium-sized schools, the University of Virginia tops the list, followed by George Washington University and then Western Washington University, Cornell University and The College of William and Mary.

WWU Hires Stegmeier as New Police Chief

Western has hired Randy Stegmeier as its new Director of Public Safety/University Police Chief. He began his duties Jan. 14. Stegmeier has almost 35 years of law-enforcement experience. He most recently was the executive director of Safety/Security, Facilities and Capital Projects at Shoreline Community College in Seattle. He also served as commandant of the Washington State Law Enforcement Academy and as assistant chief of the University of Washington Police Department. Stegmeier replaces interim chief of police Dave Doughty, who has assumed his previous role of assistant chief. Doughty had been acting chief of police since August 2007, when Jim Shaw retired. Shaw served for nine years at Western.

WWU Jumps to No. 38 in Kiplinger’s Rankings as a Best Value School

Western improved by 10 spots to rank 38th among the top 100 public colleges and universities in the nation that offer “a combination of outstanding academic quality plus an affordable price tag,” according to Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine. In its February issue, Kiplinger’s magazine ranks Western 38th on its list of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges in the United States. The magazine ranked Western 48th in 2007. The magazine ranked each school after an analysis of academic quality, including SAT scores, admission and retention rates, cost and financial aid, including factors such as tuition, mandatory fees, financial aid available and room and board.

Cox Hired as New Dean of Libraries

Christopher Cox will become the new dean of Libraries at Western by the end of the current academic year. Cox will be responsible for the overall leadership, management and direction of the Libraries and their programs. Cox was hired following a nationwide search. He currently serves as assistant director of Libraries at Washington State University and was previously interim director of Libraries of McIntyre Library at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire. Cox succeeds Béla Foltin Jr., who has retired.

Program Helps Former Students Graduate

Western is providing an innovative new resource to former Western students who left the university with close to or more than enough credits to graduate. Destination Graduation, established with a grant from College Spark, caters to senior-level students who have been away from the university for more than one year and who are not academically deficient. The Destination Graduation program simplifies the process for returning students and allows them to concentrate on their studies by providing graduation and application assistance, personalized academic advising and financial aid opportunities and resources. For more information about Destination Graduation, contact Student Outreach Services at Western at (360) 650-3843 or visit http://www.wwu.edu/depts/sos/dgsite/dg.shtml.

Demmert Gets Grant to Study Indigenous Language, Education

Western Professor William Demmert has received a grant to study the influences of indigenous language development and a culturally based education program on improved academic performance. The $125,575 grant, which is from the Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii, will help identify teaching and curriculum strategies that will be more successful with students who are not currently served well by schools. Demmert, a member of the Oglala Sioux and the Alaska Tlingit tribes, is a professor at Woodring College of Education.

Western Students Sweep Pacific Northwest Student Magazine Awards

Western Washington University journalism students swept the Student Magazine category of the recently announced Society of Professional Journalists Region 10 Mark of Excellence Awards, with its two magazines, Klipsun and The Planet, finishing in first and second place, respectively. SJ’s Region 10 encompasses the states of Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Montana; all colleges and universities in these states, regardless of size, compete in the regional awards competition. All submissions were written or published during the 2007 school year. Klipsun is produced by the WWU Journalism Department, while The Planet is produced by WWU’s Huxley College of the Environment.

Western Presents First-Ever ‘Grandparents U’

Western is introducing “Grandparents U,” a new summer program featuring an innovative way for grandparents and grandchildren ages 7 to 14 to bond through active hands-on learning. Grandparents U is offered in partnership with WWU’s Extended Education and Summer Programs and WWU’s Alumni Association. The new two-day summer program offers participants a choice between nine exciting and diverse topics, ranging from plastics engineering to bird watching.

“It’s an opportunity for grandparents and their grandchildren to be together for an intergenerational learning experience in a university environment,” said Diana Bakkom, assistant director of Summer Programs at WWU.

Western’s Alumni Association is participating in the program by sponsoring and hosting a tailgate barbecue that gives Grandparents U participants the chance to meet WWU alumni. Grandparents U will run Thursday and Friday, July 17 and 18, on WWU’s campus. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis through July 10. The program cost is $195 per adult-child pair, and includes instruction, activities and the Thursday night barbecue. Each additional adult is $135 and each additional child is $75. Lodging in University dorms and meals in the dining hall are also available at an additional cost. Alumni Association members receive a $25 discount. For information and registration, visit www.ExtendedEd.wwu.edu or call (360) 650-3308.
WWU to Work with Kitsap Transit on New High-Mileage Hybrid Passenger-Bus Design

By John Thompson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Western Washington University’s Vehicle Research Institute (VRI) is working with Bremerton-based Kitsap Transit to produce a prototype hybrid passenger bus that will get double the miles per gallon of its existing buses.

The prototype will be used to construct a fleet of up to six buses that will be purchased by Kitsap Transit.

“Kitsap’s 15-passenger buses are now getting about eight or nine miles per gallon. What we hope to produce is a hybrid vehicle that will get at least 20 miles per gallon - and we’re shooting for 30,” said Eric Leonhardt (PhD), director of the VRI.

Dick Hayes, executive director of Kitsap Transit, said the genesis for this project lies in a tripling of wholesale diesel-fuel prices during the past three years.

“Diesel wholesale prices have gone from .87 cents per gallon to $2.68. Some analysts are saying we could be looking at $5 to $7 a gallon by 2012, and that would just shatter our budget,” he said. “This whole industry needs a wakeup call, and we just felt that the VRI is the most imaginative, hands-on group to get us the breakthrough design we need.”

Hayes said that while Kitsap Transit is taking the lead on this project other regional transit systems will be paying close attention to its progress.

“We can’t do it alone; we’re going to need all the systems to buy in,” he said.

Leonhardt says he envisions the project taking about three years, depending on the funding that is available: the VRI has applied for a grant from the Washington Technology Center, and will apply for more funding from a number of the regional transportation authorities.

“This is going to be a great learning tool for our students,” said Leonhardt.

According to Leonhardt, all that is set in stone on the design so far is that it will be a fuel/electric hybrid; whether the fuel is biodiesel, biomethane from the VRI’s award-winning manure-to-fuel program, or another type has not yet been decided.

The Vehicle Research Institute is Western Washington University’s award-winning vehicle-design laboratory, producing everything from solar-powered vehicles to its electric-biomethane hybrid.

The VRI is working on a system to refine biomethane from dairy farm waste to power its hybrid vehicle with the refined biomethane. The project was a winner in a national competition on sustainability, earning it a $75,000 award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

I Am Honored to Have Spent 15 Years at Such a Wonderful Institution

By Karen W. Morse
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

As you know, I will be retiring in September so this will be my last column to you in Window on Western. It has been an ongoing pleasure to share with you so many great stories and interesting updates on the achievements of Western alumni, students, faculty and staff.

During the past 15 years I have deeply appreciated the many individuals who truly care about the University and its mission of quality higher education. With your help, I feel our University has taken major steps toward becoming a premier and nationally recognized liberal arts institution.

Throughout my time as president, I have been grateful for the efforts of our dedicated Western family – students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors – as they have worked together to create an educational environment that is first and foremost about what is best for students. Our Board of Trustees, composed of distinguished men and women who deeply care about and believe in Western, provide wise and thoughtful leadership.

Through the efforts of so many, the University has prospered. I often meet with Western alumni – graduates from 50, 20 years ago or just last quarter – and find that there is a real fondness and pride in this institution. These graduates leave Western and go on to make significant impacts throughout our state and nation. They are successful scientists, physicians, teachers, engineers, writers, artists and stars in many other fields. I meet so many former students who say how much attending Western meant to them and how it changed their lives.

Being the president of your University for the past 15 years has been an extraordinary honor for me and I will always think of my many faculty and staff colleagues and friends at Western with great affection. The chair of the regional accreditation team that recently visited Western referred to the fact that the University had been “transformed” in the last 15 years. I know it has – and all our faculty and staff associated with Western made it happen!

It is the right time for me to retire, and I look forward to spending more time with my family and traveling. It is also the right time to bring in a new president, and I have complete confidence in Bruce Shepard, now the chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, who will succeed me as president of Western on September 1.

My best hopes and thoughts will always be with Western Washington University. I appreciate the time we have spent sharing Western stories.

I invite you to visit Western at Commencement or during the summer, a wonderful time to return to campus to see how we are meeting the challenges of the future. I'll see you then!
Levels of Giving Took Huge Leap During Morse's Tenure

By John Thompson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

If growth is a realistic gauge of success, then the levels of giving during President Morse's 15-year tenure at Western Washington University show an unparalleled period of achievement that will remain as one of her greatest legacies.

WWU Foundation endowment levels when President Morse arrived on campus in 1993 were at about $4 million; when she leaves in September, levels will have grown to about $30 million. The Foundation's total assets in 1993 totaled around $9 million; by the end of the 2007 fiscal year, they had grown to about $47 million.

There are other gauges of success. For example, the number of Life ($25,000 and above) and Benefactor ($100,000 and above) members of the President's Club has more than quadrupled during her tenure.

Much of this success can be attributed to the tireless fundraising efforts of President Morse, says Stephanie Bowers, WWU's Vice President for University Advancement.

"Scholarships continue to be one of WWU's greatest needs. We want to reward our great incoming students."

-- Hoyt Gier

"She has been able to forge such incredibly strong relationships with alumni, parents and local and regional business and industry leaders," Bowers says. "She has increased the visibility and connections of the University by taking it off the hill and into the community, and one of her greatest assets has always been that once she has forged these relationships, she's always been willing to ask for whatever the University needed. And likely as not, when she's asked, they've said yes."

Scholarships show a similar trend. In 1993, about 300 scholarships were awarded through the Foundation each year; that number is now close to 1,000 awards with more than $1.3 million awarded.

"Scholarships continue to be one of WWU's greatest needs. We want to reward our great incoming students, and provide opportunities to students with financial need. We want to attract the most diverse student body possible," says Hoyt Gier, president of the WWU Foundation. "But all this takes private resources, and President Morse's contacts and relationships have allowed us to grow tremendously in this area."

Morse also has been instrumental in the successful growth of the Bellingham and Seattle business forums. Bowers says, "For example, using both the Seattle and Bellingham Business Forums not just as a PR effort but as a way to raise additional money for scholarships was an idea she supported, and it's been a tremendous success," she says.

Last year, nearly $125,000 was raised at the two events.

Gier also attributes Morse's ability to boost volunteerism across the campus in such groups as the Western Foundation's Board of Directors as being directly related to the University's fiscal growth.

"People like to be around Karen. Her enthusiasm for Western is contagious. She has pulled in people to serve the University as volunteers or donors simply because she believes in the importance of the University to the community."

"It begins to build upon itself. More people want to serve... and in the end, that's what her legacy is really going to be all about."

Alumni Scholarships Have Never Been Higher—$100,000 Will Help Attract, Keep Deserving Students

By Carolyn Dale
SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The Western Washington University Alumni Association will hit a landmark this fall with its largest-ever annual scholarship gift—$100,000 to new and returning students.

"It's huge for us, and will result in a significant increase in scholarship recipients this year," said Deborah DeWees, executive director. "We hope to continue that level of support in future years."

The association is taking a new approach by giving block grants to the Admissions Office, the Athletics Department, and each of Western's seven colleges for distribution as scholarships.

Admissions is awarding 32 scholarships of $1,000 each to freshmen from seven counties. Called the Western Emerging Leaders Alumni Scholarships, "these are for geographic areas with large concentrations of alumni," DeWees said.

During April, admissions staff looked through files of students accepted from Snohomish, Clark, Pierce, Thurston, Kittitas and Skagit counties.

"We looked at who is admitted to Western and went through their applications, hand-selecting them based on academic achievement and leadership potential, as shown in their personal statements," said Michael Barr, assistant director of Admissions.

Barr said they also looked for connections to Western, such as parents who are alumni. Local media in some of these counties may give more visibility and recognition to the students' achievements than in larger urban areas, he said.

"The focus is helping the University to retain and recruit the highest-caliber students."

-- Deborah DeWees

Meanwhile, the alumni association board itself is awarding a total of $45,000 in scholarships. In addition, each of Western's colleges will give three alumni-funded scholarships of $1,000, and the Athletics Department will award two, DeWees said. "The focus is helping the university to retain and recruit the highest-caliber students."

Money for the scholarships comes from a portion of alumni association membership dues, the alumni association endowment earnings, and WWU license plate sales.

For each alumni license plate, including renewals, the association gets back $28 from the Department of Licensing to use for scholarships.

The fact that some of the alumni scholarships are renewable is essential to students who count on them during their years at Western.

Melissa Baldwin, a senior in the human services program, said the continuing support means she will go on to graduate school at Western this fall to pursue a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling with an emphasis in disabilities.

Baldwin transferred from the community college in her hometown of Twin Falls, Idaho, in fall 2006 with the help of an alumni-funded scholarship. Looking back, she said a remarkable aspect of the scholarship was the way it was still there for her, even after she had to delay transferring to Western by a year.

"That's a true testament to keeping up the connection," she said. "That's what I like to tell about my story."

Baldwin said she has worked to keep "pretty much a 4.0" grade-point average and treats her studies as though they are her job.

"My grades are extremely important to me. I work hard, but I want you to know your money is going to good use. I certainly appreciate every penny I get," she said.

Baldwin feels Western has made a commitment to her that she wants to return. During an internship, she worked to improve disability access on campus, where "all of those bricks are an issue themselves. The study resulted in making accessibility recommendations to Western officials."

"Some of my suggestions have been followed through on, and you know your voice is being heard," she said. "Western has made a mark on me, and I'm making my mark on Western."

Kasse Rupp, a senior from East Wenatchee who is majoring in biochemistry and plans to graduate this spring, said the impact of having the renewable scholarships is "hard to explain. But I use my friends worrying all the time at the back of their minds about how they're going pay for things. It's so nice not to have that worry. Instead, I can concentrate on school."

While her brother was at Western, he had similar scholarship support, she said; they overlapped on campus by one year. During the summer Rupp works on San Juan Island with a kayak tour company. During the school year she works for the Admissions Office, where she leads tours for visitors to campus. "That job pays the rent," she said.

But Rupp said she couldn't do it without the scholarship from the alumni association.

"It's awesome to get through without debt," she said, "and in four years."

Rupp plans to go to graduate school but will work for a while first, she said, perhaps at a Seattle biotech company.

"I'd like to end up in cancer research," she said. "That's my goal."
Karen Morse continued.

She earned her master's degree and doctorate from the University of Michigan, where she met her husband, Joseph G. Morse, now a retired Western chemistry professor and former director of Science Education. She came to Western from Utah State University, where she served as a professor of chemistry, head of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department and dean of the College of Science before being named provost in 1989.

Morse has published extensively in the field of chemistry and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1997, she received the Francis P. Garvan-John M. Olin Award, one of the American Chemical Society's highest honors.

"Western was the kind of school that I wanted to come to. I've always had a love for undergraduate education," says Morse. "We treasure our liberal arts core and expect every student who graduates from Western to have experienced what a liberal arts education does for you—whether you end up majoring in a traditional liberal arts field or you go into a professional field."

Western faculty members are acknowledged experts in many fields, and the high caliber of its faculty is crucial to the University's success, Morse says.

Western faculty research reaches across the region, state and world in its benefits and applications. To name just a few, Western researchers are studying global warming in the arctic, researching a compound that might aid in the fight against liver cancer, creating alternative fuels to gasoline, working to improve math and science education at all grade levels and developing new lightweight composite materials that will help manufacturers develop new products.

"Science education at Western Washington University is a recognized national model of how to prepare the next generation of science teachers," says George "Pinkie" Nelson, director of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education (SMATE). "It would not be what it is without the active support of President Morse and her husband Joe, who was the first director of SMATE. One cannot overestimate the impact of a president who understands the science as well as the difficulty and the critical importance of good science instruction on a program like ours. At every turn, we received encouragement and vital resources that allowed us to compete successfully for outside funds to continue to explore new ways to improve science education from kindergarten through college."

Morse has led an approach at Western called "The Western Experience," an interwoven mix of academic excellence, active learning, personal attention to students, a unique residential experience, respect for diversity and beautiful campus surroundings. At Western, faculty often work closely with undergraduate students in their research and academic achievements.

"We have faculty who are creative and very active in their fields. And they are scholars," Morse says. "They work on significant research, but not at the expense of their interaction with students."

Focus on Collaboration

Throughout the years, Morse and Joe have been fixtures at countless faculty, staff, student, alumni and community events.

"I remember her attendance at one of the early ethnic student retreats, in which the students invited her into a no-laughing game in front of the entire audience," says Eileen Coughlin, Western's vice president for Student Affairs. "One of the student leaders attempted antics that would make anyone break a straight face. The audience was absorbed in the contest as President Morse's face remained absent any expression. The students loved her willingness to be one of the group in a way that set a tone for the weekend."

Morse has fostered an emphasis on collaboration with students across a wide range of campus activities. Of note was the green energy program. When a small group of students was inspired by a Huskey College of the Environment professor to look into Western obtaining all of its electricity from renewable sources, Morse and Western's Administration encouraged and worked with them to make that vision a reality. Western became one of the first colleges or universities in the nation to obtain 100 percent of its electricity from green power sources, such as wind power.

Community service is another core tenet at Western. Students serve as interns and volunteers throughout the state, region and nation, often through their academic programs in service-learning projects. WWU alumni continue this strong tradition of service. Western ranked third among the top medium-sized colleges and universities with alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 2007.

Athletics also has prospered at Western, and Morse is proud of its many notable achievements from the past 15 years—such as the women's rowing team seeking its unprecedented fourth consecutive national championship in June.

Yet of greater importance to her is the balance of athletics and academic where "we have student-athletes, not athletes who also happen to be students."

Western's intramurals and club sports also are very popular, part of an emphases on students by fitness, as witnessed by their support for construction of the state-of-the-art Wade King Student Recreation Center, which opened fall 2003. It is part of the attraction of Western—an "active minds, active lives" approach where students snowboard and ski at Mount Baker, mountain bike, rock climb and are encouraged to follow their interests.

"President Morse rejoices upon our victories and accomplishments and bleeds Viking Blue with every loss, whether on the scoreboard or in our community that she calls her own," says Ramiro Espinoza, Associated
Surmounting Challenges

Morse's stamina is well known. Many workers in the University's Old Main administration building often see her parked car when they arrive for work and then again when they leave. That type of strength is needed to run an institution with an annual operating budget of $223 million, nearly 13,000 students, seven different colleges, 1,700 faculty and staff and 110 buildings.

Some decisions have been momentous—such as the breakup of a much larger College of Arts and Sciences into the two separate colleges of Humanities and Social Sciences and Sciences and Technology, placing Western in a better position to attract students and resources. The rise and fall of state funding also has led to difficult choices.

Unfortunately, the first year I came we were being cut. And that has gone up and down. We've had some good years and some pretty lean years," Morse says, adding, "But one thing I discovered is that we're really effective and efficient in the way we use our money. And we've maintained a deep commitment to the academic area."

Western's reputation in turn has led to success in securing funds from the Legislature, providing modern facilities and equipment for the education of Western students: Campus infrastructure has markedly improved, with construction of new buildings such as the Chemistry, Biology and Science, Math and Technology Education buildings, the Communications Facility, Wade King Student Recreation Center and Campus Services facility; major renovation of the Haggard Library and Viking Union and current construction of the Academic Instructional Center, the largest construction project in Western's history. During the 2005-07 biennium, capital appropriations was $73 million, the highest in the University's history.

She also has personally led planning for expansion of Western to the Bellingham waterfront. Western is the third-largest four-year campus in student population in the state but the smallest in geographic size, bordered by the arboretum and close-by neighborhoods. Some have described the campus configuration in golf terms as a narrow "dog-leg right," Morse says.

Too many more new buildings on campus would change Western's character and beauty, so Morse has presided over an inclusive planning process to work with the Port of Bellingham to locate part of Western—such as Huxley College of the Environment—at the former Georgia Pacific waterfront site being developed by the Port. The move to the waterfront also will increase access to Western as well as free up needed lab and instructional space on campus.

Throughout, there have been difficulties to face, from various crises on campus to the stroke suffered by her husband Joe, who has steadfastly remained at her side through it all. "And that has gone up and down. We've had some good years and some pretty lean years," Morse says, adding, "But one thing I discovered is that we're really effective and efficient in the way we use our money. And we've maintained a deep commitment to the academic area."

Morse's reputation in turn has led to success in securing funds from the Legislature, providing modern facilities and equipment for the education of Western students: Campus infrastructure has markedly improved, with construction of new buildings such as the Chemistry, Biology and Science, Math and Technology Education buildings, the Communications Facility, Wade King Student Recreation Center and Campus Services facility; major renovation of the Haggard Library and Viking Union and current construction of the Academic Instructional Center, the largest construction project in Western's history. During the 2005-07 biennium, capital appropriations was $73 million, the highest in the University's history.

She also has personally led planning for expansion of Western to the

A Legacy for the Future

Craig Cole (77), CEO of Brown & Cole Stores, was a member of Western's Board of Trustees in 1993 and led the search effort that resulted in Morse being selected as Western's 12th president. At the time, the search committee was looking for "someone with seasoned judgment and integrity with a strong background as a scholar, and that's what we got (in Morse)," Cole says.

Cole says that Morse has provided "long-term, stable and thoughtful leadership" and that the results of her leadership will be evident many years into the future.

"The campus has been restored and renewed, and her legacy will be enjoyed by future generations," Cole says.

Morse announced her plans to retire a year in advance to allow an orderly process for selection of her successor. In retirement, she will have more time for her family, including two small grandchildren, writing and travel.

She will be handing off a strong and stable University that is well-positioned for success in securing funds from the Legislature, providing modern facilities and equipment for the education of Western students: Campus infrastructure has markedly improved, with construction of new buildings such as the Chemistry, Biology and Science, Math and Technology Education buildings, the Communications Facility, Wade King Student Recreation Center and Campus Services facility; major renovation of the Haggard Library and Viking Union and current construction of the Academic Instructional Center, the largest construction project in Western's history. During the 2005-07 biennium, capital appropriations was $73 million, the highest in the University's history.

I remember her sensitive handling of parents when tragedy struck and her sensitive handling of major crises. Her sensitivity did not go unnoticed to those who were impacted by health and other events beyond their control," Coughlin says. "She will be remembered for the many small kindnesses and for the progress on important institutional growth. She will be remembered by many for her work on waterfront development and for her leadership in positioning Western for years to come. She will be remembered for encouraging Joe to be an active part of the Western community and allowing his courage to permeate the campus culture."

"Western is not a place that will stand still, and it will be a wonderful opportunity for my successor to continue to move the University forward," Morse says. "I hope the next president can enjoy and appreciate this University as I have."

Morse will be remembered for her strong, focused leadership but also for her vision of a collaborative learning community where education always comes first.

"We will look back fondly on her years as President and, as time passes, the value of her contributions will multiply," Coughlin says.

"Under the stewardship of President Morse for the past 15 years, Western Washington University has fostered a well-deserved reputation for academic excellence and is regarded as one of the top colleges and universities of its kind in the nation. President Morse has been a strong and articulate advocate for higher education. Her service to the state of Washington is deeply appreciated."

— Gov. Chris Gregoire
President Morse has led significant improvements in campus infrastructure and sustainability. Here she helps break ground for improvements at Western's Lincoln Creek Transportation Center, a park and ride facility linked to campus by frequent bus service.

BUILDING A LEGACY

President Karen W. Morse became Western's 12th president in fall 1993. Her leadership has fostered Western as a premier undergraduate institution in the Northwest and in the top echelon of undergraduate schools in the nation.

• Enrollment has grown from 9,300 to 12,100 full-time equivalent students.
• Student-faculty ratio has decreased from 26:1 to 18:5:1.
• Campus infrastructure has markedly improved, with construction of new buildings such as the Chemistry, Biology and Science, Math and Technology Education buildings, the Communications Facility, Wade King Student Recreation Center and Campus Services facility; major renovation of the Haggard library and Viking Union and current construction of the Academic Instructional Center, the largest construction project in Western's history. During her presidency, capital appropriations have increased from $31 million in the 1993-94 biennium to over $73 million in the 2005-07 biennium. Western is preparing for a future campus expansion and enhanced connection to the community by setting the course for a waterfront campus.
• Last fall, Western enrolled the most diverse group of new freshmen and transfers in Western's history. Creating a learning environment that capitalizes on a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, identities and opinions is a core value at Western and a hallmark of Morse's presidency.
• Community service and outreach also has been an emphasis of Morse's presidency, through support of service-learning initiatives, Washington Campus Compact, which Western hosts, and student volunteerism. WWU ranked third among the top medium-sized colleges and universities with alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 2007. Strong community outreach is encouraged, with performing and visual arts events, and notable lecturers and speakers, such as through the President's Distinguished Lecture Series. Western's Outdoor Sculpture Collection has been named one of the 10 best on-campus public art collections in the country.
• President Morse has been a leader of WWU in its support for alcohol abuse prevention programs. In partnership with the Bellingham mayor, Morse created the Campus Community Coalition, a grassroots organization comprised of members of campus and community leaders who recognize that student alcohol misuse, specifically underage drinking, are shared problems requiring shared solutions.
• Western solidified a commitment to NCAA Division II, moving from the NAIA, thereby setting expectations for producing a student athlete that reflected Western's character and expectations, resulting in a GPA and graduation rate of student athletes above the overall student rate.
• In 1993, when President Morse started at Western, the University received $3.5 million in combined federal, state and other grants for faculty research. That compared to $13 million in such grants in 2007. Morse collaborated with faculty to develop new faculty research programs, with recent examples including the Advanced Materials Science and Engineering Center (AMSEC), which bridges industries ranging from aerospace to microelectronics; and Biomedical Research Activities in Neuroscience (BRAIN), which links the expertise of Western's biology and psychology departments to prepare students for the growing biomedical field.
• Sustainability is a major theme for campus operations and instruction and student activism. Western became a national leader in green energy through a student initiative encouraged by the University Administration to have Western receive 100 percent of its energy from green power.

Morse (above) with White House correspondent Helen Thomas.

Graduates - with President Morse holding a prospective member of the class of 2017 - place memorabilia of their time at Western into a time capsule to be placed in Memory Walk, a tradition dating to 1912.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2005 awarded Western a national Green Power Leadership Award. President Morse was one of the first university presidents in the Northwest to sign a letter of intent for the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which is an effort to address global warming. Students in programs such as the Vehicle Research Institute and Industrial Design are working to develop fuel-efficient hybrid cars and useful products from recycled materials. WWU's Huxley College of the Environment is one of the oldest and most respected environmental colleges in the nation.

• A multi-disciplinary Border Policy Research Institute opened in 2005 at Western and focuses on policy research dealing with transportation, mobility and security issues affecting the U.S.-Canada border, including the impact of the Vancouver/Whistler, B.C. 2010 Winter Olympics. The University established the Institute to further its mission of promoting research, academic programs and public programming on critical policy issues affecting the Pacific Northwest region and Canada.
• Morse supported expanded opportunities for international education, with events such as Japan Week, East Asian Studies collection, study abroad and Latin American ties.
• Morse oversaw strengthening of math and science education that put Western in a leadership position in the field. Shannon Point Marine Center, the University's marine research facility in Anacortes, Wash., in 2003 was one of six institutions in the nation President George W. Bush honored for achieving "remarkable" increases in "participation of minorities, women, and disabled students" in scientific fields.
• Morse actively supported the education of teachers, from Woodring College of Education's nationally recognized teacher education program to creation of the North Cascades and Olympic Science Partnership, which seeks to advance the teaching and learning of science throughout Northwest Washington and serving as a national model. Former NASA astronaut George "Pinky" Nelson is leading this effort to reform science education, which is funded by the National Science Foundation.

SPRING 2008
Hickenbottoms Named Alumni Legacy Family of the Year

The inaugural Alumni Legacy Family of the Year award was presented to the Hickenbottom family which has had 24 family members attend Western since 1941. Fifteen family members came to campus to accept the award, which was presented at the Alumni Awards Celebration held on campus during the Fall Family Weekend. The Hickenbottom family surprised the WWU Alumni Association with a $2,040 donation to establish the Hickenbottom Family Scholarship in honor of their award. The scholarship will be presented to a Western student.

Front row: James (Jim) Hickenbottom (’63), Su Hickenbottom (attended ’61-83), Patsy Baker (attended ’48-49), Sharon Meyer (’66)
2nd Row: Megan Ots (’05 & ’06), Karen Hickenbottom (’88 & ’92), Gary Hickenbottom (attended ’69-70)
3rd Row: Harold Hickenbottom (’52), Nadine Santo Pietro (’85), Gerald (Ivan) Hickenbottom (’37), Lily Hickenbottom (’07)
4th Row: Steven Hickenbottom, Paul Hickenbottom (’75 & ’77), Charles (Charlie) Hickenbottom (attended ’70-71)
5th Row: Dana Hickenbottom (’07)

To nominate your family for the 2009 Award visit: www.wwualumni.com.

WEDDINGS

1980s
Darkene Dier Ryan (’83) and William Michael Clemens on Aug. 11, 2007
Virginia Meehan (’88) and John Baker on July 1, 2007

1990s
Reiko Hirai (’97) and Peter Horst (’97) on July 11, 2006
Athena Correa and Timothy Cowin (’98) on Aug. 4, 2007
Joy Coberly (’96) and Justin Bronn (’99) on July 7, 2007
Sanja Mihilovic and Ben Larrner (’99) on Aug. 25, 2007

2000s
Rhe belle McNeill (’00) and Tom de Forest on Sept. 8, 2006
Mia Beth Penta (’00) and David Eugene Tambellini on June 30, 2007
Tamara Michaels (’01) and Colin Nelson (’00) on Sept. 14, 2006
Shara Jessup (’01) and Lucas Holliday (’01) on Sept. 8, 2007
Amy Kontra and Jake Vallejo (’01) on Sept. 7, 2007
Allison Marie Ruud (’01) and Justin Dale Borgen (’01) on March 31, 2007
Rachel Bower and Gabriel Seifert (’01) on July 7, 2007
Ariel Coleman (’01) and Luke Puttrese on June 26, 2007
Megan Ellis (’01) and Jeff Porter on May 19, 2007
Stephanie Slover (’02) and Victor Martinez on Sept. 8, 2007
Gillian Larabee and John Randolph (’02) on Aug. 16, 2007
Hillary Seaton (’02) and Newman Dalton IV on July 21, 2007
Abigail Reicheley and Greg Stevenson (’02) on July 14, 2007
Tara Osborn (’02) and Brian Sroop on Aug. 26, 2007
Kelly Rosanne Newell (’03) and Jeffrey Ryan Segel on April 21, 2007
Elisha Angela Basta (’03) and Timothy Ryan Nelson on Aug. 25, 2007
Heidi Kuttel (’04) and John Burke on Aug. 12, 2007
Julie Longhurst (’04) and Matt Vance (’04) on July 14, 2007
Malia Marie Franklin and Joshua Scott Pickett (’05) on July 28, 2007
Misty Rainwater (’05) and Chris Frohm on July 20, 2007
Angelika Herbold (’05) and Sean Kinneman (’05) on July 14, 2007
Abigail Reichley and Greg Stevenson (’02) on July 14, 2007
Andrea Hughes and Tony Bock (’05) on Aug. 18, 2007
Carrie Suzanne Peters (’06) and Brandon Kyle Glanzer (’05) on Aug. 11, 2007
Nikki Oleson (’06) and Andrew Claiborne (’05) on July 14, 2007
Sarah Ann Kelln (’05) and Clark Allen Munger on July 22, 2007
Chinua Schillers (’05) and Chay Tan (’05) on July 20, 2007
Lara Fullner (’06) and Kevon Grennan (’06) on June 30, 2007
Malia Marie Franklin and Joshua Scott Pickett (’05) on July 28, 2007
Shauna Tinklenberg (’07) and Derek Baldetta on Aug. 3, 2007
Andrea Wolk and Matthew Rager (’07) on June 28, 2007

1949 - Jerry Karnofski has been selected to be inducted into the A.A. Long High School Hall of Fame in Longview. Jerry lettered in football, basketball and baseball as well as earning Southwest Washington All-Conference honors in football and basketball as a junior and senior. He also played for WWU.

1960 - Lee Mann, award-winning wildlife photographer, is showcased on the poster for the 2008 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.

1964 - Clark Moore (’64) was recently recognized by Smithsonian Magazine for his research on the Lost Fort of Columbus, on the Caribbean island of Haiti. Bruce Osbourne has been a wrestling coach for the past 44 years in the Puyallup School District where he also teaches English.

1968 - State Rep. William "Ike" Eickmeyer, D-Belfair has announced he will be giving up his seat in the House of Representa­tives on the Caribbean island of Haiti.

1968- State Rep. William "Ike" Eickmeyer, D-Belfair has announced he will be giving up his seat in the House of Representa­tives on the Caribbean island of Haiti.

1975 - Carol V. Davis has been named Olivet College's poet-in-residence for the 2008 Intensive Learning Term. Everett Babitt has grown Bellingham Marine into a company with plants in the United States as well as Europe, Asia and Australia, making docks for marinas and other maritime operations.

1977 - Craig Cole was reappointed to a six-year term on the University of Wash­ington Board of regents by Gov. Chris Gre­goire. His new term began Oct. 1, 2007. Marie Fix and her husband Richard, travel agency owners, recently purchased Mar­ rich Manor, a Southern plantation home, in Morristown, Tenn., and have opened it as a venue for weddings, receptions, company events and private parties.

1980 - Steve Adams is returning to Lopez High School to teach Physics and Physical Science on a part-time basis following his retirement last spring.

1981 - John Keates, formerly the Park and Recreation director in Chelan and Enam­ claw, has been hired as the director of the Mason County Parks and Trails Depart­ ment, supervising parks in the county.

1982 - Mark and Christa Warren own a home decor shop called Surroundings that opened recently in Lynden.

1983 - Dave Chappell, former teacher at WF West High School in Chehalis, has been hired as assistant principal at Emma High School. Dan Cennell was promoted to vice president in the design/build division of Holoday-Parks, a mechanical contract­ing business.

1984 - Thomas Keegan, president of Pen­ insula College in Port Angeles, welcomed elected officials and tribal representatives to the dedication of the Peninsula College longhouse, the first longhouse on a col­ lege campus in the nation. The longhouse, called House of Learning, is made of solid cedar. The entrance will serve as a gallery of Native American art and the building will house classes, performances or din­ ners. John Nielsen thought he had re­ tired as an off-road motorcyclist, but came out of retirement to race in the legendary Tecate Score Baja 1,000, a race that covers almost all of Mexico's Baja Peninsula. His team placed fourth in their division.

1985 - Phyllis Carney is retiring after serving 25 years as a librarian on Orcas Island; she served as school librarian and children's librarian at the public library. Dave Christensen, head offensive coordinator and assistant head coach at the University of Missouri, was awarded the Frank Broyles award, which is given annually to the top assistant coach in col­ lege football.
1996 - Mike McLaury is the new clinic director at Everett Physical Therapy and Sports Performance Center of the Integrated Rehabilitation Group. Brent Cole is the co-founder and owner of What’s Up! magazine, an independent music magazine that has been on the scene for 10 years and is still going strong.

1997 - Jenny Peterson, a former Vista Communications officer, has been hired as San Marcos, Calif.’s first public information officer. Joshua Klein, a senior technology principal with Frog Design, has created a crow vending machine. He studied crows for six years and invented a machine that crows drop coins into and a joystick is dispensed. His research found crows to be culturally adaptable and quick learners. Celina Steiger has been hired by the Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery (FISH) as their education coordinator.

1999 - David McKellar has been appointed principal of Quil Ceda Elementary School in Marysville.

2000 - Jennifer Hahn, a sea kayaking guide and author, has a current work in progress on the art of sustainable wild harvesting of edible plants along the Pacific coast.

2001 - Mathew Lystra received the Emerging Leader Award from the City Club Tacoma last June. He is currently enrolled in the MBA program at UW Tacoma.

2002 - Julia Schideler took her vows as a Maryknoll Sister and plans to devote her life to service overseas. She has worked in Korea, the Marshall Islands and Mexico. Hallie Shepherd co-wrote and produced an indie film called “GSP,” which was filmed in Washington and won the best local film award at the Tacoma Film Festival last October.

2003 - Michelle Goettzenleuchter recently graduated from the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy and is working as a firefighter and EMT for the City of Redmond. Justin Neilon has been hired as a counselor at White Pass High School. Jason E. Ancy has recently started a new company, Get US Immigration Help.com, specializing in employment, investor and family based immigration services.

2004 - Katie Hirschberg is the new recreation director at the Issaquah Youth Center. Katherine Playford, a teacher at Sedro Woolley High School, was selected in May as the Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. She received a certificate, a $5,000 educational grant for the school and a $100 personal gift certificate.

2007 Western alumna Casey Henson spent three months in Korea last summer volunteering with orphans and HIV-positive children.

2007 - Casey Henson spent three months in Africa last summer volunteering at the Kaloleni Integrated Anti-Aids Community Based Organization located in a large slum in Kisumu, Kenya. There she worked with orphans and HIV-positive children.

Shawn Ingraham was hired by the Okanagan School District to teach math.

Megan Johnson and Kristin Visser have been named as staff accountants by Larson Gross in the Bellingham and Blaine offices.

Becky Peace and Nick Giqure paddled 1,300 miles through the Inside Passage – from Alaska to Bellingham last June and made it in time to catch a flight to Antarctica for their summer jobs.

Erin Pfieuffer traveled to India for three months as a volunteer with Missionaries of Charity hospitals, orphanages and villages...

Elisa Sparkman has produced a documentary about a children’s bereavement camp, Camp Willie in Arlington, which helps children deal with the death of loved ones.

IN MEMORIAM

1992 - Carpent M. Paar, 94, former owner with his wife of Paar’s IG Market in Carnation, on July 14 in Carnation.


1938 - Josephine (Curris) Miller, 91, a former teacher, in Wenaschee on Sept. 9.

1941 - Chester Dombrowski, 92, a former Shelton High School teacher, coach and principal in Seattle, Aberdeen and Shelton, in Shoreline on June 10. Mildred Bean Heller, 90, former teacher in Bellevue, Oak Harbor, Coupeville and Skagit County, on March 14 in Mount Vernon.

1942 - Betty (Gilbert) Brustad, 87, writer, gardener and traveler, in Seattle on Aug. 28. Polly Heft Winkelman, 89, a former teacher, in Seattle.

1945 - Ethel Boynton Crook, 96, retired teacher and musician, on Aug. 29 in Bellingham.

1948 - John Noel Fox, 89, a former teacher and head basketball and baseball coach at Central Kitsap High School, Edmonds and Mountlake Terrace schools in Bellingham.

1950 - Paul Rajema, 89, a veteran and former teacher, in Lynden on March 2.

1951 - Millie (Gerdis) Zembal, a retired teacher, in Aberdeen.

1952 - Helen Aamot, 94, a former teacher and longtime community leader, in Sedro Woolley on Aug. 4.

1953 - Donald Kenneth Olson, 72, a retired teacher in Snoqualmie, on June 19.

1957 - Margarette Hill, 71, a former schoolteacher and bookstore manager, on May 12 in Forest Grove, Ore.

1958 - Carroll Herbert Clark, 82, a former teacher, in Woodinville on Aug. 21.

1961 - Delbert Hauenshien, 75, a retired teacher and “line wood man” in Everett on April 17.

1962 - Robert Steven Opel, 73, a former teacher and coach in the Marysville School District, on March 2 in Marysville.

1966 - Norman James Hayes, 72, a veteran and retired elementary school teacher in Aberdeen on June 22. Russell Leon Tanck, 74, a retired elementary school teacher and library media specialist, in Mount Vernon on Feb. 23. Renier James Eilenbaas, 82, farmer and juvenile probation officer for Whatcom County, on Nov. 8 in Lynden.

1969 - Elwood C. Correll, 72, a retired minister and realtor, on Oct. 5 in Bellingham.

1972 - Curtis Mabery, 60, a longtime berry farmer and tireless advocate in the community, in Lynden on April 23.

1973 - Betty Terhar, 90, a retired teacher in Seattle.

1974 - Bryan Ellis Griffiths, 63, a former teacher, principal and manager of the UBC Thunderbird Basketball team in New Westminster, BC, on June 21.

1979 - Richard Bolze, 54, a CPA working in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, on July 28 in Guam.

1981 - James Chuck Sirgley, 62, a Comander in the U.S. Navy, on Nov. 27 in Everett.

1984 - Arlene Carol Brown, 70, a retail security manager and caregiver for special needs children on Jan. 10 in Auburn.

1986 - Dorothy K. Picht, 50, a jewelry designer and artist, in Bellingham on Oct. 16.

1991 - Corinne Jo Stanley, 41, a case manager for the King County Housing Authority, in Seattle on June 2.

2002 - Joshua Steven Hayes, 30, on April 18 in Mount Vernon.

2003 - Trevor Alan Homer, 26, a video tester for Microsoft, on Feb. 5, in Port Angeles.

FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS

Robert Safsten, 77, longtime Bellingham teacher, in October in Bellingham.

David Michael Panek, 77, retired psychology professor and counselor at Western Washington University, on Nov. 10, in Bellingham.

John McLeod, 72, a passionate traveler and long time professor at Fairhaven College, on October 15 in Bellingham.

Frances Scheffer Jackson, 89, longtime teacher and student teacher supervisor at Western, on Dec. 6, in Bellingham.

Claudia Uhrig, a professional golfer inducted into the Western Washington University Athletics Hall of Fame, on Nov. 16 in Bellingham.

Evelyn Carlson Keast, 84, a former WWU professor, assistant dean of women, Peace Corps volunteer and community activist, on Aug. 17 in Bellingham.
Why Membership in the Alumni Association Matters

By Carolyn Dale
SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Joining the alumni association helps to fill the pocketbook as well as the soul.

Members of the Western Alumni Association receive discounts throughout the state, thanks to a cooperative the association just joined with universities in Washington and California.

"Western alumni will now get discounts at 80-plus retailers in cities where they live," said Deborah DeWees, executive director of the alumni association, adding that new businesses join the program regularly. These discounts demonstrate to alumni that their membership has a real dollar value, she said.

Alumni membership has value to the university, too, DeWees said.

"Membership dues also pay for alumni social networks that help recent graduates to begin their careers. Gatherings are held every three months in a range of cities, including Portland, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, and even San Diego and San Francisco," said Chris Roselli ('99), assistant director for young alumni and student programs.

"We recently held an event at The Garage, a popular bowling alley on Capitol Hill (in Seattle), and about 70 alumni attended," Roselli said. While giving student scholarships of $100,000 for fall of 2008, the association has started new student programs.

"It's critical. Membership really matters," the young grads enjoy meeting each other, he said, they also are eager to hear news from the campus.

"We told them, 190,000 alumni have come through Western, and they have been successful. You will be successful, too," DeWees said. "We had a lot of students tell us how good this made them feel."

Membership dues also pay for alumni social networks that help recent graduates to begin their careers. Gatherings are held every three months in a range of cities, including Portland, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, and even San Diego and San Francisco, said Chris Roselli ('99), assistant director for young alumni and student programs.

"We recently held an event at The Garage, a popular bowling alley on Capitol Hill (in Seattle), and about 70 alumni attended," Roselli said. While giving student scholarships of $100,000 for fall of 2008, the association has started new student programs.

Last fall, freshmen facing their first round of midterms were given a morale-boosting gift: "We believe in you." packages from the alumni association.

"We told them, 190,000 alumni have come through Western, and they have been successful. You will be successful, too," DeWees said. "We had a lot of students tell us how good this made them feel."

Membership dues also pay for alumni social networks that help recent graduates to begin their careers. Gatherings are held every three months in a range of cities, including Portland, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, and even San Diego and San Francisco, said Chris Roselli ('99), assistant director for young alumni and student programs.

"We recently held an event at The Garage, a popular bowling alley on Capitol Hill (in Seattle), and about 70 alumni attended," Roselli said. While giving student scholarships of $100,000 for fall of 2008, the association has started new student programs.

DeWees and Roselli both stress that to provide services and programs that are relevant to you. Let me know what you think, what we should do more of, and what we should do less of. I am interested, listening and so is Western.

"We have completely reworked and revitalized our membership program. We've launched a new look, increased member benefits with more than 80 discounts throughout Washington at top-notch retailers, including Tully's, Ivars, Paramount Theatre, Boundary Bay, T-Mobile and more. And, we are letting our members know why alumni association membership matters and how dues strengthen Western."

For the first time we are developing student programming that responds to their needs. The creation of the Western Grad Packs for our graduating seniors debuted in April. Another first is offering June graduates a free WWU license plate. It is an example of what happens when we partner with alumni like Dave Mann ('82) on programs to help our students. This partnership launched the Drive with Western Pride program to increase the number of WWU license plates on the road and provide student scholarship dollars.

Over the next few months you will continue to see new and improved alumni initiatives, partnerships and programs that are relevant to you. Let me know what you think, what we should do more of, and what we should do less of. I am interested, listening and so is Western.

"Let me know how we are doing: 1-800-676-4885."

Karen W. Morse
President, Western Washington University

Received the Garvan-Clin Medal, from the American Chemical Society

Loves spending time with her husband Joe

Life Member WWU Alumni Association

"Joe and I became Life Members to shore up our financial Living 101 to the latest issues in politics, science, and the arts."

"We are committed to listening to our future and current alumni so that we offer services and programs that are relevant to them in their communities and life. It is a partnership of sorts," DeWees said. "Our mission is to provide those services to alumni so that they will continue to be a part of Western and in doing so, strengthen this university. That is why their membership matters, it strengthens Western."

Western has 104,772 living alumni, and 1,830 belong to the association, DeWees said. Her goal is to build that number because alumni participation correlates with many other aspects of a university's public profile, she said. She studied the strongest alumni associations around the country and found that, in all cases, those universities have better funding, more positive legislative environments, successful recruiting, good press, a strong reputation in their communities, and high rates of giving.

"It's critical. Membership really matters. For Western to sustain its high level of reputation, we need our alumni members to step up and be part of Western's recipe for success," DeWees said.

For alumni age 39 or younger, the cost of joining is $20 a year, and for not-young alumni, $35 a year, with discounted rates for joint memberships and Golden Vikings. Another way to provide support is to buy a WWU alumni license plate: $28 comes back to Western in the form of scholarship dollars.

Discounts at businesses and events, access to the Western library and Lakewood, lifelong learning opportunities, continuing education, networking, and career mentoring are all benefits of belonging to the alumni association. Plus, DeWees and Roselli both stress the amount of communication from the campus that keeps alumni in touch and informed.

"Members benefit from frequent communication from our office and the university," DeWees said. "They share a deeper understanding of the Western story."
Alumni Commencement Speakers Welcome Grads

By Carolyn Dale
SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Each Commencement, WWU alumni welcome new graduates to their ranks.

Ethan Yarbrough (92 & 95), who spoke in March at the winter commencement ceremony, draws on his bachelor's and master's degrees in English literature in his daily work as president of Allyis Inc., a technology-support company in Bellevue.

The English Department's graduate program was where Yarbrough met Ken Efta and Richard Law in 1993. The three started Allyis Inc. in 1996. Ten years later, the Bellevue company tallied $17 million in revenue and employed 200 people. Allyis Inc. provides staffing and project management for technology applications across a range of businesses.

Yarbrough said his background in literature gives him "the ability to understand the audience — and to craft the language."

Yarbrough said he did not take any business classes while at Western. "And now, I would tell business majors to take English classes," he said. "Clear communication is one of the most important tools in business. People who are good communicators don't have a good perspective on their skill set. It's a marketable skill and sets them apart from other people in business. I call it my secret weapon in business meetings."

Barbara Duzan (84), alumni speaker in June at spring commencement, is a sculptor intrigued by the beauty she saw under a microscope. While majoring in biology and chemistry at Western, "even though it was science, it was the beauty of it" that kept her enthralled, she said.

Duzan creates sculptures — some life-size — of wildlife, as well as beaded representations of animal heads. She graduated in 1984 and went to work at ImmuneX in Seattle, where she met her husband, Stephen. He retired as the company's CEO, and the couple endowed a scholarship in her name in Western's Chemistry Department.

Duzan said she would like to tell graduates that at Western, "faculty put their emphasis on students, not on their research. They're truly interested in you. When you leave, you really are a part of this family, and you never really have to leave. Your school is still interested in you."

New Benefit Program Gets Alumni Where They Live

By June Hathaway
SPECIAL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Western's alumni association has always offered great benefits to its Whatcom County members. From lazy summer days spent boating at Lakewood to evenings passed rooting for the Vikings in Carver Gym, the association has delivered the best of the Western experience to its 12,000 local alumni.

But alumni who live outside Whatcom County have told the association they want benefits closer to home.

"We conducted extensive research among our alumni last summer," said Deborah DeWees, executive director of the alumni association. "And what we heard was that they want programs that are relevant in their communities."

They're about to get their wish. The association is rolling out a new benefits program, Western Preferred Alumni Partners, for members in Bellingham, Seattle and beyond. Alumni will get special discounts at nearly 100 participating merchants, including Jiffy Lube, Ivar's Restaurants, Hertz Rent-a-Car and the Tacoma Art Museum.

It adds benefits in Whatcom County, too. Even far-flung alumni might decide a road trip is in order to take advantage of discounts at Bellingham landmarks such as Boundary Bay Brewery and Madlard Ice Cream.

Chris Roselli ('99), assistant director of young alumni and student programs, noted that new merchants are signing up all the time. He encouraged alumni who own businesses to contact the association if they'd like to offer discounts to fellow Vikings.

"It's really win-win," he said, "alums supporting alums."

Getting the discounts is as easy as showing the preferred partners logo on the newly designed membership cards that will start appearing in members' mailboxes in June. Alumni whose memberships end in June, July or August will get their cards when they renew.

"The new design is really going to allow our members to take better advantage of all of the Alumni Association benefits," Roselli said.

The new cards not only can be used for the discount program, but they also can be used to check out materials from the Western Libraries and to use the Wade King Student Recreation Center.

Visit the Alumni Association Web site at http://www.wwualumni.com to see the full list of participating businesses.
Manns' Gift to Graduates Will Roll Back to Western

By Matthew Anderson
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Dave Mann ('82) always believed in investing money wisely.

A 1982 graduate of Western Washington University's accounting program, Mann went on to earn his master's degree in business administration from the University of Washington. Mann's business acumen then landed him a job first as an accountant for one of the Big Four accounting firms, then as the controller at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and finally as the chief financial officer for Immunex, the Seattle-based biotech firm. Mann retired after helping broker the company's $10-billion sale to Amgen.

A fellow with a background like that doesn't throw away money. He understands the importance of sound investment policy. And to hear Mann tell it, donating money to Western is exactly that.

That's why he and his wife, Ann, have pledged $25,000 to outfit the cars of 524 spring 2008 Western graduates with brand-new WWU license plates. Each plate costs $47.75 and $28 of that money goes straight back to Western. But the payoff doesn't stop there.

"Every time someone sees a Western plate, they think of Western," Mann says. "There goes another person who's proud of Western."

Mann thinks that the plates will maintain alumni's connections to the school — even if they've moved hundreds of miles away.

"Maybe in 10 or 20 years, they'll give more and more," says Mann, who for years has donated money to various entities at Western. "They've got that license plate that reminds them they've not finished their relationship with Western. It reminds them that they still have a place at Western."

Deborah DeWees, executive director of Western's alumni association, says the money that comes to the University through the license plate program helps to fund student scholarships. And that's a benefit right up Mann's alley, she says.

"He really believes in our students," DeWees says. "He tries to help them in any way he can."

WWU already gets $18,000 a year from the license plate sales, Mann says. But other state schools get far more — in the case of Washington State University, a whopping $300,000 a year. The 524 new WWU plates will mean a one-year return of nearly $15,000. Plate renewals are $30 each year, plus the standard licensing fees, with $28 returning to Western.

"I think we have the ability to grow that amount and make it something the school can rely on," Mann says. "It doesn't seem like there's any way to lose."