

# Student Life

## **Western welcomes 4,000 students to residence halls**

About 4,000 students moved into Western's residence halls and apartments at the beginning of fall quarter in 2010. WWU President Bruce Shepard and his wife Cyndie were on hand at Western residence halls to welcome new and returning students with their families. About 75 percent of students living in residence halls were new and introduced to campus traditions with activities that included the Welcoming Convocation and faculty-led Western Reads discussion panels. The first day of classes was Wednesday, Sept. 22.

## **Aramark becomes WWU's campus dining provider**

Western and Aramark signed a contract making Aramark Higher Education the new vendor for campus dining services. Aramark provides food service and facility management services in 22 countries, including 600 colleges and universities in the U.S. Under the 10-year contract, Aramark will provide dining services at residential dining halls, retail cafes and markets, as well as catering services. Aramark presented Western with a proposal that addresses retail dining growth, residential dining enhancements and attention to themes important to the university, including sustainability, local partnerships, healthy food offerings and use of technology. Current student workers have first priority

for employment. Aramark replaced Sodexo, the former campus dining provider.

## **A.S. Bookstore now offers rental textbooks**

Western's Associated Students Bookstore has added price comparison and online textbook rental options to help students find the best deals on textbooks. The bookstore worked with Verba Software to provide a price comparison tool listing the A.S. Bookstore's new, used and rental book prices along with prices from popular websites. Store staff members also worked with Follett Book Company to offer a textbook rental service. Students can rent about 90 percent of the titles they need for periods of 30, 60 or 90 days.

## **A.S. Publicity Center wins "Best Poster Design"**

A poster advertising an ice cream social was a winner for the Associated Students Publicity Center and **Michael Murphree**, who won "Best Poster Design" in the student division of the Association of College Unions International Region 14 "Steal This Idea" design competition. The poster advertised the Associated Students Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance Ice Cream Social; this is the fourth time the A.S. Publicity Center won "best poster design" for this annual competition. Murphree's poster competed against

***WWU President Bruce Shepard and his wife Cyndie helped welcome about 4,000 students moving in to residence halls.***

designs from 40 other institutions, including schools from Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and three Canadian provinces. Murphree, a senior in the graphic design program, was the Digital Signage manager and designer for the A.S. Publicity Center.

#### Seattle's Anna Ellermeier elected A.S. President

Western senior and Seattle native **Anna Ellermeier** was elected the 2011-2012 president of the Associated Students, the association of all Western students and the official student governing body. As president, Ellermeier is the chairperson of A.S. board meetings, oversees A.S. operations, and represents the Associated Students to the university's Board of Trustees.



*Anna Ellermeier*

Ellermeier is a Fairhaven College major with a concentration in Institutional Sources of Power and Marginalization; she is also a Spanish major.

#### A.S. revamps communications and marketing efforts

A new A.S. office, the Office of Communications and Marketing, will handle most media relations as well as marketing and promotional efforts for Western's Associated Students. The new communications and marketing staff will be tasked

with helping the Associated Students connect with the Western community and encourage more Western students to take advantage of A.S. services, said **Jamin Agosti**, former A.S. vice president for student life. The office was established on a two-year pilot basis.

#### Online Symplicity connects employers with students

The Career Services Center is leveraging technology to bring employers and students together. Symplicity is a no-cost, online job and internship posting database: Employers post career-related opportunities to the website, set qualification criteria, and collect application materials online. Students, alumni, faculty and staff can search the postings any time, set up automatic email alerts based on personal interests, and research companies and job descriptions. The integrated system also includes an interactive calendar of workshops and employer visits, and employer registration forms for career and internship fairs. Since its launch in fall 2010, more than 950 employers have created Symplicity accounts and posted more than 1,300 career or internship opportunities. Organizations include Apple, Nike, Microsoft, Boeing, and Amazon. There are almost 3,400 active student, alumni, faculty, and staff users of Symplicity.

#### College of Business and Economics hosts first student club fair

Students interested in learning more about the student clubs affiliated with the College of Business and Economics attended the first annual CBE Student Club Fair last September. Organized by CBE and open to



*Western President Bruce Shepard, center, and his wife, Cyndie, helped students move in to residence halls Sept. 19. About 4,000 students moved in to University Residences at the start of fall quarter.*

all students, the fair offered the chance to meet club officers and learn about professional development, networking and leadership opportunities. More than a dozen student clubs and organizations participated, including the Economics Association, the Financial Management Association, and the International Business Club.

#### **A.S. Day of Service sends 150 students to help out seven Bellingham nonprofits**

The Associated Students' first-ever Day of Service last April had 150 A.S. employees volunteering at one of seven community organizations in Bellingham. Instead of a traditional mid-quarter training, volunteers spruced up event spaces, enhanced local salmon habitats, and performed other service-oriented tasks at American Museum of Radio and Electricity, Bellingham Boys & Girls Club, Brigid Collins Family Support Center, Franklin Park, Lydia Place, Maritime Heritage Park and Mt. Baker Theatre. In addition to fostering community awareness and team-building, the project was meant to show appreciation for Bellingham and the multitude of resources and programs it provides students.

#### **Birnam Wood wins Go for the Green Challenge**

Birnam Wood Apartments was the winner of the Go for the Green: Total Waste Reduction Challenge, an annual competition among residence areas. Participants in the challenge saved \$21,000 worth of electricity and 250,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. Designed as a points-based competition, students reduced consump-

tion of water, natural gas and electricity while creating the least amount of landfill waste.

#### **'Electric Shadow Shorts' debuts student filmmakers**

KVIK, the Associated Students television station, hosted "Electric Shadow Shorts Premier" last May on campus. Electric Shadow Shorts is a filmmaker collaborative that gathers weekly to brainstorm, learn about, and create film projects. The free and public event showcased the short films that Electric Shadow Shorts produced over the course of the academic year.

#### **'Money Sense' offers students financial facts of life**

Business students offered a series of financial literacy seminars throughout the year called Money Sense. The free seminars focused on teaching college students the basics of money management such as "Saving and Budgeting," "Your Rights as a Renter," "Credit Cards and Credit Scores" and "Loans." Money Sense is offered through Beta Alpha Psi, an international honorary society for financial information students and professionals.

#### **Move-Out Madness gives new homes to students' household goods**

Every summer students on the move throw away furniture, electronics and other reusable household items. Instead of letting



*Associated Students Publicity Center designer Michael Murphree won "Best Poster Design" a regional competition of the Association of College Unions International. The poster advertised the Associated Students Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance Ice Cream Social.*

those items hit the landfills, the Office of Sustainability and A.S. Recycle Center put them in the hands of new, happy owners at Move-Out Madness, a community-based materials exchange, on the last day of classes in June. Students brought reusable goods to the campus fields for drop off or exchange while community members browsed and took home items free of charge. Meanwhile, The Hollywood Farmers and We Are Trees performed live for the “shoppers.”

#### **Veterans Outreach Center holds Patriot Week**

The Associated Students Veterans Outreach Center held “Patriot Week,” a series of events in May to support and appreciate veterans on campus. Some of the events included an Oyster Dome Hike, Memorial Park brick cleaning, PBS documentary viewing and follow-up discussion, Veterans Social Luncheon, a Mt. Baker Red Cross seminar about coping with deployment, obstacle challenge and Memorial Day Barbecue on campus.

#### **Pilipino Cultural Night includes music, dance**

The Filipino American Student Association, an A.S. club, held the third annual Pilipino Cultural Night in May, showcasing Pilipino culture through traditional and modern dance, spoken word and songs performed by club members and performers from other schools. The Filipino American Student

Association, an A.S. club, was established in 1994 when it separated from the Asian Pacific Student Union. The club is diverse and includes people from different cultural backgrounds.

#### **Student SPJ asks: Your pizza or your rights?**

How much are your First Amendment rights worth? That was the question posed to students, faculty and staff who were welcomed to a free pizza lunch if they signed a contract to enter a corded-off lunch area in Red Square last May. The catch: They had to sign away their First Amendment rights. During the First Amendment Free Food Festival held by the student chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, participants were not allowed to have reading material or cell phones; they couldn’t sing or say grace before lunch; nor could more than two people assemble. No one could voice complaints about policies. This popular First Amendment awareness event has been staged on college campuses across the country. Some SPJ members played the role of protestors and general rabble-rousers.

#### **V.U. Gallery hosts “Drawing Jam” for all students**

Last April the Associated Students Productions Viking Union Gallery hosted “Drawing Jam,” an exhibit that showcased the ability of everyone to create art, the organic nature of creativity and freedom of expression. The room was covered from floor to ceiling in white paper which gallery visitors covered with their own artwork. Materials for the expression of the creative process were provided by the gallery.



*Student actor Gavin Foltz appeared in “Another,” one of the student-made films showcased at the Electric Shadow Shorts Premier, hosted by KVIK, the Associated Students television station. “Another,” directed by KVIK Coordinator Robert Bojorquez, was a pilot for a science-fiction/fantasy show called “Void-Walker,” a new show on KVIK.*

**Instructional support programs moving to  
The Learning Commons in the library this fall**

Western Libraries is preparing to bring the Learning Commons to the second floor of Wilson Library this fall. This dynamic environment will be a special place where learning is facilitated by interactive spaces, informed by diverse materials, mediated by innovative technology, and supported by peer and faculty guides. The Learning Commons will include the Tutoring Center, the Writing Center, the Teaching-Learning Academy, the Student Technology Center and Faculty Writing Instruction Support.

**Reference help now available 'Anytime, Anywhere'**

In addition to walk-up service, phone calls and email messages, Western Libraries reference specialists are now available via live chat, text messages and Twitter. Newly implemented in fall 2010, the Ask Us! Reference - Anything, Anytime, Anywhere service allows students, faculty and community members to chat live with the Reference Desk or send a question via email, SMS text, or Twitter. Linked from the Library Home Page, this feature provides fast answers without interrupting studying and research.

**More journals available through library partnership**

Western Libraries now belongs to the Western Regional Storage Trust, a collaborative and sustainable journal archiving program that will transform the manner in which legacy print journal collections are housed and managed. It will provide secure access to back files, increased access to titles never previously held, and

digital access to many titles. Current partners include libraries from the University of California system, Stanford, Arizona State, University of Washington, University of Oregon, members of the Orbis Cascade Alliance, the Greater Western Library Alliance and the Statewide California Electronic Library Consortium.

**WesternWellness provides health information online**

Western's Prevention and Wellness Services launched a new online health and wellness promotion website, WesternWellness, this past spring. Free and confidential, WesternWellness connects students to campus and community resources and provides information on common health-related issues: healthy eating, fitness, sleep, stress management, positive relationships, sexual health, reducing risks associated with alcohol and other drugs, and creating a healthy lifestyle.

**Western closing in on its 'Real Food Challenge'**

The Real Food Challenge is a nationwide movement to measure sustainable food purchases consistently across college campuses using four criteria: the food meets fair trade standards, is ecologically sound, supports the local economy, and ensures humane treatment of animals. Two or more criteria must be met to reach the highest food standard. Western is among more than 300 participating in the challenge to offer all real food by 2020. Western's goal to purchase 20 percent real food by 2012 is approaching a reality with 19 percent of current purchases qualifying – up from 14 percent in the previous year.

***Western Libraries reference specialists are now available via live chat, text messages and Twitter.***

***The Vagina Memoirs won the Student-Driven Program of the Year Award from the Association of College Unions International.***

**Western expands popular program for freshmen**

Western has expanded its 12-year-old Freshmen Interest Group (FIG) program to allow an additional 100 students. FIGs are cohorts of 25 students taking the same group of two GUR classes and one small seminar, giving first-year students closer contact with faculty members and creating more close-knit learning communities. Assessment data shows that participating in a FIG may be linked with higher-than-predicted fall grade point averages and four-year graduation rates. FIG "clusters" include "Deep Space," "Words and Music," "Nature/Nurture," "Urban Dictionary" and "Diverse Stories."

**A.S. Women's Center's Vagina Memoirs wins award**

The Association of College Unions International selected The Vagina Memoirs, an annual performance event hosted by the A.S. Women's Center, for its Student-Driven Program of the Year Award. The Vagina Memoirs features performers who share their true memoirs exploring their female identities, their memories and moments of powerlessness as well as moments of power. The Memoirs are held each year to break the silence on topics such as race, ethnicity, body image and sexual orientation

**New affiliation brings highly-qualified post-doctoral interns to Counseling Center**

Western's Counseling Center was accepted in membership by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers, allowing for participation in their national internship selection process and ac-

cess to some of the finest students studying in the discipline. The association is an educational, nonprofit organization with the mission of enhancing internship and postdoctoral training programs in professional psychology.

**Leadership education grows with new Leadership Scholars Program for 47 talented freshmen**

The LEADS program and the Karen W. Morse Institute for Leadership, partners in Western's Leadership Advantage Initiative, have developed the Western Leadership Scholars Program. A select group of 47 incoming freshmen, recruited by the Office of Admissions, will participate in a one-quarter leadership studies course and receive priority registration privileges for a second course. Students are also encouraged to participate in leadership development events throughout their freshmen year. Leadership education offerings for freshmen are expanding at Western. Previously, Leadership Advantage offered a one-year weekly program to 20 high-achieving freshmen whose backgrounds are underrepresented at Western. Last year the Morse Institute, through the support of Jack and Joanne Bowman, introduced the Bowman Leadership scholars program, inviting 28 additional incoming freshmen who were highly qualified in academics and leadership potential. The new Western Leadership Scholars program builds Western's capacity to reach a broader and more diverse pool of students with leadership education.

### **Student Tech Fee funds upgrades across campus**

The annual student technology fee provided more than \$1 million for projects to improve student access to technological resources and equipment and to increase the integration of technology into the curriculum. This year's projects, approved by the Associated Students' Student Technology Fee committee, include:

- Cyclic upgrades to one-fourth of the student computer labs.
- Continued expansion of the wireless network by upgrading 12 buildings to improve wireless performance for students, faculty and staff.
- Operation of the Student Technology Center, including enhanced digital video services and improvements in color printing services.
- Production equipment to support academic mentoring in a TV broadcast environment.
- Enhancements to the music and dance performance laboratory.
- Upgrades to the Music department's keyboard classroom.
- Upgrades to rapid prototyping facilities for Environmental Technology majors
- Upgrades to instructional software benefiting students in Anthropology, Biology, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Physical Education, Health and Recreation, and Psychology.

### **Campus blood drive breaks records**

The fall quarter blood drive held on campus in conjunction with the Puget Sound Blood Center registered 547 donors, which broke all records for the university going back as far as 1972. Twenty percent of the donors had never given blood before said Prevention and Wellness Services coordinator Catharine Vader. WWU hosts a blood drive on campus each academic quarter to help supply the 900 donations needed per day by the state's hospitals.

***Projects funded by the Technology Fee include upgrading student computer labs, expanding wireless networks and enhancing performance laboratories.***