

# Curriculum

## **National quality, value rankings include Western**

Here are a few recent examples of Western's appearance in a number of national rankings:

- Western is the highest ranking public, master's-granting university in the Pacific Northwest, according to 2011 U.S. News & World Report college rankings. Western also ranked third among top public master's-granting universities in the West, the region from Texas to the Pacific. Rankings were based on academic reputation, student selectivity and retention, faculty resources, peer assessment and financial resources.
- WWU ranked 33rd among the 100 "Best Buy Colleges and Universities," a list compiled by Forbes Magazine highlighting the colleges that provide the best education at the lowest possible cost to students.
- Western also ranked among the top 100 public colleges and universities in the nation that "deliver a stellar education at an affordable price," according to Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine. In its February 2011 issue, Kiplinger's magazine ranked Western 56th on its list of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges.

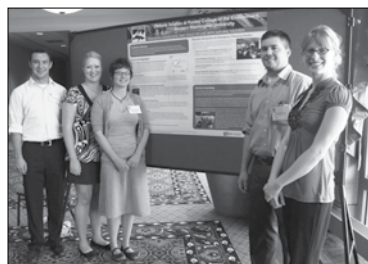
## **WWU enrollment nears 15,000 students**

Western had a record enrollment of nearly 15,000 students for the 2010 fall quarter. Although the plan had been to hold enrollment to fall quarter 2009 levels,

overwhelming responses by admitted students as well as increased retention of current students resulted in an additional 400 students. The 2010 fall enrollment at Western was 14,979 students, including all full-time, part-time, undergraduate and graduate students and students who attend Western programs in Everett, Port Angeles, Bremerton, Seattle and Anacortes. New freshman enrollment was a record 2,748 and there were 819 new transfer students.

## **Huxley's Disaster Risk Reduction studies becomes a new minor open to all**

Huxley College of the Environment will offer a new minor in Disaster Risk Reduction beginning fall 2011, with coursework covering the societal impacts of natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods and tsunamis. Disaster Risk Reduction was previously just for students in Huxley's Planning and Environmental Policy major. Now, the new



*WWU Disaster Risk Reduction students presenting at the Natural Hazards Workshop*

***Western continues to earn acclaim for our academics. We're finding new ways to expand our offerings, even in difficult budget times.***

***The new Disaster Risk Reduction minor will give graduates skills for working in government, business and research.***

DRR minor will be available to all qualified students, giving graduates in-demand skills for working with government agencies, private businesses and researchers. For example, five alumni who took Disaster Risk Reduction classes are now working for FEMA Region X, whose offices are based in Bothell. The minor will rely on existing courses, faculty and staff.

**New courses include global citizenship, bioinformatics and perspectives on childhood**

Western faculty developed a number of new courses in 2010-11, including:

- "International Perspectives on Childhood," by Fairhaven College Professor **Marie Eaton**.
- "Ethical Global Citizenship," by International Service-Learning Faculty Fellows: Anthropology Professor **James Loucky**, Business Management Associate Professor **Kristi Tyran**, Sociology Assistant Professor **Liz Mogford**, Fairhaven College Professor **Marie Eaton**, and **Tim Costello**, director of the Center for Service-Learning.
- "Robotics: Applications of Artificial Intelligence," by Computer Science Associate Professor **Jianna Zhang**.
- "Bioinformatics," by Computer Science Assistant Professor **Perry Fizzano**.
- "Topics in Molecular Mechanisms of Neurodevelopment," by Biology Assistant Professor **Heather Van Epps**.
- "Digital Signal Processing," by Engineering Technology Assistant Professor **Ying Lin**.
- "Ecogastronomy: The Art and Science of Food," by Environmental Studies Professor **Gigi Berardi**.

- "Understanding Environmental Data and Information," by Environmental Studies Associate Professor **Michael Medler**.
- "Gulf Oil Spill: Clean-up," by Environmental Studies Assistant Professor **Paul Stangl**.
- "The Economics of Renewable Energy," by Economics Professor **Dan Hagen**.
- "The Canadian Business Environment," by Economics Professor **Paul Storer**.
- "Introduction to International Economics and Business," by Economics Assistant Professor **Ozan Sula** and Management Assistant Professor **Marko Madunic**.
- "Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination," by Accounting Assistant Professor **Khim Sim**.

**Paramedic training programs receive accreditation**

Western's paramedic training program, a collaboration of Western's Extended Education, Whatcom Medic One and the Bellingham Fire Department, was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Accredited programs meet all national standards and prepare graduates to earn state and national certification. Western recently partnered with Whatcom Medic One and the Bellingham Fire Department to offer the training programs to the area's fire fighters and emergency medical service workers.

**Merger creates stronger, more creative Department of Theatre and Dance**

The Dance Program and the Department of Theatre were merged to create the Department of Theatre and

Dance. This newly merged department has strengthened both areas through the sharing of resources and collaborative productions such as "Pirates of Penzance," "Stories from Jim and Jo," and "The Jungle Book."

**MBA in Everett offers weekend classes for second cohort of working professionals**

Western's MBA in Everett program, now in its second year, is gaining momentum, with a second cohort of students beginning in January 2012. With classes on every other weekend, Western has positioned this Masters of Business Administration program for managers and professionals. Classes are taught by fulltime faculty members of the College of Business and Economics. The program's first cohort of students will graduate in fall 2011.

**Biology students and faculty hit the road for field research in southwest Oregon**

Western's faculty-led Biology research program took students on two concurrent trips to Oregon in summer 2011. Students earned 12 credits researching ecological methods or reptile ecology in the Great Basin desert of southeast Oregon, gaining valuable hands-on field experience with support and supervision by Biology Professor **Roger Anderson**. The trips also offered experience in the theory and practice of scientific research, including obtaining quality data, framing questions into hypotheses and performing graphical and statistical analyses. Students of all majors were welcome on the trip.

**Extended Education's editor's course hones skills for print and digital publications**

Western's Extended Education offered "Professional Editing: Print and Online," a nine-month certificate program for those interested in freelance, publication or print and online projects. The program was aimed at editors who needed editing skills to produce newsletters, Website content, marketing materials, formal reports or other written material. The 2010-11 cohort produced a magazine edited for iPad viewing, *Crema*, that speaks to Bellingham's coffee culture. All Extended Education courses are open to the public. Course topics varied from writing fiction to children's literature.

**Environmental Studies updates its curriculum**

Huxley College of the Environment's Environmental Studies Department completed a three-year effort to completely restructure its departmental curriculum for the first time in a decade. Working with the Academic Coordinating Commission, the department canceled 185 courses and established 139 new ones. The department also revised or created five new majors in the department.

**Fellowship helps faculty explore service-learning**

Western's nationally recognized Service-Learning Faculty Fellows Program introduces participants to service-learning and prepares faculty for integrating service-learning into their courses while building collegial relationships with other instructors from across disciplines, sometimes leading to collaborative research.

***New courses explore ecogastronomy, the economics of renewable energy, and forensic accounting.***

Faculty Fellows work together to share ideas, revise syllabi, develop community partnerships, and design community-based learning projects that meet course learning objectives. The 2010 Faculty Fellows were:

- Communication Instructor **Kevin Carey**.
  - Psychology Assistant Professor **Rebecca Goodvin**.
  - Library Instructor **Gabe Gossett**.
  - Psychology Assistant Professor **Barbara Lehman**.
  - Sociology Assistant Professor **Baozhen Luo**.
  - Political Science Associate Professor **Sarah Singleton**.
  - Journalism Assistant Professor **Sheila Webb**.
  - Modern and Classical Languages Lecturer **Lilly Yang**.
  - Anthropology Associate Professor **Kathleen Young**.
- Carmen Werder**, director of the Teaching-Learning Academy, facilitated the fellows.