

Curriculum

Innovating academic excellence

Western's academic programs continue to earn national recognition. The Philosophy Department earned high praise for its undergraduate program, the Dance Department received a competitive grant to restage a masterpiece and a new \$900,000 grant will help attract and train new science and math teachers.

And WWU's excellent academics will continue to change lives as we expand programs to Everett, where we'll offer bachelor's and master's programs in environmental science, education and business.

WWU's Philosophy Department named alongside the best nationwide

Western's Philosophy Department was recently named as one of the best undergraduate-only programs in the country by The Philosophical Gourmet Report, a respected regular review of top graduate programs in philosophy. Western is one of just two public university undergraduate philosophy departments mentioned in the most recent report, which is a compilation of the advice of several hundred prominent members of the philosophy

profession. "Among schools that do not offer the Ph.D. or M.A. in philosophy, those with the best philosophy faculties would probably include: Amherst College, California Institute of Technology, Dartmouth College, Reed College, University of Vermont, Western Washington University and Wellesley College," wrote the report's editor, Brian Leiter, a law professor at the University of Chicago. The mention of Western among such heady competition provides a few major benefits to Western, said Ryan Wasserman, an associate professor of philosophy at WWU. It will act as a serious draw for prospective students looking for a top-notch undergraduate program; it helps students gain admission to some of the better graduate schools, and it is a huge boon to and recognition of the department's faculty, Wasserman said.

WWU's MBA program comes to Everett

Western's College of Business and Economics will begin a Weekend MBA program in Everett January 2010. Washington state's Higher Educating Coordinating Board approved the request to start the program, which will hold classes at University Center of North Puget Sound on alternating Fridays and Saturdays and take 24 months to complete. The Weekend MBA program joins a list of existing WWU programs at University Center, including bachelor's degrees in Environmental Science and Planning and Environmental Policy through Huxley College of the Environment. Programs from Woodring College of Education at Everett include bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and Human Services, a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling, and a Master in Teaching program which launched in summer 2009.



Communication Sciences & Disorders students Kornelia Lapinski, left, Kim Ly and Megan Byram smile as they place their painted hands on canvas board in front of the Academic Instructional Center on April 15, 2009. The art project commemorated the new Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic in the AIC building.

Shannon Point receives \$170,000 equipment grant from NSF

Shannon Point Marine Center won a grant totaling \$170,000 for equipment to improve observation, sampling and analysis of marine life. The grant, from the Field Station & Marine Laboratories program of the National Science Foundation, funds two major components: a field instrument package that will permit continuous profiling of physical and chemical characteristics of the water column and a flow cytometer for identification and quantification of microbial community characteristics. The grant will allow Shannon Point scientists and students to develop a better understanding of how our local marine systems work and how human activity alters them. This is the fourth instrumentation grant awarded by NSF to Shannon Point over the past four years. In addition to the oceanographic facilities award, the grants totaling more than \$600,000 have provided a new boat, upgraded the running sea water system, and provided other analytical instrumentation.

New education, environmental degrees come to Everett

Western will offer two new bachelor's degrees and a new master's degree at the University Center of North Puget Sound in Everett starting fall 2009. WWU's Huxley College of the Environment will offer a bachelor of science in Environmental Science and a bachelor of arts in Planning and Environmental Policy. The programs are designed for students who have already finished the first two years of their college education. Western will also offer a Master in Teaching degree in Everett starting summer 2009. Designed for those who already hold a bachelor's degree, completion of the master's in teaching will provide certification to teach at the secondary level. Classes will be

offered evenings and weekends to meet the needs of working adults in Snohomish, Skagit, and Island counties. "We are delighted to expand our partnership with Everett Community College to make these degree programs more accessible to students in this area," said WWU President Bruce Shepard.

New grant recruits scientists into teaching

Western won a five-year, \$900,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors and professionals to become middle- and high-school mathematics and science teachers. The grant provides scholarships and stipends for both undergraduate majors and professionals with science or mathematics degrees who want to receive their teaching certificate at WWU. Noyce grant funding also will be used for stipends for about 60 first- and second-year WWU students who have expressed an interest in a science, technology, engineering or math degree area, to work with summer-school students in Whatcom County's Mount Baker or Meridian school districts.

Woodring launches bilingual teacher endorsement program

A new bilingual endorsement and certificate program has students working at a dual-language elementary school in Burlington. Students studying Elementary Education or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages may complete their practicums and student teacher assignments at West View Elementary School in Burlington, which follows a dual-language instruction model designed to incorporate the best practices in bilingual teaching methods. Western students in the program help teach academic subjects in

both languages though a combination of direct first-language instruction and bilingual "buddies" – young students working in teams. Western students will either earn a teaching certificate with bilingual K-12 endorsement with or a teaching certificate for Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.

Woodring graduates first Early Childhood Ed majors

Western's Woodring College of Education graduated the first students fall quarter from its Early Childhood Education program. Through the academic major and a professional certificate, the program prepares students to be licensed teachers for pre-kindergarten through third grade. Anticipating the growing need for high quality early learning programs, Woodring created the stand-alone degree in 2007. There is a strong emphasis on field experiences through partnerships with the Associated Students' Child Development Center, Head Start, child care centers and K-3 public schools. Woodring's Early Childhood Education program is the only program in the state in which people earn certification to teach kindergarten through third-grade when they complete the degree.

AMSEC acquires new mass spectrometer

The Advanced Materials Science and Engineering Center has commissioned a new specialized instrument, an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer, or ICP-MS, which can sensitively analyze many types of materials. The mass spectrometer was funded in part by a donation from Novartis Corp. and is valued at approximately \$320,000. Both Chemistry and Geology departments, as well as AMSEC, are expected to benefit from its purchase. According to the center's director, WWU Professor of Chemistry David Patrick, the ICP-MS should prove very

useful to both academic researchers and regional companies. "Companies interested in analyzing metals, polymers, liquids and other materials would otherwise have to travel to Seattle to obtain this capability," he said.

Forums featured what's new in business and management education

The College of Business and Economics' Teaching Scholarship Day in October featured several forums, including:

- The Academy for Success in Business, Western's summer business education and outreach program for high school students.
- Globalization and what it means for business and management education.
- A discussion of Mighty Tieton, an economic development enterprise in the central Washington town of Tieton.
- A presentation by the college's Distinguished Teaching Fellow, Associate Professor of Marketing Sandra Mottner, who discussed the role of teaching and scholarship in business education. Mottner will continue to play an important leadership role in research and teaching at the college during her three-year fellowship period.

Dance program wins grant to restage work by choreographer Trisha Brown

Western's Dance Program received a national grant to restage an American dance masterpiece. This is the third consecutive year WWU's Dance Program has received an American Masterpiece Grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and Dance/USA to support the restaging and performance of a master work by a prominent American dance artist. This year the grant supported the reconstruc-

tion of "Glacial Decoy," a work by internationally renowned choreographer Trisha Brown that has been performed around the world, including a restaging with the Paris Opera Ballet. The WWU Dance program collaborated with a photography major Graig Hill who designed the sets for the local performances, and Adrian Keller, a Theater Arts major, who designed the costumes. The WWU Dance Program was the only school in the nation to restage "Glacial Decoy" through an American Masterpiece Grant this year.

Kiplinger's: WWU is a 'Best Value'

Western ranks among the top 100 public colleges and universities in the nation that offer the best "combination of outstanding academic quality and an affordable price tag," according to Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine. In its December issue, Kiplinger's magazine ranks Western 56th on its list of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges in the United States for 2009. The magazine ranked Western 38th in 2008 and 48th in 2007. The rankings are based on data that more than 500 public four-year colleges and universities provided to determine the top 100.

WWU's HR management program gets endorsement

The Society for Human Resource Management has endorsed Western's program of Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resource Management, an endorsement good for three years. WWU is the first university in Washington state and one of only three in the Pacific Northwest to be recognized by the society.

Woodring launches new institute for democracy in education

The Woodring College of Education's Journal of Educational Controversy, a publication that confronts problems in the nation's education system, introduced

the Educational Institute for Democratic Renewal in July. The goal of the institute is to promote maintaining democracy in education, and will combine the electronically published Journal of Controversy with an interactive blog and electronic media. It will also support research, dialogue, forums and seminars on issues related to democracy in education. Woodring professor Lorraine Kasprisin, founded the journal in 2006 and serves as editor-in-chief.

WWU's Jeopardy Magazine publishes 44th edition

Jeopardy Magazine, an undergraduate-run literary and fine arts publication showcasing the unique voices of students, faculty, staff, and alumni released their 44th edition in May. Jeopardy's goal is to present the Western community's best works of the literary and fine arts as part of a cohesive, progressive, and engaging collection.

WWU Communications students showcase work with non-profits

Throughout fall term, Communications students worked with local non-profits to evaluate current communication strategies. Students chose organizations that had little experience with Web tools, including the Slum Doctor Programme, Viking Community Builders, NW Youth Services, and WWU's Center for International Studies. Students created Web projects for them, including Web sites, podcasts and blogs. December's "Advocaster" event showcased the students' efforts and included work from students in two Communications courses, Advocacy Through Media and Emerging Communication Technology.

New grant incorporate 3-D scanning techniques into Geology program

Geology Associate Professors Scott Linneman and Doug Clark received a \$194,469 grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate the value of incorporating terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) into Geology curricula. TLS is a revolutionary form of land surveying that allows researchers to create more accurate, three-dimensional models of landforms. The grant will allow Western to purchase a TLS system that faculty from WWU Whatcom Community College and Northwest Indian College will use to develop educational activities and assess the student impact of the process.