

# Cultural Events and Lectures

## Author Jim Lynch discusses "Border Songs" at Western for Whatcom READS!

WWU hosted Northwest author Jim Lynch for a discussion about the border issues raised in his novel "Border Songs: Perspectives on Crossing the Line." The free event was sponsored by Whatcom READS!, Western's Libraries, and Western's Border Policy Research Institute. A former reporter for newspapers from Alaska to Washington D.C., including the Seattle Times, Lynch witnessed the increase of Border Patrol agents after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. In "Border Songs" his characters from both sides of the border are the focuses of the security change. "One thing that's always interested me about the border is that it's practically a magnet for temptation," Lynch says.

## Bellingham Electronic Arts Festival brings electronica to campus

The eighth annual Bellingham Electronic Arts Festival (BEAF) was held in early May for three days throughout Bellingham and Western's campus. The public was invited to showcases and performances involving electronica and dance artists from Vancouver B.C., Seattle, New York and Colorado. Panel discussions, lectures and workshops were also offered in the afternoons. Campus venues included Western's Viking Union Gal-

lery, Multipurpose Room and Performing Arts Center Concert Hall.

## Bellingham Lectures in Philosophy and Religion continues through 2013 at WWU

Alvin Plantinga, "America's leading orthodox Protestant philosopher of God" according to Time magazine, spoke at Western in May as part of the annual Bellingham Lectures in Philosophy and Religion. The lecture series, sponsored by WWU and supported by an \$86,000 grant from the John Templeton Foundation, is planned to run through 2013 and features discussions on God, free will and character. The series aims to increase understanding of current research on philosophical issues in religion and to inspire further study of Big Questions in communities throughout the region. All lectures are available by video and podcast on BLPR's website, [www.blpr.org](http://www.blpr.org).

## Robotic Festival held in Bellingham

The Bellingham Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Society, a nonprofit orga-



*"Pirates of Penzance" featured Theatre and Music students as a band of pirates, giggling maidens, and blundering policemen, all amid a "steampunk" design theme.*

**Participants at the Northwest Robot Festival built robots eligible for awards for different categories such as best engineering, most creative and best learner.**

nization supported by the Computer Science Department, held its sixth annual Northwest Robot Festival in February. The festival offered activities such as a maze-solving robot display and robot building. Participants built robots for competitions such as robot sumo and were eligible for awards for different categories such as best engineered, most creative, best learner and others. Associate Computer Science Professor **Jianna Zhang** is president of the society, a group of students from elementary school to college, and adults, interested in robotics and artificial intelligence.

**CASCAID conference focuses on immigration and border policy**

Since it began eight years ago, the CASCAID Conference at WWU has drawn participants from nearly a dozen states, more than 20 colleges or universities and three different countries to discuss community activism. This year, CASCAID offered workshops, undergraduate academic research presentations and discussion forums regarding border policy and immigration

debates. The event, free to the public, is sponsored by WWU's Debate Union, Community to Community, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship and Skagit Immigration Rights Council.

**CBE's Teaching Scholarship Day highlights excellence in management education**

The College of Business and Economics' seventh annual Teaching Scholar-

ship Day recognized excellence in business education and included numerous meeting sessions that brought together students, faculty, and business professionals. A capstone panel by the Center for Excellence in Management Education included Wayne Langei, CEO of Whatcom Educational Credit Union; Steve Staves, retired president of Duracell; and Frank "Sandy" McIntire, retired managing director of Johnson & Johnson. Recognized on Teaching Scholarship Day were **Dan Hagen** and **Wendy Wilhem**, recipients of the Distinguished Research Fellow Award and Distinguished Teaching Fellow Award respectively.

**Storytellers gather at Visual Journalism Conference**

Deanne Fitzmaurice, winner of the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Photography, was among the faculty of the 2011 Bellingham Visual Journalism Conference, sponsored by the Department of Journalism. The conference, which focuses on photojournalism and multimedia storytelling, included sessions on how to reinvent one's self after losing a job, portfolio critiques and a shoot-out style photo contest. Other faculty included nationally known photographers and multimedia producers, including 2010 Scripps Howard Foundation first-place winner Lisa Krantz, 2010 College Photographer of the Year Rachel Mummey and Seattle Times video editor Danny Gawlowski.

**Children's Literature Conference draws top authors**

Western's Children's literature Conference is an annual tradition for all teachers, librarians, readers and writers who enjoy children's literature. Among the presenters



*Bellingham Electronic Arts Festival showcased electronica and dance artists from Vancouver B.C., Seattle, New York and Colorado.*

at the eighth annual conference were Kirby Larson and Chris Raschka. Larson, a 2007 Newberry Honor book author, recently published "The Fences Between Us: The Diary of Piper Davis", about the Japanese internment camps. Raschka, a Caldecott Honor award recipient, writes and illustrates his own books.

#### **WWU co-hosts Human Rights Film Festival**

Western was home to several screenings at the Bellingham Human Rights Festival, which for 11 years has featured films throughout Bellingham to promote human rights awareness. The festival's film topics ranged from animated turtles promoting sustainability to the Killing Fields of Cambodia. The nine-day festival, free at all venues, typically included discussions after the films. Venues included Western's Fairhaven College Auditorium, Bellingham High School's library, Sehome High School's theater and Pickford Film Center. Western's Sustainability program and Center for Service Learning were among some of the film facilitators.

#### **Education Law and Social Justice Forum takes a look at teachers' unions**

The 13th Annual Educational Law and Social Justice Forum, co-sponsored by Woodring's Journal of Educational Controversy and the Center for Education, Equity and Diversity, explored whether teacher unions are a benefit or obstacle to student education. The forum's workshops also covered bullying, truancy and free speech rights. Panelists included Mary Lindquist, president of the Washington Education Association; **William Lyne**, English professor and president of the

United Faculty of Washington State; and Liv Finne, director of Education at the Washington Policy Center. The Whatcom County Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union co-sponsored the forum.

#### **Fall Family Open House headlined by Ryan Stiles**

Western Washington University's 2010 Fall Family Open House took place in late October and was headlined by the improv comedy of "Ryan Stiles and Friends". Each year the open house gives Western parents the chance to visit their students over the weekend and attend activities on and off campus. "Ryan Stiles and Friends," consisted of Stiles and local improvisational comedians from the UpFront Theatre. Other activities included art showcases, musical performances, athletics and an opening reception for the grand opening of Zoe's Bookside Bagels in Wilson Library. At the end of the weekend families enjoyed a closing brunch at all three dining halls.

#### **Tech Tonic 2011 was a 'Digital Uprising'**

Western Washington University's Student Technology Center and Associated Students co-sponsored the 2011 Tech Tonic Exposition and Speaker Series, "Digital Uprising." George Dyson, science historian and author of "Darwin Among the Machines" and "Project Orion," was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included **Babafemi Akinrinade**, Fairhaven College assistant professor of Human Rights. WWU student clubs, university departments and Bellingham organizations were also involved in the showcase. Exhibits included the American Museum of Radio and Electricity, the

***Students turned the Ridgeway Complex into a massive Halloween party for community children age 4 to 12.***

Bellingham Linux Users Group, and Western's Human-Powered Submarine. Topics ranged from the origins of computing to how technology has become a disruptive force on our privacy, security and democracy both here and in the developing democracies of Africa.

#### **Trick-or-treaters haunt WWU's Ridgeway Complex**

For Halloween 2010, local trick-or-treaters were welcomed by more than 150 Western students at the Ridgeway University Residences complex. Ridgeway community lounges were decorated in fun, safe, age-appropriate themes aimed at children ages 4 to 12. Little ghosts and vampires had the chance to take on Jack Sparrow in foam-sword duels, collect candy and get sorted by the Sorting Hat at Hogwarts. Each tour was led by a member of the WWU Residence Life

Student staff. Groups of trick-or-treaters and their required adult escort were taken on 30 minute tours of the complex's themed locations.

#### **Teens lead Munro Institute candidate forum**

High school students moderated a forum for candidates for office in Bellingham's 40th and 42nd legislative districts at Western's Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education, held in the Bellingham City Council Chambers.

The students, from Meridian and

Lynden high schools, also asked candidates questions at the forum, which was free to the public. **Sara Weir**, chair of Western's Political Science Department and director of the Munro Institute said the institute supports civic education and the forum discussion was an example of the strong partnerships between the university, local high schools and the City of Bellingham.

#### **Executive Speaker Series draws leaders in health care, mining, finance, consulting and sports**

The College of Business and Economics' Strategic Management Executive Strategy Speaker Series brings senior business leaders to campus to interact with students and share their perspectives on strategic management, leadership, and professional development. Presented by the CBE's Center for Excellence in Management Education, the events are free and open to the public. Speakers during the 2010-2011 academic school year included:

- Eddie Poplawski, president of Barclay's Realty & Management, a 42-year-old family-owned real estate investment and management company. Poplawski is also the sole owner and managing member of the Bellingham Baseball Club, owner of the Bellingham Bells.
- Western alumnus **Terry Belcoe**, president and CEO of North Coast Credit Union since 2001. Belcoe, who earned his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from WWU in 1979, has held a variety of positions in the finance, accounting and information technologies sectors in the past 20 years.
- **Randall Benson**, owner of Benson Consulting, a former senior consultant with Coopers and Lybrand,



*A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts allowed WWU Dance students to restage two pieces choreographed by the legendary Martha Graham, including the Themes and Variations Duet from "Appalachian Spring," above.*

and managing principal for World Class International. Benson received his bachelor's degree in Economics from WWU and recently released "The Quest Effect," a book that describes a new approach to organizational growth and development based on concepts from several different disciplines including psychology, complexity theory and evolution.

- John Hewitt, vice president of sales at Alpha Technologies. Hewitt began as a sales engineer for a small manufacturer's representative agency.
- Alex Morrison, a retired vice president and chief financial officer of Franco-Nevada Corp. who has extensive knowledge of mining operations and precious-metals industries.
- Debbie Ahl, a retired president and CEO of Sterling Life Insurance Co. who has nearly 20 years of experience in strategy development, business grown and corporate leadership. Ahl is also an experienced speaker who has testified before Congress on Medicare reform.

#### **CBE's Ethics and Social Responsibility Series highlights three speakers**

The College of Business and Economics' Ethics and Social Responsibility Executive Speaker Series hosts business leaders discussing ethics, social responsibility, leadership and professional development. The three 2010-2011 speakers were:

- Chad Dreier, retired president and CEO of The Ryland Group. Under Dreier's leadership, Ryland became the nation's 11th-largest developer and homebuilder, operating in 28 housing markets in 18 states and the District of Columbia.

- **Mark Myers**, environmental lawyer with the Seattle office of Williams Kastner specializing in environment regulatory action, product liability and geologic movement litigation. Myers received his bachelor's degree in Economics from WWU and his law degree from the University of Washington Law School. He has received recognition from Seattle Magazine and Seattle Met as being one of Seattle's top environmental lawyers.
- Robert Bunting, chair of Moss Adams' International Services Group. Bunting was one of two recipients of the 2008 AICPA Gold Medal for Distinguished Service and has been named by Accounting Today as one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting. Moss Adams one of the largest accounting firms in the U.S.

#### **Remembering the Chinese expulsions of the 1900s brings panel discussion and author to Western**

Two events at Western commemorated the 19th century expulsions of Chinese immigrants in the Puget Sound and Whatcom County regions.

- "Chinese Expulsion-Legacy of Intolerance in Whatcom County," a panel discussion co-hosted with the Human Rights Commemorative Project, covering the anti-Chinese movement in Whatcom County in the 1885-1890 and issues related to Chinese residents in the Puget Sound region. Speakers included two WWU alumni, **Margaret Willson** and **Jeffrey MacDonald**; and former WWU Woodring College of Education lecturer **Paul Englesberg**. An exhibit titled "Chinese Expulsion in Whatcom County and Beyond" was displayed in November and December in Wilson Library.

***Top executives from construction, environmental law and accounting spoke at the Ethics and Social Responsibility Series.***

**Western faculty took their expertise to kids for the “Wizards @ Western” lecture series, discussing volcanoes, marine life and plastic composites.**

- Author Shawn Wong discussed his novels “American Knees” and “Homebase” in a talk sponsored by the Cold Beverage Fund and the English Department. He also showed clips from the film adaptation of his novel “American Knees.”

**CST’s ‘Leaders in Their Field’ draws a Nobel winner**

Edmond Fischer, a Nobel Prize-winning scientist, was one of two speakers in the College of Science and Technology’s Leaders in Their Field Lecture Series. Fischer won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1992 with fellow researcher Ed Krebs for research into reversible protein phosphorylation, the switch to activate proteins and regulate various cellular processes. He is now a professor emeritus of biochemistry at the University of Washington.

The second speaker was volcanologist Katherine Kelley, a University of Rhode Island assistant professor of Oceanography. Kelley discussed explosive volcanic eruptions and how they build Earth’s crust, affect human populations and moderate our climate.

**Western’s ‘Wizards’ wow area young scientists**

Children in grades four through eight visited Western’s campus and attended the Wizards @ Western Youth Lecture Series. Hosted by Western’s College of Sciences and Technology, three free lectures were held this academic year, featuring volcanoes, plastics and bizarre marine animals:

- Fall quarter’s speaker was Assistant Professor of Geology **Jacqueline Caplan-Auerbach** who discussed why volcanoes exist in the Pacific Northwest, what we can

expect from them, and how scientists monitor volcanoes.

- Winter quarter’s speaker was Engineering Technology’s **Steven Dillman**, who discussed plastics and composites. Dillman also showed how these materials are made and discussed why society would not be possible without them.

- Spring quarter’s speaker was Assistant Professor of Biology **Benjamin Miner**, who showed how marine animals feed and defend themselves from enemies. Children also learned about animals that are commonly confused with plants that turn into jellyfish and used microscopes paired with high-definition video to examine a variety of marine invertebrates that live in the Salish Sea.

**Student and faculty dancers perform**

A restaging of two dances by famed choreographer Martha Graham were among the many faculty and student dance performances open to the public this year. Dance faculty member **Susan Haines** received a grant – the department’s fourth – from the National Endowment for the Arts to restage a Masterpiece of American Modern Dance at the Faculty Dance Concert. The grant allowed WWU dance students to restage two pieces choreographed by the legendary Martha Graham, “Steps in the Street” and the Themes and Variations Duet from “Appalachian Spring.” The year’s other faculty and student dance performances included:

- “Cabaret Ving! Bring Me Dance!,” hosted by the Dance program in downtown Bellingham. In its third year, the Cabaret performance series showcases

cutting-edge work created by WWU Dance students and faculty. Often the pieces are collaborations which include multiple art forms, such as dance, song, poetry and improvisation.

- "Fall Into Dance," choreographed by students in the Dance advanced choreography class.
- The Bachelor of Fine Arts Capstone Concert, showcasing students' culminating projects of performance and choreography.

#### **Huxley College Speaker Series showcases experts in environmental policy, planning, preservation**

The Huxley College of the Environment Speaker Series brings together faculty members and professionals from environmental studies and sciences to address topics of contemporary environmental concern. Some speakers of the past academic year include:

- **Troy Abel**, assistant professor of Environmental Policy, who spoke of "Coming Clean and Green". Abel presented ideas from his co-authored book "Coming Clean: Information Disclosure and Environmental Performance," which focuses on the proper release of information when facilities release toxic materials.
- Toxicologist **Julann Spromberg**, who presented "Coho Salmon as Sentinels for Urban Stream Health." Spromberg, a Huxley College alumna, is a research toxicologist at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries.
- Western alumna **Roberta Riley** of the World at 7 Billion Project on Women and the Environment, who spoke of strong collaborations between environmental

and women's health activists. In her former role as Legal and International Counsel for Planned Parenthood, she created and led the Fair Access to Contraception Project, which inspired 89 percent of American health plans to cover prescription contraceptives.

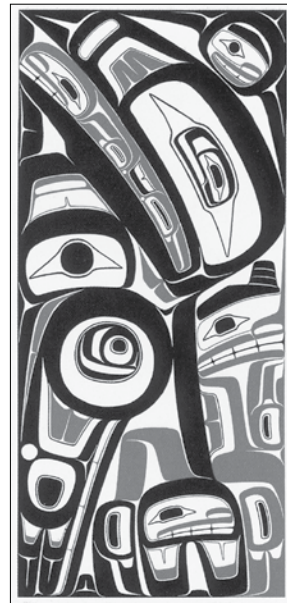
- SSA Marine spokesman and Fairhaven College alumnus **Craig Cole**, who presented a framework for examining the pros and cons of building the proposed terminal at Cherry Point in Whatcom County. The proposed project is slated to provide a new state-of-the-art, full-service facility for efficiently shipping dry bulk commodities such as coal to Asia and elsewhere. Cole is the retired CEO of Brown and Cole Stores and served on the WWU board of trustees for 11 years.
- Bob Ferris, executive director of RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, who addressed the cons of the Cherry Point proposal related to jobs and environment. He has contributed work in areas ranging from wolf restoration and agricultural policy to renewable energy and economic revitalization.
- Bellingham resident and documentary photographer Sidney Atkins, who discussed "Japan: Dam Nation and the Forging of a Nationwide Environmental Movement." Atkins, a translator, editor, and consultant for several Japanese research institutes, outlined the current state of affairs in Japan's domestic



*"Cabaret Ving! Bring Me Dance!," hosted by the Dance program in downtown Bellingham, showcased cutting-edge work created by Dance students and faculty.*

environmental policies while tracing the history of the seminal Nagara River anti-dam movement.

- Seattle-based sustainable development advocate and author Anindita Mitra, who addressed natural infrastructure and the opportunity to blend traditional engineering professions with environmental science.
- Jay Bolthouse, a doctoral candidate at the University of Tokyo, whose talk explored Japan's greenspaces and their potential to assist in the country's economic growth.



**Renowned First Nations artist Robert Davidson came to Western to present a retrospective of his work, including "Raven Stealing the Moon," a 1977 silkscreen print now in the Seattle Art Museum.**

- Kieran O'Mahony, from the University of Washington's College of Education's Learning in Informal and Formal Environments (LIFE) Center, who presented "Connecting Formal and Informal Learning Experiences."
- University of Washington professor Matthew Sparke, who discussed "Cascadia and the Future of Citizenship."
- **Max Wilbert**, a 2011 Huxley College alumnus, and Dillon Thomson of the nonprofit Fertile Ground, who spoke on "Environmentalism for a New Century."
- North Cascade Conservation Council members Jim Davis and Phil Zalesky, who discussed the American Alps Legacy Project, an initiative to evaluate whether lands adjacent to North Cascades

National Park should be included within the park's boundaries.

- Satpal Sidhu, chief operating officer of Sunlogics, who will speak on "Solar Energy – Is a Paradigm Shift at Hand?"
- Saif M. Al-Ghais, executive director of the United Arab Emirates Environment Protection and Development Authority, who discussed the environmental status of the Arabian Gulf region.

#### **WWU holds tribute for Holocaust survivor and longtime guest speaker Noemi Ban**

The Northwest Center for Holocaust, Genocide and Ethnocide Education held a tribute to Noemi Ban, a Bellingham resident, award-winning teacher, and Auschwitz survivor, who has touched the lives of many by sharing her story of survivorship, hope, and love of life. Ban's dedication to sharing her story has prompted her to make hundreds of visits to schools, congregations and community centers throughout Washington, California, Montana, and Canada. The tribute to Ban, held in the Performing Arts Center, included video footage from Ban's most recent trip to Poland, musical performances, a short theatrical piece based on the story of Ban's father, and a presentation featuring those touched by Ban's message. Ban also spoke at another event hosted by Western, commemorating the 72nd anniversary of Kristallnacht, "Night of Broken Glass," a night of anti-Jewish terror and violence was the beginning of the Holocaust.

### **Top artists discuss their work at Western**

Western and the College of Fine and Performing Arts drew top visual artists to campus to discuss their work in sculpture, drawing, architecture, large-scale pieces and carvings.

- Renowned First Nations artist Robert Davidson presented a retrospective of his work since carving and helping to raise totem poles on Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands off of the North Coast of British Columbia) in 1969, the first Haida poles to be raised in 85 years. Davidson's internationally acclaimed works are featured in many public and private collections and his numerous awards include the prestigious Order of Canada.
- Portland visual artist David Eckard, an associate professor and chair of the Sculpture Department at Pacific Northwest College of Art, discussed his art exhibitions at a free lecture in December. Through sculptures and drawings Eckhard emphasizes masculinity, endurance and identity. In March 2010 he was awarded the prestigious Bonnie Bronson Fellowship award and completed a two-year teaching fellowship in France. He has exhibited across the nation with solo shows in New York, Seattle, Portland, and Chicago.
- Artist Scott Bailey presented an interactive installation and public lecture in Old Main in May. Bailey's recent work is based on virtual landscapes that he constructs digitally based on elevation data. The data generates works ranging from Romantic-style landscape paintings to geometric abstractions. Bailey has held solo exhibitions in Japan, Italy, Egypt and South Africa. He also works as a writer, curator and chair of

the Art Department at Wenatchee Valley College.

- Artist Maki Tamura presented her mix-media works on paper on campus in May. Tamura uses watercolor on paper to merge culture through their decorative artistic traditions. Born in Japan, Tamura lives and works in Seattle. She has had solo exhibitions at the Seattle Art Museum, Dallas Museum of Art and galleries in Rome and Lüneburg, Germany.
- Annie Han and Daniel Mihalyo from the Seattle-based Lead Pencil Studio presented a lecture on their art in October. Recipients of numerous awards, including a 2010 New York Prize Fellowship, Han and Mihalyo discussed their innovative collaborations and recent installation "Non-Sign II" for the Art in Architecture commission at the Blaine Peace Arch Port of Entry.

### **Western hosts authors, scientists, publishers and filmmakers for campus lectures**

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Harding was among the many speakers who appeared at Western this year. Western Libraries and Village Books hosted Harding, who received the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his debut work, "Tinkers," the first independently published Pulitzer winner in 30 years. "Tinkers" tells the story of an old man at the end of his life as his memories intertwine with those of his father and grandfather. Western played host to many other intriguing speakers, including:

- Christopher Reddy, senior scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's Department of Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry, who discussed his most recent work, tracking an analyzing subsurface

***Speakers and artists who came to campus included renowned First Nations artist Robert Davidson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Harding, and Seattle Times Publisher Frank Blethen***

***Pam Kuntz's "Prison Pieces" told the story of imprisonment from multiple perspectives, weaving a richly detailed narrative in dance, music and voice.***

oil plumes following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Reddy's talk was part of the 2010 Jean Dreyfus Boissevain Lectureship award, received by the Chemistry Department, to bring a leading researcher to campus to give a lecture in the chemical sciences.

- Author and activist Juana Bordas, founder of Mi Casa Women's Center and the first president of the National Hispana Leadership Institute. Bordas travels across the country encouraging students and communities to embrace diversity and to prepare for our multicultural future. Her talk was hosted by the Leadership Advantage program, Associated Students, Karen W. Morse Institute for Leadership Studies, the Flow Project and two other Western club centers.

- Author and documentary filmmaker John De Graaf, who addressed the science of happiness and whether social connection is more important than economic growth in creating happy and healthy societies. He is the national coordinator of "Take Back Your Time" an initiative to challenge the epidemic of overwork, over-scheduling and time famine that can threaten health.

- Seattle Times publisher Frank Blethen, who presented "Can We Save America's 223-year Experiment in Democracy?" which addressed free, diverse and independent press in a democratic society, the dangers of a democracy without independent journalism and the current state of print media. His talk was sponsored by Huxley College of the Environment and the Department of Journalism.

- Princeton University professor Lawrence Rosen, who discussed "The Metaphors of Indigenous Cultural Heritage." Rosen explored how different metaphors

affect the ways in which we think, legally and politically, about the rights of indigenous peoples in their cultural products. Rosen discussed if they should be viewed as property, one's brainchild, a moral right or as a collective heritage.

**Pam Kuntz explores life through dance**

Dance Instructor Pam Kuntz organized two public shows this year, offering multimedia perspectives on life and relationships. "In the Context of Life," which included compelling stories of 15 community members, was inspired by a 2007 research project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that invited Bellingham citizens to visualize their unique "health map." Kuntz worked with Richard Scholtz to explore the project's results through text, photography, video, sound, and dance. The Bossak Heilbron Charitable Foundation, and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and the College of Fine and Performing Arts all helped fund the performance. Kuntz also produced "Prison Pieces," which told the story of imprisonment from multiple perspectives and provided a richly detailed narrative in dance, music and voice. It was performed to an original musical score interwoven with recently conducted interview excerpts from prisoners, prison workers and the child of imprisoned parents. Kuntz was asked to create the piece for the Regional UNESCO Conference on Prisons and Peace held in May in Mount Vernon.

### Music faculty and staff perform for the public

The Department of Music hosted several concerts this year featuring students and faculty in the Performing Arts Center Concert Hall, from jazz to Beethoven. Here are some examples:

- Two evenings of jazz celebrated the first year of the revamped Jazz Studies area. The performances featured the student WWU Big Band, and the Faculty Jazz Collective, which is comprised of saxophonist and Jazz Studies Program Coordinator **Mike Allen**, drums Instructor **Julian MacDonough**, bass and voice Instructor **Adam Thomas**, and piano and guitar Instructor **Miles Black**.
- The annual concert of the Collegium Musicum featured rare and newly discovered music for voices and orchestra from the classical period.
- In one of the Music Department's largest-ever performances, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony showcased the combined forces of 250 energetic young singers and instrumentalists from Western choirs, band and orchestras. Soloists included Associate Music Professor **David Meyer** and voice Instructor **Katie Weld**.

### Veterans honored at campus ceremony

Western held a Veterans Day Ceremony in November, with speakers including WWU President **Bruce Shepard**; student and WWU Vet Corps Navigator **Christopher Brown**; student and Western's Veterans Community President **Jordan Linayao**; and **Doris Kent**, former WWU employee and gold-star mother of the late Cpl. Jonathan Santos. A food drive for the Combat Veterans International Food Bank was held by

Vet Corps, Western's Veteran Community and the A.S. Veteran Outreach Center.

### Sanford Piano Series brings top-notch performers to Western's stages and classrooms

Since it began in 2003, the Sanford Piano Series has attracted acclaimed pianists to Western and the Bellingham community. The three performers, who also taught a master class for student musicians, included:

- Di Wu, whose program featured works by Debussy, Ravel and Gounod-Liszt. Praised in "The Wall Street Journal" as a "musically mature and sensitive pianist," Chinese-born Di Wu has wowed audiences throughout Asia, Europe and the United States.
- Ilya Itin, whose performance featured works by Beethoven and Rachmaninov. Itin has impressed critics and audiences around the world with his wide-ranging repertoire and artistry.
- Inon Barnatan, whose performance raised funds for the maintenance of Western's new 9-foot Steinway Ford Hill Concert Grand piano. Barnatan's program featured works by Debussy, Britten and Stevenson, Ravel and Schubert. Barnatan has impressed audiences around the U.S. and Europe with his poetic and passionate music making, communicative performances, and engaging programming. College of Fine



*Western's Faculty Jazz Collective is comprised of saxophonist and Jazz Studies Program Coordinator Mike Allen, drums Instructor Julian MacDonough, bass and voice Instructor Adam Thomas, and piano and guitar Instructor Miles Black. The group performed at an event celebrating the first year of the Music Department's revamped Jazz Studies area.*

and Performing Arts Dean's Office sponsored Barnatan's performance.

### Commencement celebrates graduates

Western celebrated its 100,000th degree awarded at fall 2010 Commencement, an important accomplishment in the history of an institution that has evolved into what has become known as the best master's-granting public university in the Pacific Northwest. Graduating senior **Ariadne Alatraste Peña** was selected at random to receive the representational honor as the 100,000th degree recipient at the fall Commencement ceremony. And the entire 2010-11 graduating class will be honored with a commemorative brick paver installed in the sidewalk in front of Old Main.



*Provost Catherine Riordan and President Bruce Shepard listen to Keith Boyd's spring Commencement address. Boyd is a 1995 Political Science graduate and a senior manager at Microsoft.*

Each ceremony also includes a student speaker. The 2010-11 Commencement speakers and student speakers were:

- **Ronald H. LaFayette** ('69 and '71), retired president of North Seattle Community College, with **Samuel Dart**, an English Literature graduate, for Summer 2010.
- Cloud computing and

information security specialist **Jim Reavis** ('87), with Manufacturing Engineering Technology graduate **Bailee Bailey** for Fall 2010.

- Russell Index Group CEO **Ron Bundy** ('89), with Business Administration graduate **Sarah Olson** for Winter 2011.
- **Douglas Dreier** ('96), curator of the Dreier Collection, **Keith Boyd** ('95), a senior manager at Microsoft, and **Bill Kindler** ('65), a retired executive, for the three ceremonies of Spring 2011, with student speakers **Deanna Wilson**, a Music Education and Vocal Performance graduate, **Chris Crow**, an International Business and History of Culture graduate, and **Analiessa Isherwood**, a Behavioral Neurosciences graduate.

### Theatre students and faculty take to the stage

The Theatre and Dance departments hosted four performances throughout last year, offering audiences a chance to watch musicals, holiday parodies and other productions. Some examples are:

- "The Jungle Book," directed by Theatre Arts Associate Professor **Gregory Pulver**. Adapted directly from British author Rudyard Kipling's beloved 1894 series collection, the collaborative production brought traditional Indian dance, music, fantasy costumes, and puppets to life for families.
- "Inspecting Carol," directed by Theatre Instructor **Patrick Dizney**. A holiday parody, the performance followed a fictitious playhouse preparing for their annual production of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."
- "US," directed by Theatre Professor **Rich Brown**. Inspired by Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" and pho-

tographer Robert Frank's book "The Americans," the production followed two artists traveling thousands of miles to ask, "What does it mean to be an American?"

- "Pirates of Penzance", co-directed by associate professors **Jim Lortz** and **David Meyer**. The show featured Theatre and Music students in this popular family-friendly production. The performances included a band of pirates, giggling maidens, and blundering policemen, all amid a "steampunk" design theme.

#### Visiting performers bring their talents to Western

Western hosted many visiting performing artists in Performing Arts Center Concert Hall this year. Here are some of them:

- The Department of Music hosted French horn player David Griffin for a master class and evening recital in October. Griffin is the fourth horn of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a member of the wind quartet Prairie Winds. The evening program also featured Music Professor **Jeffrey Gilliam** on piano.

- "Sounds of the 1930s with Leslie Amper" was presented in October by the Music Department and the Whatcom Museum of History and Art. The program highlighted the importance of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's initiatives to support artists through the Federal Music Program. Amper's performance coincided with the exhibition "1934: A New Deal for Artists," which was on display at the Whatcom Museum



*Leslie Amper*

in January.

- The Department of Theatre and Dance presented a special performance by Chris Walker and First Wave Hip Hop Theatre. An assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Walker is the artistic director of the First Wave Hip Hop Theatre Ensemble and co-founder of NuMoRune Collaborative – an ensemble of dancers, choreographers, storytellers and musicians. In addition to the performance, Walker taught dance classes during a week-long residency at Western in October.

- The Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program performed Donizetti's "Viva la Mamma," a farce about backstage shenanigans at an opera company. Now in its 13th year, the Young Artists Program trains promising singers for a career in opera, with a curriculum that includes public performances – this performance was sponsored by the WWU Opera Studio and Van Horn Family.

#### The Western Gallery exhibits showcase art from Africa, the Pacific Northwest and 'US'

The Western Gallery hosted several important exhibits during the 2010-11 academic year, including:

- "Spellbinding Beauty: Selections from the Lehmann African Art Collection," which includes devotional, honorary, and utilitarian objects.

**Monique Kerman**, an instructor



*Chris Walker artistic director of the First Wave Hip Hop Theatre and an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, performed and taught dance classes during a week-long residency at Western in October.*

**The Western Gallery exhibited the Washington Art Consortium's newest collection, featuring Northwest works on paper, from the corporate collection of Safeco Insurance.**

at Western who specializes in African Art, selected powerful sculptural objects and brilliantly colored textiles from this family collection to highlight a range of aspects of African culture.

- A premiere of the Washington Art Consortium's newest collection featuring Northwest works on paper. The collection is part of the gift from Safeco Insurance, one of the country's leading corporate collections of Northwest art, to the Washington Art Consortium. The collection includes more than 100 objects by such artists as Marvin Oliver, Victoria Adams, Michael Spafford, Justin Gibbens and Ann Appleby.

- "Dreamland," a collaborative exhibition of American artwork from the Western's extensive art collection. Curated by WWU fine-arts students studying exhibition theory, the show was taken from concepts and collaboration with "US," a theatre production performed and conceived by the WWU Department of Theatre and Dance.

Meanwhile the gallery's spring 2010 show, "Critical Messages: Northwest Artists on the Environment," traveled to the Hallie Ford Museum at Willamette University in fall 2010 and to the Boise Art Museum during winter and spring of 2011.

**Turning Point Lectures celebrate Western talent**

The Turning Points Faculty Speaker Series, which celebrates the wealth of knowledge and talent on Western's campus, featured four speakers this year. The free presentations included:

- **Ira Hyman**, Psychology professor. His "Unicycling Clowns, Train Wrecks, and Pilots Forgetting to Land:

Adventures in Inattentional Blindness" explored Hyman's studies on distraction associated with technology.

- **Sheila Webb**, assistant professor of Journalism. Her "Prowess Unlimited: The Portrayal of Science & Technology in Life Magazine in the 1930s and 1940s" examined how the press is critical to our knowledge and control of scientific and technological developments.



**Sheila Webb**

- **Carmen Werder**, director of the Teaching-Learning Academy and Writing Instruction Support Program. Her "What's a Meta-for?" explored the implications of understanding metaphors for promoting civil discourse, formulating identity and deepening learning.

- **Paul Chen**, associate professor of Political Science. His "Mixing Religion and Politics: Recent Developments in Political Science Research" discussed the increasing attention that political scientists and other scholars have paid to religion, traditional bias against studying religion, and differences in religion research.

**World Issues Forum bring global and local social justice discussions to Western**

The World Issues Forum, an annual lecture series highlighting social justice efforts around the globe, brought speakers to present on a wide variety of topics, from environmental justice in Guatemala to transgender equality in the U.S. This year's presentations, sponsored by the Ethnic Student Center, Mark Lehmann

and Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, included:

- “Why Peace is Possible” by Paul K. Chappell, West Point Chaplain and former U.S. Army Captain.
- “Asserting Self-Determination over Cultural Property: Moving Towards Protection of Genetic Material and Indigenous Knowledge” by Debra Harry, global leader and scholar.
- “Bearing Witness to Tragedy” by Joan Connell, former director of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University.
- “Community and Resistance from Katrina to the Jena Six” by Jordan Flaherty, writer and New Orleans community organizer and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Oakland-based writer, performer and teacher.
- “Human Rights and Environmental Justice in Guatemala: A Case Study” by Angelina Snodgrass Godoy, director of University of Washington’s Center for Human Rights.
- “In the Shadows of Skyscrapers: Labor Migrants in the Petroleum States of the Arabian Peninsula” by Andrew Gardner, assistant professor of Anthropology at the University of Puget Sound.
- “Migrating Towards Justice: Stories to Transform People and Policy” by Augusto Obregon, community leader and activist in Nicaragua.
- “The Postville Raid: U.S. immigration enforcement and the effects on immigrant children and families” by Luis Argueta, Guatemalan-born film producer, director and U.S. citizen.
- “Being Muslim in America: Why it’s not an oxymoron” by Iman Salam, member of the Bellingham Muslim

community.

- “Yad Vashem to Al-Khaleel: Gatekeepers to the Holy Land’s Good, Bad and Ugly” by **S.T. McNeil**, environmental convergence journalist and Fairhaven College alumnus.
- “The Ability to Give Back to the Community through Art” by artist Rigo Peralta.
- “Environmental issues facing British Columbia: fish farming and oil tankers in BC coastal waters.” by Fin Donnelly, Member of Canadian Parliament.
- “Project Transgender – Various Bodies, the Same Right” by Elizabeth Vasquez, Project Transgender founder.
- “Racial / ethnic minority health: What do we know about racism’s effects on well-being?” by Yamile Molina, University of Washington Ph.D. and health researcher.
- “Gender, Self-Silencing, and Depression in 13 Countries.” by **Dana Jack**, Fairhaven College Professor.
- “Venezuela’s Foreign Policy toward the Region in the 2000s” by Ana Marleny Bustamante, professor at the University of the Andes in Venezuela.
- “Justice for All: The Case for Humanity and Fair Treatment of Haitian Immigrants in the D.R.” by Solange Pierre, founder of the Dominican-Haitian Women’s Movement and winner of the Robert J. Kennedy Human Rights Award.
- “The Maya Quest for Survival through Immigration to the United States” by Alan Lebaron, director of the Kennesaw State University Maya Heritage Community Project with **James Loucky**, Anthropology Professor at Western.

***The World Issues Forum included discussions on transgender rights, giving back to the community through art, the lives of migrant workers around the world and “Why Peace is Possible.”***

***“Does Art Merely Reflect a Damaged World, or can it Inspire Change?” asked Jen Marlow, author, filmmaker, activist and World Issues Forum speaker.***

- “Reflections of Global Citizens” by **Jason Davis, Ryan Martinek, Rhiannon Laurie**, recipients of Fairhaven College 2010 Adventure Learning Grant
- “Dysfunctional Philanthropy: Alternatives to the Gates Foundation’s ‘Green Revolution’ in Africa” by Janae Choquette, co-chair of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa Watch and Evergreen State College graduate.
- “Does Art Merely Reflect a Damaged World or Can it Inspire Change?” by Jen Marlowe, filmmaker, author and human-rights activist.
- “Teaching Colonialism, Complexity, and Survivance: A Pedagogical Journey” by **Coll Thrush**, University of British Columbia associate professor of History and Fairhaven College graduate.
- “Dawn of a New Revolt: Challenging Corporate Control of Politics” by Cindy Sheehan, peace activist and mother of Spc. Casey Sheehan, who was killed in Iraq.
- “Representing a ‘High Value Detainee’ at Guantanamo” by Jeff Robinson, criminal defense lawyer.
- “Art, Ideology, and Institutional Ethics: The Case of the 19th-Century Jamaican Artist Isaac Belisario” by Dian Kriz, Brown University Art History professor and chair of the Department of History of Art and Architecture.
- “Mining Boom in Mongolia: Will Mongolia Benefit from Mining projects?” by Erdenetuya Erdenebaatar, Mongolia Fulbright Scholar and National University of Mongolia lecturer.
- “Teaching and Learning for Racial Justice: Danger and Opportunity in Our Critical Moment” by Presenter: Dexter B. Gordon, University of Puget Sound distin-

guished professor and chair of The Conversation, a Tacoma and South Sound residents’ group supporting social justice activists.

**Minifest draws eclectic group of musicians**

The Department of Music and Sound Culture presented Minifest, a celebration of musical miniatures spanning diverse styles and genres, in November 2010. Headed up by Music Associate Professor **Bruce Hamilton**, the celebration featured two global music-video presentations curated for the international Vox Novus 60x60 Project. The events also included eclectic live performances from local musicians featuring folk, experimental pop, jazz, electroacoustic, free improvisation, world music, classical, quirky pop, R&B and more.