

# WINDOW on WESTERN

SPRING 2007

NEWS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

VOL. 13, NO. 2

## Alumni Relations Launches Online Career Connector

By Kira Freed

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

When Laurie Rossman ('86), Alumni Relations marketing and communications coordinator, began sending emails to alumni inviting them to register for a new online career and networking directory, the result was overwhelming. Within one month, more than 800 alumni responded, volunteering to help current students and recent graduates seeking networking advice and career guidance.

To date, more than 1,000 alumni have registered to be a mentor or contact for Western students.

Many of the alumni responding say they wish they had access to a similar resource when they were students.

Alumni Association Executive Director Deborah DeWees says the generosity of WWU alumni makes her proud to be a part of the University.

"Western alumni joining together to help recent graduates and their fellow

alumni makes perfect sense," DeWees says. "Western is a special place that draws incredible students who go on to be generous, involved alumni. If that includes sharing their professional expertise or contacts, they are happy to do it."

Bill Boyd ('82) was one of the first to register. "It is an honor to give back to WWU in a way that makes a direct, positive impact on the lives and futures of our students," he says. "It's all about leaving a legacy. Giving time and expertise and sharing the passion for one's career, that's tremendously important."

Susan Bakse ('88), Alumni Relations program director, agrees. "It is evident that giving back to the University makes our alumni feel good. Participating in the Alumni Career Connector and helping students launch their post-college careers is one of the best gifts we can give to graduating students."

Students and alumni using the online directory will be able to search

for information in multiple categories, including job field, degree, employer and geographical location.

The directory offers alumni volunteers various levels of involvement and commitment. Alumni may choose to offer students a resumé review, a tour of their workplace or assistance with interview skills, or they may offer to be a phone or email contact.

Increasing levels of involvement include offering internships and providing mentoring opportunities that entail developing a relationship with a student or alumnus, frequent communication, insight into a given career field and professional development.

The Alumni Career Connector also allows users to post job announcements and resúmes.

The online version of the Alumni Career Connector has been in development since February. It is an updated and more dynamic version of a printed directory, which was published and distributed to graduates beginning

two years ago. Rossman says the most important benefit of converting to an online resource is that volunteers now can change or update their information at any time. Volunteers can increase or decrease their level of involvement or turn off their listing if they go on an extended vacation or circumstances change.

The online Alumni Career Connector is a part of Western's alumni online community, available at [www.wwu alumni.com](http://www.wwu alumni.com).

To participate in the Alumni Career Connector, see page 6 for a step-by-step guide or go to [www.wwu alumni.com](http://www.wwu alumni.com).

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Western's College of Business and Economics offers several opportunities for alumni to connect with students. These include the long-established leadership lunch program and a virtual mentoring program. The College's Center for Excellence in Management Education also sponsors the Strategic Management Executive Speakers series. Alumni participating in this program meet with students to share their perspectives on leadership. This program recently brought together Brinton Scott ('90) and David Clement ('86), former WWU roommates whose careers have taken them around the world. Scott, a senior consultant with Herbert Smith International Legal Practice, is based in Shanghai. Clement is a senior director at Oracle Corporation and is based in Tokyo.



Pictured left to right are Joe Garcia ('75), director of Western's Center for Excellence in Management Education, David Clement ('86), Brinton Scott ('90), and Dean Dennis Murphy ('69, '70).



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This publication is also available in an alternate format.  
 Call (360) 650-3617.

## Western Is Named a Best Value School

Western is ranked number 48 in a listing of the nation's 100 best value schools. The rankings, published in the February issue of *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine, listed the top public colleges and universities that "combine outstanding value with a first-class education." Academic quality, admission rates, freshmen retention rates, student-faculty ratios, four- and six-year graduation rates and tuition, mandatory fees, costs for room and board and available financial aid were considered.

## Schuster and Smith Honored as Environmental Heroes

**Jim Schuster**, director of Western's Viking Union facilities, and **Dennis Smith** ('76), former manager of the University's solid waste program, have been honored as Environmental Heroes of 2007 by RE Sources for Sustainable Communities. Schuster was one of the early administrators overseeing the recycling program on Western's campus. Smith first became involved with the program as a student worker for the Associated Students. Faculty and students at Western's Huxley College of the Environment started the University's recycling program in 1971. The program has served as a model for other campus communities.

## Estrada Presents at Oxford Round Table

**Larry Estrada**, director of American Cultural Studies and associate professor at Western's Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, traveled to England in March to present at the Oxford Round Table, a discussion panel convened to consider education policy. Since 1989, the Oxford Round Table has been bringing together selected individuals from around the world to "promote human advancement and understanding through the improvement of education." Estrada, one of only six or seven delegates invited to present, lectured on "Labor Organization and Activism within U.S. Immigrant/Ethnic Communities Post-1965."

## Northwest Women's Hall of Fame Honors Zoro

**Peggy Zoro**, a WWU trustee, was inducted into the Northwest Women's Hall of Fame in March. Zoro also serves on the board of directors for the Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access and is past chair of the Bellingham Whatcom Economic Development Council and the WWU Foundation Board of Directors.

**Mabel Zoe Wilson** received the Northwest Women's Hall of Fame posthumous Legacy Award for her work as WWU's first full-time librarian.

## WWU Art Magazine Receives NEA Grant

The *Bellingham Review*, a nonprofit literary arts magazine published by WWU, has received a \$5,000 Access to Artistic Excellence grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The *Bellingham Review* publishes nationally recognized writers such as Tess Gallagher, Charles Wright, Gary Soto and Stephanie Strickland, as well as promising new writers. **Brenda Miller**, associate professor of English, is editor in chief.

## Kuntz Receives Arts Award

**Pamela Kuntz**, a WWU College of Performing Arts instructor and choreographer, has received a 2007 Bellingham Mayor's Arts Award in recognition of her work to create a Bellingham Repertory Dance Company.

## U.S. House Subcommittee Invites Nelson to Testify



George "Pinky" Nelson

On May 15, **George "Pinky" Nelson**, director of the Science, Math and Technology Education (SMATE) program at Western's College of Sciences and Technology, testified before a U.S. House subcommittee seeking educa-

tors' perspectives on working with science, technology, engineering and math education (STEM) programs. STEM programs are supported by several federal agencies, including NASA, NOAA, EPA, National Institute of Standards and Technology and Department of Energy. Nelson, a former NASA astronaut, is chair-elect for the Education Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS), an international nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science around the world. Before coming to Western, he was director of Project 2061, a long-term program to reform science education throughout the United States.

## Dorr Receives Ron Battles Excellence Award

**Tom Dorr**, director for the WWU College of Business and Economics Small Business Development Center (SBDC), is the recipient of a Ron Battles Excellence Award presented by the Washington Small Business Development Center Network. Dorr, nominated by clients and peers, was one of three advisors to receive the award. In 2006, the SBDC assisted local businesses in saving or creating 510 jobs and helped clients secure over \$27 million in loans and new investments.

## Lockhart Is 2006 Outstanding Accounting Educator

**Julie Lockhart** is the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Accounting Educator for Washington State award presented in February by the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants. Lockhart is chair of the Accounting Department at Western's College of Business and Economics.

## Demmert Receives Harvard Alumni Achievement Award

**William Demmert**, a professor of Elementary Education at Western's Woodring College of Education, received an Alumni Achievement Award presented in March at the Alumni of Color Conference at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). The award recognizes and celebrates the work of HGSE alumni of color by honoring individuals who have made significant contributions in the field of education. Demmert received a doctorate in education from Harvard in 1973. He was one of four Harvard alumni selected to receive the award this year.

## Coalition Receives National Awards

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) has honored the Western Washington University/City of Bellingham Campus Community Coalition with national awards recognizing outstanding programs and innovative services in higher education. The Coalition is the winner of a NASPA Gold Medal Award and the prestigious NASPA Grand Silver Award, which is selected from among all Gold Medal winners in all categories. The awards were presented in recognition of the Coalition's innovative outreach to promote working relationships and communication between the WWU campus and local community and particularly for its efforts to increase student involvement in local neighborhoods.

## Protecting the Environment

WWU President Karen W. Morse has joined with other university presidents in signing a letter of intent for the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment to curb greenhouse gases and fight global warming.

The Climate Commitment provides a framework and support for America's colleges and universities to become climate neutral. The commitment recognizes the unique responsibility that institutions of higher education have as role models for their communities and in training students to develop the social, economic and technological solutions to reverse global warming. More than 100 colleges and universities nationally have signed onto the commitment.

Western has a long tradition of national environmental leadership. The University's Huxley College of the Environment, one of the first environmental colleges in the nation, is internationally recognized for the caliber of its faculty, programs and research.

Western's new Academic Instructional Center (AIC), which is now under construction, will include a number of sustainable-design elements, such as use of natural ventilation, solar shading, sustainable materials, an energy management system, occupancy sensor lighting controls, waste-heat recovery and water-efficient landscaping. The 120,000-square-foot center will house two lecture halls, classrooms, computer labs, collaborative study seating areas

Photo: David Scherrer



*Western's Wade King Student Recreation Center has been awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The certification, which recognizes advanced achievements in sustainability, is a first for this type of facility at any university recreation center in the nation.*

and new office and clinic space for the Psychology Department and Communication Sciences and Disorders.

A student-led effort more than two years ago resulted in Western obtaining 100 percent of its electricity from renewable resources. In addition, the University has been actively reducing its energy consumption on campus

through facility upgrades and conservation measures. In spring 2005, President Morse appointed members to a Sustainability Committee, which is developing institutional policy and coordinating academic and administrative efforts toward sustainable practices at WWU.

Kinship Conservation Fellows from around the world will meet on Western's campus from June 21 through July 21 for intensive leadership-skill workshops addressing sustainable development, collaborative conservation and finance mechanisms to promote conservation. The mission of Kinship Conservation Fellows is to develop a community of leaders dedicated to applying market-based principles to environmental issues.

## Dennis Murphy Retires



Dennis Murphy

**Dennis R. Murphy** ('69, '70) is retiring in June. He has been dean of Western's College of Business and Economics since 1982.

"My long service has given me a unique opportunity to watch the university take its place as one of the outstanding comprehensive universities in the nation," Murphy said.

Since 1982, the College has grown from 37 faculty in four departments to 60 faculty in five departments. The number of College of Business and Economics graduates has grown to 549 (in 2006).

Murphy earned bachelor's and master's degrees in economics at Western and a Ph.D. at Indiana University. He is active in several community organizations and currently serves on the board of Cascade Financial Corp. and its primary subsidiary, Cascade Bank, and on the Saturna Capital Board of Economic Advisors. He is a past president of both the United Way of Whatcom County and the Bellingham Rotary Club, where he is a Paul Harris Fellow. He has twice served on the Citizens Advisory Board of Bellingham Public Schools.

## Proud to Be Part of a University Passing Knowledge Forward

By **Karen W. Morse**  
UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

In reflecting on their university experiences, alumni often tell me they appreciate the personal attention they received from faculty and staff at Western.

We have a strong commitment to maintaining that personal attention by providing students with opportunities to work side-by-side with professors to put into practice what they are learning.

Several examples of student achievements show how well this approach is working.

A student team from the Engineering Technology Department's Vehicle Research Institute (VRI) and Huxley College of the Environment received a top award this spring, being named one of six winners of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's national People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Award. Working with VRI Director Eric Leonhardt, the students have developed a system to refine biomethane from a

Lynden dairy farm to power a hybrid vehicle. The award included a \$75,000 grant for further development.

Using the grant award, students and faculty from Western will work with community leaders to develop a pilot transportation system that uses the gas from the local Vander Haak dairy farm to power buses. If such a system were to collect biomethane from all the dairy farms in Whatcom County, it could power more than 30,000 vehicles per year.

With the mentoring support of their professors, College of Fine and Performing Arts students accepted full responsibility this year for a very successful Theatre Arts Department performance schedule. They selected, directed and marketed the plays that were produced, designed the sets and costumes and handled all the technical issues that we, as audiences, never see. These students took several awards at both the regional and national Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival competitions.

You can see how these projects meet our goal to encourage and foster students' abilities to achieve their best as scholars and as individuals prepared to make positive contributions in their communities and their professional spheres.

Another proof of our commitment to engagement is measured by the continued support we provide to our students after they leave the University.

A very recent example is the positive launch of the new online Alumni Career Connector, sponsored by Alumni Relations. Within the first month of being contacted, more than 800 Western alumni signed up to mentor students and recent graduates. These alumni, busy with their careers, are willing to share their knowledge and the experience they have gained to help students transition to the workplace.

I am proud and grateful to be involved with a university where passing knowledge forward extends far beyond our physical boundaries and the limits of time.



## Point of VIEW

TO WRITE

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Photo courtesy of Ricahrd Daifuku and The Western Front

The WWU Cycling Team won the 2007 Division II National Collegiate Road championship in a competition held May 11 to 13 in Lawrence, Kan. The combined points earned by the men's team, comprised of Chris Daifuku, Nick Clayville, Phil Elasser and Logan Wetzal, and women's team, comprised of Heidi Hoff, Meagan McPhee and Kristen Stouder, were factored in determining the national title. Students from 40 colleges and universities competed.

## EESP Youth Programs to Celebrate 25th Anniversary in July

Have you participated as a student, instructor or resident advisor in a SPY Camp, youth theater troupe, Viking sailing excursion, Western Kids Camp, College Quest or any other youth programs sponsored by Western's Extended Education and Summer Programs (EESP)? If so, you are invited to a special reception marking the 25th anniversary of Western's youth programs.

This event will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m., Friday, July 13, in Arntzen Hall. For more information and to see program histories, go to [www.wwu.edu/youth](http://www.wwu.edu/youth) or contact Debbie Gibbons at (360) 650-6820 or [debbie.gibbons@wwu.edu](mailto:debbie.gibbons@wwu.edu).

## WWU to Host Research Conference on Adult Education

A West Coast Regional Research Conference on the Education of Adults (WRRCEA) will be held on Western's campus Oct. 12 to 14. The conference, sponsored by Woodring College of Education and the Continuing and College Education Program, is a collaborative effort of 12 universities and graduate programs engaged in the study of the education of adults. This year's conference will examine the role of social justice and the lifelong education of adults in a global world. The keynote speaker is Sharan Merriam, a member of the faculty of the University of Georgia Department of Adult Education and author of *Learning in Adulthood*. More information is available at [www.wwu.edu/wrrcea](http://www.wwu.edu/wrrcea).

### College Quest Was Turning Point

In the Winter 2006 edition of *Window on Western*, I wrote an article about my daughter's experience at the WWU College Quest program, a summer program open to high school students that provides a one-week immersion in college life. My goal then was to advocate this program publicly as a success and as the treasure I believe it is. It had been a turning point in my daughter Arielle's high school life, and I wanted my fellow alumni to know about it.

It's been a year and a half since Arielle's College Quest experience, and she is now a junior in high school. I was surprised when Debbie Gibbons, the WWU Extended Education and Summer Programs director, contacted me recently to check in on Arielle's progress in school. I thanked Debbie for calling and told her Arielle was doing great and that I was still the proudest father on the planet.

But Debbie didn't stop with pleasantries. She asked me specifically if College Quest had influenced Arielle's approach to college admissions, what she remembered most, and how she felt about applying to WWU. I had a feeling I was in trouble when I first heard those assignment-like questions, and I knew I was toast when I posed them openly to Arielle. How many times has your teenager said, "Sure, Dad (or Mom), you can speak for me." Yeah, right. Time to let go some more, Dad....

So, fellow alumni, I give to you my daughter Arielle, in person, and the downstream effects of the WWU College Quest Program from the teenage perspective. [See story above.] I propose to you that her experience, in her own words, is a window into the possibilities that the WWU College Quest program gives to all teenagers who attend.

Finish reading, consider the teenagers in your life, and give Debbie Gibbons a call. One could easily question my sentimental motivation, but the endorsement of a 16-year old is precious and a terrible thing to waste. Carpe diem!

—Jim Mulenos ('75)

## College Quest Has Lasting Effect on Students

By Arielle Mulenos ('06)  
College Quest Alumna

Two years ago, if you were to ask me where I wanted to go to college and what I wanted to study, I would have probably stared at you blankly. Sure, as a little kid, I always wanted to grow up to go to Stanford and be the first woman on Mars, but as life moseyed on, and I realized those were pretty unrealistic goals, I suddenly had no idea what to shoot for.

So I just floundered through each day of my freshman year in high school, not really knowing what I wanted to do, just doing what I needed to get by. This not knowing, coupled with a pair of chronically infected tonsils (which took me out of school for a month), resulted in my not performing to my full potential. Both my parents and I were aware of this, so one day when I came home, my dad suggested I attend Western Washington University's College Quest program. I would spend a week studying an actual course on campus in a dorm without parents. This sounded like a pretty good deal to me!

Both my parents went to Western. It took about three hours to actually get from downtown Bellingham to the campus, due to numerous detours to what seemed to be their own memory-filled historical sites. Although I would never admit it, I secretly felt perfectly at home in the friendly, vintage-feeling town. I wasn't surprised when I felt the same on Western's campus. I was greeted with so much genuine friendliness I almost didn't know what to do with it.

WWU's beauty isn't trapped within the city's limits or the campus' boundaries. Instead, it just became exponential as I ventured outward with my College Quest classmates. We had a task to create a film, and a large part of the film required documentation of

the natural environment surrounding Western.

What I remember a hundred times more vividly than anything else were our trips to some of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. I remember hiking up hundreds of feet of snow just to film each other sliding down on our backsides among snow-peaked cascading mountains and turquoise-colored lakes. I walked among greener forests than I could have previously imagined, discovered species in shapes I didn't even know existed, and was thrown in freezing cold lakes at 2,000 feet above sea level.

At night, I found myself staying up well past midnight trying to gain as much knowledge as I could to prepare myself for the next day's adventures.

Since my week at Western, my family and I have visited a dozen vastly different campuses that I will probably be applying to this fall, but none of them had the same effect Western did on me. I walked away from my week at Western Washington University knowing what I wanted, which was probably exactly what my dad had in mind. What was important to me was not only that I went to a good, academically challenging school, but also that I was happy with the environment. It mattered more to me that I was able to venture out and find beauty in the environment and in the people than to work myself to the bone and look good doing it. WWU somehow satisfied all of this for me.

Where am I going to college? Who knows. What am I going to study? I'll figure it out. It doesn't matter that Western is my parents' school. I'm applying there because of that one week in July.

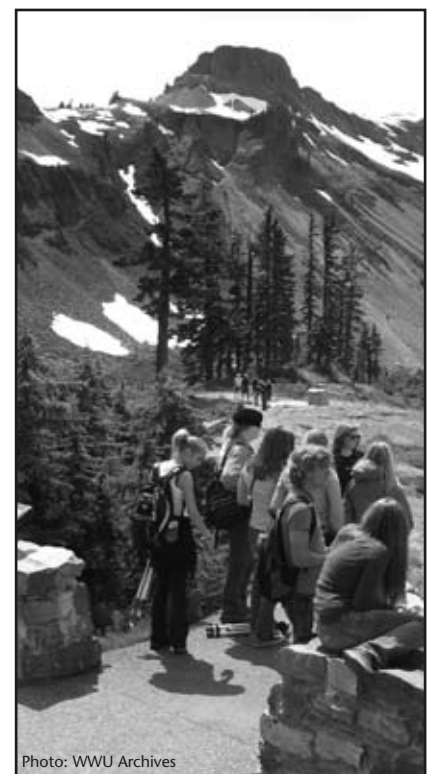


Photo: WWU Archives

Arielle Mulenos and her College Quest classmates made a film documenting the natural environment surrounding Western.

## Wilder Construction Donation Used for Development of Outdoor Learning Center

By Shauna Kroeger  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

Wilder Construction, a company that spends its time building roads that allow us to take the expressway through life, has enhanced our opportunities to leisurely experience the scenery that borders Huntoon Drive.

Huntoon Drive, a road now closed to drivers, winds from the base of Sehome Hill Arboretum to its peak.

In 2000, Wilder Construction made a generous donation to the Western Washington University Foundation. That donation was used to fund a Sehome Hill Arboretum Resource Education (SHARE) grant to build the recently completed outdoor learning center on Sehome Hill. David Engebretson, professor of geology, wrote the grant and coordinated the work that was done.

Engebretson would like to see a little more traffic—foot traffic—on Sehome Hill. Huntoon Drive, a pathway now, is smooth and wide. Long stretches are still paved.

As you walk along this pathway, you will see a landscape formed between 48 million and 56 million years ago by a series of floodplain deposits. These floodplains covered vast amounts of land, extending east from the San Juan Islands to Mount Baker and south from the Canadian border to Everett. Engebretson says the most important thing about geology “is to recognize that everything you see is an evolution of millions of years.”

There is evidence on Sehome Hill of a very recent geologic occurrence. Look closely when going through the area behind Miller Hall and you will see a scarp, the classic U-shaped formation left after a landslide; this one occurred in the 1950s.

Volunteer workers, as well as monetary contributions, have helped Engebretson with his quest to make the arboretum more accessible to the public. Over the past three years, alumni, students and their families have built a new trail to create a shortcut through the woods. Step off Huntoon Drive onto this trail, marked by a very large maple tree, and you will experience the sounds and sights of nature without the disturbance that campus distractions and vehicle traffic brings.

In order to keep the pristine atmosphere of Sehome Hill intact, Engebretson wants to keep the amount of man-made additions to a minimum. He would like to make information about the geology of the hill more accessible to hikers. Plans include building signs



Photo: Dee Johnson

Huntoon Drive winds through a tunnel near the peak of Sehome Hill Arboretum. The 180-acre natural forest habitat is cooperatively managed by the city of Bellingham and Western Washington University.



Photo: Erin Dewey

A donation by Wilder Construction was used for a SHARE Project grant to fund an outdoor learning center on Sehome Hill. Huntoon Drive, once open to vehicles, wanders past the learning center.

for different parts of the hill and publishing brochures that people can take with them describing the birds, flowers and plant life.

Engebretson also would like to build a geologic clock and rock walk consisting of various rock samples from the last 450 million years. These would be set up chronologically along the path to the outdoor learning center. A history and description of each rock would be posted. Each step would represent a time span of a half million years.

More information is available at [www.ac.wwu.edu/~share](http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~share).

## Alumni and Friends Donate More than \$110,000 at Seattle Business Forum

Alumni and friends donated more than \$110,000 for student scholarships and University support at Western's 10th annual Seattle Business Forum, held April 3 at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.

The keynote speaker for this year's event was Kerry Killinger, chairman and CEO of Washington Mutual.

The Seattle Business Forum, Western's marquee event in King County, is sponsored by Western Washington University and the WWU Foundation Board Western-in-Seattle Committee. Chairs for this event were **Doug MacLean** ('71), **Sam Baker** and **Pete Botting**.




Photo: Laurie Rossmann

Kerry Killinger, shown here with WWU President Karen W. Morse, was the keynote speaker for this year's Seattle Business Forum, sponsored by Western Washington University and the WWU Foundation Board Western-in-Seattle Committee.


### Your license to support WWU scholarships

Get a WWU Collegiate License Plate! It's a minimal cost to you that pays big benefits to WWU students.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Buy a WWU Alumni license plate for just \$40 through the Washington State Department of Licensing, and \$28 of it will go directly to support student scholarships awarded by the WWU Alumni Association. Best of all, every year you renew the plate, you contribute to the scholarship fund. With your help, we can build this program into a legacy of education and opportunity.



"The WWU license plate scholarship has enabled me to worry less about finances and focus more on my academic pursuits. I appreciate the opportunity that the alumni have given me and I look forward to one day being a member of the WWU Alumni Association."  
—Scott Teas



Contact the Department of Licensing: [www.dol.wa.gov/vs/specialtyplates/tr-spp.htm#collegiate](http://www.dol.wa.gov/vs/specialtyplates/tr-spp.htm#collegiate) phone: (360) 676-6740

# New Programs Help Students and Alumni Make Connections

By Dee Johnson  
University Communications

Jean Carter ('79) says the benefits of mentoring travel in both directions. "It's great to be in contact with younger people who are just starting their careers, and it's interesting to find out about the new things they are studying," she says.

Carter participates in Western's College of Business and Economics (CBE) virtual mentoring program because it provides an opportunity to connect with students and to give something back to the University. The fact that all contacts are by email has made her participation possible. Her career as an international investment manager has taken her all over the world. Personal meetings would have been difficult to manage.

Carter, who retired last year from the Russell Investment Group based in Tacoma, calls her current transitional status "retirement with a little r." She is looking for opportunities that will utilize her experience and knowledge in new ways and expects that she may become involved with nonprofit organizations. Her schedule is still uncertain, but she knows that regardless of where she is or what she is doing, she can continue mentoring Western students and recent graduates.

Like Carter, many WWU alumni with busy schedules and heavy travel demands are discovering the rewards mentoring offers by signing up for Western's virtual mentoring programs.

Western's CBE began offering virtual mentoring opportunities as a 2002 pilot program administered through a management class taught by associate professor Kristi Tyran. "Students sometimes struggle recognizing the importance and practical application of the skills we teach," Tyran says. "We thought this link to successful practitioners would give them a real-world perspective, and it has."

Mentors participating in the CBE program agree to respond promptly to at least four emails each quarter. Initially, the student and mentor exchange biographical information. After that, at set intervals, the student submits three questions specific to the student's individual interests but related to coursework being covered in the management class. The student writes a final paper reflecting how those conversations enhanced the academic experience.

The WWU Alumni Career Connector, recently introduced by Western's Alumni Association, covers all academic disciplines and career interests and also offers a way for students and alumni to connect online. An expansion of a printed directory first published two

years ago, the Alumni Career Connector is a searchable database of WWU alumni who have volunteered to be a resource for Western students and alumni seeking career advice and networking opportunities.

Participants, both alumni and students, can register online and choose the level of involvement that best fits into their schedules.

Carter says she focuses on bringing a real world perspective to the academic concepts students are learning. Some of that perspective includes the general advice she found helpful when she was starting out. "A boss and mentor I had early in my career told me: 'Don't pick your job; pick your boss. Always try to work for someone you respect, someone you think you could learn from.'" Carter says that advice has served her well. "If you do that, it almost doesn't matter what the work is. You are going to learn things and get opportunities and progress in your career."

Adding to that, Carter tells students it is important to have a good understanding of "what's going to make you happy, where you are going to thrive and where you are going to do your best work. It may not always be the job that's the obvious next step or the job that's more prestigious or even the job that offers more money."

In talking about their careers, Western alumni often mention managers and friends who offered career advice and help along the way. "I certainly learned a lot from people I worked with, but there was no formal mentoring program going on," Art Stavig ('84) says. Stavig is the founding president of a company based in Seattle that provides financial consulting to hospital administrators. He has connected with several students through Western's

CBE virtual mentoring program. "I feel I owe a lot to Western because I'm not sure I'd be in the position I'm in had I not gone to Western," he says. "This program allows me to give back to the school, and it's a program that I believe is beneficial to students. It's something I would have liked to have had available when I was a student, and it doesn't take a lot of time."

Todd Lindley ('83), a financial investment planner, went into business for himself shortly after graduating from Western. He also had several mentors, people he trusted who had a little more experience than he did. "When you're starting out, to have someone answer some of your questions and give you some idea of what you're getting into, that's a great service. And then to be able later to help out someone else, that's a good feeling," he says. Lindley has mentored two Western student and plans to continue connecting with students by email.

Dave Mann ('82) has worked in several roles as a mentor to students at Western. He also worked with Accounting Department faculty to put together the CBE Think Tank that helps accounting students connect with professionals. He has remained actively involved in that program and currently serves as an advisor. He also serves as a trustee for the Western Washington University Foundation.

A former CFO, Mann began his career working for a big eight accounting firm. He then moved into the health care field, working for the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and then for Immunex. He encourages students to ask lots of questions and determine what it is that they want before they accept any position. "Ask the person who is interviewing you why they work for the company," he says. "That kind of question shows your real interest in



**"I encourage people to be willing to ask for opportunities when they hear of them, not—not just in terms of asking for a job, but once they're in a job being willing to step up and volunteer and take on new projects or maybe take on an opportunity that they think might stretch their skills a little bit. I have seen a lot of times where the person who gets the opportunity is really just the person who is willing to raise a hand and say 'I think I can take that on.' That shows initiative and is impressive to people who can help further their career down the line."**

—Richard Law ('95)

The WWU Alumni Career Connector is a searchable database of alumni who have volunteered to be a resource for Western students and alumni seeking career advice and networking opportunities.

The directory allows for online searches of various fields, including job category, job title, company name, academic major and location. It is password protected and accessible only to WWU students and alumni through the secure WWU alumni online community. To participate:

1. Go to [www.wwualumni.com](http://www.wwualumni.com).
2. Log into the secure community.  
Alumni can use their current username and password or follow the first-time login process to enter the WWU alumni online community.  
WWU students can use their last name, along with their Western ID number, to login and use the directory.
3. Click on Western Alumni Career Connector.
4. Specify your search criteria.

You will then see a listing of WWU alumni participating in the Alumni Career Connector who meet the criteria you have specified. Click on individual listings to find contact information and more specific information about the type of involvement they have volunteered to provide.

“It is important to be able to establish meaningful goals and articulate them so people understand what they are working toward. It's been my experience that most new managers don't know how to do this very well. They want to be liked, but the way to be liked is to help other people be successful. And to help other people be successful, you have to understand what needs to get done. I like being liked, but the more important thing is to be really clear about the work that needs to get done.”

—Jean Carter ('79)

the company and can provide some good insight about the company as far as whether or not you want to work for them.” Mann reminds students that it is not just the employer who is making a choice. “You are also trying to find out whether or not you're a good match for that company,” he tells them.

Mann is retired now and invites students to take advantage of that fact. “Students can ask me any kind of question because they will never be sitting across the desk from me looking for a job,” he says.

Mann offers very practical advice for students preparing for an interview. He tells them to be especially careful if they are invited to have lunch or dinner. “Don't order spaghetti, and don't order ribs,” he says. “Look at the menu and decide what's going to be easiest to eat while you're having a conversation, because that is really what you are there to do.”

Mann has observed that students graduating from Western demonstrate good skills, a mastery of the tools they will need to build a successful career. As a mentor, he focuses on helping students discover what their workdays are going to be like. “I don't try to tell them about problems they are going to have in 15 years,” he says. “They won't remember, and things will change. The important thing is to connect with them, listen carefully, and help them with the obstacles they are facing now.”

Mann says that challenge is also one of the rewards mentoring provides because it offers an opportunity to

share knowledge and experience with someone who is in a completely different place.

Allyis Inc. co-founders **Richard Law ('95)**, **Ethan Yarbrough ('95)** and **Ken Efta ('95)** trained as teachers. They met when they were enrolled in Western's Woodring College of Education graduate program.

They have carried the philosophy of teacher/mentor into the workplace and have seen the good results that happen when managers are invested in helping people develop to their highest professional achievement. Allyis Inc. has been included in the 2004, 2005 and 2006 *Puget Sound Business Journal* listings of “fastest growing private companies in Western Washington” and was included last year in the coveted *Washington CEO* magazine listing of “100 best companies to work for.” Several Allyis employees also have earned prestigious professional awards.

Allyis Inc. provides technical services and consulting to companies in the Seattle area.

Law signed up for the Alumni Association online directory because he believes very strongly in the benefits of mentoring. “I have had the benefit of learning best practices from my teachers and from people who were my managers along the way,” he says. “Western's alumni mentoring program sounds like something I could have benefited from.” He is looking forward to connecting with students and young alumni interested in learning “about what I do or about the industry I'm in.”



## Viking Women Three-peat at Nationals

Western Washington University became the first school in any division to win three straight NCAA national rowing titles as it took top honors at the sixth annual NCAA Division II Women's Rowing National Championships held May 26 to 27 on Melton Hill Lake at Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The nationally No.1-ranked Vikings led from start to finish in winning both the four and eight grand finals, each for the third straight year, to claim the national title. It is the first time that a school has won three consecutive titles since the NCAA began a rowing championship in 1997.

“These kids are just amazing,” said Western coach John Fuchs. “With everybody coming up in the field, they just seem to find a little bit more. They seem to find what it takes to be the best.”

“It's unreal. You don't win three national championships in a row. Maybe three in a program over a number of the years, but when you go out and win three in a row, it's unbelievable.”

Western finished with a perfect score of 20 points to 15 for runner-up UC San Diego.

The Vikings' eight, ranked No.1 in the USRowing/Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association NCAA II Poll the entire season, won by nearly two boat lengths, navigating the 2,000-meter course in 7:03.80. They were followed by UC San Diego 7:09.51, Dowling NY 7:12.93 and Nova Southeastern FL 7:28.30.

“With so much experience in that boat, the eight was very calm,” Fuchs said. “We had four first-time rowers in that boat, but for the other five—this was their third national championship. They really have set the tone about what it's about and provided great leadership. When you've got kids who have experienced everything from start to finish and have won, it makes it a lot easier on the new kids.”

Western's four also won by nearly two boat lengths with a winning time of 8:08.72. UC San Diego was second in 8:14.71 and Nova Southeastern third in 8:44.83.

Seated in the Vikings' eight were coxswain Kristy Theodorson, stroke Staci Reynolds, No.7 Lindsay Mann-King, No.6 Meghan Woodman, No.5 Amelia Whitcomb, No.4 Samantha Marikis, No.3 Metta Gilbert, No.2 Audrey Coon and bow Lila Scaife.

Western's four lineup included coxswain Robin Fitzpatrick, stroke Jordan Tobler, No.3 Gina Auriemma, No.2 Katie Saelens and bow Hilary Gastwirth.

The two alternates were Erin Bean and Madeleine Eckmann.

Earlier in May, Mann-King and Reynolds were named CRCA All-Americans, Mann-King for the third time. Coon and Auriemma were CRCA National Scholar-Athletes.



## Larson's *Hattie Big Sky* Earns Newbery Honor

By Shauna Kroeger  
UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

"I can pinpoint the exact moment," said Kirby Larson ('76) when asked what her inspiration was to begin writing.

"When I turned the last page [of Arnold Lobel's *Ming Lo Moves the Mountain*], a switch went off inside me," she said. "I wanted to learn how to write stories that would touch others the way this book had touched me."

The American Library Association calls her latest book, *Hattie Big Sky*, an "engaging first-person narrative." *Hattie Big Sky* is one of only three books named by the association this year as a Newbery Honor Book.



*Hattie Big Sky* was inspired by a true story Larson began uncovering after her grandmother, who is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, randomly told her: "The only time Mom was ever afraid was in the winter, when the wild horses stampeded."

Wondering what her grandmother was talking about, Larson began asking all her relatives. Eventually she found out that her great-grandmother had homesteaded alone in Montana during WWI.

Intrigued by this bit of information, Larson faced her long-standing fear of history and began the immense amount of research that went into making *Hattie Big Sky*. During this phase, she discovered the reason her great-grandmother was afraid of wild horses in winter. Fierce winters in Montana brought on piles and piles of snow—snow that piled so high that houses and barns were often covered. Homesteads, sitting alone on the prairies, were espe-

cially vulnerable. Stampeding horses could not tell the difference between snow-covered prairie land and snow-covered houses.

Larson spent four years researching, writing, and rewriting *Hattie Big Sky*. The details she included gave the book authenticity. Nancy Johnson, WWU professor of English, noticed those details when she read an advance copy of the novel last summer. She invited Larson to talk to students in her Studies in Young Adult Literature class.

"I wanted my students to understand how writers—all writers, even those who publish for young audiences—do an enormous amount of research," said Johnson.

Larson visited the class in May. She talked about the multiple aspects of research and the many drafts of the text it took to arrive at the final version of *Hattie Big Sky*. She also talked about the challenges and disappointments of the writing life, emphasizing that for most writers, rejection becomes a daily part of life. She said it took her 10 years to get published. She sold her first book in 1993.

*Hattie Big Sky* is Larson's first young adult novel. She is also the author of *The Magic Kerchief*, winner of the Openheim Toy Portfolio Platinum Award, *Second-Grade Pig Pals*, and *Cody and Quinn, Sitting in a Tree*, nominated for the Missouri Show Me Young Reader's Choice Award. Her website is [www.kirbylarson.com](http://www.kirbylarson.com).

Nancy Johnson is a recipient of the International Reading Association's Arbuthnot Award and was one of 15 literature experts chosen in 2003 to select that year's Newbery Award winner.



Tracey and Harold Cashman ('91), Meryl Beck and Andrew Warnock ('92)

## Reception Held for Geology Department Alumni

In May, when the Cordilleran Section of the Geological Society of America (GSA) held its annual meeting on Western's campus, WWU Alumni Relations partnered with the Geology Department to host a reunion reception for alumni, faculty and retired faculty.

Current research being done on Mount Baker by associate professor Juliet Crider and WWU graduate students has received considerable media attention and was a central topic of discussion at the GSA meeting and reunion. Findings indicate Mount Baker is one of the more active among the Cascade volcanoes, although eruption is not imminent. The WWU team and researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey and Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C. will do additional studies on the mountain this summer. The research is being supported in part by a \$107,039 National Science Foundation grant.



Brian Williams ('72), Mary Raines ('89), Suzanne Bekse-Diehl ('68) and Jimmy Diehl ('68)



Kathy Killman and Brian Beaman ('79)



Alexander McKenzie-Johnson ('04), Doug Clark and Bob Mitchell



Western's San Diego Alumni Chapter spent Earth Day in Mission Trails Regional Park trimming brush back from the edges of trails and using some of the trimmings to help close off "social" trails. Cutting vegetation all along the way, they gained enough elevation by the end of the day to enjoy a great view of Santee. Pictured are LaVerne and Everett Neuman ('69), Joyce and Sam Porter, Fred Murray, Lennie Rae Cook, and Zaida and Bruce Polk.

Whatcom County Alumni partnered with WWU students to clear vegetation and build trails in the Connelly Creek area in Bellingham.

Alumni in the Olympia area planted trees at the Indian Creek Stormwater Facility.



Dara Kessler Mueller ('86) with sons Reece and Rivers and Scott and Marcia Babcock

## Alumni Happenings

### Golden Vikings Reunion

August 24–25 — If you graduated in 1957 or earlier, you'll want to join the **Golden Vikings** for two days of exciting activities concluding with a gala Saturday evening reception and dinner.

Celebrate the golden memories of your time on campus as we induct the class of 1957 into the Golden Vikings Society. All alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago are especially invited. We encourage you to also bring your family and friends.

The reunion schedule is packed with educational sessions, tours and activities designed to help you reconnect with former classmates. (See page 12 for a program schedule.)

For information or to register, contact **Susan Bakse ('88)** at (360) 650-7283 or toll free at (800) 676-6885. All alumni and friends are invited to participate. Presentations are free, but reservations are required.

### Alumni Board Meetings

July 21 and Oct. 20 — The Alumni Association Board of Directors will meet in Bellingham on July 21 and in Seattle on Oct. 20. Both meetings will begin at 9 a.m. All WWU alumni are invited to attend. For details, contact the Alumni Association at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885 or email alumni@wwu.edu.

### Campus School Reunion and Celebration

August 24–25 — Western is hosting a celebration and reunion of Campus School and Normal Training School alumni, parents, professors and student-teachers Aug. 24 to 25. There will be opportunities to share memories, rekindle friendships, view an impressive exhibit of memorabilia and tour Miller Hall.

Generations of children were educated at the Campus School, opened in 1901 to provide practical experience for teachers in training. The Campus School moved from Old Main to the bell-tower section of what is now Miller Hall in 1942. The school was closed 40 years ago, in 1967.

This celebration, part of a four-month long focus on the Campus School at the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, is co-sponsored by Woodring College of Education, WWU Special Libraries, WWU Alumni Association and the Whatcom Museum of History and Art. For more information, contact **Carole Morris ('94)** at (360) 650-4419 or carole.morris@wwu.edu. To view photos and read personal accounts related by Campus School alumni, go to [www.thecampusschool.com](http://www.thecampusschool.com).



### 5th Annual Battle in Seattle

Oct. 20 — Wear your Western gear and bring your Western pride to Seattle's Qwest Field Oct. 20 and cheer on the Vikings as they meet the CWU Wildcats in the fifth annual Battle in Seattle. This contest, sponsored by Wells Fargo and Comcast, gives thousands of Western and Central supporters the opportunity to witness mega-stadium football between two legendary rivals.

The fun starts at 4 p.m. with pre-game festivities for all ages arranged by the Alumni Association.

Ticket sales and details about pre-game activities will be available this summer. For information, call Alumni Relations at (360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885 or email alumni@wwu.edu.

### Join the WWU Alumni Online Community

Add [www.wwualumni.com](http://www.wwualumni.com) to your online favorites list and visit on a regular basis to check out upcoming events in your area, start a discussion group, share photos, sign up for the WWU Alumni Career Connector and network with other Western alumni. Use your W# to log in. Call our toll free number (800) 676-6885 (or 650-3353 in Whatcom County) if you need assistance.



Photo of Deborah DeWees by Laurie Rossman

"I am continually humbled when I meet with Western alumni. They give generously of their time and wisdom and experience to help new generations of students." —Deborah DeWees

## DeWees, Roselli and Rossman Join Alumni Staff

Deborah DeWees joined the WWU Alumni Association as executive director in June. She will also serve as the senior director responsible for Alumni Relations in the University's Advancement Office.

DeWees is excited about the opportunities working with alumni presents. "Western alumni are incredible," she says. "Whether they graduated 50 years ago or two years ago, there's a common thread I have seen, a depth of character. I feel honored to hear the life stories and fond memories of Western they hold."

In her new role, DeWees says her first priority is to spend time listening to those stories so that she has a clear understanding of the connections WWU alumni want to have with Western and how the WWU Alumni Association can help them make those connections.

"As the proud parent of a future WWU alumna, class of 2011, I am looking forward to creating a team that will drive a dynamic, exciting and vibrant alumni association through programs and services that make sense in today's real-time environment," she says.

DeWees came to Western nine years ago and has served as a director of development and planned giving for the Western Washington University Foundation. During her tenure, she has provided fundraising support for the Department of Athletics, Western Libraries and every WWU college.

Chris Roselli ('99) has been appointed assistant director of young alumni and student programs, a new position. He will be working to further develop Western's GOLD program (Graduates of the Last Decade) and encourage involvement of young alumni with Western through a variety of venues.



Chris Roselli

As an alumna, Roselli says he is proud of Western. "Western continues to grow in its reputation and name recognition, and our degrees continue to look better and better every year." He says Western is not only a great school, it's a great place to be. "I hope to build on that excitement by expanding on the opportunities young alumni have to stay involved."

After receiving a degree in communications, Roselli remained at Western, taking a position with the University's Office of Admissions. He has been an admissions counselor for eight years and has visited high schools and talked in large group settings and individually with prospective students. He and his wife Amy (Kitchin) Roselli ('01) have a 14-month-old daughter named Lexi.

Laurie Rossman ('86) is the new Alumni Relations marketing and communications coordinator. Rossman handles a variety of duties related to alumni events and coordinated the recent launch of the WWU Alumni Career Connector. In addition to meeting on a regular basis with alumni, students and faculty, Rossman publishes *Western Wire*, the alumni e-newsletter, and manages website content for Alumni Relations, the Alumni Association online community at [www.wwualumni.com](http://www.wwualumni.com), and the WWU Foundation.



Laurie Rossman

Rossman has been employed at Western for the past 21 years and was formerly a graphics design supervisor for the University's Publishing Services.

She served on the Whatcom County Alumni Chapter Steering Committee and has been co-president of the chapter since 2001.



Artwork by Ann Cilley Hanson (Campus School grade 3, 1948)

Western is hosting an all-class reunion in August to mark the 40th anniversary of the closing of the Campus School.

# CALENDAR 2007-2008

## July

- 13 WWU Youth Programs, 25th Anniversary Celebration, 2:30 p.m., Arntzen Hall
- 21 Alumni Board Meeting, 9 a.m., on campus

## August

- 24-25 Golden Vikings Reunion, on campus
- 24-25 Campus School Reunion, on campus
- 25 Commencement Ceremony, 10 a.m., Carver Gym

## September

- 8 Annual WWU Alumni Salmon BBQ, Olympia

## October

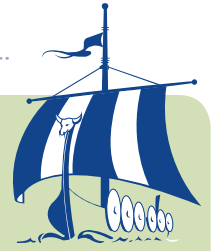
- 17 Distinguished Lecture Series, Brian Green, physicist and superstring theorist, 6:30 p.m., on campus, free but tickets are required, information at (360) 650-7545 or [www.lectureseries.wvu.edu](http://www.lectureseries.wvu.edu)
- 20 Alumni Board Meeting, 9 a.m., Seattle
- 20 Battle in Seattle, WWU vs. CWU, pre-game celebration at 4 p.m., game at 6 p.m., Qwest Field, Seattle
- 26-28 Fall Family Open House, Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet, Viking football and volleyball, special events all weekend for alumni, students and their families, on campus



Photo: Dan Levin/WWU Athletics

On May 26, Monika Gruszecki took the NCAA II women's national title with a mark of 145 feet, 8 inches. Gruszecki is the third Western student-athlete to win a national title in the javelin.

## Golden Vikings Reunion



Friday, August 24

- 8 a.m. Breakfast, Edens Hall
- 9 a.m. "Politics in the 21st Century," presentation by Ken Hoover, professor emeritus of Political Science, Viking Union
- 10 a.m. "International Immigration and Its Effect on the U.S. Economy," presentation by Steve Globerman, Kaiser Professor of International Business, Viking Union
- 11 a.m. "What are Online Social Networks and Can I Use Them?" presentation by Sherry Mallory, special assistant to the vice president of student affairs, Viking Union
- noon Lunch, PAC Plaza (\$10/person)
- 2 p.m. "100 Years of the American Honeymoon," presentation by Kris Bulcroft, vice provost of undergraduate education, and Linda Smeins, professor of art, Viking Union
- 3 p.m. "What Defines a Western Student Today?" presentation by Chris Roselli, assistant director of Alumni Relations, Viking Union
- 5:30 p.m. Welcome Reception, Viking Commons (\$20/person)

Saturday, August 25

- 8 a.m. Breakfast, Viking Union
- 9 a.m. "Smells Like Money: The Story of Bellingham's Georgia Pacific Plant," film and presentation on Western's proposed presence at the waterfront, Viking Union
- 10 a.m. Guided bus tour of WWU campus, Bellingham's revitalized downtown and proposed waterfront development site, meeting at Viking Commons (\$5/person)
- 11 a.m. "Campus Master Plan," presentation by Tim Wynn, director of Facilities Management, Viking Union
- noon Golden Vikings Celebration Lunch with WWU President Karen W. Morse, Viking Union
- TBA Afternoon presentations to be announced
- 5:30 p.m. Campus School Reception and Gala Dinner, Sam Carver Gym (\$40/person)

All alumni and friends are invited to participate. Presentations are free, but reservations are required. To register, call Alumni Relations at (360) 650-3353,

# Summer Stock

Tickets are on sale now.

## The King & I

A timeless American musical set in the lush world of courtly Siam. Music by Richard Rodgers. Book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Based on "Anna and the King of Siam," by Margaret Landon. Original choreography by Jerome Robbins.

PAC Mainstage Theatre  
July 19, 21, 22 and 25, 26, 27, 28

Directed by Gregory Pulver  
Show Sponsor: The Bellingham Theatre Guild



College of Fine and Performing Arts

## Alice in Wonderland

Alice slips through a magical looking glass and finds an amazing assortment of friends. A musical adventure enjoyed by generations of children and adults. Book and lyrics by Jim Eiler. Music by Jim Eiler and Jeane Bary. Adapted from the book by Lewis Carroll.

PAC Underground Theatre  
August 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

Directed by Deborah Currier  
Show Sponsor: Village Books

## The Tempest

A classic tale of love and power combining the elements of tragedy and romantic comedy and posing questions that, like life itself, are never completely resolved. This adaptation, based on the William Shakespeare play, is suitable for all ages.

Outdoor Performances  
Selected Whatcom County Locations  
July 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 24, 29  
August 2, 3, 4, 5

Directed by Jim Lortz

Tickets & Information

<http://calendar.wvu.edu>

(360) 650-6146

Alumni events  
(360) 650-3353 or (800) 676-6885

Athletics  
(360) 650-3109

WWU Box Office  
(360) 650-6146

Western Gallery  
(360) 650-3900

Wilson Library  
(360) 650-3049