

# Excellence of Faculty and Staff

## Staff members' exceptional efforts are recognized

A dozen Western staff members were honored in spring 2011 with President Bruce Shepard's Exceptional Effort Awards:

- **Carol Brach**, Journalism Department manager, described as the "glue that holds the Department of Journalism together," wins the admiration of her colleagues for her dedication to students and faculty. Most recently, as she helped the department respond to the declining health and subsequent death of Department Chair **Shearlean Duke**, Brach "maintained her composure and positive attitude, and that has rubbed off on everyone around her."



Carol Brach

- **Dr. Emily Gibson**, medical director of the Student Health Center, works tirelessly to meet the mental and physical health care needs of Western students. She is on call every night for students' urgent needs, then sees patients in clinic during the day, often over-booking her schedule so that every student gets seen. And thanks to



Emily Gibson

her creativity and vision, the Student Health Center offers information and screening tools on its website for students to determine if they need an appointment. Electronic medical records and secure messaging have also increased the center's efficiency.

- **Casey Hayden**, Viking Union student activities adviser. As adviser for the six student programming offices that make up A.S. Productions, Hayden is adept at working with students on a wide variety of topics and always keeps a focus on student learning and development. Hayden recently went from co-advising the A.S. club system to taking on full responsibility for advising all 200 clubs. He was eager and excited to take on the significant additional responsibilities.



Casey Hayden



Sue Hoidal

- **Sue Hoidal**, assistant to the dean of the College of Sciences and Technology, works with people from throughout the college and the campus, gathering information and solving problems with a positive attitude. And in an age when so much is accomplished

*Western faculty and staff are known for their commitment to academic excellence and to service.*

**Student Health Center Director Emily Gibson is on call every night, then sees patients in clinic during the day, often overbooking her schedule so that every student gets seen**

through electronic communication, Hoidal is known for seeking out opportunities to personally interact with others. She sets the bar high in her example of service to the college and does everything possible to help those around her attain that same level of excellence.

• **Lloyd Hungate**, the academic maintenance supervisor in Facilities Management. As the project lead on recent Old Main flood repairs, Hungate demonstrated his always-helpful approach, constant smile and above-and-beyond-the-call-of-duty leadership. He coordinated unique solutions, juggled difficult schedules and worked with many skilled trades people and campus departments to accomplish the work considerably ahead of schedule and estimate.



**Lloyd Hungate**

• **Derek Jones**, police officer, a fairly recent addition to Western's Police Department, is already known for unparalleled service and dedication to the university. One of Western's most proactive officers, he volunteered to represent Western on the Bellingham Police SWAT team. He is also captain of a team for the 2011 Whatcom County Emergency Responders Fitness Challenge. His colleagues believe his courage, strength, passion and humility



**Derek Jones**

make him a real-life hero.

• **Diane Knutson**, administrative assistant in the Environmental Studies Department, is beloved by her co-workers for her competency, efficiency, insight, creativity and grace. She has mastered the administrative systems of the Environmental Studies department and has become an invaluable member of the office. She takes her work to new level in everything she does, challenging herself to do even better. Knutson's colleagues have "depended totally on her for a million wonderful things that have made our ambitious work possible."



**Diane Knutson**

• **Dina Murphy**, Financial Aid manager, epitomizes the best of Western through her dedication to students, stewardship of scholarship dollars in accordance with donor wishes, collaboration with departments to select scholarship recipients, and leadership in developing software to improve delivery of scholarship funding to students. Murphy also works with state and regional financial aid organizations and routinely gives presentations to area high schools. Despite the demands of delivering \$7.5 million annually in scholarships and resolving the concerns of students and parents, she maintains a can-do attitude



**Dina Murphy**

and a sense of humor, especially during the most demanding times.

• **Pam Smith**, program assistant, Office of University Communications, whose strong organizational skills and tireless efforts greatly increase the office's effectiveness in getting out the messages and stories that showcase the excellence at Western. Smith, known for her courtesy and professionalism, has played an integral role in University Communications' enhanced



**Pam Smith**

Communications.

partnership with Print and Copy Services, coordinating projects in both offices. She tackles all new projects with a great deal of creativity and initiative and the results of her efforts are outstanding achievements by the entire staff of the Office of University

#### **Martin receives the Peter J. Elich Teaching Award**

Physical Education, Health and Recreation Professor **LeaAnn Martin** was the 2011 recipient of the Peter J. Elich Teaching Award. Martin, who also serves as the Associate Dean for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, teaches in the teacher preparation program and specializes in elementary physical education. In 1995, she was named the College Professional Physical Educator of the Year by the Washington Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Martin was instrumental in designing the pedagogy program in Physical Education/Health, which has served as a model for other programs. Meanwhile,

two of her former students have been named National Physical Educators of the Year. The award includes a \$1,500 stipend from the WWU Foundation for research and teaching expenses and recognizes Peter J. Elich and his years of service as dean of the former College of Arts and Sciences. Faculty from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the College of Sciences and Technology are eligible for recognition.

#### **John Miles receives Excellence in Teaching Award**

Environmental Studies Professor **John Miles** was the 2011 recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award. Miles has served as chair and dean in Huxley College of the Environment, created experiential programs for undergraduates and graduates, written and edited six books (with more in the works), and has generally had a great time with great students and colleagues over 43 years. The Excellence in Teaching Award includes a \$1,500 stipend for teaching, research or professional enhancement made possible by the WWU Foundation. Nominations for the award, presented to faculty members from Huxley, Woodring or Fairhaven colleges, the College of Fine and Performing Arts, or the College of Business and Economics, are solicited from faculty, students and alumni.

#### **Nuzum receives the Kleinknecht Teaching Award**

History Instructor **Kathleen Nuzum** received the 2011 Ronald Kleinknecht Excellence in Teaching Award. Nuzum began teaching at Western in 2004 and currently teaches a wide range of courses in the History Department, as well as the first-year seminar sequence

***Professor Edward Vajda has worked extensively on Ket, an endangered language spoken by fewer than 100 people in a remote area of Siberia, which may be distantly related to the Na-Dene languages of North America.***

**Professor Wendy Wilhelm's Marketing Internship Program serves as a model at the College of Business and Economics.**

and a junior seminar for the Honors Program. Her areas of research include the philosophy of history, history of education, and intellectual history. The Kleinknecht award is given each year to a non-tenure-track faculty member from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It includes a \$1,000 stipend.

**Vajda and Vyvyan receive the Olscamp Award**

Center for International Studies Professor **Edward J. Vajda** and Chemistry Professor **James Vyvyan** both received the 2011 Paul J. Olscamp Research Award. Vajda has conducted extensive documentation work on Ket, an endangered language spoken by fewer than 100 elderly people in a remote area near Siberia's Yenisei River. He has recently presented evidence supporting a genealogical link between Yeniseian, the family to which Ket belongs, and the Na-Dene languages of North America. Vyvyan's research on the synthesis of biologically active natural products and new synthetic methods has included nearly 50 undergraduates and 14 graduate students, resulting in 14 publications with 24 different student coauthors. His work is currently funded through grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the ACS-Petroleum Research Fund. The Paul J. Olscamp Research Award recognizes faculty members who have made outstanding contributions to research and scholarship. The awards come with \$500, made possible through an endowment provided by former WWU president Paul J. Olscamp.

**Zhang receives the Outstanding Scholarship Award**

Decision Sciences Professor **Zhe George Zhang**



**George Zhang**

received the 2011 Outstanding Scholarship Award. Zhang has published more than 40 articles in many prestigious international journals such as Management Science, Operations Research, Queueing Systems, and the Journal of Applied Probability. Zhang's research interests include queueing theory and applications,

stochastic dynamic programming, probability models in reliability, and supply chain management issues in manufacturing/service organizations. The Outstanding Scholarship Award includes a \$1,500 stipend, made possible by the WWU Foundation, for professional scholarship activities.

**Hagen and Wilhelm are CBE Distinguished Fellows**

The College of Business and Economics in 2010 honored Economics Professor

**Daniel Hagen** as the Distinguished Research Fellow and Marketing Professor **Wendy Wilhelm** as the Distinguished Teaching Fellow:

- Hagen, whose research focuses on environmental and resource economics as well as world trade, has been published in prestigious journals such as the American Economic Review, Land Economics and the Journal of Environ-



**Daniel Hagen**

mental Economics and Management. His research on environmental valuation has been cited in numerous textbooks; his research has policy implications for many environmental economics issues, such as the valuation of air pollution and forest lands.

- Wilhelm has received many awards, attracted external support for the quality of her teaching and has worked vigorously to build the Marketing Program at Western. Her Marketing Internship Program has served as a model for other internship programs at the college. She also is a national and international leader in marketing education, serving many terms on the board of directors of the Marketing Educator's Association.



**Wendy Wilhelm**

**Physics and Chemistry faculty Janelle Leger wins prestigious NSF research grant**

Assistant Professor **Janelle Leger** was awarded a five-year, \$530,000 Early CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation, an extremely prestigious award



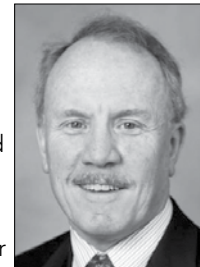
**Janelle Leger**

given to a small number of junior faculty members each year in an effort to promote their promising research and scholarship. Leger, a member of both the Physics and Chemistry departments as a member of the university's Applied Materials Science and Engineering

Center, is researching innovative ways to use conductive polymers to replace silicon and other inorganic semiconductors in applications such as lighting, solar-energy conversion and solid-state memory to improve performance and reduce cost. Early CAREER grants are given to faculty members who not only display promising research but who show outstanding promise as teachers and developers of innovative curriculum.

**CBE faculty honored for excellence in research**

Five faculty members from the College of Business and Economics have been honored with faculty research awards. Finance and Marketing Professor **Earl D. Benson** received the David Merrifield Faculty Research Award for his co-authored article, "Dueling Revenue Caps and Municipal Bond Yields: The Case of Houston, Texas," published in Public Budgeting and Finance. Four other CBE faculty are recipients of the Dennis R. Murphy Faculty Research Award:



**Earl Benson**

- Accounting Assistant Professor **Khim L. Sim**, who collaborated on the study "Service Quality, Service Recovery, and Financial Performance: an Analysis of the U.S. Airline Industry," published in Advances in Management Accounting.
- Decision Sciences Professor **George Zhang**, who collaborated



**Khim Sim**

**Financial Aid's Jean Meyer won the Nakama award for her leadership in converting the office to a paperless system – and setting up about 14,000 electronic records.**

**Journalism's Sheila Webb's article on Life Magazine won a top award for scholarly work in mass communication history.**

on the paper "A Periodic Replacement Model Based on Cumulative Repair-Cost Limit for a System Subjected to Shocks," published in IEEE Transactions on Reliability.

- Economics Associate Professor **Matthew R. Roelofs**, who collaborated on the paper "My Money or Yours: House Money Payment Effects," published in Experimental Economics.

- Management Assistant Professor **Mary D. Sass**, who co-authored the article "Personal Values and Negotiations Outcomes: Understanding Ourselves and Others," which will soon be published by the Journal of Collective Negotiation.



**Mary Sass**

The awards are \$1,000 and funded entirely by supporters of WWU's College of Business and Economics through the WWU Foundation.

**Nakama award honors Jean Meyer of Financial Aid**  
**Jean Meyer**, manager of student financial aid systems, won the 2010 Nakama award, presented by Student Affairs and Academic Support Services at WWU. The award acknowledges staff members who demonstrate outstanding commitment to the development and support of students. Meyer's many accomplishments include leading WWU's Financial Aid office in converting to a paperless system, which meant setting up about 14,000 electronic records.

**Webb wins national journalism educators' awards and campus award for service-learning efforts**

Journalism Assistant Professor **Sheila Webb** received the Covert Award and an honorable mention in Best Practices in Teaching Visual Literacy from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The Covert Award, endowed by Catherine L. Covert, goes to the best mass communication history article or chapter in an edited collection published the previous year, nationwide.



**Sheila Webb**

Webb won for her article, "Art Commentary for the Middlebrow: Promoting Modernism and Modern Art through popular Culture – How Life Magazine Brought 'The New' into Middle-Class Homes," which was published last summer in American Journalism. Webb received honorable mention in Best Practices in Teaching Visual Literacy for her entry of the Alternative Story Form assignment from her Intro to Visual Journalism class. Webb also received the 2011 Outstanding Service-Learning Faculty Award for her work in teaching the J466: Advanced Visual Journalism course and its work with local nonprofits such as the SISU Children's Fund, Whatcom Watch and Allied Arts. The showcase, hosted by Western's Center for Service-Learning during Scholars Week, celebrated collaborative scholarship and service projects between students, professors and community organizations.

**Lortz inducted into Thespians Hall of Fame**

Associate Professor of Theatre Arts **Jim Lortz** became a member of the Washington State Thespians Hall of Fame. The award, from the Washington State Thespians, honors adults who have made exceptional contributions to theatre and theatre education in the state. Lortz has a "profound effect on theatre students of Western Washington University, the theatre community of Bellingham and to many professionals across the country," wrote **Teri Grimes** a Washington State Thespians board member and WWU alumna, who nominated Lortz.



**Jim Lortz**

**Brad Smith joins Department of Commerce's northern fisheries research board**

**Brad Smith**, dean of Huxley College of the Environment, was appointed to the North Pacific Research Board by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke. The board, established by Congress in 1997 to recommend marine research initiatives to the Commerce Secretary, focuses research on the North Pacific, Bering Sea, and Arctic Ocean ecosystems. Smith was also appointed recently to the board of directors for Washington Sea Grant. He is a member of the EPA's National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology and the Commission on Education and Communication Steering Committee of the prestigious, Switzerland-based International Union for the Conservation of

Nature. He also is a member of Washington State's Fish and Wildlife Commission.

**Innovative Teaching Showcase highlights 'Teaching for Tolerance'**

Faculty from English, Journalism and Physical Education, Health and Recreation were featured in the 2010-11 Innovative Teaching Showcase, "Teaching for Tolerance," for their work in incorporating inclusive practices in their courses. The showcase featured English Associate Professor **Nicole Brown**, who teaches a visual rhetoric class focusing on social justice issues, Recreation Senior Instructor **Jill Heckathorn**, who focuses on social justice by using experiential and service-learning throughout her curriculum, and Journalism Assistant Professor **Carolyn Nielsen**, who incorporates diversity and representation issues in her newswriting and reporting classes.



**Nicole Brown**



**Jill Heckathorn**



**Carolyn Nielsen**

**Kathleen Saunders wins Global Citizenship Award**

Anthropology senior instructor **Kathleen Saunders** received the Eleanor Roosevelt Global Citizenship Award, named to honor the 20th century's "First Lady

*Theatre Arts' Jim Lortz has a 'profound effect on theatre students of Western, the theatre community of Bellingham and to many professionals across the country.'*

**Sports Information Director Paul Madison was inducted into the profession's national Hall of Fame.**

of the World." The award recognizes Saunders' effective participation in the Center for Public Anthropology's Community Action Online Project, as well as her wider activities in the public sphere. Saunders uses service-learning practices in her Economic Anthropology course, incorporating projects around hunger and food insecurity to make the connections between local conditions and global processes.

**Jusak becomes special assistant to the Provost**

Computer Science Professor **Debra Jusak** accepted a two-year appointment as the special assistant to Provost **Catherine Riordan**. Jusak's technical experience, statistical background and service as a department chair, will be put to work as the university addresses several important initiatives, including resource planning and allocation, effective communication strategies and planning for the future.

**Troy Abel invited to the Aspen Environment Forum**

Environmental Studies Assistant Professor **Troy Abel** was hosted by the Aspen Institute and National Geographic in their Scholars Program during the fourth annual Aspen Environment Forum this spring in Aspen, Colo. Abel shared insights from his co-authored book, "Coming Clean: Information Disclosure and Environmental Performance." He also discussed lessons from teaching an experimental course on Greening Business with **Craig Dunn**, associate dean of Business and Economics, and findings from his wildlife conservation research across Cascadia funded by the Border Policy Research Institute. The Aspen Environment Forum con-

venes 400 researchers, journalists, academics, entrepreneurs and students to explore and exchange ideas on energy, the environment and the economy to address today's environmental challenges.

**Paul Madison inducted into College Sports Information Directors Hall of Fame**

**Paul Madison**, longtime Sports Information Director at Western, was selected to the College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame. Madison, who has served as Western's Sports Information Director for 44 years, began sports information work as a student in 1966. Except for a six-month break after graduation, Madison has been with the Department of Athletics ever since. During his time at Western, Madison has seen his field move from one featuring mimeograph machines and game statistics done by hand to websites and computerized stats instantly streamed across the world. Madison served as chair of the GNAC Sports Information Directors Committee for nine years and spent the 2000-01 academic year as a member of the CoSIDA Board of Directors.



**Paul Madison**

**Jim Schuster honored for leadership and service**

**Jim Schuster**, director of Viking Union facilities, received the 2010 Association of College Unions International Region 14 Vern Solbach Award, which acknowledges significant leadership, volunteer service,

and commitment to the region of Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Saskatchewan and Washington. Jim was honored for his 36 years of involvement with and commitment to the association. One nominator described him as “a mentor, friend, smart listener, leader, and a community builder.” Another colleague remembered that Jim was “instrumental in establishing a successful and cost effective recycling center on campus long before sustainability was fashionable.”

#### **Mallory wins regional service award from NASPA**

**Sherry Mallory**, associate dean of students at Western, was named the 2010 Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Region V recipient of the Fred Turner Award for Outstanding Service. Mallory has been active in the association, also known as NASPA, since 1995, presenting at regional and national meetings, serving on editorial review committees, and serving as the public policy chair on the NASPA national board of directors for two years.



*Sherry Mallory*

#### **Chronicle: Western is a great place to work**

The Chronicle of Higher Education named Western as one of the Great Colleges to Work For in 2011. The university was rated highly enough by its employees to be recognized in the following categories: Collaborative Governance; Teaching Environment; Confidence in Senior Leadership; Tenure Clarity & Process. Loosely

based on the popular Fortune Magazine list, 100 Best Companies to Work For, Great Colleges recognizes institutions that are great workplaces and gathers benchmarking data about industry trends.

#### **Accounting, Marketing faculty win Franklin honors**

CBE Accounting Associate Professor **David Gilbertson** and Marketing Assistant Professor **Ed Love** were awarded the 2010 Allette and Cayden Franklin Excellence in Teaching Award. The awards, supported by 1986 alumnus **Chase Franklin**, recognizes faculty for a teaching activity or project of recognized quality that contributes to business education. Gilbertson was honored for the development and implementation of accounting theory debates for his “Accounting Theory” course. Gilbertson’s work has been shared at two refereed conferences where he organized and chaired panel sessions on “Strategies for Teaching the Accounting Theory Course.” Love was recognized for developing an approach to teach user-centered design in his “New Products Marketing” course. Love has co-authored his work in an article that will be published in the Marketing Education Review journal.

#### **Fairhaven’s Montoya-Lewis joins governor’s advisory group, testifies before Senate committee**

Gov. Chris Gregoire appointed **Raquel Montoya-Lewis**, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies associate professor, to the Washington Partnership Council for Juvenile Justice, which advises the governor on practices and policies for juvenile justice in the state. Montoya-Lewis, part of the council’s executive com-

***Viking Union’s Jim Schuster helped establish a recycling center on campus ‘long before sustainability was fashionable.’***

**History's Johann  
Neem interviewed  
for "Jefferson," a  
History Channel  
documentary**

mittee and chair of the grants and technical assistance committee, helped the council develop a three-year strategic plan for juvenile justice. Montoya-Lewis was also invited by the Casey Family Foundation and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to testify in front of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee on tribal courts and funding for child welfare. She is also a faculty member and part of the Tribal Judicial Leadership Group for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. She serves on the Washington State Bar Association's Task Force for Admission to Practice Rules and published articles in 2011 on tribal welfare issues.

**Piper's new book considers dogs' spiritual nature**

Wilson Library Professor **Paul Piper** recently released his fifth poetry book, "Dogs and Other Poems." Published by Bird Dog Press, about half of the poems are written from a dog's perspective – they're whimsical, philosophical and at times spiritual, Piper said. Piper is a Chicago native and received his master's degree in Creative Writing from the University of Montana in 1992.

**Philosophy's Whitcomb wins Younger Scholars Prize**

Philosophy Assistant Professor **Dennis Whitcomb** received the 2010 Younger Scholars Prize in Philosophical Theology for his paper "Grounding and Omniscience." The prize is awarded annually by editors at Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion and comes with an \$8,000 cash prize funded by the Ammonius Foundation. Whitcomb received his doctorate in 2007 and is a

specialist and author in the theory of knowledge and value.

**Hutton honored for advising Beta Alpha Psi chapter**

Accounting Professor **Zite Hutton**, professor of Accounting, was named Outstanding Faculty Advisor for Western's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi, the honorary society for financial information students and professionals. This is the second time she has been given this honor; recipients of the award are eligible again 10 years after receiving it. Hutton, a former IRS revenue agent, has been a WWU faculty member since 1989, and is a CBE Distinguished Teaching Fellow. She has received numerous awards, including Western's Excellence in Teaching Award in 1992, the CBE Excellence in Teaching Award in 2002, the Allette & Cayden Franklin Excellence in Teaching Award for CBE in 2005, the Washington Society of CPAs 2005 Award for Outstanding Accounting Educator, and the 2009 American Taxation Association (ATA) / Deloitte Teaching Innovation Award.



**Zite Hutton**

**Neem interviewed for Jefferson documentary**

History Associate Professor **Johann Neem** was interviewed for "Jefferson," a documentary that aired on the History Channel. Neem joined historians from Yale University, Case Western Reserve University and Monticello who were interviewed about the life and times of

Thomas Jefferson, the third U.S. President and author of the Declaration of Independence.

**SBDC's Shelton is a 'Star Performer' for her work to help small businesses thrive and grow**

**Jennifer Shelton**, director of the Western's Small Business Development Center, was named the 2011 Washington State Small Business Development Center



**Jennifer Shelton**

(SBDC) Star Performer. In 2010, Shelton's clients estimated her advice was directly responsible for adding \$1.1 million to the regional economy, saving 21 jobs and creating 35 new jobs. Shelton started working at the SBDC in Bellingham in 2002 while earning her M.B.A. at Western. After she became a certified business adviser in 2003, Shelton opened a new SBDC center

at Highline Community College in Des Moines, worked as director of the SBDC center in Everett from 2005 to 2010, and in January 2010, returned to Bellingham. The SBDC is a cooperative effort of Western, other educational institutions, economic development organizations and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

**Arlan Norman reappointed to Washington Technology Center board of directors**

**Arlan Norman**, who retired in 2011 as dean of the College of Sciences and Technology, was reappointed by Gov. Christine Gregoire for three-year term on the Washington Technology Center board of directors.

The Washington Technology Center assists companies in creating innovative products and technologies that provide job opportunities for the citizens of Washington state. The center's state-level board serves as the governing arm of the state-chartered agency.

**Huxley College's Wayne Landis joins Puget Sound Partnership science advisory panel**

The Puget Sound Partnership Leadership Council appointed Professor **Wayne Landis**, director of Huxley College's Institute of Environmental Toxicology, to the partnership's science panel. Landis, appointed to his first term on the panel, has extensive experience in environmental toxicology, population modeling and regional scale environmental risk assessment. The Puget Sound Partnership was established as a state agency by the 2007 Legislature and the Governor to develop and implement an aggressive action agenda for restoring the health of Puget Sound by 2020.

**Jennifer Shelton, was honored for giving advice to local businesses that added \$1.1 million in revenue, saved 21 jobs and created 35 more jobs.**