

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WINDOW

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

FALL 2019

Last call for
mountain
goats





At home in Mongolia

Rahimbek, a nomadic herder and locally renowned eagle hunter of western Mongolia, hosted WWU Psychology Professor David Sattler and photographer Rhys Logan earlier this year, along with a team of students from the National University of Mongolia. The group traveled across the countryside studying the psychological effects and impacts of climate change on nomadic herders of rural Mongolia.

Rahimbek lives with his wife and five children in a rural area of Bayan-Ölgii province, where they raise yaks, camels and cattle-yak cross-breeds. The family also owns two golden eagles and a Eurasian eagle-owl, which they train to help them hunt in the rugged, game-scarce mountains.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| WWU News | 6 |
| A look inside WWU students' new Multicultural Center • A campaign begins for a new advanced technology building • Industrial Design students win an impressive award for their vision of tools of the future. | |
| Patient Storyteller | 8 |
| Kate Trueblood's new novel draws from her experience of love and healing in 'the meltdown years.' | |
| Out in the Country | 10 |
| Patrick Haggerty launched the first gay country-western album nearly 50 years ago, then fell into obscurity. Now, Lavender Country is reaching new audiences with its revolutionary message. | |
| The Great Goatlift | 14 |
| WWU faculty and students help solve the problem of too many goats in the Olympics and not enough in the Cascades. | |
| Playing Along | 20 |
| Andrew Joslyn may be the most versatile musician you've never heard of.. | |
| Artistic Inspiration | 22 |
| Artist and entrepreneur Louie Gong wants to bring the work of "Inspired Natives" to a larger audience. | |
| Linguistic Sleuth | 26 |
| For decades, WWU Linguist Ed Vajda argued Native Americans are linked by language to Central Asia. But can historical linguistics build a case to convince the scientific community? | |
| Message from the President | 4 |
| Class Notes | 31 |
| Alumni Conversations | 30 |
| A Look Back | 36 |

On the cover: Mountain goats are lowered by helicopter into the back of a waiting truck after being captured in the Olympic Mountains. Photo By John Gussman.



6



8



10



14



22



26



31

Message

from the President

On October 10, Western celebrated the grand opening of the new Multicultural Center at the Viking Union, with several hundred people in attendance. It was a momentous occasion in Western's history, and the realization of a dream that multicultural students at Western have nurtured for many years. Speakers included Western alumni and staff who had led efforts to advance Western's recognition and support for the multicultural student experience, as well as recent student leaders who advocated for the construction of the center itself. While many of them shared personal stories of struggle, frustration, and sadness about their experiences as students of color at Western, they also gave voice to expressions of joy and hope about what the dedication of this new space means to Western's multicultural students past, present, and future.

When I came to Western in 2016, I shared an African proverb that I thought captured the spirit of the community and the change that Western needed:

*"If you want to go fast, go alone.
If we want to go far, go together."*

I think that proverb still resonates for where Western is as a community today, for the hope that the Multicultural Center embodies for Western's future, and for Western to continue to progress toward more fully living our values of equity, inclusion, and respect for the dignity of all. Not just because it is the right thing to do, but because diversity and inclusion are critical to organizational resilience and mission advancement. The more people we include in our circle, the farther we will go toward achieving our goals, and the more indispensable our success will be to the success of others.

Advancing inclusive success, particularly for traditionally underrepresented students, is the number-one priority of Western's strategic plan over the next five years, and I believe it is also the most important challenge facing higher education across the nation. It will take continued focus, investment, and commitment across the institution. At the same time, it is deeply intertwined in the complex, adaptive issues of culture and climate change. These kinds of gradual, but ultimately effective changes require ongoing dialogue, empathy, the courage to stay engaged, and the humble acknowledgment that while we may not have all the answers we are committed to learning together on this journey.

Spaces like the Multicultural Center are vessels for memory, hopes, dreams, and aspirations. They are places where culture is created and shared, places which allow the people of the past to speak in the present, and to the future.

My hope is that Western goes forward in the knowledge that spaces like the Multicultural Center will shape us, and shape Western, for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Sabah Randhawa
President



Photo by Rhys Logan, '11



WINDOW

The magazine of Western Washington University

Vol. 12, No. 1, Fall 2019

Editor
Mary Lane Gallagher
Mary.Gallagher@wwu.edu

Contributing writers
Meri-Jo Borzilleri, Hilary Parker, '95,
Claire Sykes, '81, John Thompson,

Photographers
Tojo Andrianarivo, Rachel Bayne, John Gussman,
Faith Haney, '95, Rhys Logan, '11

Graphic Design/Production
Chris Baker

Web Developers
Wayne Bakker, Stephanie Mason, '17

Editorial Advisory Board

Frances Badgett, Assistant Director of Marketing and
Communications, University Advancement

Suzanne Blais, Manager of Digital Media Production and
Development, University Relations

Stephanie Bowers, Vice President,
University Advancement

Paul Cocke, Director,
University Communications

Deborah DeWees, Assistant Vice President for Alumni,
Annual Giving and Advancement Communications;
Executive Director of the WWU Alumni Association

Paul Dunn, Chief of Staff to the President and
Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Donna Gibbs, Vice President,
University Relations and Marketing

Becca Kenna-Schenk, Director of Government Relations

Chris Roselli, '99, Director of Community Relations

John Thompson, Assistant Director,
University Communications

Kessa Volland, '04, Marketing and Media Coordinator,
University Communications

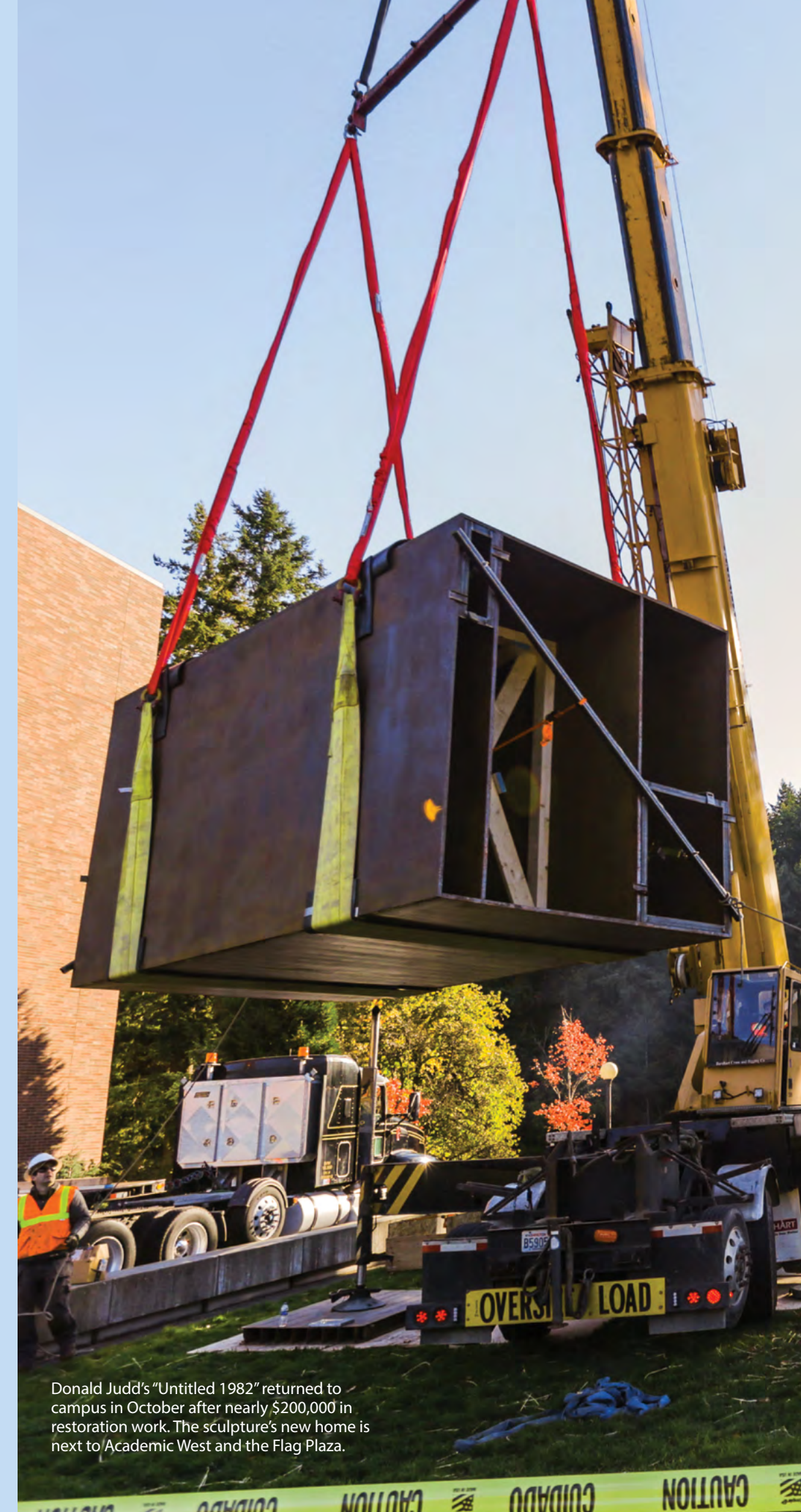
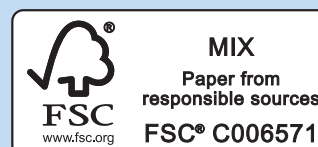
Window is published three times a year for alumni and friends of Western
Washington University by the Office of University Communications,
516 High St., Bellingham, WA, 98225-9011 360-650-3350

Send change-of-address requests to:
Western Washington University
University Advancement – Constituent Records
Old Main 430, MS 9034, Bellingham, WA 98225
or email alumni@wwu.edu

Views expressed in Window are those of the authors and do not
necessarily reflect official policy of Western Washington University.

Window supports Western's commitment to assuring that all programs and
activities are readily accessible to all eligible people without regard to race,
color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status,
sexual orientation or veteran's status.

This publication is available in an alternate format.
For information, call 360-650-3350.



Donald Judd's "Untitled 1982" returned to campus in October after nearly \$200,000 in restoration work. The sculpture's new home is next to Academic West and the Flag Plaza.

A look inside WWU students' new Multicultural Center

The newly built Multicultural Center, a \$20 million expansion at the Viking Union complex, provides a much-needed new home for the Associated Students' Ethnic Student Center and space for Student Advocacy and Identity Resource Centers.

The expansion brings together the new Multicultural Center, Viking Union, Bookstore, Multipurpose Room and the KUGS radio station within one building that honors and supports Western's growing diverse population and engages the campus to better understand multiple cultures.



Photos by Rhys Logan, '11

The AS's Blue Resource Center, Disability Outreach Center, Queer Resource Center and Womxn's Identity Resource Center, along with LGBTQ+ Western and the Western Success Scholars, the new program for former and current foster and unaccompanied homeless youth, are also located in the new Multicultural Center.

The expansion is a result of many years of activism by students urging the university to become a more truly inclusive institution. After the AS started the project with a \$50,000 investment to study where best to move the ESC, the student body passed a \$30-per-quarter student fee to fund the project. WWU institutional funds and savings realized from refunding some existing Viking Union bonds also helped pay for construction.



A vision of tools of the future wins design award

In August, the 2018 class of industrial design seniors have already accomplished something many designers dream of their whole careers: A gold medal in the prestigious International Design Excellence Awards.

The Senior Studio capstone project had 14 students working with industry partners Milwaukee Tools and Anvil Studios on a blue-sky, no-limits project about the future of tools and the industrial workplace. Their proposed "tool ecosystem," in which robots and connected tools worked together to support the efforts of their human counterparts, earned them a gold medal in the Student Designs category.

"For our discipline, this is bigger than a NCAA championship, it's more like winning an Olympic medal," says Professor of Industrial Design Jason Morris.

The WWU students developed tool systems for four critical areas of major construction: security, safety, movement and communication. Their ideas included wearable tech in smarter hardhats and using drones and autonomous vehicles to deliver tools on the job.

Other recent recipients of Gold IDEA awards—albeit in different categories—include the original Apple iPhone in 2008 and the Tesla Model S in 2013.



Western to build an advanced technology facility

Western's Building Washington's Future campaign aims to secure \$20 million in private funding to construct a new science and technology building on Western's main campus.

The new Advanced Technology Engineering and Computer Science building is part of Western's strategy to meet Washington workforce needs by providing space for expanded programs in electrical engineering, computer science, and energy technology. These advanced technology programs maintain Western's hallmarks of smaller class sizes, hands-on learning, and interdisciplinary approaches. They provide graduates with the skills to tackle the most technological challenges of our time such as improving cyber-security, engineering smart buildings, or refining transportation automation systems. The facility will be a hub for industry collaboration with spaces designed to foster innovation and the exchange of ideas among an increasingly diverse population of students and faculty.

The Washington State Legislature has committed \$2 million for design-related expenses and plans to allocate \$46 million for design and construction in the 2021-2023 biennium—contingent upon Western's ability to secure private funding.

Learn more at www.wvu.edu/build.

Patient Storyteller

WWU's Kate Trueblood's new novel draws from her experience of love and healing in 'the meltdown years.'

Professor of English Kate Trueblood's newest novel, "Take Daily as Needed," (University of New Mexico Press) follows its protagonist, Maeve Beaufort, as she navigates an intricate and at times oppressive maze of competing demands, from a daughter who suffers from allergic reactions to nuts so severe that she can (and does) go into anaphylactic shock; a father who dances in and out of dementia, emerging from a funk long enough to purchase yet another big-ticket item that he doesn't

need and can't afford; to her own wellness issues surrounding her struggle with Crohn's disease and the at-times crushing weight of the needs of those around her.

Window magazine writer John Thompson recently sat down with Trueblood to talk to her about the book, how much of her own experiences went into Maeve's story, and how we all, eventually, have to come to grips with living with the infirmity of our own bodies.

Maeve's story in "Take Daily as Needed" feels very personal, that the places she has been and continues to discover in the book feel like emotional destinations it would be hard to describe if the writer hadn't been there herself ... is that the case? Are there a lot of your life experiences in Maeve?

Yes, each book I publish feels more personal than the last. The narrator of the novel, Maeve Beaufort, is a parent whose illness goes in and out of remission like mine. A friend's death compelled me to start this book as did my own fear of illness. My friend had MS and vowed to live until her son graduated from high school. I had just been diagnosed with Crohn's Disease. She constantly found humor in the absurdity of her situation and we shared that.

My relationship with my own children and as a teacher has caused me to reflect on the large number of children and teenagers out there who live with ill or disabled parents and have little to no support. Like the main character, Maeve, I have taken in kids who were kicked out, who ran away, or who were suicidal, and I have tried to get social services for them. I quickly learned we don't really have a social safety net in this country.

I also wanted to write about the meltdown years when middle-aged women are likely to be taking care of their parents while they are still raising their kids. This was true for me. My father fell and received a traumatic brain injury, so I was trying to care for him as well.

Is it hard to write and describe difficult points of your own life and then see them being wrestled with by your own fic-

tional characters?

No, it is actually a release for me, because it helps me see who I once was. I can put a frame around a particular part of my life, I can freeze the family in that frame and see how they are all interacting whereas in real life I was always in the middle of my life and muddling along. And then of course, there's the moment where the character is no longer me, where I know what my character has to do and it may not be what I did, and perhaps that is cathartic as well.

"Take Daily" is a loosely connected series of stories about Maeve and her family; in the middle of the book is one story, "The No-Tell Hotel," that won you the 2013 Goldenberg Prize in Fiction. What made you decide to go back to that story and use it as the basis for more stories about Maeve?

When my son was 17, I would go downstairs in the morning and count the pairs of shoes piled by the back door to figure out how many kids had spent the night on the floor of his room. That moment is captured in "The No-Tell Hotel." I really wasn't concerned if my house was overrun by teenagers because I was too sick. I was living the chaos narrative, and that story was true to my life. When you suffer the crisis of becoming ill, you have to get a whole set of instructions for living. But there's this period where you have no history with the illness, no track record of recovering from flare-ups, and no trust that you will recover.

I began looking for fiction that featured sick mothers trying to raise kids, and I couldn't find much, and I wondered who would want to read it besides me, but decided I didn't care and wrote that story which was eventually selected by Jane Smiley for the Goldenberg Prize. "The No-Tell Hotel" stayed with me because it was a tribute to my friend who died, but also because



its reception showed me that there was a place for this subject in the world. Later, I began to question my own attitudes, because really, there is no one who is untouched by illness, mental or physical.

A sense of connection and empathy run through all the stories in "Take Daily." How do your students inspire you to be more empathetic?

I am just humbled by the pressures my students withstand to stay in school. I have been teaching for over 20 years, and I have seen many changes in that time. A lot of students do not have strong foundations to

spring from. Their family problems are a reflection of the diminishment of social services and the transfer of wealth out of the lower and middle classes. Students come to me who can't afford medical treatment; who can't eat until their financial aid comes in; who are working way too many hours while trying to maintain a full-time load; students whose families are in crisis because of ill health, mental illness, addiction, or debt.

I feel it is my job to make students feel seen, heard, and cared about. I may be a writing teacher, but I am a storyteller first and I believe in the power stories have to bind us in community, to take down walls, and make us patient with each other's pain. I try to bring deep listening and survival humor into the classroom with me.

Kathryn Trueblood has been awarded the Goldenberg Prize for Fiction and the Red Hen Press Short Story Award. She has taught at Western since 1991, and is the author of "The Baby Lottery" and "The Sperm Donor's Daughter and Other Tales of Modern Family."



Suzanne Bair Photography



Patrick Haggerty of Lavender Country, before a recent show at the Fixin' To in Portland.

OUT IN THE COUNTRY

Patrick Haggerty launched the first gay country-western album nearly 50 years ago, then fell into obscurity. Now, Lavender Country is reaching new audiences with its revolutionary message.

Story by Claire Sykes, '81

Photos by Tojo Andrianarivo

Content warning: Contains profanity and a brief homophobic slur and description of suicidal thoughts.

Growing up with nine siblings on a 100-acre tenant dairy farm near Port Angeles, **Patrick Haggerty**, '66, B.A., sociology, milked the cows, fed the calves, shoveled manure and did endless other chores. He also played with dolls, pranced around in a tutu at 4-H summer camp and wore baling-twine wigs that his father helped him make.

"My father may've looked like a bumpkin, but he wasn't. He was quite a smart man. By the time I was 5, he could see the writing on the wall." The boy back then realized years later that he'd always been gay, something his father always knew and fully supported.

Charles Edward Haggerty's influence on his son followed him to Lavender Country and beyond. In 1973 in Seattle, Haggerty formed the gay country-western band—with its hard-core-radical political and intimately personal lyrics dressed in a traditional country-music sound—and helped release the first explicitly gay-themed album of the genre. Three years later, the group went under, resurfacing in 2014 to national applause.

Today, with Lavender Country band members based in

various places, Haggerty tours the West Coast along with Kansas City, St. Louis, Nashville, Philadelphia, New York and Raleigh, North Carolina, among other cities. A reissue of the band's original album, "Lavender Country," is joined by a second, "Blackberry Rose and Other Songs and Sorrows," as well as a StoryCorps podcast and animation, a short documentary and even a ballet production.

Unlike his parents who couldn't carry a tune, Haggerty had a flair for music as a child. It was helped along by classroom songbooks and his school-orchestra trumpet—and the radio's Patsy Cline and Hank Williams, and later Connie Francis and Frankie Avalon. When he was 9, his father bought him a \$25 guitar and he taught himself a few chords.

One day he was belting out show tunes while driving the tractor and crashed it into an alder tree. "I was a disaster at anything mechanical. My father told me, 'Pat, you have to get the hell out of this valley and go to college or you're going to starve to death.'"

Haggerty was a senior in high school when his father died from a genetic disease that hardened his arteries. After he graduated in 1962, the family moved to town and he and

his mother started classes at Peninsula College, staggering their schedules to both care for the kids. With their AA degrees, they continued on at Western.

At first, Haggerty wanted to major in drama. But as the Vietnam War heated up, he got more interested in social and political causes, becoming an antiwar activist, and he chose sociology. “There wasn’t much radical activity at Western during those years,” he says, “but we were picking up on the initial stages of the peacenik-hippie movement.” He and his mother, **Asylda Haggerty**, BAE, English – elementary, both graduated in 1966, with honors.

Right after Western, Haggerty joined the Peace Corps, in India, but was discharged that year for having sex with a man there. “I was really upset about my sexuality and what I was going to do about it. I was severely depressed.” At his doctor’s advice, his mother took him to Western State Hospital. After a

“I know how to sparkle and shine and win the affection of the audience.”

couple of weeks, “an angel cleverly disguised as a nurse told me, ‘You’re not mentally ill. You’re gay. And nobody here can help you. You need to leave. You’ll have to fig-

ure it out yourself, and you probably will.’ The clouds just lifted.”

Haggerty went to Spokane, where his sister lived, and worked as a county psychiatric caseworker. “And I knew that the crisis of my sexuality had to be dealt with,” he says. After a couple of years, he hitchhiked for nine months all over the U.S. and into Canada and Mexico. Dropped off in Minnesota farmland in the dark, “I came to my wits’ end.” Haggerty walked into a grove of cottonwood trees contemplating suicide. “My dad showed up. He stayed with me all night. When morning came, he said, ‘I’m tired of you muckin’ around. You know what to do. Go get the job done.’”

Haggerty stayed in Missoula for a while and a few days after the Stonewall riots in New York City’s Greenwich Village, in June 1969, he publicly came out. Then he went for a master’s in social work community organizing at the University of Washington—and dove into Seattle’s gay-liberation movement.

At the end of his first year at UW, through an anti-imperialist organization called the Venceremos Brigade, Haggerty went to Cuba. For four months in 1971, he cut sugarcane and studied Karl Marx. And he wrote his first song, “Back in the Closet Again,” urging the working class to unite.

Haggerty graduated a year later, and he and friends started Lavender Country, named after the color historically associ-

ated with homosexuality. Lead singer and guitarist Haggerty joined keyboardist Michael Carr, singer and fiddler Eve Morris and guitarist Robert Hammerstrom, the only straight—and remaining—member.

In 1973, the Seattle gay community collectively funded and released 1,000 copies of the band’s first album, “Lavender Country,” which quickly sold out. They performed at the first Seattle Pride event in 1974, and many other gay-lib events in Washington, Oregon and California. Haggerty wrote most of the 10 songs, with lyrics like the ones from Cuba: “They screamed, ‘You fags ain’t got no human rights/We think you guys are sick/ ‘Cause all you want’s a prick.’” Haggerty’s most popular, “Cryin’ these Cocksucking Tears,” twangs about men’s rigid sex roles and the oppression of women and gay men.

“We made ‘Lavender Country’ as a political statement and vehicle to promote social change,” says Haggerty. “If I’d wanted a career in country music, I wouldn’t have made the album. I knew then I wouldn’t go to Nashville with it, that it would kill any chances I’d have in music. And it did.”

In 1976, Lavender Country disbanded. “The Democratic Party was taking over, pushing radicals to the side, and we could see there was no market for radical gay country music,” says Haggerty, who started working for the Seattle Human Rights Commission doing discrimination investigation.

By now he’d also bought a house and was realizing his dream of building a family: He was father of a little girl, her mother a lesbian friend, and co-parenting the son of another lesbian friend, who was Black.

Haggerty kept up his activism, adding anti-racism causes with the anti-apartheid movement and the Nation of Islam. Then in 1983 he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Two years later he went on disability and slowly learned how to manage the disease.

In 1988 he met his husband, Julius “JB” Broughton. The following year, Haggerty ran for Seattle City Council office as an independent gay socialist with Nation of Islam members on the New Alliance Party platform, and again as a candidate for the Washington House of Representatives. “We knew we were going to lose, but we made our point, big time,” he says. After the elections, Haggerty and JB moved to Bremerton, and soon got into real estate investing.

All along, Haggerty pecked away at writing songs. In 1999, an article on openly gay country singers appeared in the national, mainstream *Journal of Country Music*. It proclaimed “Lavender Country” as the first gay country-music album, landing it in the *Country Music Hall of Fame*.

But it’s still a mystery who posted “Cryin’ these Cocksucking

Tears” on YouTube, which was caught by Jeremy Cargill. Cargill found a used vinyl “Lavender Country” and took it to independent label, Paradise of Bachelors. Soon after the album’s 2014 reissue, Lavender Country was back touring, sharing the queer-country and Americana spotlights with the likes of Paisley Fields; and singer-songwriters Myra Byrne and Eli Conley, and poet Joss Barton, the three of them trans.

The band now draws mainly 20- to 40-year-olds, of all sexual orientations. “I call them the pink-and-blue-haired white kids, an anarch-o, punk-o, grunge-o, fuck-you crowd. They don’t give a shit that my music is country. They appreciate the anti-capitalism and pro-revolution ideas, and want to be a part,” says Haggerty.

Up there in his glittery flower-embroidered lavender Western shirt, cowboy boots and hat, Haggerty embellishes his songs with stories about his father and ‘70s gay-rights protests, and rants about capitalism and the working class, sometimes mingling into the crowd and singing nose-to-nose close with the audience. “I’ve never thought I had a beautiful singing voice. I’m more Bob Dylan-raspy. But I do think my voice has a sincere, expressive quality, and I’ve learned how to use that to my advantage. The Norma Desmond in me comes through. I know how to sparkle and shine and win the affection of the audience.”

Along with national-magazine features on him, a 2014 StoryCorps podcast of Haggerty was adapted as a short animation, “The Saint of Dry Creek.” He’s onscreen again in the national award-winning 2016 short documentary, “These C*cksucking Tears,” directed by Dan Taberski. And the San Francisco-based Post:Ballet’s “Lavender Country” had

the band and Haggerty’s storytelling, live, in the company’s 2017 and 2019 shows. Since then, Lavender Country released “Blackberry Rose,” of old and new songs by Haggerty, branching out into anti-racism and feminism. Now there’s talk of a Hollywood biopic.

“A part of me doesn’t want the fame that comes with that,” he says of the movie. “I’ve lived my life out of the limelight, a run-of-the-mill loudmouth activist who nobody saw as anyone special. That’s actually truer to who I am. But I also have a revolutionary responsibility to move my radical politics forward and get the message out as far and wide as I can, in order to advance the cause.”

It’s loud enough to be heard by Haggerty’s father, who’s still cheering him on.

Claire Sykes, ’81, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, is a freelance writer based in Portland. She loved her Lavender Country night out and meeting Haggerty, whom she describes as “a cross between a fiery stick of dynamite and a cuddly plush toy.”





The Great Goatlift

WWU faculty and students help solve the problem of too many goats in the Olympics and not enough in the Cascades.

Story by John Thompson
Photos by Rhys Logan, '11

Mountain goats are at a crossroads in Washington state. On one side of Puget Sound in the Olympic Mountains, mountain goats are viewed as an introduced, nuisance species threatening to overrun the national park while devastating a fragile alpine ecosystem that was never meant to support them.

Across the sound in the Cascades, mountain goats are lonely. The natural populations of the iconic mammals continue to dwindle in high alpine regions that have historically supported them.

State and federal officials from the National Park Service, National Forest

Service, and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife all agree: There are too many goats in the Olympics and not enough goats in the Cascades.

Attempting to solve this conundrum requires helicopters, refrigerated trucks, veterinarians, wildlife scientists and technicians, tribal members, community volunteers, thousands of hours of work across agencies, many goat-sized blindfolds and, of course, Western: specifically, Professor of Environmental Science David Wallin and his students.

Wallin has studied the problems with the Cascades' goat populations

for more than a decade, and says that due to a variety of reasons, from hunting to erosion of their winter habitat, mountain goat populations in the Cascades declined for most of the 20th century. Hunting pressure was reduced in the 1980s after the state slashed the number of hunting permits, and since then, two of the main herds in the Cascades—the Mount Baker group and the group in the Goat Rocks Wilderness Area between Mount Rainier and Mount St. Helens—appear to have recovered and now are relatively stable.

Less hunting pressure hasn't, how-

ever, helped goat populations recover in areas such as the mountains near Darrington, which once held thriving goat herds. Moreover, genetic analysis of goats throughout the Cascades indicates the goats aren't moving around very much, especially between populations in the north and south. This limited movement can lead to a loss of genetic diversity and reduced survivorship.

"People tend to think, 'How can goats be in trouble? All the alpine habitat is protected,' and that's true for half the year, when they are in the high alpine zones," Wallin says. "But the other half of the year, they come down into valleys that are much more developed.

"But the biggest factor leading to isolation of mountain goat populations in the Cascades is that I-90 basically walls them off from each other," he says. "Because the two small groups are so isolated physically and genetically, it makes them much, much more vulnerable."

Goats that can interbreed, like the large herds in British Columbia's Coast Range, are 15 percent more likely to live until their second year. That's a big edge considering that a hunting harvest of just 1 percent can cripple a herd's overall survivorship rate.

"The goats that were introduced into the Olympics in the 1920s by hunting clubs are different genetically than those in the Cascades; they came from places like the northern Rockies in B.C. and from Southeast Alaska," Wallin says. "An early effort at translocating goats in the 1980s brought some of these goats over to the Cascades, and we can still see the influence of their DNA on some of the groups of the Cascades goats today."

So while adding goats from the Olympics is important to bump up the population in the Cascades—which has dropped from about 10,000 animals to

roughly 3,000—just as important is the introduction of much-needed new genetic material.

Even with local tribes, higher education, and state and federal agencies behind the project, the goats weren't going to trot down to Port Townsend, take the ferry and head up into the Cascades

More than a dozen sedated goats arrive in refrigerated box trucks, ready for the final leg of their journey from the Olympic Mountains to the Cascades.

on their own. Getting them into alpine zones half a state away is a massive undertaking; state and federal officials wanted to move between 300 and 400 goats over three summers from the Olympics to the Cascades.

Call in the 'goat muggers'

It's a little after midnight high up along the Cascade crest, about 10 miles west of Washington Pass along the North Cascades Highway; a panoply of stars blankets a cloudless night sky and the Milky Way arcs between two backlit peaks in a breathtaking swath of million-year-old light.

Two refrigerated box trucks chug slowly up a dirt road to a Department of Transportation gravel and sand pit, and their arrival triggers half a dozen sleepy inhabitants to roll out of their tents or hammocks.

The goats have arrived.

In the back of the two trucks are bright red crates, each with a bill of lading describing the crate's contents: "Nanny, 91 pounds." (in goat parlance, a billy is a mature male, a nanny is a mature female, and kids are young immature goats). Staring out placidly from her crate is one of the hundreds of goats to be moved in the last two summers. She blinks calmly at the faces that appear in



Photo by Faith Haney, '95



Top: Two "mugged" goats on the first leg of their journey from the Olympics.

Above: After a health check, the goats are loaded into crates for their journey to the Cascades.

front of her; she's been sedated for the past 12 hours.

Even in their crates, *Oreamnos americanus* are impressive animals; two long, sharp, slightly curved horns perch atop a proud forehead, and even in midsummer it is easy to see how their dense, snow-white coats can protect them in temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero and in winds reaching 100 miles per hour.

More than a dozen goats are in these crates in the two trucks, and after a brief inspection, the back doors to the trucks are rolled closed and the refrigeration turned back on to keep the goats cool. Wallin performs a perfunctory check and then returns to his sleeping bag, waiting for the dawn and the last phase of the goats' journey.



“We know these translocation efforts can work”

The day before, these goats had been on a mountainside in the Olympics before a complex chain of events ended with them in this gravel pit in the middle of the night. The process of finding and securing goats in the Olympics is arduous, and not without risk to both goat and its human would-be benefactors.

First, searchers spot the goats from helicopter, then the goat is either shot with a tranquilizer dart or entangled in a special kind of net shot from a gun. The helicopter hovers near the immobilized goat and the “goat mugger” leaps out. The goat is blindfolded, its horns are wrapped in Styrofoam, its legs are bound so it won’t thrash, and then it is wrapped in a sling and slowly airlifted down to the

The day before, these goats had been on a

Olympics staging area, where veterinarians and scientists are waiting.

At the staging area, the goat is checked to make sure it is doing well, then its vitals are recorded and its DNA sampled. Some are outfitted with GPS collars to assist in tracking them in the nights to come, a summer job undertaken by a group of Wallin’s students.

Finally, the goat is unbound, its blindfold removed and it is loaded into the crate while it is still woozy. Over the past two summers, nearly 300 goats have been moved from west to east, with one more summer of translocation to go. These are the lucky ones; any goats left after next summer in the Olympics will be killed.

The goats of the Olympics, much to the consternation of wildlife biologists, have been trampling and eating their way into the proverbial doghouse for years.

Ranging far across the area, they have proven to be quite adept at destroying fragile alpine environments that were never designed to support or tolerate them. And in their endless search to satisfy their need for salt, they have begun to frequent campgrounds and popular trails, attracted to the urine left behind by campers and hikers.

Tragically, in what ended up being the last straw, an angry goat fatally gored a 63-year-old hiker on a trail in the Olympic National Park in 2010.

Freedom

As the first rays of the morning sun began to set alight the peaks of Liberty Bell Mountain and Early Winters Spire just to the east, the camp again rouses from its slumber, and shortly afterward, the helicopter and its ground crew arrive.

The goat wranglers, including WWU students Nick Andrews and Naryan Dahlstrom, get a quick crash course from the ground crew on how the crates are lashed together while the team made up of Wallin and state and federal scientists is helicoptered to the release point high above the valley. Dahlstrom said this kind of work was incredibly valuable moving forward after graduation and into his career.

“I’m actually looking to get into wildlife rehabilitation, so having this kind of experience really looks good if I want to get into that line of work,” he says.

Andrews agreed.

“I’m really interested in wildlife management and that side of environmental science, so this is right up my alley,” he says. “And having faculty like we have who work so hard to (be) so inclusive to the undergrads for opportunities like this

is really, really cool.”

The helicopter arrives back at camp, hovering over the first set of three goat crates triple-lashed together. The ground crew connects the helicopter cable to the crates and the goats rise into the air on the final leg of their journey to the Cascades. The ferrying from the gravel pit continues all morning until the last load is delivered at the mountaintop.

At the release point, Wallin releases a nanny goat and her kid from the crates. They sprint woozily down the hillside, then turn around for a last look at the release team before disappearing over a rocky knoll and into the heart of the wild Cascade crest.

Imprinted in their cellular data is a DNA lifeline for the Cascades goat herds, and years of monitoring lie ahead for Wallin, his students, the agencies and

Left: Volunteers triple-lash the crates together before they’re lifted by helicopter into the Cascade wilderness

Top: Professor of Environmental Science David Wallin, holding a helmet and listening to the helicopter pilot, has studied the mountain goats of the Cascades for more than a decade.

Above: Operation Goatlift gets underway in the early morning, as the sun begins to light the peaks of Liberty Bell Mountain and Early Winters Spire near Washington Pass.

tribes to see if that lifeline can bear fruit and help the Cascades herds rebound.

“We know these translocation efforts can work,” Wallin says. “And after three summers and about 300 goats, we will have certainly given it our best shot.”

John Thompson is the assistant director for Research and Content Creation at Western’s Office of Communications. He has never seen as many stars as he did that night under the Milky Way at Washington Pass.

After their journey from the Olympic Mountains, the goats' destination is the Central Cascades. These mountain goats, meandering around the Mormon Ladies' Lakes, and their descendants might benefit from the genetic diversity that the goats from the Olympics bring to the Cascade herds.



Photo by Duncan Mullen

Tracking Goats Across the Cascades

All the efforts to move the goats from the Olympics to the Cascades mean nothing without understanding how those goats are doing after their release.

First, are they surviving at close to the rates of typical Cascades goats? It turns out there is some increased mortality associated with the stress of translocation, but on the whole, they are doing quite well.

How far are they roaming from their release sites? Wallin said one tracked goat had ambled more than 50 miles from its release site last summer, so they are obviously not averse

Left: **Ava Michael**, '18, B.A., environmental studies, uses a scope to scan a distant ridge for two adult female goats in the Pasayten Wilderness. The students tracked the signals from the goats' GPS collars, and found them later in the day.

to a good walk.

Even though many of the transplanted goats had been fitted with GPS collars, tracking them and gathering this data can only be accomplished by boots on the ground. Enter a stout cohort of fit Western students willing to undertake seven backpacking trips into the heart of the Cascades over the course of the summer, with each trip lasting about four days.

Duncan Mullen, a junior environmental studies major, was one of the four students who traipsed back and forth across the peaks of America's Alps, and he quickly discovered that finding the goats, even with their collars, is achieved only through "some combination of good luck and bushwhacking persistence."

"Mountain goats seem to be experts in picking the side of the mountain ridge that you aren't on, and hoofing it over there," Mullen says. "There were many times we bushwhacked along the side of a mountain following radio signals, only

to have them disappear suddenly, presumably as our goat crossed over to another face of the mountain."

Wallin said that the hard work of his students paid off with some quality sightings and data: At least three of last summer's nannies had new kids, and co-mingling between Cascades goats and the "new arrivals" seemed to be occurring.

Mullen says that while the summer provided valuable technical skills in radio telemetry and field work, it also gave him a new understanding of how amazing the goats truly are.

"They live in such a tough environment, but have adapted so well to their surroundings. They make traveling over near-vertical cliff faces look easy. And they sure left us in the dust sometimes," he says.

Next summer, a new cohort of students will track the goats in the Cascades, including those just released in late August near Washington Pass.

PLAYING ALONG

Andrew Joslyn, '05, has made a career at the intersection of pop and classical music – and a long list of musicians want to join him there.

Joslyn's musical career includes performing, songwriting, arranging, and most recently, scoring Hollywood films.

By Meri-Jo Borzilleri

Andrew Joslyn, '05, B.A., English literature, could be the most versatile musician you've never heard of, and that's OK by him. Joslyn's biggest rush comes from collaboration, not celebrity. It's more fun that way. The 37-year-old Joslyn, who grew up on Bainbridge Island and lives in Seattle, is a violinist who has worked with a mind-boggling array of stars and music styles. He is no stranger to fame—his half-brother is former "Saturday Night Live" cast member Chris Kattan. And Joslyn has known Macklemore since he was just Ben Haggerty, co-writing just about every Macklemore record since 2008. He has performed on the star rapper's four world tours and arranged music for Macklemore's last three albums, including four-time Grammy winner "The Heist."

Now, within the demanding, competitive music industry, Joslyn has made a name for himself too. Last year, he co-wrote, performed strings and arranged horns for pop star Keshi's No. 1 hit single, "Praying," which won him

two BMI Pop Awards. Joslyn also got to write lyrics and help create a storyline for "Hamilton" alum Leslie Odom Jr.'s debut album due in fall 2019.

Along the way, Joslyn's writing, orchestrating, recording and touring credits include a diverse group of artists, including Seattle-area singer-songwriters Mary Lambert, Mark Lanegan and David Bazan, indie hip-hop artist K.Flay, folk icon Judy Collins, fellow WWU alums ODESZA, Guns N' Roses bassist Duff McKagan, indie rocker Father John Misty, Latin Grammy winner Nando Reis, and the Seattle Rock Orchestra, among others. His Passenger String Quartet is an experimental neo-classical group that performs original compositions and backs national touring groups. He also lectures on the music industry, writes music for commercials and video games, and has contributed music for the award-winning podcast, "Casefile: True Crime," and TV shows "Bob's Burgers," "Gray's Anatomy," "Pretty Little Liars" and "Lorraine."

Lately, he is excited to be scoring Hollywood films, including "Life

with Dog" (2019), "Hickok" (2017) and "American Violence" (2017). The chance to score feature films came after the success of his own debut album in 2017, the orchestral pop "Awake at the Bottom of the Ocean."

You have so many titles attached to your name. When you get up in the morning, how do you decide what to do?

Here's the thing: I still am very much a focused artist. I started playing violin when I was 5. What I do is focused on the marriage of classical and pop music. I've always really focused my work in an orchestral sense. So it's not like I also try to do heavy metal music and reggae, and this and that. At a certain point you can be so generalized that you really don't have anything to offer of skill. I try to keep it as focused as I can.

So then why did you change your major your junior year?

I was kind of freaked out—I didn't know what I wanted to be doing professionally with music, but I didn't want to just drop it. (Joslyn graduated with a violin performance minor.)

I studied with Walter Schwede, a violin performance professor. He was fantastic. I first went to Western because of him. I really liked his approach to the instrument.

(I did) a lot of studying of classic literature from Nicholas Margaritis... I learned to appreciate so much of good writing through him, and actually good music too. Between him and Walter, they were very influential. They'd be like, "Hey, here's some great records you should listen to and here's some amazing things you should be aware of."

Even with an English degree, you really got your start in music at Western.

I met another Western alum, **David John Wellnitz** ('05, B.A., political science) and we started a band back in the day. He went to Fairhaven. Met him my sophomore year... I instantly loved his guitar playing. The band name was Handful of Luvin'. We toured together for 10 years, and it was a great introduction to the music industry for me. After I left the group, they continued on as the amazing group Heels to the Hardwood that performs regionally.

In an industry of outsized egos, some see collaboration as a steppingstone. You keep returning to it. Why?

I think that music in its purest form is always a collaborative art form. Live performance with a person, performing for an audience, that kind of environment is so collaborative. The music is better when it is done collaboratively... I sometimes enjoy (it) better when I'm doing it with someone else in the room, just because you feel a little less crazy when you have someone to share the burden with.

Why do you like scoring films?

You are the emotional trajectory of an entire film—which is actually kind of amazing, to have that power. And I really feel like there's a lot of artists that can't do it. It's such a challenge: "Here's 43 cues of music for a 75-minute film. What's the ensemble you're going to have? How can you capture and help focus a director's vision, without losing your own artistic integrity? How much money do you have available to make the most amazing soundtrack, while budgeting a team of musicians and engineers?"

What's your latest project?

I'm working on a film right now called "The Soviet Sleep Experiment." It's actually a horror film. I get to experience working in very bizarre, textural horror sound design. I'm really excited because I've never done a horror film before.

What was it like having a famous brother?

(When I was) in the eighth grade, my brother became worldwide famous being on "Saturday Night Live." We're 12 years apart. Just imagine that kind of world—"Oh, that's my brother on TV." It was just very bizarre. My second year (at Western) I was an RA on the seventh floor of Mathes Hall, and my mom was on the Mother's Day special for "Saturday Night Live." The best way to put it is, I actually got from this a very level-headed perspective. Being able to work, to see that trajectory for my brother and for Macklemore, allowed me to walk in a room with someone like Leslie (Odom Jr.) and be totally nonplussed: "Let's just focus on the work."

Meri-Jo Borzilleri is a Bellingham-based writer, editor and digital storyteller.

ARTISTIC INSPIRATION

Artist and entrepreneur
Louie Gong wants to bring
the work of 'Inspired Natives'
to a larger audience.

By Hilary Parker, '95



When **Louie Gong** (Nooksack) graduated from Western with his master's degree, he thought he'd made it.

"I remember falling back onto the grass in my front yard in the Nooksack community, thinking, 'I did it.'"

Turns out, Gong ('96, B.A., psychology and '99, M.Ed., school counselor) still had a lot to learn—about himself, his calling, and Native art.

Today Gong is among the most successful Native artists ever—something he never imagined after graduation.

Gong has found his success as an artist and entrepreneur as the founder of Eighth Generation, a business showcasing the art of Native peoples from around the country.

Eighth Generation's flagship store is in Seattle's Pike Place Market, with plans in the works for a second location in Portland. Shoppers are greeted by vibrant turquoise floors, '80s music on the sound system, and products ranging from blankets to socks to smartphone cases. The works of 20 Native artists are featured in the store and online.

Eighth Generation has an additional 12,000 square feet of warehouse and studio space in Seattle, where many of the products are created and produced by employees with Native heritage.

Not only has Gong made it, but he's bringing others along with him, and he wants the larger community to see that "Native people are thriving and kicking ass."

Back when Gong had his "I did it" moment after finishing his master's degree, he wasn't headed for the world of art; his sights were set on being a counselor. Over the next several years he worked as both a school and mental health counselor, eventually moving to Seattle to work as a counseling services coordinator at the University of Washington.

The move to Seattle turned out to be the catalyst that would shape his trajectory. Upon arriving in the biggest city he'd ever lived in, Gong set out to build connections in the community through volunteering.

He began registering bone marrow donors of mixed racial heritage on behalf of the Seattle-based MAVIN Foundation, whose mission is to promote healthy communities that celebrate and support people and families of mixed racial heritage. He had first learned about MAVIN as a student at Western, when he found one of their publications at the Ethnic Student Center.



"The evolution of my own art is defined by my growing awareness of Coast Salish art traditions," Gong says. "At first, I was emulating the Northwest Coast Art because I grew up surrounded by it."

"This influence can be seen in my 'Wolf Chucks' custom shoes (2010) (*top photo*) or the 'Guardians' design (2013) (*above photo*).

"Later, I purposefully developed a style of art that relies on Coast Salish design elements. The result is a unique style of very contemporary Coast Salish art that can be seen in the 'Internal Affairs' (*next page*) painting from 2017."

'Internal Affairs' by Louie Gong, 2017



FOCUSING ON COAST SALISH ART

While Eighth Generation showcases the work of artists from tribes around the country, Gong especially hopes to draw attention to the art of the Coast Salish, the Native peoples whose traditional territory ranges from Oregon to British Columbia.

People who have grown up in this region likely associate Coast Salish art with totem poles, but they'd be wrong, Gong says. Those are examples of Northwest Coast art, indigenous to the people of Alaska.

"While both are complex art forms that often overlap, there are some easily recognizable design elements that distinguish Coast Salish and Northwest Coast art," Gong explains. "For Coast Salish art, it's the oval and crescent. For the Northwest Coast art, it's a rounded rectangle shape called an ovoid."

Early in Seattle's history, business owners took a liking to Northwest Coast style of art, transplanting it to the south. The style proliferated, gaining visibility during the 1962 World's Fair in Seattle and, most notably, with the Seattle Seahawks' logo.

The difference between styles was something even Gong didn't understand until he began creating art in earnest. He didn't make the distinction, in part, because the Northwest Coast style has been adopted by generations of Coast Salish people as well.

Once again, he had to pick apart the learned cultural norms that didn't accurately portray his people, reeducating himself.

Now he is hopeful that by educating the larger public about Coast Salish art—and by giving the art a platform—Coast Salish art will reclaim its rightful significance in the region.

"There's no reason Coast Salish artists can't rise up to prominence," Gong said. "(The art) should be represented in the area where it's indigenous."

Gong will be bringing more examples of Coast Salish art to the public in the future. He is working on an installation on the Seattle waterfront featuring six local weavers, as well as a project for Sound Transit. The transit project will feature 600 feet of his art in a light rail station in Bellevue, depicting both his Chinese and Coast Salish heritage. Expect both projects to debut in 2021.

MAVIN's mission resonated with Gong. As a mixed-race kid raised by his Chinese grandfather and Native grandmother in the mostly white farming community of Everson, north of Bellingham, his sense of identity was challenged early on. At school, with the last name Gong, he was considered Asian. At home, he was a member of the Nooksack tribal community.

"The ambiguity of my physical appearance often had people asking the question, 'What are you?'" he says.

The experience made him reflect on his alignment with racial and cultural norms. As his understanding of his own identity matured, Gong's role with MAVIN grew from volunteer to board member and, ultimately, to president.

The experience taught him to express his identity publicly, boldly for the first time. "It helped me silence the voice that caused me to question my authenticity," he says.

It was during this time that Gong also began reconnecting to his upbringing through art. He began by painting

Native designs on a pair of Vans sneakers he'd picked up at the mall, which got a lot of attention. He was finally swayed to start selling his art in 2008.

As his work found a growing audience on Facebook, Gong began to envision the idea that would become Eighth Generation—a way to circumvent the traditional fine art world and bring his art, and the work of other Native artists, to the masses in a more accessible way. In fact, you can't find his art in a gallery or museum.

Eighth Generation artists depict a wide variety of Native art, such as the floral designs of the Ojibwe tribe of Upper Peninsula, geometric patterns associated with Southwestern tribes, and the colors and shapes of the Plains Indian Horse Culture, among others.

Gong's own art draws upon the design elements of the crescent and the oval of his Coast Salish people, which doesn't happen to include motifs of totem poles—those icons come from Alaska Native art.

"Our store becomes a very important teaching tool," Gong says. "It's more than

just a retail experience, it's planting a seed that helps people align with and support the Native community."

Gong points out that Native art has always been used to decorate utilitarian items, so Eighth Generation, with its beach towels and tote bags, is simply bringing that utilitarian art to a larger, modern audience.

"Many people often worry about cultural appropriation," Gong notes, "asking, 'Can I even wear this?'"

His answer is "absolutely," because these Native artists are choosing to share their art in this manner.

And in choosing art and products created by "Inspired Natives" instead of buying "Native-inspired" mass produced art and products, he says, "You become a caretaker of the art you love."

Hilary Parker, '95, B.A., journalism, is a writer and editor in Bellingham.

"NATIVE PEOPLE ARE THRIVING AND KICKING ASS."



Gong is working on two public art projects in Seattle, a 600-foot piece for a light rail station in Bellevue, and an installation on the Seattle waterfront. Watch for both in 2021.

Linguistic Sleuth

For decades, WWU Linguist Ed Vajda argued Native Americans are linked by language to Central Asia. But can historical linguistics build a case to convince the scientific community?

By John Thompson



Stumbling upon this book in 1989 changed Ed Vajda's life.

In 1989, a new faculty member's chance discovery on a library shelf at Western would set in motion three decades of work and help solve one of the biggest anthropological and linguistic puzzles of our time: Where did the Indigenous peoples of the Americas come from?

Now, 30 years later, Professor of Modern and Classical Languages Edward J. Vajda has become internationally known for his historical linguistic research comparing the language families of Siberia and North America, and his hypothesis, increasingly accepted by fellow historical linguists, is based on clues hidden inside an ancient Siberian language called Ket.

For decades, scholars speculated whether any of the languages spoken by the First Peoples of the Americas could be related to languages of the Old World. Before the arrival of Europeans, there were at least 120 Indigenous language families spoken from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego on the southernmost tip of South America. The well-known Nahuatl language of the Aztecs and the Quechua language of the Incas were only two of perhaps 1,500 individual languages once spoken across the Americas, but none of them had ever been definitively linked to languages in Eurasia or elsewhere.

Until now.

As it turns out, Vajda has found that one particular Native North American language family *does* appear to be linked with the Ket language of Siberia. The effort needed to investigate this—and have it accepted by the scientific community—has taken Vajda decades of hard work, two books and countless pre-

sentations, papers and journal publications, extensive fieldwork in Siberia, and, as is the case with most breakthroughs, more than a little luck.

More recently, his work has gotten the attention of archeologists, anthropologists, geneticists and other scholars who are also digging into Vajda's theories about the language link between Asia and North America.

And none of it would have happened without that chance discovery in Wilson Library.

"It was totally random"

In 1989, third-year faculty member Ed Vajda was leafing through piles of books from Western Libraries' expansive collection on Mongolia and East and Central Asia.

"I spent hours and hours with that collection," he says, "so many hours."

One day, while wandering a quiet aisle deep within the library, he thought he heard someone whisper his name, and he spun on his heel to see who it was.

The aisle was empty.

But there on a shelf was a book he had not seen before, with a title, "The Ket Language," written on the binding in the Russian Cyrillic alphabet.

"The book was written by a former Soviet-era linguist, Andreas Dulson, who had been exiled by Stalin, and it was all about the linguistic uniqueness and complexities of a tiny group of hunter-gatherers in Siberia," Vajda says. "The more I read, the

more interested I became. If I had known I would be still poking down this rabbit hole 30 years later, maybe I would have put that book down and run," he says, laughing.

"No, not really. I love it. It fascinates me. But finding that book—it was totally random."

The Mystery of the Ket

The Yenisei River basin is a region in Siberia more than three times the size of France and Germany combined, and in its heart, surrounded by thousands of square miles of boreal forests and little else, are a few scattered villages where several hundred Ket people live today. Mostly devoid of rich deposits in ore or fossil fuels, the Yenisei river area in central Siberia has been passed over for centuries, first by the Turks and the Mongols—who couldn't keep horses in the northern forests—then by the czars and the Soviets, the region still remains one of the most sparsely populated areas in Russia.

"It was too remote for Stalin to build gulags there," Vajda says, "which tells you something."

But this isolation, Vajda correctly surmised, had done one very important thing: By preserving Ket from linguistic replace-

ment by larger outside groups, it froze the language in time, an apt metaphor given the Yenisei's incredibly harsh winters.

Whereas the language families from regions surrounding the Yenisei had all been assimilated into larger families over the centuries, the Ket people, in their unique geographic and cultural bubble, had retained what was, in essence, an ancient language in modern times, and a look back into the languages of interior Asia 5,000 years or more ago.

Into the Yenisei

Vajda studied the works of the few scholars who had interacted with the Ket, and he began to wonder how an ancient language might be used to unlock questions about similar languages in North America—but he knew books could only get him so far. He needed to go and hear and speak Ket for himself and discover as much

about the language as he could, as native Ket speakers were growing very rare, even in the Yenisei.

From 1998 to 2009, years after he initially began to study the Ket, Vajda flew back and forth across the world to study native Ket speakers, and in 2008 traveled to the Yenisei, becoming the first Western linguist to interact with them.



Tengalang, whose Russian name is Valentina Romanenkova, is one of the last speakers of Ket and taught Vajda extensively. Here she's holding a bear spear, called *us*.

“It only took seven planes, three trains, and a four-hour helicopter ride to get there”

“It only took seven planes, three trains, and a four-hour helicopter ride to get there,” he says.

Flying over mile after mile of impenetrable taiga, bottomless bogs and wide, braided rivers, it was easy for Vajda to see how the Ket had remained isolated for so long.

The time he spent in the field along the Yenisei gave Vajda ample new information to understand how the Ket language was structured and how it may have developed over time. He was now viewed as one of the world’s foremost Ket scholars.

But still missing were many disparate pieces of the puzzle that could show a complete picture of the relationship between the languages of Siberia and Indigenous Americans.

His expertise in linguistics could only get him so far. Although he possessed a sort of “decoder ring” with his knowledge of the Ket, he needed more tangible physical and biological evidence to continue to push his theories further.

But where could he get it?

Show your work

In 2008, with years of fieldwork under his belt and having become internationally known for his work on the Ket, Vajda presented the keynote at the first-ever Dene-Yeniseian Symposium at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

There, he laid out in full a hypothesis he had been working on for nearly 20 years, and continues to refine and update today: that there is a genealogical relationship between the Ket people and the Dene (Athabaskan) family of peoples of North America, which along with Tlingit and Eyak form the larger Na-Dene family. Vajda traced this relationship by finding common root words and grammatical patterns shared by both families. Finally, a long-sought connection between Siberian and North American language families had been made, sending shockwaves across the linguistic and anthropological communities. Could two peoples half a world away from each other really be related?

Vajda had taken it as far as he could with linguistics. It was time for other scholars to help fully connect all the dots between Siberia and North America.



“Here is a photo of me in August 2008 in Kellog village holding two different types of traditional bear spears, *attos* and *us*,” Vajda says. “The spears belonged to one of the best experts of the Ket language who generously taught me.”

Clues emerge

Vajda had begun to work on a theory involving relationships he was seeing emerge between the Ket and the Na-Dene at about the same time as other scientists were, either directly or indirectly, working along the same path.

Archaeologists and anthropologists had been finding more evidence about who came across the Bering Sea land bridge that connected Asia and North America, information that began to open new doors for Vajda.

“It was long assumed that the major pulse across the land bridge from Siberia to Alaska happened about 14,000 years ago,” Vajda says. “But new findings were showing that there had

also been a second, smaller pulse that began about 5,000 years ago. Who were they, and what languages did they bring with them?”

The possibilities were tantalizing.

“We thought this could be the link to the Na-Dene we had been looking for, and in the end, it was,” he says.

By now, researchers knew the initial pulse across the land bridge, brought the First Peoples. Before their arrival, humans hadn’t yet settled the Americas, as far as is known. But within less than a thousand years, the First Peoples traveled from the Aleutians to Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of South America, with groups settling down to become what we know today as everything from the Haida, Coast Salish, Iroquois and Cherokee to the Incas, Aztecs, Toltecs and Mayans, as well as hundreds of other distinct tribes.

Vajda says that archaeologists had already determined that the newer pulse across the land bridge started about 5,000 years ago; these people spread into the Arctic regions of Alaska, Canada and Greenland. Their descendants, or perhaps their modern cousins, are known now as

the Aleut, Inuit and Yupik peoples. However, there was no archaeological evidence these northern Asians also mixed with the First Peoples ancestors of the Na-Dene about 5,000 years ago, so demonstrating a link between the Na-Dene and the Ket remained elusive.

Genetic Codebreakers

As it turned out, it was geneticists, not archaeologists, who showed that the second group from about 5,000 years ago apparently had turned south and settled alongside pre-existing bands of the First Peoples in what is now Alaska, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. And according to Vajda, they joined with



All photos courtesy of Edward Vajda

the people already living in the interior to form the Na-Dene, whose genetic profile is composed of the First Peoples along with newcomers from northern Asia.

Some of the Na-Dene would stay in the Alaskan interior, while others would go on to migrate south and become the Tlingit, the Navajo, and the Apache, but the code to unlock the origins of their languages have one common denominator—Ket.

“Ket was the key, and it finally unlocked it all,” Vajda says.

But to fully prove the theory and get buy-in from across the scientific community, Vajda needed more—so he began working with Pavel Flegontov, a biologist and geneticist at the University of Ostrava in the Czech Republic.

Flegontov says that like Vajda, he was drawn to the conundrum of the Ket and the Na-Dene, although he was approaching it from a completely different angle.

“Like Edward, I started to work on the Ket just by chance. When in 2013 I got an opportunity to lead an independent research team looking into human prehistory, I happened to hear from a friend in Moscow who headed a sequencing facility that they planned to sequence the genomes of the Ket people,” Flegontov says. “With this data, we were then able to show that Kets, along with Selkups and Nganasans living on the Yenisei, belong genetically to a certain sub-group of Siberians closely related to Paleo-Eskimos that crossed the Bering Strait about 5,000 years ago.”

Vajda says the data unlocked by Flegontov finally brought all the pieces of the puzzle to the table.

“Pavel began testing DNA, and what he found was two-fold: that the Na-Dene have a genetic base of the First Peoples mixed

with a minority component derived from the newcomers that crossed Bering Strait, and that genetically the Ket are linked to this same group as well,” he says.

“Finally, almost 30 years later, there it was,” Vajda says with a long sigh, as if the retelling of this long tale of research and discovery had reminded him of the arduous nature of the task he set before himself when he first discovered the book in Wilson Library in 1989.

The research of Flegontov and Vajda was published in the June 13 issue of *Nature*, one of the world’s foremost scientific journals, and this recognition is the metaphorical cherry on top of three decades of hard work.

But when asked if he was ready to close the book on the Ket and the Na-Dene, Vajda’s response and his trademark grin were typical.

“Oh no, not at all. I think we’ve only just gotten started.”

John Thompson is Western’s Assistant Director for Research and Content Creation. His most recent story for Window magazine, “Knowledge Sharers” in spring 2019, explored faculty-student mentoring at Western.

“Ket was the key, and it finally unlocked it all”

Left: Dumgit, whose Russian name is Pavel Sutlin, is an expert hunter and storyteller, Vajda says. “He taught me the Ket names of plants, birds, fish and animals.”

Right: Maria Irikova a native Ket speaker and expert hunter, with one of her seven dogs. “Maria also helped teach me Ket,” Vajda says.



Photo by Rachel Bayne

ALUMNI CONVERSATIONS

Marke ('93) and Angela ('96) Greene
WWU Alumni Association Board Scholarship Committee members

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

As proud WWU alumni, we are dedicated to Western—to its mission, to its students, to the hardworking faculty and generous staff who make our alma mater the special place it is. One of our great pleasures in recent years has been serving on the scholarship committee for the WWU Alumni Association. Every year, the committee uses funds from alumni membership, alumni donations, revenue from alumni events, and proceeds from the sale of Woods Viking Blend coffee to give deserving students scholarships. It was learning of the close link between WWU Alumni Association membership and activities to student scholarships that called us to contribute our time to the committee. We have the pleasure of reviewing hundreds of applications and awarding students much-needed support. With increased alumni involvement, an even greater number of the amazing and inspiring applicants will receive awards.

Getting by in college isn't always easy. Beyond tuition, many of our students are experiencing the rising cost of housing; they work extra jobs on and off campus to make ends meet; they have to purchase books, laptops, and other supplies to get through classes. And then there's the hard work of learning. We know that these scholarships aren't covering

everything, but as we remember our undergrad years, we know every little bit helps towards a student's success.

This year's scholarships had a boost from the Double Major: Death Cab for Cutie and ODESZA concert. A portion of concert proceeds went to the Alumni Scholarship Fund, and this year, we recognize two students: Cosmos Cordova and Avrey Scharwat as "Double Major" scholars, each receiving \$2,000. We're grateful to these generous alumni for coming home and bringing so much back to Western.

We encourage you, our fellow alumni and friends, to join us, Death Cab for Cutie, ODESZA, and the entire WWU Alumni Association board in supporting the WWU Alumni Association through membership. We look forward to seeing you all at the many upcoming alumni events in the coming year.

Go Viks!
Marke and Angela Greene



Photos by Rachel Demy

Ben Gibbard, '98, B.S., environmental science, finished third in a 100-mile ultramarathon in California, placing first in his age group.



1965 – Don Huston, BAE, physical education and '67, M.Ed., physical education, was inducted into the Camas High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

1976 – Carla Higginson, B.A., speech communication, an attorney in Friday Harbor, was recently elected to the Washington State Bar Association Board of Governors.

1980 – Steve Hall, B.A., public policy and administration, recently announced his plans to retire as city manager after serving the city of Olympia for 30 years.

1982 – Neal Safrin, B.S., ecosystems analysis, was named Operator of the Year for King County Metro. Safrin has driven buses throughout King County since he joined Metro in 1988 and has held several leadership roles in Amalgamated Transit Union Local No. 587.

1973 – Mike Compton, BAE, PE-exercise and sport science, hosted a wrestling reunion over the summer that included legendary former Western coach Lanny Bryant and a house full of wrestling alums from the '70s and '80s, including **Harry Smith,** '69, BAE, physical education and '75, M.Ed., physical education, **Anton Ehinger,** '81, BAE, physical education, **Mike Donnelly,** '76, B.A., history, **Lee Andersen,** '77, M.Ed., physical education, **Jerry Bailey,** '72, B.A., accounting, **John Hymas,** '79, B.A., history, **Dan Anderson,** '75, B.A., technology,

John Pinquoch, '70, BAE, special education and mathematics, **Randy Tomaras,** '72, BAE, industrial technology, **Terry Beckstead,** '71, B.A., psychology, **Bill Hunt,** '72, BAE, industrial technology, **Darrell Gleason,** '73, BAE, special education and history, **Tom Tripple,** '74, BAE, PE-exercise and sport science, and former coach Rick Iversen.

1983 – Claire Nold-Glaser, B.A., sociology, an educational consultant based in Bellevue, was elected president of the Pacific Northwest Association for College Admission Counseling, or PNACAC, in May. PNACAC represents college admissions professionals such as secondary school counselors, college and university admission officers and counselors, independent educational consultants and other professionals in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

1984 – Mark Davies, B.A., business administration and accounting, recently became the chief financial officer of Automattic Inc., the parent company of WordPress.com, WooCommerce and Tumblr. Previously, he was the chief financial officer of the Vivint home technology company. **Ed Roddy,** B.A., business administration, is president of the Northwest Washington Fair Foundation, which raised \$5 million for the Lynden fairgrounds' new Farm Pavilion which opened last summer. Next, he's leading the foundation in

a \$2.7 million project to build the Farming for Life Experience, an immersive educational exhibit showcasing the history and innovation of agriculture.

1985 – Cathryn Laird, B.A., speech communication, was recently appointed to be the human resources director for the city of Redmond.

1988 – Keith Williams, B.A., industrial/organizational psychology, recently became the western region sales director for JAYKAL, which provides LED lighting to companies and government agencies.

1989 – Margaret Savas, B.A., theatre, is a coach at Cappy's Boxing Gym in Seattle and runs Meg Maggie Margaret chocolates. **Allen Muchich,** B.A., accounting, was recently named chief financial officer of FARO, a 3D measurement, imaging and design company.

1991 – Chris Gorman, B.A., business administration – marketing, winemaker and owner of Gorman Winery in Woodinville, was named the 2019 Honorary Vintner of the Auction of Washington Wines for his contributions to the Washington wine community. **Russ Mullins,** B.S., environmental policy and assessment, is a sergeant with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Service, supervising the agency's Northern Puget Sound marine detachment and local operations.

1992 – Brad Skiff, B.A., English – writing, is an editorial cartoonist for several non-daily newspapers in Washington and took first and third place at the 2018 National Newspaper Association's annual Better Newspaper Contest for Best Original Editorial Cartoon, Daily and Non-Daily Division. The winning cartoons appeared in the Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle. **Keven Ellis,** a chiropractor in Lufkin, Texas, was recently appointed chair of the Texas State Board of Education.

1993 – Jen Reidel, B.A., history and '07, M.A., history, is a 2019-20 Teacher-in-Residence at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. After teaching social studies for 23 years in Bellingham and Lynden, Reidel will spend this school year working to make the collections at the Library of Congress more accessible to K-12 students and teachers. **Jeff Johnson,** BAE, physical education, is athletic director at W.F. West High School in Chehalis and was selected as Athletic Director of the Year for District 4 by the Washington Secondary Schools Athletic Administrators Association. **Alison Brynelson,** BAE, history – secondary, was selected by the Mukilteo School Board to be the superintendent beginning Jan. 1, upon the retirement of **Marci Larsen,** '80, BAE, special education and '65, M.Ed., school administration.



Photo by Andy Bronson/The Herald

Lisa Lefeber, '03, B.A., journalism, recently became the Port of Everett's first female CEO in the port's 101-year history.

1996 – Arnel Blancas, B.A., physical education – sport psychology, recently became the city of Montesano's chief financial officer, clerk and special adviser to the mayor. **Chris Morrison, B.A.,** Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, recently became athletic director at his alma mater, St. Anthony High School in Long Beach, California.

1997 – Mike Ho, M.Ed., student personnel administration, is director of Student Life and Leadership at Paradise Valley Community College

in Phoenix – and one of at least four WWU alumni on campus. His Viking co-workers include English faculty **Leila Palis, '98, B.A.,** English; Human Resources director **Lori Lindseth, '76, B.A.,** speech communication; and education faculty **Meggin Kirk, '98, BAE,** environmental studies – elementary. "None of us knew each other before," Mike writes, "and yet we found ourselves at the same out-of-Washington institution. Our work overlaps regularly and each of us has been recognized for different achievements over the years."

1998 – Ben Gibbard, B.S., environmental science, finished third in the Headlands & Nightsweats 100-mile ultramarathon in Sausalito, California, in September. Gibbard ran 100 miles around the Golden Gate National Recreational Area in 23 hours, 20 minutes and 30 seconds, placing first in his age group. Two days later he joined Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys on stage at the Paramount Theatre in Seattle.

2000 – "The Far Green Country," a documentary by **Kelly Pyke, B.A.,** recreation, and her husband, Eli, is available on Amazon Prime. The film is about "travel, national parks, living full-time on the road with a family, as well as deeper themes such as marriage, childbirth, and parenting," Kelly writes. "This story chronicles over 10,000 miles, over 15 national parks, multiple breakdowns, and an immense amount of natural beauty. Ultimately, it is a story of hope, and inspiration to endure."

2001 – Casey Hanell, B.S., geology and '11, M.S. geology, was appointed to be the Washington State Geologist, overseeing the Washington Geological Survey in the Department of Natural Resources. Most recently, he served as Earth Sciences Program manager in DNR's Forest Resources Division.

2002 – Andrea Collins, B.A., history, was recently appointed principal of College Place Middle School in Lynnwood. **Stacie Nordrum, B.A.,** communication sciences and disorders, owns Island Hearing Healthcare, an independent clinic in Friday Harbor.

2003 – Lisa Lefeber, B.A., journalism, recently became the CEO of the Port of Everett, where she has worked for 15 years, most recently as the deputy executive director. The Mountlake Terrace Arts Advisory Commission selected **S.R. Lane, B.A.,** theatre, to exhibit her digital photography at the Mountlake Terrace Library over the summer.

2005 – Joshua Pfriem's, B.A., general studies, Pfriem Family Brewers in Hood River, Oregon, recently won several awards, including the 2018 World Beer Cup Gold award in the Belgian Style Fruit Beer category for its Nectarine Golden Ale, and was named the Mid-Size Brewing Company of the Year at the 2018 Great American Beer Festival. **Jessica Wu Barlas, B.A.,** theatre, is the office manager of Barlas Chiropractic

in Seattle, and the human companion of Albus Dumbledog, a labradoodle who made Nationwide insurance company's "20 Wackiest Pet Names of 2019." Barlas told the Seattle Times that she became a fan of the "Harry Potter" books as a student at Western. **Kyle Jensen, M.A.,** English, became an English professor and director of Writing Programs at Arizona State University in Tempe.

2006 – Gregory W. Goins, B.A., economics, became director of the Lexington, Kentucky, VA Health Care System. **Ryan Clemens, B.A.,** theatre, is an actor with Virginia State Company in Norfolk, Virginia, and teaches acting at Old Dominion University.

2007 – In the last few years, **J. Bacchus Taylor, MIT,** walked the Pacific Crest Trail (in 2016) and the Camino de Santiago (in 2016 and 2017). He also became Head of School at Explorations Academy, an experiential secondary school in Bellingham. Last year, he took a group to Vietnam, where his students became the first high school group to explore the fourth-largest cave system in the world. He will be leading a group of students to Peru this year. **Afroze Fatima Ahmed, B.A.,** interdisciplinary concentration, is a street poet who was recently featured in the Seattle Times, creating lines of verse-on-demand on her portable typewriter at Redmond's Downtown Park. The Nancy Margolis Gallery in New York City recently presented a solo exhibition by Seattle-based **Kelly**

Bjork, B.A., art – drawing and '09, B.F.A., art. Bjork also received the 2018 Helen Frankenthaler Fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center.

2008 – Patrick Harlin, B.Mus., music composition, was recently selected as the Composer-in-Residence at the Lansing Symphony Orchestra in Michigan.

2011 – Royce Andrews, BAE, Spanish – elementary, is a second-grade teacher at Hazel Dell Elementary School in Vancouver, Washington. After graduating, Andrews taught in Spain for a year then served in the Peace Corps in Burkina Faso, West Africa. She also attended graduate school and taught in Missouri. **Caleb Hutton, B.A.,** English – creative writing, a reporter for the Daily Herald in Everett, recently won a first-place C.B. Blethen Memorial Award in Deadline Reporting for his article, "DNA on a boot leads to arrest in 1972 murder of Jody Loomis." **Caitlin Luebbe, B.A.,**

interdisciplinary concentration, became the new director of marketing at Tarragon, a property development company in Seattle.

2012 – Femi Abebefe, B.A., journalism – public relations, is a weekend sports anchor and reporter at KOMO-TV in Seattle. He and fellow sports anchor Mike Ferreri host a sports-talk podcast, "Femi & Ferreri." Abebefe has also worked at television stations in Spokane and Bend. Chronicle Books recently published **Emily Freidenrich's, B.A.,** art history and anthropology, "Almost Lost Arts: Traditional Crafts and the Artisans Keeping them Alive," with stories and photographs highlighting 20 artisans, from book menders to neon sign makers.

2013 – Ethan Leung, B.S., physics, was recently named one of "Seattle's Next Hot Chefs 2019" by Seattle Met magazine. He's a sous chef at Ben Paris, the restaurant at the State Hotel in

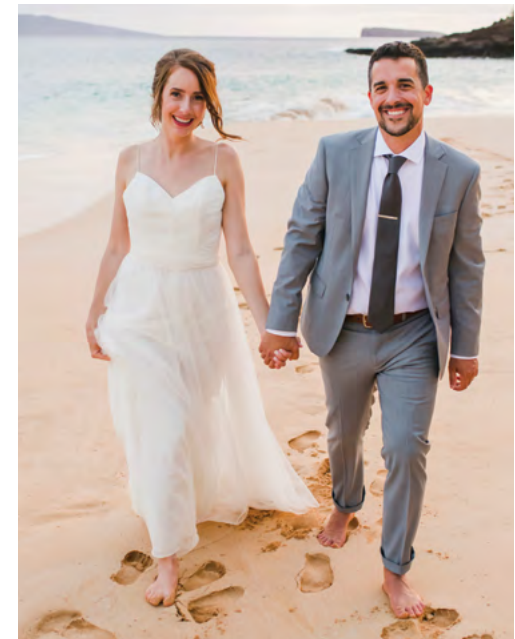


Photo by Samantha Dahabi

Royce Andrews, '11, BAE, Spanish – elementary, and **Andrew Eakin, '07, BA, economics/ political science,** eloped to Maui in June 2019.

Tell your story

[window@wwu.edu](mailto>window@wwu.edu)

Weddings
Promotions
Degrees
Accolades
Retirements
Personal bests
Fears conquered
Dreams come true

INVEST IN YOU

Continue your education at WWU with a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree in Bellingham or Everett.

cbe.wwu.edu/mba

BELLINGHAM
Evening Program | Daytime Program

EVERETT
Weekend Program

UPCOMING PROGRAM START DATES:

Weekend - January 2020 | Daytime - September 2020 | Evening - June 2020

WWU is an equal opportunity institution.

OUR NOISE POLICY: MAKE A LOT OF IT.

Hear that? It's the sound of giving back. Audio Technology, Music, and Society students at Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies help run Bellingham Girls Rock Camp. They teach young girls how to shred on guitars, blast drums, belt lyrics, and capture it all in a professional recording. The camp uses music to inspire female empowerment and create social change. Yeah, it gets a little loud sometimes. But hey, that's rock n' roll.



MAKE WAVES.



LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AT OUR
FAIRHAVEN COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AT WWU.EDU/MAKEWAVES

Seattle. **Maria McSharry**, B.S., cell biology and B.A., Spanish, recently began her doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkeley's Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, achieving a goal she set as a first-generation college student in the MIMSUP program at Shannon Point Marine Center. **Karma Lee**, B.S., community health, co-owns Bobae Coffee & Tea, a new business in Woodinville. Lee was also named the 2019 Washington Woman of the Year by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. **Rachel Pierce**, B.A., Spanish, recently joined the food services equipment company Taylor Co. as the strategic director of sales.

2015 – Dakota Biggs, B.A., sociology, recently became the director of the Blaine Boys and Girls Club.

2016 – Danil Vishniakov, B.A., German and political science, recently completed his law degree at University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, where he completed internships in immigration law and clerked for the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Detroit. **Mackenzie Grinnell**, B.A., interdisciplinary concentration, works for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe as the teen program coordinator and the traditional foods program assistant. **Douglas Archuleta**, B.A., recreation, recently became the after-school program manager for Island Rec, the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District.

2017 – Erin Manhardt, M.A., rehabilitation counseling, recently joined Bellevue Family Counseling as a youth and family counselor.

2018 – Ella Piatt, B.S., biology/anthropology, spent the summer at the University of Maine as an avian demographic technician capturing and banding salt marsh sparrows. Now, she's a research associate for Alaska Biomap Inc., supporting ongoing ocean research projects. **Lauren Hoffmann**, B.A., philosophy and B.S., neuroscience, is a research tech at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where she works on lifesaving drugs that could treat some of the most vexing pediatric cancers. **Ava Michael**, B.A., environmental studies, is a Peace Corps volunteer who recently left for The Gambia to serve in agroforestry. **Mathew Roland**, B.A., visual journalism, recently became editor of The Bellingham Business Journal.

2019 – After several summer internships with OceanGate in Everett, **Mikayla Monroe**, B.A., management information systems, recently joined the underwater exploration company

as a data analyst and relationship manager and is training to be a submersible pilot.

Weddings

Royce Andrews, '11, BAE, Spanish – elementary, and **Andrew Eakin**, '07, BA, economics/political science, on June 24, 2019, in Maui, Hawaii.

Casey Dell, '08, B.A., recreation, and Carly-Ann Miller, on Feb. 23, 2019, on the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Obituaries

1948 – Marjorie (Gray) Hadden, on Aug. 27, 2018, in Seattle.

1952 – William Lloyd Garrison, 91, a longtime school teacher, coach and administrator in the Oak Harbor, Battle Ground and Shoreline school districts who also served on the Oak Harbor Planning Commission and Stanwood/Camano School District board, on Sept. 7, 2019.

1954 – Laurance E. Lowry, 86, a U.S. Navy veteran, retired history teacher in Bellevue High School, and three-term president of the Bellevue Education Association, on March 3, 2018, in Seattle.

1955 – Murella (Koert) De Vries, 85, who taught junior high in Anacortes and Vancouver and volunteered for the Lynden Pioneer Museum, on July 20, 2019.

1956 – Glenn C. LaFave, 88, who had a long career in banking, on April 18, 2019, in Vancouver, Washington.

1957 – William Charles Murphy, 88, retired principal of Blaine High School who later worked with Border Brokerage Co. and supervised cannery crews in Bristol Bay, Alaska, on May 28, 2019.

1958 – John Thomas Howgate, 85, a Navy veteran and Fulbright Scholar who taught history and driver's education at North Kitsap High School, on June 29, 2019.

1959 – Clark Allen Philbrick, 82, a longtime teacher in Montesano and Hoquiam, on Aug. 10, 2019, in Montesano.

1960 – Gerald D. Probst, 83, a U.S. Marine Corps vet and a urban planner who worked for King County, San Diego, and the Department of Natural Resources, then after retirement served on several natural disaster deployments with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, on Nov. 23, 2018, in Olympia.

1963 – Karen Marie Gilda, 77, of Bellingham, on July 9, 2019.

1964 – Wendy Ann (Webster) Birdwell, 75, on Feb. 9, 2018.

1966 – Charles Ernest Dreiling, 76, who taught biochemistry at the University of Nevada, on Jan. 13, 2018, in Foresthill, California.

1968 – Reginald D. Butler, 74, former director of the Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies and associate professor emeritus at the University of Virginia, on July 5, 2019, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

1969 – Don Taylor, 89, a retired history and geography teacher, boater and boat builder, on Sept. 17, 2019.

1970 – Lloyd T. "Tom" Hansen, 73, who taught for 34 years in the University Place School District, built and restored wooden boats, and worked with his brothers on innovative boat design, on Aug. 6, 2019. **Constance S. Williams**, 98, on Jan. 7, 2018, in Bellingham.

1972 – Barbara Alice Harrison, 68, who taught, mainly first grade, for a 30-year career in Guam, Washington and Oregon, on May 31, 2019, in Hermiston, Oregon. **Robert Franco**, 75, a retired federal diversity specialist who served in the Vietnam War as a Navy medic, on April 10, 2018, in Virginia. Mr. Franco was one of the first graduates of the College of Ethnic Studies and served in the Civil Service Commission, Department of Veterans Affairs and in the Office of Personnel Management as a senior executive offering diversity training to military leaders on bases around the world.

1973 – Michael Knutsen, 68, a real estate agent and active community volunteer, on July 26, 2019. **Thomas Kjos Sagmiller**, 64, a former Coast Guard captain and civil engineer who worked for several corporations and traveled the world, on April 27, 2019, in Lafayette, California.

1976 – Mary Evelyn Butler King, 82, who was very active in politics and in the work and campaigns of her husband, longtime Washington State Rep. Dick King, and worked as an early childhood teacher and administrator at Everett Community College, on April 5, 2019, in Edmonds. **Alice Leta Dawes Richards**, 91, a longtime Bellingham resident who worked at St. James Church, at the YWCA, at her own communications company, and as the adoption coordinator and foster care liaison for Catholic Community Services, on Jan. 22, 2018, in Mukilteo.

1977 – Timothy Howard Roller, 64, a longtime high school science teacher at Vashon, Bremerton and James Taylor high schools, on May 3, 2019.

1979 – Steven Clyde Peterson, 63, a former juvenile probation officer who later opened two markets with his brother in Mount Vernon, on Feb. 4, 2018.

1986 – Thomas Andrew LaPlante, 56, a tile and granite contractor and skilled artisan, on July 6, 2019.

1983 – Tom Quince Ryan, 58, on June 27, 2018, in Olympia.

1990 – Teresa (McIntosh) Birkeland-Roebke, 53, on July 8, 2019.

1996 – Connie Sue Henderson, 58, an entrepreneur with a passion for holistic healing, on May 27, 2019.

2005 – Natasha Reedy Divyak, 39, a deaf-education teacher at Edmonds Woodway and Mountlake Terrace high schools, on July 7, 2019, in Seattle.

2010 – Harini Reese, 50, on July 30, 2019.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Mary J. Miller, 70, who worked at Western for more than 30 years, including time as a communications operator and as program manager for the Recreation Program, on July 7, 2019.

Art Phinney, a former softball coach at Western, who led the team to the first national team championship in school history, on July 15, 2019, in Vancouver, Washington.

Mary Rudd, 95, who worked at Western for more than 20 years, including time in Student Activities, on June 22, 2019, in Bellingham.

Stephen Senge, 72, professor emeritus in the College of Business and Economics, recipient of Western's Excellence in Teaching Award and former director of graduate and MBA programs, on July 1, 2019. Learn more about the Stephen Senge Innovation for Business Teaching Fund at viking-funder.com.

A Look Back



1985: Up-Close Adventures in Science

The kids in these 1985 publicity photos for Western's Adventures in Sciences and Arts program are probably in their mid-40s today. Judging by their expressions, they probably still remember the remarkable and weird things they picked up on the beach during that field trip to the local tidepools.

Today, what's now called Odyssey of Science and Arts remains a cornerstone of Western's youth programs. Others include the multigenerational Grandparents U, College Quest for high school students, and GEMS events (Girls in Engineering, Math and Science).

Learn about all of them at wwu.edu/youth.

Photos courtesy of Campus History Collection, Special Collections, Western Libraries Heritage Resources, WWU



STUDENT SUCCESS STARTS WITH YOU

Your membership in the WWU Alumni Association supports scholarships for deserving students, creates innovative networking opportunities, and enhances WWU's national reputation.



alumni.wwu.edu/join





Office of Communications
Old Main 375, Mailstop 9034
516 High St., Bellingham, WA 98225

Electronic Service Requested

Want Window magazine online only?
Want to update your address?
Email [window@wwu.edu](mailto>window@wwu.edu)

Artist Louie Gong

on art, entrepreneurship
and 'Inspired Natives'



"Internal Affairs" by Louie Gong, 2017

