

Community Outreach

Carnegie 'Community Engagement' classification reflects Western's community impact and service

Western received the 2010 Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, an honor that recognizes the impact Western has in the community. To receive the classification, institutions must operate community outreach programs that meet a need, deepen students' academic learning and enhance community well-being. Based on available data, students, faculty and staff contributed over 750,000 hours of community service a year.

Western's community service ethic results in a spot on the President's Honor Roll with Distinction

Western was selected for the 2010 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction award, which recognized higher education institutions across the country that reflected values of exemplary community service and achieved meaningful community outcomes. Western and Gonzaga University in Spokane were the only universities in Washington State selected for the Honor Roll with Distinction. The Corporation for National and Community Service chooses honorees based on factors including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent

to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school's commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

Hundreds enjoy Academy for Lifelong Learning

Extended Education's Academy for Lifelong Learning offered free academic and cultural courses to 1,495 adults of all ages and educational background during 2010-11. Faculty, faculty emeritus, and other experts taught courses covering 29 topics, from "Shakespeare and Music" to "Human Rights in International Law."

Courses ranged in length from one to six sessions and offered a full-day experience, including transportation and admission, to a ballet, concert, museum or other unique attraction. Academy for Lifelong Learning is 100 percent member-driven and supported by membership dues and program fees. In its October 2011 issue, Money Magazine also cited the program as one of the reasons Bellingham is one of the nation's best college towns for retirement.



The Academy for Lifelong Learning, cited by Money Magazine as one of the reasons Bellingham is one of the nation's best college towns for retirement, offered courses on 29 topics in 2010-11, and several field trips.

WWU researchers help monitor Bellingham's water

Western will continue to help monitor the source of Bellingham's drinking water, Lake Whatcom, thanks to a three-year grant from the city. The \$708,000 grant to the Institute for Watershed Studies and the departments of Geology and Computer Science funds the Lake Whatcom Study. Professor **Robin Matthews**, director of the institute, along with Geology Associate Professor **Robert Mitchell**, and Computer Science Professor **Geoffrey Matthews**, will continue the monitoring work with institute staff members **Joan Vandersypen** and **Michael Hilles**. This study has been going on for over twenty years and provides valuable data, data analysis, and decision support to the city of Bellingham Public Works Department.



U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen signs autographs for fifth-graders visiting Western for Compass 2 Campus, which was recently recognized for efforts to get kids thinking early about college with the help of mentors and role models from Western.

Two important archive collections go online

Two fascinating archival collections were made available to the public in 2010-11, thanks to The Center for Pacific Northwest Studies and Western Libraries. The two collections, available online at Western Libraries, are:

- Historic photos of the North Cascades from the Mount Baker (Hiking) Club and local photographers Galen Biery, Bert Huntoon and Henry C. Engberg. Each photographer's album

consists of slideshows, maps and research files. Pictures of camping, hiking, skiing and snowshoeing are also featured.

- Films from the 1960s from Bellingham-based KVOS TV. The collection includes footage of Western's campus, features of the 1965 Bellingham Vietnam protest, Seattle's World Fair and the 1964 Alaska earthquake.

State school administrators honor Compass 2 Campus for excellence in community leadership

One of the largest mentoring programs in the state, Compass 2 Campus, was awarded its first-ever Northwest Region Community Leadership Award from the Washington Association of School Administrators. Founded by volunteer director **Cyndie Shepard**, Compass 2 Campus was recognized for its efforts to get kids thinking early about college with the help of mentors and role models. More than 1,700 elementary students from diverse and low-income communities receive academic tutoring from more than 800 Western-student mentors. Currently in its second year, the program serves 16 schools in 10 school districts. Western mentors have devoted more than 55,000 hours of service to the local schools. Compass 2 Campus kicks off each fall with a tour of campus by fifth-graders. Speakers at the 2010 Compass 2 Campus tour included U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, State Sen. Rosemary McAuliffe, state representatives Bob Hasegawa, **Kelli Linville** and Jeff Morris, Whatcom County Executive Pete Kremen and Bellingham Mayor **Dan Pike**.

Washington Campus Compact grants fund regional service-learning projects

Washington Campus Compact, a WWU-based organization with 37 member colleges and universities committed to providing meaningful experiences for students to become active community leaders, won two significant grants this year and gave public recognition to three AmeriCorps members for their work in a local mentoring project:

- The Corporation for National and Community Service awarded a \$500,000 Learn and Serve grant to Campus Compact. The grant supports the Northwest Sustainability Initiative to increase habitat restoration and green-energy practices through service-learning by faculty and students through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields at higher education campuses in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.
- Campus Compact received \$100,000 from the College Spark Washington Foundation for Western to partner with four colleges and assess a strategy to increase the percentage of low-income students completing degree programs. The Graduation Project enrolls work-study college students in Students in Service, a part-time AmeriCorps program that allows students to volunteer for 300 to 900 hours and receive an education voucher for tuition and/loans.
- Campus Compact honored Three Western students and AmeriCorps members during AmeriCorps Week. **Shawna Held** of Everett, **Isabel Meaker** of Bellingham, and **Abraham Rodriguez-Hernandez** of Vancouver, B.C., were recognized for their work with the AmeriCorps Retention Project, which has recruited more

than 100 college student mentors to serve more than 300 Bellingham-area youth. Students from Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College were also honored for their work with the Retention Project.

Career fairs link students with future employers

The Career Services Center offered a variety of free Career fairs for students and other job seekers to connect directly with employers. Students and the general public met with hiring managers from private-sector companies, nonprofit organizations and government agencies. In the last year more than 180 employers signed up for the career fairs, including Crane Aerospace and Electronics, Expeditors, First Investors Corp., Fred Meyer, Gordon Trucking, PACCAR, Pioneer Human Services, Seattle Police Department, Serve Northwest Washington, Sterling Life Insurance, The Woods Coffee, Verizon Wireless, Wild Waves and many more. Career and information fairs were also held for more focused groups, including people interested in business, health sciences, law school, environmental careers, community internships, international opportunities, rehabilitation services and government careers.

Center for Economic Vitality events offer local businesses strategies to survive and thrive

The Center for Economic Vitality held many events in 2010-11 to help boost local businesses in the last year. Some examples are:

- Jump Start Washington Exports Program kick-off, hosted for Washington businesses interested

Western's Institute for Watershed Studies will continue to help monitor the source of Bellingham's drinking water, Lake Whatcom, thanks to a grant from the city.

Western's Center for Economic Vitality helped 421 local businesses save or create 421 jobs.

in exports. U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen discussed federal export initiatives and the importance of exports to the regional economy. **Tom Dorr**, CEV director, introduced the exports program and described how it will help Washington businesses. The center also held a Washington State Export Certification Course and NAFTA Seminar for more technical assistance for area businesses interested in exporting their goods.

- "Demystifying Your Financials: Removing the Fear to Understand What the Numbers Really Mean," a free workshop in Ferndale.
- "How to Get Your Business Unstuck, Going and Growing Again," a free presentation in Blaine. Business Strategist Eric Grimstead discussed the lucrative Canadian market and how businesses can reach across the border to clients or business trading partners.

Center for Economic Vitality shares knowledge, resources with local business, helps create jobs

For more than 20 years, the Center for Economic Vitality has enabled Western's College of Business and Economics to give back to the business community and help shape the economic future of Whatcom County one business at a time. The Center of Economic Vitality provides free, confidential counseling and technical assistance combined with business intelligence research to business owners and managers throughout Whatcom County.

- In the last year the Center for Economic Vitality assisted 421 local businesses in saving or creating more than 200 jobs and helped clients obtain \$13,581,836 in loans and new investments.

- The staff provided 3,517 hours of in-depth counseling and research – about 8 hours per client.
- The Center for Economic Vitality and the Small Business Development Center assisted farm businesses that suffered economic losses due to the freezing conditions and record low temperatures in October.

Small Business Development Center offers events to inspire, celebrate small-business owners

CBE's Small Business Development Center, a confidential business advising service, offered several events for small business owners:

- "Hot100BizBook Club," a free event featuring the world's best-selling business books, with a goal of coming away with at least one solid idea to increase business revenues by at least \$100,000.
- National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day to celebrate local business owners for contributions to the community and economy. One hundred of the businesses were featured on a map that was printed and a dozen randomly selected husband-and-wife business owners won complimentary dinner, drinks and entertainment.
- ThinkBiz 2010, a conference offering affordable training and networking to help businesses stabilize in challenging economic times.
- Other free business workshops to teach financing, planning and financial management to advance business goals.

SBDC helps local businesses generate millions in new revenue, create or keep more than 100 jobs

From July 2010 to July 2011 Western's Small Business Development Center assisted 144 businesses, providing a total of 2,312 service hours. The SBDC advisor provided 1,083 of those hours, an average of 7.5 hours per business. More highlights:

- Marketing, business planning, financial management, financing, and human resources were the top issues for which businesses sought assistance.
- SBDC clients reported a total 717-percent increase in sales, resulting in more than \$4.1 million in new sales for Whatcom County.
- The SBDC helped clients achieve financing or investment of \$1,100,000.
- A total of 117 jobs were created or saved.

Along with one-on-one business advising the SBDC responded to an additional 547 requests for information from local businesses and business service professionals and a total of 299 people attended SBDC training events.

WWU Connections at Village Books highlights faculty expertise

WWU Connections, a collaboration of Village Books and Western Libraries, was a quarterly series of brown-bag lectures at Village Books highlighting the expertise of Western faculty and staff. This year's presentations were:

- Librarian **Rob Lopresti's** "Catching a Map Thief."
- Political Science Associate Professor **Bidisha Biswas** on "(Why) Do They Hate Us: Understanding Transna-

tional Terrorism."

- Library Professor **Paul Piper's** "Wikipedia: Pure Evil or Beatific Savior?"
- Engineering Technology Professor **Arunas Oslapas'** "Mind Mapping: Getting the Most from Your Brain."
- Environmental Studies Professor **Gigi Berardi's** "Resilient Farms & Nourishing Foods."
- Sociology Professor **Karen Bradley's** "Why Women are Underrepresented in Math & Science."
- Economics Associate Professor **Hart Hodges'** "Simplicity, Sympathy and Skepticism."
- Secondary Education associate professor **Bob Keiper's** "Laughter: Motivation and Medicine."
- Center for Pacific Northwest Studies archivist **Ruth Steele's** "Views to the Past: Accessing Archives in the Digital Age."

Science and UniverCity takes science to City Hall

The College of Sciences and Technology's Science and UniverCity series turned the Bellingham City Council Chambers into a science lecture hall, with free talks on Web search engines, the ice age and mathematical mysteries. The presentations were:

- Biology Assistant Professor **Eric DeChaine's** "Move, Adapt, or Die: How Arctic Species Survived the Ice Ages." DeChaine led attendees on an adventure researching the beautiful world of the Arctic tundra, its dramatic landscapes, and the spectacular life that evolved in some of the world's harshest climate regions.
- Computer Science Assistant Professor **Perry Fizzano's** "From Spiders to Surfers: Investigating Web

Western's Small Business Development Center helped businesses generate more than \$4 million in new sales revenue.

Behavioral Neuroscience faculty took their expertise to a local pub for “Neuroscience on Tap,” quarterly public discussions about brain science.

Search Engines.” Fizzano discussed some of the processes that go on behind the scenes of a Web search.

- Mathematics Professor **Richard Gardner’s** “A Mathematical Mystery Tour.” Gardner addressed popular mathematical legends and mysteries.

Summer youth programs go global

Western’s summer youth programs, offered by Extended Education, went global in 2010, with two programs hosting international students from Korea.

- The City of Bellingham’s Sister City Association hosted 20 youngsters and two teachers from Cheongju, South Korea, and Western was part of the group’s itinerary. Students in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program helped teach classes in English and American culture.
- Another group of students from Korea participated in Western’s Global Connections program, which provides opportunities for youth from diverse cultures to build connections through academic enrichment and recreation activities.

Neuroscience on Tap discussions get people thinking about their brains

Western’s Behavioral Neuroscience program’s free “Neuroscience on Tap: Bring Your Own Brain (BYOB),” lectures take place quarterly at Bob’s Burgers & Brew in Bellingham. At each meeting, a faculty member leads discussions about the brain. The three recent presentations included:

- “Stress and Your Brain,” hosted by **Janet Finlay**, Psychology associate professor.

- “Pick Your Poison: The Psychopharmacology of Caffeine, Nicotine and Alcohol” hosted by **Mike Mana**, Psychology associate professor.

- “Is Caffeine Really a Drug?” hosted by **Rob Bedi**, Psychology assistant professor.

Western’s affinity for the Peace Corps celebrated

Faculty and staff who served as Peace Corps volunteers shared stories of their service in a special panel discussion that marked the 50th Peace Corps Anniversary. Since the Peace Corps began in 1961, 813 Western alumni have served as volunteers – 60 in 2010-11 alone. The event also celebrated Western’s 2011 nationwide ranking of number three for mid-sized colleges and universities sending alumni into the Peace Corps. Western boasted the biggest increase in volunteers serving among all Northwest universities. The panel included seven faculty and staff members:

- Economics Instructor **Chuck Antholt**.
- Finance and Marketing Assistant Professor **Ed Love**.
- Environmental Sciences Visiting Assistant Professor **Brooke Love**.
- Huxley College Program Coordinator **Kathy Patrick**.
- Biology Research Associate **Fred Rhoades**.
- Center for Service-Learning VISTA Project Coordinator **Beth Parker**.
- Career Services Center Career Counselor **Susan Anderson**.

Urban Transitions Studio examines alternatives for sustainable development

The Urban Transition Studio, in which students examine

alternatives for Bellingham's sustainable development, created proposals for transit-oriented communities in six locations in Bellingham: the WTA Cordata Station, the Fairhaven Cruise Terminal, Western's South Campus, northeast Downtown, North State Street and James Street. In another project, the studio presented environmental assessments of redevelopment along Cornwall Avenue and its alleys. The Urban Transitions Studio is a collaborative partnership between Huxley College of the Environment's Urban Planning Program, the City of Bellingham's Department of Planning and Community Development, and Sustainable Connections.

CFPA's new youth art programs offers theatre, music and art for K-12 students

The College of Fine and Performing Arts, with support from Extended Education, launched the Western Arts Preparatory Academy in fall 2010. The academy offers classes in dance, music, visual art and theatre for kids in kindergarten through grade 12, as well as adults. Classes are offered throughout the academic year as well as summertime.

Odyssey of Science and Arts held for youth

Extended Education's Odyssey of Science and Arts programs gave third- through ninth-graders a chance to immerse themselves in fun, hands-on projects for an evening during the school year, or for several days over the summer. Program topics included: "Adventures in Cartooning," "Shake, Rattle & Roll: Earthquakes," "Crime Scene Photography," "Critter and Creature

Science," "Everything Guitar," "Filmmaking in Action" and "Art Exploration: Radical Painting Methods."

Students spend 71,000 hours in service-learning

Western Washington University students spent nearly 71,000 hours in service-learning related activities during the 2010-11 school year, according to year-end statistics kept by the Center for Service-Learning. Many of the students were part of more than 100 courses on campus that used service-learning as part of the curriculum. Students in these courses worked with 71 different community partners. Examples include:

- Students in English Instructor **Margi Fox's** Advanced Technical and Professional Writing course helped write a grant proposal for We-SNIP, which provides spay and neuter services to low-income pet owners, getting the organization up and running again.
- Communication Instructor **Kevin Cary's** students in his Small Group Processes course helped develop a public relations plan for the Bellingham Sister City Ski To Sea team to encourage sister cities to send international athletes to the race. The following quarter, students in the class helped find host families for the athletes and organized their participation in community events such as the Grand Parade and an assembly at Wade King Elementary School.
- Students in Journalism Assistant Professor **Sheila Webb's** Advanced Visual Journalism course created a website, logos and print materials to support the Allied Arts Reuse Thrift Store, which will focus on turning previously unwanted objects into material for works of art.

Service-learning students helped bring international athletes to Bellingham's Ski to Sea Race and created publicity materials for an arts-related thrift store.

Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic faculty, staff and students provide thousands of hours of service

Western's Speech-Language Hearing Clinic, occupying nearly two floors in the east wing of the Academic Instruction Center, offers diagnosis and therapy services for infants, children, adolescents and adults. Services are provided by students under close supervision of faculty and staff. In 2010-11 the clinic provided 3,973 treatment sessions to clients who come from as far away as Issaquah and British Columbia. Pediatric patients make up about 60 percent of the patients seen at the clinic. Clients come to the clinic with referrals from a variety of sources, including schools, physicians,

community groups and local and state agencies. Special projects at the clinic include:

- Using Skype and other Internet-based programs to serve families of children and adults who find it difficult to come to the clinic, especially families of children with autism. This service modality is being investigated for its efficacy in a long term ongoing research project.
- Training courses for parents in improving communication skills with young children to help them become successful communication partners. Communications Sciences and Disorders Associate Professor **Eva Baharav** and clinic

Director **Terry Sacks** offer the courses with the assistance of graduate students

- Research and collaboration with people who have Parkinson's disease, and their spouses. Communication Sciences and Disorders Professor **Barbara Mathers-Schmidt** and graduate student **Chris Heyne** led focus groups and semi-structured interviews to pinpoint areas of concern and develop plans of action. They now meet with a group of individuals with Parkinson's Disease twice a month to work on action plans for improving health and quality of life.
- Community outreach and group aural/auditory rehabilitation treatment services at no charge to senior adults at off-campus locations such as retirement communities and elder-care facilities.

Fourth annual auction raises funds for client services at Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

WWU's branch of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association organized an auction at the Majestic Ballroom in April to assist families in need with the cost of speech pathology and audiology services at the WWU Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic. The 250 attendees bid on about 150 silent and live auction offerings such as Mariners baseball tickets and stays at the Tulalip Casino. Soliciting the help of several community partners and businesses, students raise a yearly average of \$14,000 from this event.

New partnership with Whatcom Volunteer Center helps students volunteer off campus

The Center for Service-Learning has begun a partner-



Children, infants and adolescents make up 60 percent of the clients at Western's Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic, where Communication Sciences and Disorders students, faculty and staff provide diagnostic and treatment services to community members.

ship with the Whatcom Volunteer Center to connect students with co-curricular volunteer opportunities in the community. The Whatcom Volunteer Center held office hours at the CSL once a week to advise drop-in WWU students and enroll them as WVC members in order to officially track their hours, provide safety insurance, and enable them to take first aid and CPR trainings at no cost. The center coordinated other efforts to get students to volunteer off campus, too. CSL coordinated seven short term volunteer events, including National Days of Service, and helped recruit and transport WWU students for Make A Difference Day. A total of 1,076 volunteer hours were completed by WWU students at these events.

Dance previews famous Martha Graham dances

The Department of Theatre and Dance hosted a public reception honoring choreographer Martha Graham on January 13, 2011 at the Firehouse Performing Arts Center. The reception featured guest speaker Denise Vale, Senior Artistic Advisor for the Martha Graham Dance Company, and a preview of two famous Martha Graham works performed by WWU dance students as part of an American Masterpieces Dance grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Middle-schoolers write original monologues for CFPA students to perform in 'Monologue Project'

The Department of Theatre and Dance partnered with Fairhaven Middle School to present "The Monologue Project V" in December 2010. The collaboration featured Western student actors and middle school

students performing original monologues written by the eighth-grade students in language arts classes. The performances were held at a community event. The collaboration between Western and Fairhaven Middle School originally began in 2005 and has been growing every year; it was recently awarded a Bellingham Mayor's Arts Award by Mayor **Dan Pike**, a Western alumnus.

Biggest year yet for Education Matinee Series

CFPA's Education Matinee Series featured its largest season yet with eight performances and over 5,000 audience members from area schools. The season matinees highlighted theatre, dance, music, and – for the first time in the history of the series – visual arts. This year's performances included "Inspecting Carol," "The Pirates of Penzance," "The Jungle Book" a dance concert and "Tofu Ling Sets Sail," a theatrical production paired with a classroom visit from Art Professor **Gaye Green's** Art Education students, who worked with author Rosanna Porter, to create and lead in-class workshops to create props for the production.

MOTley Crew shares stories and songs of respect

Comprised of WWU Theatre students,



"The Jungle Book," above, was among several performances featured in CFPA's Education Matinee Series, which drew more than 5,000 audience members to eight performances.

The College of Business and Economics co-hosted “Startup Weekend,” a 54-hour event bringing together entrepreneurs and startup enthusiasts to share ideas and launch startups.

the Multicultural Outreach Tour (MOTley), performed at 19 elementary schools throughout Whatcom, Skagit, and Island counties. Their interactive assembly-style performances focused on the theme “respect” and featured stories from around the world.

Western librarian curates Japanese cinema series

Masters of Japanese Cinema, a new series for Pickford Film Center in partnership with the Western Libraries, shines a light on the rich history of Japanese cinema, from old masters such as Ozu, Akira Kurosawa and Naruse, to modern masters such as Miyazaki, Kore-eda and Kiyoshi Kurosawa. This series is curated by **Jeff Purdue**, a librarian at Western and avid fan and student of Japanese film and popular music.

Counseling Center hosts regional conference

Western’s Counseling Center hosted the Northwest Counseling Center Directors’ annual conference in April. This conference brings together directors from both public and private institutions in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska to discuss common challenges, share successful strategies and develop collaborative efforts.

Western libraries now open to all county residents

Thanks to a collaborative effort among area libraries, the One Card program allows anyone who lives or goes to school in Whatcom County to check out materials from any public or academic library in the county, including Western Libraries, and to return them to any library or book drop in the county. The One Card

initiative was spearheaded by Whatcom Libraries Collaborate, a group of library administrators dedicated to expanding library access for better stewardship of resources and greater community impact.

‘Green Fire’ recounts the first 40 years of Huxley College and the modern environmental movement

Western Huxley College of the Environment hosted a presentation and reading of “Green Fire: A History of Huxley College,” the new book detailing the first 40 years of the groundbreaking environmental college, in June at Bellingham’s Village Books. **William Dietrich**, a former Seattle Times reporter and winner of the Pulitzer Prize who just retired as assistant professor at Huxley College, read from the book and led a discussion. The full-color book includes a narrative history of the college and 40 profiles of Huxley’s graduates. Almost 20 writers, photographers, designers and editors contributed; most of the profiles were written by nine recent Western alumni who worked with Dietrich as environmental journalism majors or on the college’s quarterly environmental magazine, The Planet.

CBE helps bring national speakers to the community with the Fourth Corner Economics Club

The Fourth Corner Economics Club, a collaboration of Saturna Capital and the College of Business and Economics, hosted nationally known economics Shane Greenstein on campus and in the community in May. Greenstein presented “Six Myths of the Internet” and hosted a free discussion for students and faculty. He also spoke at a Bellingham Golf & Country Club event.

Greenstein is the Elinor and Wendell Hobbs Professor of Management and Strategy at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. He is a leading researcher in the business economics of computing, communications and internet infrastructure. The Fourth Corner Economics Club plans to host two more speakers during the 2011-12 academic year.

CBE's Kristi Tyran led WECU board of directors

Management Associate Professor **Kristi Tyran** recently completed a 2-year term as chairperson of the Whatcom Educational Credit Union Board of Directors. The nine volunteers and three supervisory committee members on the board are elected by the general membership and provide general direction over the business and affairs of the credit union, which has more than 63,000 members and \$720 million in assets. Tyran has served on the board since 2006.



Kristi Tyran

Grandparents U is intergenerational learning fun

Western's popular summer program, Grandparents U on July 14 to 15, drew 115 participants. The two-day intergenerational program for grandparents and grandchildren, ages 7 to 14, offered an on-campus educational experience and a chance to explore intriguing academic topics together. The topics spanned a variety of natural fronts – sea, sky, water erosion, and bones – as well as introducing participants to the wonders of plastics engineering and chemistry behind

the visual phenomena of everyday life, and for those seeking creative arts, there was a theatre workshop that focused on acting.

Shannon Point Marine Science Center offers free REEF fish identification courses for citizen scientists

The Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) offered free courses at Western Washington University's Shannon Point Marine Center in Anacortes. Fish and Invertebrate Identification courses were held last April and tuition was free thanks to a grant from REEF. REEF, founded in 1990, is dedicated to the conservation of marine ecosystems. Through education, REEF enables divers and other marine enthusiasts to become active stewards of the environment and citizen scientists.

Donovan joins public discussion on voter initiatives

Political Science Professor **Todd Donovan** joined a panel discussing "When is an initiative not the will of the people? A discussion of the Legislature's role in dealing with citizen initiatives" in May at Bellingham City Hall. Donovan joined initiative activist Tim Eyman and Hugh Spitzer, an affiliate professor of law at the University of Washington. He brought his unique knowledge and perspectives in discussing the initiative process, its origins, accomplishments, and how



About 115 grandparents and grandchildren came to Western in July for Grandparents U for a chance to explore academic topics together.

the Legislature has dealt with initiatives both in the past and currently. The panel discussion, sponsored by the Center for Law, Diversity and Justice at Western's Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies and the City of Bellingham, explored the Legislature's response to initiatives that have been approved by public vote.

Student photographers create a panel of images for Macy's Seattle flagship store

Art Associate Professor **Garth Amundson** and three of his photography classes collaborated to construct a three-panel display for Macy's in downtown Seattle. Last spring quarter Amundson's photography classes worked together on a visually provocative arrangement of black-and-white images with splashes of vivid color. The three WWU photography classes compiled 64 images within three panels to be displayed permanently

on the fourth floor of Seattle's Macy's flagship store. The three classes were a combination of Introduction to Black and White Photography and Introduction to Color Photography.

'Peak Performance' class offers insights on professional, athletic excellence

The Center for Performance Excellence offered its annual Peak Performance class, a five-session course, on campus last January and February. The \$50

course was for anyone interested in enhancing personal or professional performance. Students learned how to achieve excellence in sports, the workplace and their personal lives through mental skills utilized and developed by elite athletic performers. The course is taught by the Center for Performance Excellence founder and director **Ralph Vernacchia**. Vernacchia is a professor emeritus of Physical Education, Health and Recreation and directed the graduate and undergraduate programs in Sport Psychology at Western. He has traveled with national track and field teams to several world championships, including the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

'Startup Weekend' brings together entrepreneurs

The College of Business and Economics in June co-hosted "Startup Weekend," a 54-hour event where developers, designers, marketers, product managers and startup enthusiasts came together to share ideas, form teams, build products and launch startups. The event's goal was to develop entrepreneurship in the region and help launch businesses and create jobs. Speakers included Bob Crimmins, founder of Moon Tango; Dorai Thodla, founder and CEO of iMorph Inc.; Computer Science alumnus **Adrian Pike**, co-founder and CTO of ShareZen; and Andrew Dumont, director of Business Development at Seismic.

Hahn offers talk on the 'food at your feet'

Jennifer Hahn, writer, wilderness guide, and adjunct faculty member at Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, kayaked solo from Alaska to Bellingham



Gases from a fumarole in Mount Baker's Sherman Crater are collected by Western's Dave Tucker, using vacuum flasks, a titanium tube and heat-resistant tubing, for later analysis on campus. Tucker presented a history of Mount Baker at the Whatcom Museum of History and Art.

and harvested wild food along the way to keep her kayak light. Last April she taught how to spot the “food at your feet” with shoreline edibles at a free Village Books presentation. Hahn explored more than 50 common edible native plants and shared slides and stories from her new book “Pacific Feast: A Cook’s Guide to West Coast Foraging and Cuisine.” She also shared sustainable foraging guidelines and recipes.

Mount Baker’s explosive history explored at free Whatcom Museum presentation

Geology research associate **Dave Tucker** presented a history of Mount Baker’s eruptive history last October at the Whatcom Museum. “The Eruptive History of the Active Volcano in Our Backyard” also addressed future hazards at Mount Baker. Tucker hoped to raise public awareness about realistic volcanic hazards and discussed the Mount Baker Volcano Research Center, which he directs. The nonprofit Mount Baker Volcano Research Center, housed in the Geology Department, serves as a research base and network for faculty, students and outside researchers interested in the geology and volcanology of Mount Baker and the surrounding Mount Baker volcanic field.

Advice on Tap campaign focuses on bar etiquette

Sponsored by the Campus Community Coalition’s Hospitality Resource Alliance, the Bellingham Nightlife: Advice on Tap campaign is a collaborative effort to reduce disruptive alcohol-induced behavior and educate 21- to 25-year-old bar patrons about basic bar etiquette in the local area. The campaign resumed this

past fall with two initiatives: a newly formed AOT crew and a new video production, “A Night on the Town.” The AOT crew, consisting of eight WWU students, adds a more personal touch to the campaign as the crew visits with patrons to pass out campaign materials, answer questions, and share bar etiquette tips. “A Night on the Town,” written by local bartender and HRA member Brad Howard and directed by WWU student **Robert Bojorquez**, is a parody that takes inappropriate behaviors often seen in bars and places them in a local coffee shop to encourage more courteous behaviors. This parody is circulating via social media outlets and can be found at the Bellingham Advice on Tap website, www.bhamadviceontap.com.

AmeriCorps Students in Service program moves to Western’s Center for Service-Learning

Students in Service (SIS) is a part-time AmeriCorps program that offers education awards to college students for their community service. Members agree to complete 300, 450, or 900 hours of volunteer service and are awarded up to \$2,670 toward their educational expenses. In 2010-2011, SIS enrollees were allocated \$111,232 in education awards, with most of that money returning to Western for tuition and expenses. Members enrolled this year are projected to complete 20,300 hours of volunteer work in the community at public schools, on environmental and sustainability projects, supporting local efforts to fight homelessness, and more.

Ralph Vernacchia’s Peak Performance class teaches students how to achieve excellence in sports, the workplace and their personal lives using the mental skills of elite athletes.

Beta Alpha Psi students help the community

Student members of Beta Alpha Psi, an honorary society for finance information students and professionals, conducted a large number of community outreach activities in 2010-11, with support from the Accounting Department. Examples include:

- Providing free tax return preparation assistance to the community.
- Creating a “blueprint” to help service-based organizations take advantage of lean manufacturing concepts and apply them to the office environment. The team of Accounting students then worked with several local companies to implement these principles.
- Making presentations about the financial information professions at local area high schools, community colleges, and Western.
- Volunteering with several community organizations, including Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Whatcom County, Sean Humphrey House, Whatcom Land Trust, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association and the Health Support Center.

Western sends hundreds of student teachers to classrooms in Washington, the world

Western student teachers served in more than 400 classrooms in 2010-11. Students from Woodring College of Education completed their student teacher training in more than 200 schools in 30 districts, including:

- 132 placements in middle and high schools.
- 11 in preschools.
- 47 in elementary schools for a single quarter.
- 137 in elementary schools for a full year.
- 73 in special education.
- 6 placements out of state.
- 24 placements overseas to countries including Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, England, Guatemala, Ireland, Israel, Egypt, New Zealand, Peru, Latvia and South Africa.