

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WINDOW

THE UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2020

THE WORK OF
Water





Glimpse of the Moon

Tl'uk, a young orca with a distinctive grey color, made an unusual appearance in Bellingham Bay May 26, checking out local waters with his transient orca pod before heading off to Hale Passage/Lummi Island and the southern end of Lummi Island.

Tl'uk is known as "the white orca," due to what scientists think may be some form of leucism, a partial loss of pigmentation leaving white, pale or patch coloration. He gets his nickname from an Indigenous Coast Salish word meaning "moon."

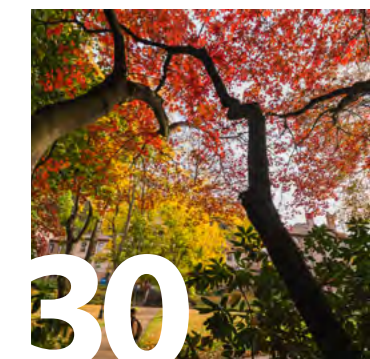
WWU Visual Journalist Rhys Logan, '11, caught a glimpse of the pod while paddling in Bellingham Bay. "Keeping up with them parallel to their position wasn't even an option with their effortless and gleeful tail slaps, breaches and exploration," Logan says. "They cruised slowly along seeming to just be wandering on a relaxed excursion, with the little ones playing and jumping circles around the larger."

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On the cover: A team of climbers traverses Easton Glacier on the south side of Mount Baker. Photo by Rhys Logan, '11.



Message

from the President

Breaking the Cycle

By now, we have all read countless reports of the intertwined nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest related to racial inequities. Will this moment of unprecedented upheaval finally jolt us out of complacency and into action?

Data tells us that people at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale have higher unemployment rates, tend to have lower-paying jobs, and earn fewer college degrees than their higher socioeconomic counterparts. At a time when the majority of new and future jobs will require post-secondary education and training, our country is going through a profound demographic shift toward a more diverse population.

Providing education and economic opportunities for diverse and low-income groups is not only the morally responsible thing to do, it is in the best interest of our country's economic future. We simply must make permanent and sustained change toward a more equitable and just system for all. But how?

We need larger investments in education throughout PreK-16. Much of the burden for a college education falls on the backs of families, and many students have accumulated a staggering amount of debt to make this dream come true. We must de-emphasize loans and support more scholarships and grant funding for students in need. In addition, PreK-12 financial support is often contingent on the wealth of the communities in which these students reside, creating an unequal educational experience from the get-go. Larger investments in education from PreK-16 will pay future dividends.

We need to invest in the infrastructure surrounding students and their families. Even before the pandemic, students with limited technology access lagged behind their peers. Federal and state policymakers, philanthropists, and internet providers can mitigate the negative effects of distance learning by targeting community-level investments in rural and urban areas alike.

We need to rethink standardized curriculum and college admissions via aptitude testing. While we have fiddled with the specific content of high school lesson plans, the sequence of courses taught in high school has essentially remained the same for more than 100 years, even while a fourth industrial revolution is underway. And when the SAT was adapted from a U.S. Army intelligence exam in 1926, the exam's focus on the ability to chunk and sequence information quickly was useful in hierarchical organizations. But these aren't the most essential skills in today's workplace, where productivity and innovation are more likely determined by empathy, creative team-based problem solving, and social cognition.

With all the challenges coming at us these days it is tempting to let these next few months define our expectations far into the future. But there will be a post-COVID world, and what it will look like depends on our actions now. At Western, we are resolute and united in finding solutions to these problems. I hope you will join us.

Sincerely,

Sabah Randhawa
President



Photo by Rhys Logan, '11

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Student Emergency Fund:
vikingfunder.com/sef20

Racial Equity Fund:
vikingfunder.com/RacialEquity



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Window supports Western's commitment to assuring that all programs and
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color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, marital status,
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Window magazine brings home top regional honors

Window magazine won the Grand Gold Award in the 2020 Best of CASE VIII competition earlier this year, the

top honor for university magazines in the Pacific Northwest and Western Canada.

Window also won a Gold Award in the category of Print General Interest Magazines – Circulation of 75,000 or Greater. Judges reviewed the three Window magazine editions from 2018-19.

"Honoring James Okubo," a video story by WWU Videographer **Faith Haney**, '95, B.A., anthropology, and Digital Media Manager Suzanne Blais, also won a Gold Award in the category of Video and Multimedia – Advertising Spots and Public Service Announcements. The Window magazine story about Okubo, "Degree of Honor," by **Ron C. Judd**, '85, B.A., journalism, received an Honorable Mention in the CASE Platinum Awards – Best Articles of the Year competition.

Meanwhile, Western's branding campaign, "Make Waves," won a Silver Award while Western's website, wwu.edu, won a Bronze Award.

The annual awards from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education recognize outstanding work in the fields of communication, marketing and advancement among colleges, universities and private K-12 schools in the Pacific Northwest U.S. and Western Canada.

WWU fall quarter classes will be mostly remote

University planners had hoped to offer a hybrid mix of both remote and in-person classes for fall quarter. However, the recent spike in virus cases in both the state and region altered those calculations.

Western President Sabah Randhawa, in a recent message to campus, noted the difficult decision to move most fall classes remote with limited exceptions for some experiential courses, such as applied performance classes and some hands-on labs that can be taught safely in-person. Western now expects to offer 8 to 10 percent of classes in person during the fall quarter..

Western is providing development opportunities for faculty this summer and faculty across many disciplines are finding new and creative ways to re-envision the teaching and learning process, beyond just trying to translate a face-to-face experience to remote instruction.

Staff in student support areas like advising, career counseling, and tutoring are continuing to implement new processes to



Emergency fund helps students through the pandemic

The Student Emergency Fund has been a critical source of assistance for students who are experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

take their services online.

Campus housing will be available but on a limited basis. Updated occupancy guidelines provide residents the opportunity to remain socially distant in the residence halls, while treating campus apartments as family units and allowing University Residences to address quarantine and isolation space, if needed.

The student engagement experience in the residence halls will provide virtual and in-person programming and meetings with live-in staff and while adhering to safety requirements.

WWU locations outside of the main Bellingham campus will follow the guidance and protocols established by our university partners.

Randhawa acknowledged—and shares—the disappointment that comes with scaling back in-person classes for fall, particularly for new students looking forward to their first year of college life, but promised that the university is committed to providing “the high-quality education that is Western’s hallmark.”

In addition to the economic stress their families face, many students have also lost their jobs in areas that are hard-hit by the pandemic: retail, restaurants, bars and coffee shops.

Donors have made more than 730 gifts totalling more than \$125,000 to the fund, which was established to directly benefit Western Washington University students and provide relief for challenges such as:

- Housing and food insecurity
- Travel expenses related to returning home
- Technology needs to ensure students can access virtual learning
- Scholarship support for tuition and fees
- Other unforeseen financial challenges

We are profoundly thankful for your help in protecting and supporting the educational and financial needs of our students. To support this fund and learn more, please visit www.vikingfunder.com/sef20.

Western reduces tuition for many programs on the peninsulas

Many students working on four-year degrees at Western programs on the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas are going to see a decrease in their tuition bills thanks to the Washington State Legislature.

Western will receive \$886,000 per year in continuing annual funding from the State Legislature to reduce tuition rates and enhance access for undergraduate students in most four-year degree programs offered by Western in Bremerton, Poulsbo and Port Angeles.

Until now, most of Western’s four-year degree programs offered on the peninsulas had not received state support, requiring higher tuition costs for students attending those programs than tuition rates paid by other Western undergraduates in state-supported degree programs.

Western on the Peninsulas programs that will see lower tuition are: Business Administration, Environmental Science, Environmental Policy, and Education with endorsements in Elementary and Special Education. Tuition rates for resident



undergraduate students in those academic programs will be lowered beginning this fall.

The state already subsidizes the Cybersecurity and Early Childhood Learning programs offered on the peninsulas.

“Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas are some of the most underserved areas in the state in terms of access to a four year degree. These investments help to provide location-based degrees at a price point that works and in a way that fits the busy lives and deep aspirations of residents,” said Robert Squires, vice provost of Outreach and Continuing Education at Western.



WE Connect: A new professional networking opportunity for alumni

Western’s Alumni Association and Career Services Center have partnered to launch a virtual professional networking platform called WE Connect to support alumni navigating dynamic shifts in the workplace, and to help our students prepare for a fluctuating job market.

WE Connect is a robust online forum for professional development and mentoring as well as internship and job opportunities. Western alumni and students may join affinity groups in personal and professional areas of interest, and alumni may also post or search for jobs.

The new platform helps users to create meaningful connections with peers throughout the world and to provide much-needed guidance and support to students via short- or long-term mentorships.

Visit weconnect.wvu.edu to learn more.

Helping businesses weather the storm

Western's CJ Seitz of the Small Business Development Center offers tips to survive 'the new abnormal.'



As Whatcom County business owners stared down a pandemic that threatened not only their health but their livelihoods, Western's Small Business Development Center was ready to help, joining the Whatcom Unified Command economic recovery team and serving as the lead agency for economic technical assistance to businesses.

"We experienced a rapid increase in inquiries at the highest level of urgency," says SBDC Director CJ Seitz, whose leadership role rapidly shifted to provide direct help to businesses in need. "Panic was not uncommon."

From March to June 2020, the SBDC delivered one-on-one services to nearly 500 businesses—nearly double the number of encounters from the same time last year. And the center's group training activities were in even higher demand, with 846 people attending compared with 130 last year.

At the start of the pandemic, questions focused on applying for COVID-19 financial relief, then managing change and

complying with the new social distancing guidelines. As the pandemic has dragged on, though, businesses have become focused on more long-term issues and how to survive what now looks to be an extended period of distress.

"Businesses are adapting to the new abnormal and discovering changing customer needs," Seitz says. "Disruption drives innovation, and we are blessed to have forward-thinking, innovative leaders in our business community. Some businesses will need to make major changes to remain relevant and some will have relevance thrust upon them."

To survive this upheaval, and to prepare for future crises, Seitz advises businesses to find ways to conserve cash: apply for recovery grants, the federal Paycheck Protection Program, the Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan, and other local opportunities as they arise. She also recommends accessing flexible payment plans available from state agencies and taking advantage of the COVID-19 tax credits offered by the IRS.

"Almost as important as acquiring and conserving cash is being innovative and maintaining agility," she says. "Businesses will be facing a rate of change we have never experienced, and businesses will need to be able to respond to big changes quickly as the months unfold."

Her advice for small business trying to make it through the whipsaw changes of the pandemic might sound familiar to recent grads.

"Go into learning mode," Seitz says. "Learn from your customers, your employees, your vendors and your professional service providers. Everything is new, and we're not going back to the way things were for quite a while, if ever. Try new approaches, take small chances and above all, keep moving forward. Accept small failures as the price of growth."

—Zoe Fraley, '05

THE DATA OF THE PANDEMIC

Fairhaven Dean Jack Herring used his data modeling expertise to help Whatcom County plan for the pandemic.



When COVID-19 showed up in Washington this winter, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies Dean Jack Herring used his expertise to predict how the infection might spread in Whatcom County.

"Like so many people, I felt I needed to be doing something to contribute to a better understanding of what was, and is, a very scary situation," says Herring, whose work in computer modelling and research is usually focused on climate. "I like to bring together perspectives from a variety of disciplines to imagine solutions to contemporary problems. This is the most compelling problem I have applied my research skills to in my professional career."

Herring's models were a valuable planning tool for Whatcom Unified Command: His work showed a worst-case scenario of unchecked growth could result in 18,000 hospitalizations and up to 4,200 deaths in Whatcom County alone. Thankfully, that

alarming scenario was avoided with residents' adherence to Gov. Inslee's stay-at-home order. Herring also created models showing that 80 percent of county residents wearing masks could prevent a fall surge of infections.

But while models can help officials and the public understand the potential spread of disease, it is human behavior that has the real power to stop it.

"That's what I want people to know, is how much of a difference simple changes in behavior can make in the course that this pandemic takes," says Herring, who begins a new assignment this summer as vice provost for Undergraduate Education. "I think the evidence that social distancing and mask wearing make a very strong difference is just overwhelming right now."

—Zoe Fraley, '05

Hopeful Fashion Alum-run Bellingham company produces shirts to support small businesses.

Brendan Pape, '11, CEO of Brist Manufacturing in Bellingham, and his colleagues are lending their talents to help small businesses amid the pandemic.

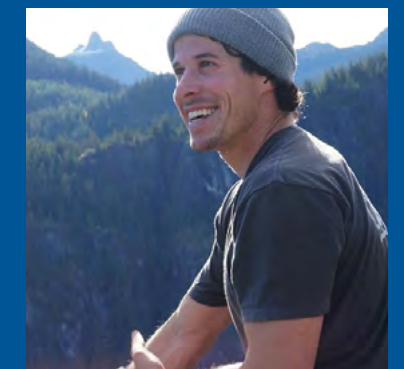
Brist Manufacturing specializes in designing and manufacturing custom merchandise for a wide variety of businesses across the country. During the pandemic, they've turned their efforts to produce and sell shirts with the tagline, "We Got This,

America" with half the revenue going to small business affiliates.

So far, more than 140 small businesses nationwide have signed up to sell the shirts on their own websites, including companies in Bellingham, Oregon, California and Texas. Several thousand shirts have been sold and more than \$7,000 has gone back to small businesses.

"The goal was to encourage and remind people that they still have the ability to support their local businesses and communities," Pape says.

Learn more about the project at wegotthisamerica.com.



MAGIC OF NUMBERS

How a fascination with numbers and magic led John Walton to the national stage.

By Hilary Parker

Photo by Rhys Logan

John Walton, '78, stood in the dark wings of a Las Vegas theater, shivering near an open loading dock and waiting for his turn to take the stage. "You only have one chance with this trick," he told himself. "So stay razor sharp."

Walton stepped into the hot lights, and 3 1/2 minutes later he had achieved his goal: He'd stumped magician-entertainer duo Penn & Teller with his magic trick "DaVinci Outnumbered," crowning a lifetime fascination of both numbers and magic.

"The magic bug first bit me at age 8," says Walton, a speech communication graduate.

That year on a family vacation to Disneyland, Walton's parents and sister toured the park while he spent two days absorbed in Merlin's Magic Shop on Disney's Main Street.

Walton continued to learn and

practice magic for the next 40 years. Meanwhile he tried his hand at teaching, took over the family business in Bellingham, Walton Beverage, and raised three daughters with his wife, Loi.

Magic was simply a hobby until he began tutoring 13-year-old Sterling Dietz. Within a year, Sterling was so good that that his parents started booking gigs for Walton and Sterling to perform together. (Today, Sterling Dietz is a professional magician.)

That's when Walton says he finally started performing publicly. It was also around this time that Walton thought he was onto something with a new trick involving a mathematical feat called a magic square.

Magic squares, which have been around for more than 5,000 years, are square grids of, say, 16 numbers arranged in four rows of four numbers each. The magic happens when the rows of num-

bers all add up to the same sum, across, down and diagonally. Adding together the four corner numbers or the four center numbers will get the same sum, too.

Walton first saw a magic square trick at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles and was immediately fascinated. Like his father, Walton has always had a knack with numbers.

"I set out to learn all I could about the magic square," Walton says.

Once he mastered the magic square itself, Walton scheduled an appointment with the Math Fellows in Western's College of Science and Engineering. The fellows, top math undergrads who work as tutors, watched Walton perform his trick, the first iteration of the trick he ultimately performed for Penn & Teller.

The mathematicians were stumped, and Walton knew he really had something.

Over the next several years Walton crisscrossed the country performing in

John Walton, '78, stumped professional magicians Penn & Teller with his take on an old mathematical trick called the Magic Square. Visit window.wvu.edu for a link to the video of the show.



stage magic competitions, usually losing the top prize to younger performers with more spectacular stage feats.

But during one competition in Washington, D.C., the judges asked him to explain his trick.

"The judges didn't know how I did what I did," Walton says.

While he hadn't won the day's competition, he ended up coming away with something much more valuable in the world of magic: In 2013 he was awarded the Society of American Magicians' Originality Award. This honor has only been awarded a handful of times since the association was founded in 1902.

When Walton saw Penn & Teller's "Fool Us" television show, he knew he had to get on that stage with his award-winning trick. He sent in an audition tape in November 2018 and filmed his trick for the show in March

2019 before it aired last fall.

On stage, Walton asked Penn Jillette, Teller and host Alyson Hannigan, to picture themselves rolling an imaginary die and to tell him the numbers they rolled. He added all three numbers to get the number eight, the sum he would use for the magic square.

Then, from the stack of numbered cards in his hand, he placed the numbers onto the square, column after column and row after row adding to eight. "Magic square," Penn mumbled as Walton placed all the cards into the frame and a portrait of DaVinci's Mona Lisa emerged.

Then Walton turned the board around to reveal a blackboard with a number written in chalk: 8.

That's what did it. When the trick was over, Penn & Teller had to admit defeat. They knew the magic square

trick, Penn said, but couldn't figure out how Walton wrote that 8 on the chalkboard. They were fooled.

Like other magicians who win the "FU, Fooled Us" trophy from Penn & Teller, Walton was invited to come back to Las Vegas to perform in one of the duo's live shows. He also got to hang out in their "monkey room" lounge backstage after the show. For Walton, that was the biggest thrill of the experience.

But an even bigger thrill would be to do it again. As an encore, Walton is working on a new trick that he hopes will fool Penn & Teller once again.

Hilary Parker, '95, B.A., journalism, is a writer and editor in Bellingham. Her most recent story for Window was about artist and entrepreneur Louie Gong, founder of Eighth Generation.



Keith Williams has been Western's assistant director for Public Safety since 2018.

A Call for Police Reform

After 30 years in law enforcement, WWU's Keith Williams shares what his profession must do to gain the trust of communities of color

By John Thompson

Content warning: Descriptions of racial violence and sexual assault.

Thirty years ago, Western's Assistant Director of Public Safety Keith Williams put on a police uniform for the first time. And today as the nation attempts to come to grips with issues of racial injustice and police brutality, *Window* magazine sat down to talk to Williams about life as a Black man at a time when so many people of color view the uniform as a tool of oppression. We also asked how he feels his chosen profession must evolve to gain the trust of communities of color.

As a Black man as well as a police officer, you're at the intersection of a lot of intense discussions in our society after the death of George Floyd. Have you ever felt any internal conflict between your race and your chosen profession? If so, how did you process it; and if not, how have you been able to keep them separate?

As I navigate over 30 years as a law enforcement officer, the question of how do I address being a cop and a Black man has often been asked. I have been called a "sellout" and an "agent of the man" by many, and other terms that are not as kind.

After the death of George Floyd I immediately reflected back to the death of Mike Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Even though each of these incidents is different, one of the similarities is that both of these men were Black and unarmed. I was chief of police in nearby Kinloch, Missouri, when the Mike Brown incident occurred, and I had an opportunity to witness first-hand when both sides of the equation square up against two difficult areas to address: police abuse and police reform.

Then when I observed the George Floyd situation unfold and the officer keeping his knee on Mr. Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes, my first thought was about the old slave discipline technique called "buck breaking." Buck breaking was a process where the largest, strongest Black male was brought forward, stripped of his clothing, tied to the ground or over a tree stump

then brutally raped by the master in front of the slave's wife, children, and other slaves. This was to let the other slaves know the fate that waited for them if they did not conform and do whatever the master said. George Floyd, with that officer's knee on his neck, looked to be a reminder to all that watched what would be their outcome if they did not do what they were told.

Your 2018 book, "The Broken Badge: Rethinking Police and Community Relations in America," aims to shed light on how a toxic and insular police culture has led in many cases to an erosion of trust between the police and the citizens they serve. What has the feedback been like from fellow officers about your book?

Feedback from colleagues has been mixed. Some officers stand in solidarity with the fact that police work as we know it must change. Officers must be held accountable and the evolution of police culture must occur, or we will never truly be able to move forward. Other officers believe that the business of police work must stay behind closed doors and only police officers can monitor and find solutions that are needed. "Stop putting our dirty laundry out for the public to see" was one comment told to me by another officer.

How does this inward-focused police culture—one of silence about procedures, disciplinary action, and the "thin blue line"—become especially damaging to communities of color, whose race is probably not reflected in that police force?

Where there is an inward-focused police culture often you will find a community that has very little trust for those police officers that work in their area. When that thin blue line looks to perform their duty without any public oversight, there are opportunities for many negative police behaviors to go unchecked. When a police culture values a code of silence over the truth,

“Officers need to immediately step in when they witness police abuse or misconduct, and this will need to be a standard practice.”

certainly you can and will see abuse.

I like the symbolic figure of Lady Justice as an example of doing things the right way. Lady Justice is blindfolded because as officers of the law we should only be interested in the truth. She has the scales as a means to balance the evidence. The sword is known by most police officers because this is the symbol for justice or discipline toward arrested subjects.

In policing, the goal should be to have the police force reflect the communities we serve. Diversity is important both for the community to see and also for the officers to be vigilant when police abuse is observed. In communities of color, citizens are standing up for justice and accountability with the hope of creating a system that is fair and equitable and representative of the values that make America great.

What made you decide to want to become a police officer?

My primary reason was due to having four separate occasions when the police drew their weapons on me for no apparent reason as a youth—other than me wanting to exist as a Black male. I knew subconsciously that I could not change the abuse done by police officers from the outside; I was going to have to change things from the inside.

In your opinion, as protesters around the country call for police reform, what is the most important, meaningful first step that can be taken to heal the rift between so many communities and their police?

Two of the areas that the public must be assured of when looking at police actions and police behavior are accountability and transparency. All too often, the public sees officers doing their duty in poor communities of color with excessive violence and disdain and communities of affluence with white populations are policed in a more positive and productive way.

Some officers have stated that Black males, in particular, are to be feared as “beasts,” and the maximum amount of force and control should be applied to them. Another officer even said that Black males should be shot down like rabid dogs. I have spoken with officers throughout the years who have told me that Black people are genetically predisposed to be criminals and they must do all they can to control that behavior. As a police officer, if I believe the person I am engaging is a violent criminal then certainly I am going to approach that indi-

vidual much differently than if I believe the person in front of me is a peaceful, law-abiding citizen.

When the protests and riots in and near Ferguson, Missouri, started in 2014 after the death of Michael Brown, you were the newly promoted chief of police in nearby Kinloch, and your home was heavily damaged in the riots after Brown’s death. At the time, how did you juggle your role as a police officer, the damage to your home, and any feelings of empathy you had towards the community and what they were going through?

Oftentimes people forget that police officers are not born into that uniform. I have been Black all my life and as such, in my youth prior to joining the police force, my perspective of the police was typically one of oppression and injustice. I do understand the anger and frustration people of color feel towards law enforcement. I have had people call the police on me for no reason, police point their guns at me for no reason, police call me racial epithets for no reason and of course I am far from being alone in this matter.

During the Ferguson riots, my residential garage was set on fire even though I lived 10 miles from Ferguson. The anger is all too real, and this type of scenario continues to play out over and over again.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. called riots “the voice of the unheard,” and from Watts to Detroit to Los Angeles to Ferguson and now to cities across America, a collective rage against systemic injustice and police brutality is erupting. Does anything feel different to you about the current protests than it did following the previous events?

After the death of George Floyd and the resulting protest with Black Lives Matter, front and center, there does seem to be a different feeling in the air. Having witnessed far too many police-related shootings of unarmed Black males and the subsequent arrest of white subjects who had committed mass murder apprehended with minimal force, and even offered food and water after the incident, makes you question the police officers’ ethics and professionalism.

What do you think policing—as a profession and as a practice—will look like 20 years from now, specifically as a result of the current social unrest?

In 20 years I believe we will have seen a revolution in the way policing is done in America. Those two specific concepts I mentioned earlier will become more important than ever—accountability and transparency, as it relates to the officers’ duty and the way investigations are conducted.

One of the primary areas that I believe will change is the evolution of police culture. I believe many of the current cultural aspects of police work will slowly fade away because of the reality that certain current all-too-common behaviors

make it difficult for the police community to move forward. Circling the wagons when a police officer’s behavior or actions are called into question is one example. Officers need to immediately step in when they witness police abuse or misconduct, and this will need to be a standard practice. Departments also have to stop the practice of demoting, transferring, or even terminating an officer’s employment when that officer reports another officer for violating department police policy, law, or the constitution.

If we can move forward on those two key issues – accountability and transparency—policing 20 years from now will have experienced a huge leap forward, especially for communities of color.

Keith Williams’ career in law enforcement includes work as a patrolman, officer, police academy trainer, detective, chief of police and emergency management consultant. He’s also a certified trainer in topics including biased policing and alternatives to deadly force, and he holds a second-degree black belt in Aikijitsu.



To serve and to protect: Williams, formerly the poice chief of Kinloch, Missouri, was sworn in as WWU’s Assistant Director of Public Safety in 2018 by Assistant Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs Brian Sullivan and WWU Police Chief Darin Rasmussen.

THE 15-15-70 RULE

In 1995 I attended a conference hosted by the International Association of Chiefs of Police on the topic of ethics in law enforcement. ... During this training one area was especially important to me and it was identified as the 15-15-70 rule.

... This rule basically says that in every major police department 15 percent of the officers are going to be honest and fair. Another 15 percent are going to be dishonest, which could include planting drugs and weapons, manipulating evidence, using excessive force, violating civil rights of individuals, as well as various other corrupt activity. Finally, 70 percent of the officers could go either way depending on who trained them or who’s watching them.

For me it was shocking to think that 70 percent of the officers of a major police department could function within the scope of the law honestly or could operate from a corrupt and dishonest standpoint depending on who’s watching them or who trained them I would hope that since this conference occurred decades ago, conditions would have changed. However, in reflecting upon current events around the country, it appears to me that much of this statistical information still rings true.

As an example, if you had a thousand-of-ficer police department and 15 percent of those officers operated from a dishonest or corrupt standpoint, that would mean you have one hundred fifty officers working around the clock who are constantly and systematically destroying the public trust. If these officers are indeed corrupt—manipulating evidence, using excessive force, and violating individuals’ constitutional rights—how long do you think it would take before the community’s trust and confidence in their local police department eroded?

If American policing is to truly change, we absolutely must rid departments of what is sometimes termed bad apples. The concept of one bad apple spoiling the bunch certainly rings true in American law enforcement. It doesn’t matter if the officer has a racist agenda, corrupt agenda, or personal agenda; we must hold police officers accountable and they must function squarely within the letter of the law.

– Excerpt from “The Broken Badge: Rethinking Police & Community Relations,” by K.L. Williams



HUXLEY COLLEGE TURNS 50

The college born with the modern environmental movement grows up to tackle climate change.

by Ron Judd

Nobody ever said saving the planet was going to be easy. It was not the case in those now quaintly dreamy, Age of Aquarius days of the early 1970s, when Western's Huxley College of the Environment was founded as a unique way to produce graduates with both the technical chops and policy skills to solve—not just complain about—pollution and other social ills.

And it clearly is not the case now, about 7,800 graduates later. The world's first interdisciplinary environmental college celebrates its 50th year by acknowledging a renewed urgency for those skills in an increasingly desperate bid to combat global climate change—or blunt its human impacts.

That evolution in the need for students imbued with Huxley's real-world problem-solving skills in many ways reflects the evolution of environmentalism itself: At Huxley's 1970 founding as a "cluster" college beneath the Western Washington University umbrella, "going green" was a distinct movement—a product of social activism spawned in the 1960s, and played out in subsequent years with the establishment of Earth Day, and the launching of federal laws and programs focused on cleaning up and protecting the air, earth and waterways.

The urgent need to address climate change has been more transformational than any single force since the college's birth a half century ago.

Its advocates, many of them graduates of Huxley and a small handful of counterparts, ultimately succeeded in making environmental consciousness part of accepted social norms. In contrast to the national norm at Huxley's founding, environmentalism has been "institutionalized" in many segments of American life, author and journalist William Dietrich notes in "Green Fire," his rich history of the Huxley program at age 40.

Local and national recycling programs, standards for energy efficiency, clean air and water, toxic contamination and other pollution, and even the way we build structures all owe their existence to public acceptance of giving the planet's health, while clearly not primacy, at least a seat at the table of civic life.

But it's safe to say that none of the dreamers who launched Huxley College (inspired by and named for Darwin-defending biologist/anthropologist Thomas Henry Huxley, not his more-famous relative, the writer Aldous) could have seen the need for students steeped in the Huxley way becoming so critical, so soon, in today's climate-change reality.

In one sense, growing angst over a warming planet has been good for business at Huxley College.

"We live in a time where making a difference drives the college decisions of a lot of students. For us this has meant huge enrollment growth. We have more students than we have capacity in many areas," says Steve Hollenhorst, dean since 2012 and parent of a Huxley graduate.



Huxley students on a 1979 trip to Shi Shi Beach.

Huxley's faculty—roughly 42 tenured and 40 non-tenured professors—now offers some 200 courses in the biophysical sciences and social sciences related to environmentalism to more than 1,000 students. The program's areas of emphasis have become increasingly specialized.

The urgent need to address climate change, Hollenhorst says, has been more transformational than any other single force since the college's birth a half century ago.

"It conditions everything we do now," he says. "It is the global lens that we have to look through."

Other societal shifts, especially a recent focus among incoming students on social justice issues, which translates to environmental equity in Huxley courses, also have led to major curricular adjustments, he notes, and will continue to do so. "But making progress in these critically important areas is all the harder because climate change has sucked up all the oxygen," he says.

The accelerating planetary warming crisis is so frontloaded on the psyches of incoming students that "climate fatigue" and "climate despair" have become pressing issues for freshmen, now mostly born since 2000. Faculty at Western and other U.S. institutions have scrambled to combat this battle against deep-seated hopelessness.

"They are both agitated and motivated about this," Hollenhorst says. "I see our faculty thinking more and more about how to help them out with hope, and with more of a positive approach."

Part of the value of higher education in general, and Huxley's programs in particular, is that it provides a hands-on outlet to combat stress by actually working the problem, Huxley faculty members say. That's an outlet not every young person has.

"I think it's really all about, 'OK, here's how we can work on this,'" Hollenhorst says. "Climate, it's really just math. We know what we need to do! You can take these energy courses. And here's how you can make these new buildings carbon-neutral. That's pretty powerful, and we can send these students out with those kinds of skills."

“They take on these initiatives, knowing they may never get to see the results they’re hoping for during their time at Huxley”

The climate-change focus has manifested itself in other visible ways inside Huxley’s concrete, Brutalist-themed headquarters in the Environmental Studies building on South Campus. Its curriculum

has both expanded and substantially shifted gears to address it.

“In my generation, (environmentalists) never would have thought of working for corporate America. Students today know that’s part of the solution.”

Huxley is deeply involved with Western’s Institute for Energy Studies, the first in the country to offer a bachelor’s degree with that distinct area of focus, Hollenhorst believes. “The keystone approach to the climate problem is energy,” Hollenhorst says. “We’ve created 30-some energy courses; climate is the rationale for every one of those classes.”

“There are dozens of courses in place there, and virtually every one of those courses is climate-solutions oriented,” he says. “So there’s hope embedded in that.”

CLIMATE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The renewed emphasis on that issue from incoming students is also piggybacking on another major Huxley trend long underway—the shifting of intended career paths beyond traditional employers such as government, recreation, conservation and planning agencies into the private sector.

Students in the founding groups of Huxley students were largely activists in a relatively tight-knit social group that literally lived together, sharing housing, food and other life necessities. Many either drifted into the program to fulfill a broadly defined passion, or intended to qualify for jobs in research or government.

“That’s all changed,” Hollenhorst says with a chuckle. “Today a student will come to Huxley, look me in the eye and say: ‘I want to go to work on greening Costco’s supply chain!’”

Result: Rather than sneer at one another across campus, Western’s Huxley and College of Business and Economics now enthusiastically collaborate. Students demand it; Western’s Business & Sustainability major is a tangible result.

Even so, Huxley hasn’t abandoned its traditional mission of blending biophysical sciences that identify and quantify environmental problems with the social sciences necessary to form private and public-policy solutions. That problem-solving focus embodied in curriculum has led to a raft of tangible environmental solutions, including local success stories such as land-use regulations around Bellingham’s drinking water source, Lake Whatcom.

“There’s still people teaching about rivers,” Hollenhorst notes. “There’s still people teaching about environmental education,

teaching about land law and water law. But now, climate is interjected into all those conversations. You can still focus on the things you love. But there’s a climate lens, and there’s a social justice lens.”

The latter focus is intertwined with another area of emphasis spotlighted at Huxley in the past decade: what is viewed as a critical need to diversify the student body and faculty in a field of study which, in America, has long been overwhelmingly white. A more-diverse Huxley College alumni is better poised to address likely looming challenges of environmental justice – the equitable sharing of consequences of, and the burden of addressing, climate change.

“It’s not just something we struggle with in Huxley, but rather is an indictment of the entire environmental movement and environmental community,” Hollenhorst says.

Environmental organizations continue to be an “overwhelmingly white ‘green insiders club’” with very little inclusion of people of color, according to data gathered by Green 2.0, which advocates for inclusion and diversity in environmentalism.

“It’s probably a lot of different factors,” Hollenhorst says, “But the language we use, the subjects we study, the discourse we engage in, the research we conduct, has not been as inclusive of the breadth of environmental issues, particularly those facing marginalized sectors of our society, as it should be. That’s on us. We need to find ways to be better at this.”

A 2015 Huxley study laid bare the scope of the task. Fewer than 1 percent of Huxley students were African American; only 0.6 percent identified as Native American; 2.6 percent Asian, and 6.4 percent Hispanic or Latino. All of those numbers were lower than comparable populations in the state, in Bellingham, and among Western’s general student population.

Today, the total percentage of students of color is about 21 percent at Huxley, compared with overall WWU enrollment of 26 percent at Western. But the growth in students of color at Huxley still lags behind the college’s overall growth, says Shalini Singh, Huxley’s diversity recruiter and retention specialist.

In keeping with a similar effort underway—and showing some successes—campus wide, Huxley has launched a multi-pronged effort to enhance diversity. It brought Singh on board, and the college has made it a priority to boost the diversity among staff, faculty and students and to cultivate an inclusive academic environment. Administrators already working to secure funding for Huxley amidst historically declining levels of state budgetary support have spent more time focusing on ways to attract funding to provide access opportunities to prospective students in underrepresented communities. Existing scholarships have been refocused with that goal in mind; new ones are on the drawing board and seeking financing. Faculty and staff hiring protocols also have been remodeled, mostly to broaden job descriptions as a means to attract more diverse candidates, Hollenhorst says.

Much of this work is energized by the students themselves, says Singh, who is amazed by students’ willingness to take on additional responsibilities, on top of heavy course loads and work schedules, to help guide inclusion efforts.

“They take on these initiatives, knowing they may never get to see the results they’re hoping for during their time at Huxley,” Singh says. “But they work on them knowing they may be able to leave behind a legacy for future Huxley students.”

One way Huxley has already made significant strides in that direction—enhancing not only the cultural diversity of its student cohort, but its economic and class diversity—is by establishing branch degree programs in Everett, Poulsbo and Port Angeles, employing community colleges as home bases for what become four-year bachelor’s degrees.

BEYOND BELLINGHAM

As Huxley celebrates its 50th, the Huxley College on the Peninsulas program is gearing up to bake its own 25th-anniversary cake. Graduates of those programs, which offer bachelor’s degrees in environmental policy and environmental science, already are inculcating Huxley environmental principles into local communities. Many are older, returning, single parent or other non-traditional students who say they would never have been able to realize those life dreams without programs that allowed them to study near their suburban or rural homes.

One of them is **LaTrisha Suggs**, 50, of Port Angeles, a 2002 graduate who was working two jobs to support a young son when she heard about a fledgling two-year Huxley program launching at Peninsula College. She jumped at the chance, attending evening and weekend extension courses while working 55 hours per week, earning her degree in two years.

As part of that program, she served an internship with Clallam County, researching septic systems along the Dungeness River. A member of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, she was hired after completion of her degree as assistant director of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribal team working on the monumental, and historic, project to remove two derelict dams on the Elwha River, the largest such watershed-restoration project in the nation. She now works as the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe’s Habitat Restoration Planner, a job that largely entails purchasing privately owned tracts of land in floodplain areas of the Dungeness, where her work began.

“Full circle,” she says. But hers keeps expanding.

Active on many other community boards and associations, she recently was appointed to fill a two-year vacancy left by the



Students deep in discussion in this 1970 photo from the Huxley archives.

death of a Port Angeles City Council member. City officials believe she is the first Native American—and possibly the first nonwhite person—to serve on the council since it was established in 1890.

“I got lucky,” Suggs says. “I was a single mom. Being able to go off to a university wasn’t in my future.”

Today, as a mother of three and grandmother of two, she eyes a future in public service that she says would not have been possible without Huxley’s outreach. Port Angeles is growing in

positive directions both culturally and economically, she says, and like many other rural areas is launching its own efforts to combat local effects of climate change.

“I’m just fortunate to be smack in the middle of it all.”

Other program graduates offered similar sentiments.

While it’s distressing that the

need has become so critical, so fast, Huxley has succeeded in seeding the local government, for-profit and nonprofit infrastructure with influential people possessing the skills to at least begin to tackle overwhelming problems in small, ultimately constructive ways, they say.

It’s constantly on the minds of Huxley grads such as **Amy Lucas**, a 2012 graduate of the Everett CC Huxley program who now works as a senior planner for Snohomish County Parks and Recreation.

“This is a crisis, yes, but there are things we can do, in moderation, right now to help mitigate all the impacts,” she says. “A lot of people think they need to do a complete 180 in their lifestyle, and that all solutions will be really expensive. But really it’s about small victories—baby steps. My soap box is moderation. Small changes can make big impacts—if we all make them together.”

Ron Judd ’85, B.A., journalism, is a reporter for the Seattle Times and an adjunct faculty member at Western.

THE WORK OF WATER

The climate-change puzzle ultimately comes down to the abundance or scarcity of the one thing we can't live without.

Story by John Thompson

Assistant Professor Alia Khan travels to the world's coldest places in search of pure snow

The historic distribution of the planet's water has kept the Earth's global ecosystem humming along in a fairly constant cycle, effortlessly going through revolution after revolution with little variation—a few ice ages or hot spells notwithstanding.

But the new climate reality means that water, in all its forms—droplets in the atmosphere, the Siberian permafrost, glacial ice, snowpack, and all the rain that falls during our winters in the Pacific Northwest—is delivered in new ways and to new places.

Water is the global climate's Great Regulator. Our planet uses water to find climate balance: Cold winters here are offset by warm winters there; droughts here by wet summers there, and on and on. But as the Earth warms, so does its water, making it that much harder for those two molecules of hydrogen and one molecule of oxygen to keep the lid on climate extremes.

Ben Franklin famously said, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." Luckily, Western is one of the places where scientists and their students not only know the worth of water, but understand its role as the global arbiter of climate change. In this story, we'll take a look at some snapshots from the thousands of hours of work these faculty and students do across the globe, from Svalbard and the Cascades to the Himalayas and the verdant valley of the Nooksack River's South Fork, in their efforts to better understand how our planet is changing—and what can be done to stop this change before it is too late.

Albedo: In regards to snow, albedo measures brightness and reflectivity. Snow with a higher albedo is more reflective and melts slower. Snow with a lower albedo absorbs more light and heat and melts faster.

SNOW

If water is the planet's main instrument to regulate climate swings, then perhaps snow can best be described as its Swiss Army knife—an invaluable tool that can perform a myriad of incredibly important tasks. Eventually, every flake of snow that falls will melt—but how long it takes to do so, and the journey it takes along the way, is crucial to understanding why it is so important to the global climate.

Falling snow forms alpine snowfields that shelter a variety of wildlife in the summer. Snow gets compressed into the sky-blue ice of glaciers and forms a reflective mantle that deflects some of the sun's energy to keep temperatures as low as possible.

But the old adage "pure as the driven snow" is spot on when talking about snow's ability to do its many important jobs.

Alia Khan, an assistant professor of Environmental Sciences in Western's Huxley College of the Environment, is on a mission to find the whitest, brightest snow and ice on the planet.

This mission has taken her from the Andes to the Himalayas, and from the Cascades just outside Western's door to the Antarctic, half a globe away.



Mountaineers pick their way up Mount Baker's Easton Glacier on their way to the summit.

Why the traveling passion for pure snow and ice? Because the whiter the snow, the less it has been tainted by the impurities of black carbon.

"Black carbon comes from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels. When the dark-colored particles are deposited on the cryosphere—an ecosystem encompassing frozen water—they absorb more solar radiation than the surrounding snow and ice and lower the albedo," she says.

Lower albedo means the reflective qualities of the Earth's blanket of snow and ice aren't able to keep the planet as cool. The global distribution of black carbon through the atmosphere (and other hugely important factors like warming temperatures) means places like the Greenland ice sheet, the second-largest chunk of snow and ice in the world behind Antarctica, is melting—fast. According to NASA, its rate of melt has reached 283 billion metric tons of lost mass each year, and scientists estimate that the total loss of the Greenland ice sheet would mean a sea-level rise of about 20 feet.

Getting a better grasp of how mankind's use of fossil fuels is accelerating climate change remains the linchpin of Khan's research, which next spring she hopes will take her to Svalbard, a remote Norwegian archipelago near the top of the world, east of Greenland and north of Scandinavia.

"Compared to other regions of the Arctic, Svalbard is 'somewhat' habitable for humans because of the Gulf Stream. But it can still get very cold in winter, and there are more polar bears than people," she says.

But Khan isn't going to Svalbard on a typical research trip; she, with three friends who are also climate scientists, plan to ski across it, collecting snow samples as she goes. The four women, who call themselves "the Climate Sentinels," will traverse 280 miles of snow and ice, crossing crevasses and dodging polar bears—all to get a better understanding of the damage being done to the Arctic by black carbon.

While sampling under-observed regions is the primary focus of the trip, Khan says there is another focus as well.

"I hope we can inspire the next generation of female polar scientists," she says.

Ablation: The combined processes such as melting, evaporation, or calving, which remove snow and ice from glaciers or snow fields.

ICE

Mount Baker's glaciers are disappearing, and Western faculty such as Doug Clark (Geology), Andy Bach (Environmental Studies) and graduate students Monica Villegas and Liza Kimberly are working to better understand not only why this is happening, but how quickly.

"The glaciers on Baker are receding at an alarming rate," says

Bach flatly. "In the 20 years I have been studying them, I have seen huge changes. The more information we can gather about how quickly these glaciers are shrinking, the better we can understand and document how climate change is impacting our local environment."

Clark says glaciers, by their very nature, are slow to respond to climate change, either warming or cooling.

"It takes about 10 to 15 years to start to move the needle one way or another on a typical glacier and have it respond," he says. "Glacial' is a term for a reason ... they are usually slow to do anything like grow or recede."

Clark and Bach are measuring different elements of Baker's glaciers. Clark is seeking to measure the actual physical mass of its current glaciers, whereas Bach is looking at ways of finding out how quickly they are receding.

Villegas, Bach, and undergraduate assistants Marissa Wall and Keith Martin spent this past summer focusing on the rate of retreat of Mount Baker's Easton Glacier, a massive tongue of ice on the mountain's south flank.

Villegas' research focuses on mapping the age of the trees in the empty trough below the toe of the glacier; using cores from the trees to graph their age shows how the glacier has retreated and at what rate.

"Each core is like an almanac into that tree's life," Villegas says. "We can tell so much about the weather patterns that contributed to the behavior of the glacier from looking at those rings."

Her initial results show that Easton has retreated almost 3.5 kilometers in the last 150 years alone—lightning fast for a glacier that now measures about 2.3 square kilometers.

"For a glacier the size of Easton to have retreated that far in that amount of time is stunning," Bach says.

Those evergreen almanacs seem to point to the same conclusion that Clark is finding as he and Kimberly measure the mass of glaciers like Easton, manually installing what are called ablation stakes through meters of snow and ice in an effort to ascertain "glacial mass balance." A glacier with a balance of zero is adding as much snow and ice in its upper half as it is losing through the process called ablation at its bottom half. A decade or so of positive mass balances will cause a glacier to grow, while an interval of negative mass balances will cause it to shrink, and sadly the forecast for Baker's glaciers remains gloomy.

"We can't make climate change reverse overnight," Clark says. "Many of our glaciers are going to keep shrinking for the foreseeable future no matter what we do; some amount of future warming is effectively 'baked in' to the climate system at this point. But we can put in place efforts to mitigate these changes, to communicate what we find, and to understand what those findings mean. The science is clear. We just have to communicate

"We can't make climate change reverse overnight"



Assistant Professor Alia Khan is on a mission to find the whitest, brightest snow and ice on the planet.

Right: Tree cores, like this one held by Professor Andy Bach, tell the story of glacial retreat.



it effectively to the broader public.”

In the meantime, all the ecosystems that benefit from glacial runoff will have to make do with less, from river systems and the salmon that spawn in them, to cities that pull drinking water from lakes fed by ice and snow, to irrigation and agricultural needs.

Short-term climate variability: *As opposed to the longer-term, broader scope of global climate change, short-term climate variability is typified by relatively brief, sudden spikes in the climate norm, lasting from a season to a year or two. Examples include an unprecedented summer-long drought or the kind of flooding that hit the Nooksack basin in February 2020.*

RAIN

Numbers In, Numbers Out.
NINO.

The concept of NINO is what makes Robert Mitchell’s research really work. Mitchell, a professor of geology at Western, specializes in watershed hydrology and numerical modeling – the craft of using data to plug into a custom-built computer simulation that results in a years-ahead forecast for the rain and snow on a given area.

But for the climate model to work, it needs reams of accurate data, both historical and real-time, and forecasted climates through the end of the 21st century.

NINO.

“The more numbers I have, and the more accurate those numbers are, the better the model,” he says. “That shouldn’t be surprising. But what is surprising to some people is how much data it takes to make the model work.”

Mitchell is currently doing modeling work on two important regional watersheds: the South Fork of the Nooksack in Whatcom County and the Stillaguamish in Snohomish County. Both of these watersheds feature mountain systems that feed their rivers through seasonal snowfields as opposed to glaciers, and, alarmingly, what his numbers show is indicative of what is occurring elsewhere on the planet: those high altitude snowfields, such as those on the Twin Sisters range east of Acme that feed the South Fork, are getting more precipitation as rain and less as snow.

“As anyone who lives around here knows, we’re often right at that temperature point where incoming storms could produce either rain or snow. And sure, in the middle of the winter, during the coldest months, precipitation falling at elevation on the Sisters will fall as snow,” he says. “But whereas historically we might have seen a lot of additional snowfall in the fall and spring, our projected numbers show that more than likely, a lot of that precipitation will increasingly fall as rain, especially in the lower elevations that currently get snow in the winter.”

Mitchell gathers his data from a variety of established sources, from historical data to just-off-the-mountain sampling work

by faculty colleagues such as Doug Clark—and runs 20 different meteorological scenarios representing future warming climates, including best-case, worst-case and most-likely case examples for each basin.

“It doesn’t take much of a nudge upwards in temperatures to have a pretty big impact on those snowfields,” he says, pointing to a map of the Sisters which shows current typical snow levels as large white patches on the upper half of the mountain. Under most future climate scenarios, the white areas of the map shrink drastically, meaning less snowmelt in the spring and summer.

Less snowmelt means a lower, warmer South Fork in the summer months, during the river’s highest recreational and agricultural use and the endangered Chinook salmon’s summer run.

“And while this is an issue for the salmon, it’s going to also be an issue for all the towns along the Nooksack in the fall and winter,” Mitchell says. “Because snow is stored like a moisture bank in the winter. It releases slowly as it melts over the spring and summer. Rainfall isn’t the same way; moisture that falls as rain instead of snow presents a new problem for all the communities downstream in terms of potential flooding. And the reality is that the South Fork basin isn’t unique in this regard; many of the watersheds in Western Washington face this same kind of pressure.”

The concept of the moisture bank is important, because of a term that becomes more relevant as global weather patterns change: “short-term climate variability,” which at its core is simple to understand. It’s Mother Nature’s ability to throw a year or two—or even just a season—of beyond-norms weather at a region, from extreme flooding to extreme drought, from prolonged high temperatures to prolonged low temperatures.

One analogy for this kind of variability is that the world’s climate patterns are like a spinning top: As the globe warms, seasonal variability causes the top to wobble and weather patterns become dangerously unstable and harder to predict. Extensive snowfields act as insurance against short-term climate variability: They hold moisture as snow and prevent flooding, and they release moisture as runoff during drought.

Without them, an important climate safety buffer has been removed as the planet warms, says Mitchell.

What can be done? In the short term, cities and towns need to prepare for more of the kind of flooding that hit the Nooksack basin at the beginning of February and made national news. There is no way to steer the short-term climate ship in any direction other than where it is now going, he says. But Mitchell says policies could still be put into place that could slow down climate change in the long term.

“Sadly, only in this country is this even a matter of debate,” he says.

In the meantime, doing habitat-restoration work to keep the rivers as shady and as cool as possible is an option, and Mitchell says he will keep crunching the data. NINO. He just wants to



Graduate student Monica Villegas’ research focuses on mapping the age of trees below the toe of Easton glacier.

see better numbers emerging from his models.

“We got ourselves into this, we can get ourselves out,” he says. “We just have to have the collective will to do so.”

Anthropogenic: Caused by humans.

Water will only grow in importance even in the verdant Pacific Northwest, so understanding how you can do your part to conserve it is a good first step. Start by fixing leaky plumbing, installing water-efficient fixtures in your home, and reducing outdoor watering.

What else can you do to help fight climate change? The burgeoning use of Citizen Science initiatives means that anyone can add to the scientific body of knowledge, in almost any field, from helping biology faculty member Robin Kodner’s Living Snow project to assisting with the Cascades Butterfly Project like Huxley’s John McLaughlin.

“Being a part of something that is working to create positive change is a great way of slipping out of that feeling of environmental pessimism,” says McLaughlin.

The bottom line, says McLaughlin: Get involved. Get active. Be a part of the solution.

In the meantime, snow will continue to fall on the peaks of the Twin Sisters above the Nooksack, and on the Easton Glacier, and on Svalbard. When and how much will likely be decided by the efforts of humanity and our global leadership in the years to come.

How will we respond?

John Thompson is the assistant director of Western’s Office of University Communications. One of his favorite places in the world is the Skookum Creek valley, below the towering peaks of the Twin Sisters, one of Robert Mitchell’s research sites.

Building Washington's Future

A new kind of STEM education: Western partners to expand facilities and deliver real-world workforce development opportunities to students.

Story by Amy Painter

Despite rapid technological advancements, the decades ahead pose formidable challenges. The scale and magnitude of pandemics, climate change, and other grand challenges require us to develop bold new ways of thinking, creative partnerships, and state-of-the-art research.

Most importantly, these challenges require a commitment to the next generation of problem-solvers.

To prepare this next wave of innovators, Western Washington University is embarking on a bold vision to expand and transform technical education – a vision that will include an additional 94 workforce-ready electrical engineering and computer science graduates each year, and a new building to house Western's burgeoning electrical engineering, computer science, and energy science programs.

The new building, planned for completion in 2024, will create more space for interdisciplinary collaboration and experiential projects in partnership with industry, allowing students to solve real-world problems. The expansion of the programs housed within the space will also help feed the nation's growing demand for employees educated in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Through the Building Washington's Future campaign, the Western Foundation is raising \$20 million for the project. Fueled by the urgency of preparing graduates with the training necessary to meet our grand challenges, the year-long campaign is one of the most important fundraising initiatives the WWU Foundation has undertaken, and the first capital campaign to raise funds for academic space. The need for highly trained graduates is particularly acute in Washington.

"Washington is among the top five states in technology sector job growth," says Brad Johnson, dean of the College of Science and Engineering, "but we don't produce nearly enough graduates."

Workforce demand for undergraduate and graduate engineering and computer science students is estimated to be more than 23,000 annually in Washington state alone. Between 1990 and 2016, employment in STEM occupations grew 79 percent (from 9.7 million to 17.3 million) nationwide, and technology jobs saw a staggering 338 percent increase according to a 2018 report by the Pew Research Center.

Despite these workforce shortages, Western is turning away promising electrical engineering students because of insufficient space. In addition, underrepresented students confront disproportionately high barriers when studying STEM subjects and may more often encounter environments that are less welcoming, or in which they don't see themselves.

Institutions such as Western have the opportunity to create a structure and culture that promotes engagement, connectedness, and persistence among students by positioning STEM as a context for growth and development. Institutions can also draw upon the cultural strengths that underrepresented students bring to the learning environment, using this information to improve curricular practices and programs.

Western's expansion will also allow for an increase in diversity, equity, and inclusiveness through changes to the curriculum, classroom design, and recruitment.

"We are developing a new program for first-year students that integrates non-traditional teaching methods," Johnson says. "Classrooms will be re-engineered to include more user-friendly features, and we will offer a greater number of opportunities for collaborative, project-based learning in groups. With more seats, the college will also be able to recruit more broadly."

Western's Institute for Energy Studies is also growing rapidly with an especially high demand for the new Energy Science and Technology degree, an interdisciplinary combination of applied science and technology, energy policy, and business



The new building is expected to be completed in 2024. The space will provide new classrooms and laboratories with expanded capabilities, instrumentation, and equipment.

practices. WWU's energy degree programs have produced a total of 115 graduates, many of whom are filling gaps in the clean energy, efficiency, and utility sectors.

One of the first graduates from the program now leads energy strategy for Sales Force—a position the company only recently created. Many companies now recognize that energy strategy is directly linked to their bottom line.

"Western Washington is the vanguard of a new type of educational paradigm," says Warren Michelsen, vice president and regional general manager for Trane and a founding member of Western's Institute for Energy Studies Board. "There is a culture of creativity and thinking outside of the box. When you provide students who are empowered to think freely and take risks with a solid grounding in STEM subjects, you have the makings of a person who will be unstoppable in the workplace."

The new \$68 million building destined to bring all of these innovative programs together will be named for the founders of Alpha Technologies, Fred Kaiser and Grace Borsari, who provided a lead gift of \$10 million to the Western Washington University Foundation's \$20 million capital campaign. The Washington State Legislature allocated \$2 million for design-

related expenses in 2019 and has signaled their intent to allocate \$46 million for construction in the 2021-2023 capital budget for Western.

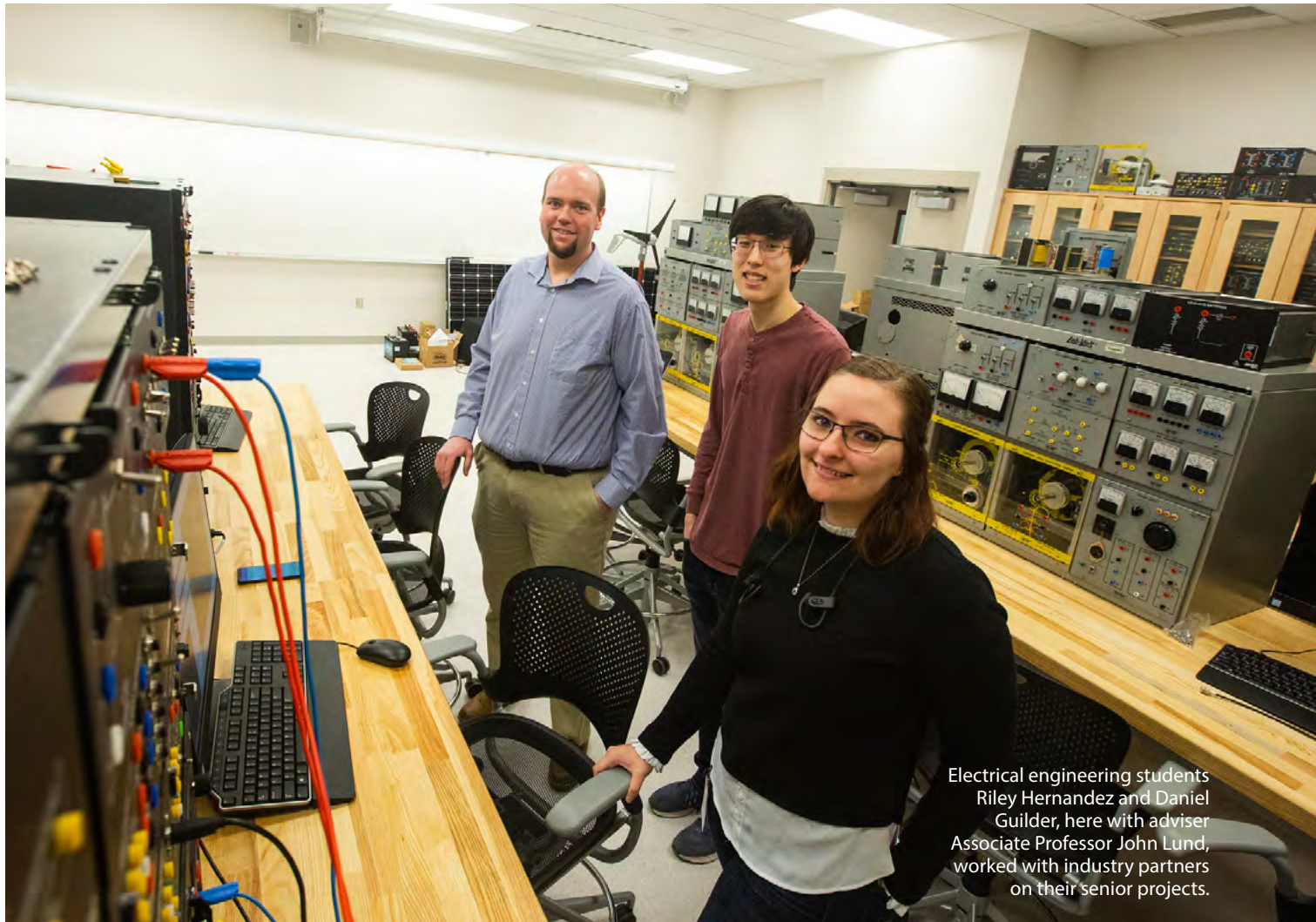
"We are leveraging state tax dollars to attract private industry partners so that we can work together to address problems," says College of Science and Engineering's Johnson.

Johnson hopes to attract more industry partners who can help develop programs as the college outlines its 10-year plan and defines its strategic vision in preparing students for a dynamic workforce.

"Our partners want to see an increase in the talent pipeline," Johnson says, "and we want to equip students with the skills to solve the sorts of problems they will encounter in the workplace."

The college already collaborates with industry to provide

"Washington is among the top five states in technology sector job growth, but we don't produce nearly enough graduates."



Electrical engineering students Riley Hernandez and Daniel Guilder, here with adviser Associate Professor John Lund, worked with industry partners on their senior projects.

ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE AT WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

The College of Science and Engineering offers undergraduate engineering degree programs in electrical engineering, manufacturing engineering, and composites engineering.

The college also offers an accredited undergraduate degree in computer science, as well as a master's degree program in computer science.

by PACCAR, developing a device that automates truck battery readings such as voltage, temperature, and state of charge.

"My device is a bridge between the battery and the vehicle, providing automated readings for the driver. So, if drivers who sleep in their trucks want to access battery data, they will know how much power is available for the overnight use of systems such as heaters," says Guilder, who hails from Puyallup.

Guilder worked on the project with his PACCAR-based adviser. His work was also guided by faculty advisors like Lund who provided regular feedback, and by his fellow students who were working on projects of their own.

It was the opportunity for personal guidance and support, along with hands-on projects like this, that drew Guilder to Western.

"It's a great feeling to develop a tangible item with a clear purpose and use for the company," he says.

There are also tangible benefits for PACCAR and other industry partners.

"We have found that when you get companies that are actually invested (in student projects), they are much more deeply engaged; and, they may invest in a series of projects that lead to problem-solving on a larger scale," says Johnson, who for many years led Western's Advanced Materials Science and Engineering Center, which collaborates with several materials technology companies in the region.

Students like Hernandez and Guilder, whose STEM education is coupled with a strong liberal arts foundation in communication

and critical-thinking, are being called upon as never before to provide their expertise in the workforce. The next generation of innovators and problem-solvers will come from universities able to provide a solid, comprehensive education in STEM fields with opportunities for experiential learning.

"Companies need well-rounded talent," says Trane's Michelsen. "What sets Western apart is students with better writing, critical thinking, and team skills. These give our alumni a leg up, preparing them for a graduate education and supporting them in their career evolution."

On a broader scale, solutions to many of our grand challenges—including climate change—will emerge only through education and collaboration across disciplines, institutions, boundaries, and borders.

Amy Painter is Western's director of communications and marketing for University Advancement.

"I'm trying to combine all of these systems in a cost-efficient way, and that's what makes this unique..."

several types of project-based learning opportunities. "Many of our industry partners

that transfers power between batteries, ensuring there is always enough power.

"The device will also convert DC voltage to AC voltage," Hernandez says. "It's portable, so the driver could have it on hand to use as needed, or it could also sit in the engine and be a part of the system."

Her project could help PACCAR ensure their trucks have sufficient battery power in the cab for ample heat, air conditioning, and lighting during overnight stops.

"I'm trying to combine all of these systems in a cost-efficient way, and that's what makes this unique," says Hernandez, who hopes to work as an engineering consultant.

She is also eager for the expansion of the engineering program and excited about what it will mean for Western students of the future.

"I'm very excited about the new lab spaces," Hernandez says. "There are not enough computers and instruments right now because of space constraints. We have to rotate among labs to get space, and that can be hard."

Hernandez's classmate **Daniel Guilder**, '20, B.S., electrical engineering also worked on a senior capstone project inspired

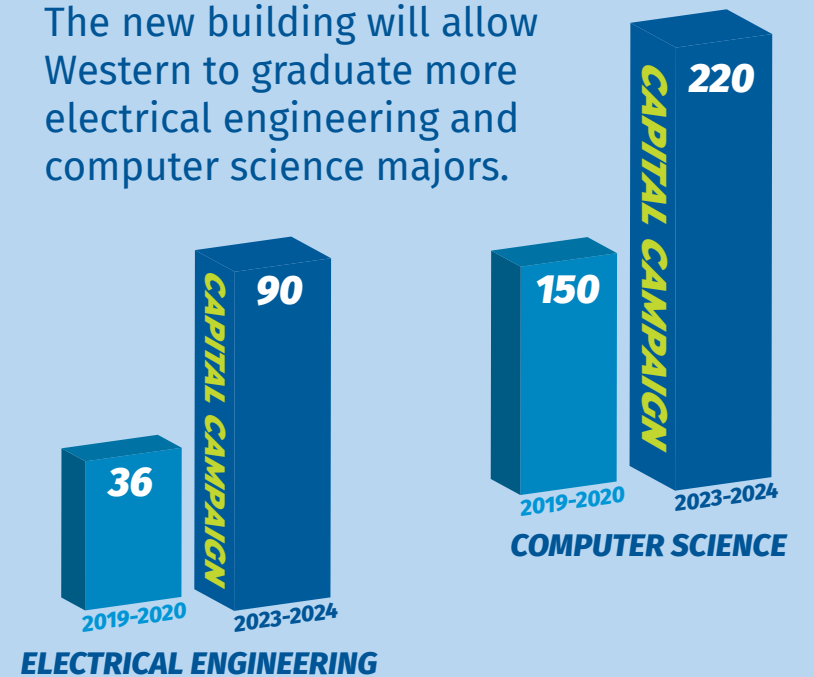
need devices and embedded systems that increase efficiencies and enable different systems to interface," says John Lund, an associate professor in the College of Science and Engineering who advises students in the electrical engineering program. "This type of project helps students learn about the company while actively solving a real-world problem, which is something they can be really proud of. They also gain experience working in industry before they leave our doors."

One of Lund's most recent students, **Riley Hernandez**, '20, B.S., mathematics and electrical engineering, developed her senior capstone project with an idea from Bellevue-based PACCAR, a major employer of Western graduates and a global leader in the design and manufacturing of commercial trucks.

Hernandez, a California native and the daughter of a trucking company entrepreneur, built a universal battery converter

Building Washington's Future

The new building will allow Western to graduate more electrical engineering and computer science majors.



SEE THE FUTURE TAKE SHAPE

Learn more about Western's Building Washington's Future Campaign and see a video of what the new Kaiser-Borsari Hall might look like at wwu.edu/build.

The Trees of our Lives

Like the tree shepherds of Tolkien lore, the ents of Western have seen us through 127 years of campus history.

They await our return: More than 70 species of trees have grown on Western's campus

On a campus tour stop near Old Main, right about when student guide Chase Jackson's narrative turned to Western's natural landscape—its beautiful grounds with adjacent Sehome Hill Arboretum as a backdrop—a prospective student peeled from the group to hug first one tree, then another.

To anyone who has walked Western's pathways and red bricks, in the shadow of silent giants and century-old treasures, the question is obvious: Can you blame him?

Jackson could not. "That's me on the inside," says Jackson, a history/social studies major who keeps a lid on his own arbor love while maintaining tour-guide decorum. On sunny days, the senior will find a spot on the ground in the Bird Sanctuary, a knoll clustered with some of Western's oldest trees, to study or eat. He lives on campus's south end, which means he'll sometimes take a wooded trail through "the Arb" to get to class. "Western's campus has such calming, beautiful vibes," he says. "It's one of my favorite parts of the day, when my stress dissipates."

From the younger, more orderly rows on the newer south campus to the aged beauties on the school's original lawn, Western's trees play a role in shaping the school's identity and sense of place.

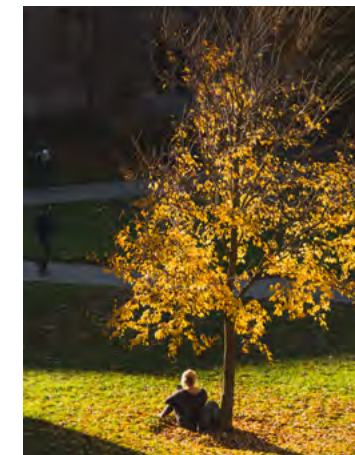
Of the thousands of trees on campus, many of them native Douglas firs, red cedars, spruces and maples, what sets Western's apart is the oddballs. More than 70 different species have grown here, some planted, especially in the school's early days from 1899 to the 1920s, like ingredients in a family recipe: a little bit of this, a little bit of that.

Leafy elder statesmen

In 2008, Myrl Beck, a retired Western geology professor, published an impressive tree tour guide highlighted by unusual-for-here specimens like the Camperdown Elm on the sanctuary's northern side, a row of ginkgoes near the Ross Engineering Building, and the sycamore-related plane trees bordering Red Square, among others.

Beck admires trees at the University of Washington and other schools. But "they don't seem to blend in with the whole campus décor like ours do," he says. "Ours are part and parcel of the campus. If you took those trees away and put anything in there, campus would be seriously degraded in terms of aesthetic appeal." He points to the huge, old plane tree on the Old Main lawn near High Street, one with giant branches going in all directions. "What would the campus be without that?"

When it comes to construction, Western's culture now involves arborists along with architects. "It used to be when I first got here (in 2006) and a new building would be coming online, they wouldn't even consider the trees," says outdoor maintenance supervisor Gary Hodge. "They would just mow them down and off they'd go because they were in the way. Now we are involved in it from the get-go to try to figure out which trees we can salvage and what





The earliest photos of Western's campus show a bare, treeless landscape. Some of the first faculty members planted trees that sheltered many generations of students.

trees will need to go and what the best design is to assist with that.”

Two ongoing and upcoming construction projects, a new residence hall replacing Highland, and an interdisciplinary science building, will result in the loss of some trees. They'll be mulched and used for salmon habitat restoration in local streams. And the same number of new trees will be planted on campus to replace the trees for future generations.

At the residence hall site, two ponderosa pines and one white pine, each about 80 feet tall, are getting special consideration. “We don't have a lot of those on campus” of that size, Hodge says, “so I was putting a little bit more emphasis on really monitoring those trees, making sure that they stay as viable as possible during construction.”

These days, Hodge and Western lead gardener **Heidi Zeretzke's** crew are waging war against time. The 100-year-old Norway maples lining Memory Walk into Old Main are deteriorating, pruned often of dying limbs. Several American elms that once populated the lawn have been cut down entirely, and Hodge and gardener Oskar Kollen are keeping an eye on the Bird Sanctuary's white pines.

Five generations of Zeretzke's family have attended Western, beginning with her great-grandfather in 1917. The 1982 graduate in visual communication thought of him often as she tended the trees around Old Main, wondering which

“elder statesmen” might have offered him a shady spot to rest.

“I'm sure he never imagined that one day his great granddaughter would be the caretaker of those very trees,” Zeretzke says. “I like to think of him and all the future generations of my family that might have sat—or will sit—in the shade of those trees on a bright sunny day. Who knows? It might be my future great granddaughter taking care of them.”

Pretty and green and orangey

Once, there were hardly any trees at all. Old photos show the bare campus of the New Whatcom Normal School, Western's predecessor, that opened to classes in 1899. Research tells of instructor Ida Agnes Baker: Hired that year and appalled by devastation wrought by (Old) Main's construction, she made it her mission to plant the campus back to life.

According to a 1996 paper written by Huxley student **Cindy L. Carroll**, '96, B.S., environmental science, Baker worked with the school landscaper, often year-round, to plan and plant. Some of her work is almost certainly among those trees towering over us today, more than a century later: the Douglas firs of the Bird Sanctuary, a poplar near Wilson Library, maybe even that distinctive plane tree, likely campus's oldest.

Some seven decades before Earth Day, Baker founded the school's nature study and forestry departments. Baker

was beloved by students, who dedicated the sanctuary in her name after she was killed by a streetcar in 1921 at age 61. The remnants of a bird bath inscribed with her name and the year still reside in the sanctuary, next to an old flagpole.

Baker was famous for placing bird houses in trees on campus, gathering students each Arbor Day for plantings, and packing empty cans to bring back seedlings from Mount Baker hikes. Returning from a 1915 sabbatical spent traveling the country, Baker said she “saw many beautiful landscapes, but came back satisfied that there is no school with a location surpassing our own in beauty and no place where there is so much physical, intellectual and aesthetic pleasure in living as in our land of the pointed firs.”

When **Rose Howe**, '17, B.A., economics/environmental studies, first visited campus during a summer camp for prospective students, she found campus a different world from home in northwestern Colorado. “It was one of those golden afternoons in August. The afternoon light just hits it right, it was pretty and green and orangey,” she says. “It just felt like a cool, outdoorsy spot to go to school.”

Next time you walk campus, look up. Western's giant sequoia by Edens Hall, the so-called “Miller Tree,” (see sidebar) is a 120-foot cone of beauty festooned each year with holiday lights. Check out the slender Fox River white birches near Wilson Library's elevated walkway; the nearby Alaskan weeping cedars, Seussian in their shaggy, slope-shouldered drape.

Turns out, Western's tree reputation is long held. Author Ella Higginson, the namesake of Higginson Hall along with her husband, became the state's first poet laureate in 1931. Her house, just north of where Viking Union stands today, overlooked the trees of Old Main's lawn. In one of the last of her 500 poems before her death in 1940, Higginson lamented what she'd have to leave behind “when I drift out the narrow straits into the midnight sea.” Not family or home or people, but trees. “I cannot take my hemlocks,” or her firs, birches or elms, Higginson wrote.

Luckily they're still here for all of us, and available for hugs.



THE MYSTERY OF THE GIANT SEQUOIA

Western's most famous tree holds its biggest mystery. At the base of the giant sequoia near Edens Hall is an old plaque saying the tree, “a seedling in 1941,” was given by prominent psychologist Irving Miller. But it's unlikely to be the same tree gifted by Miller, of Miller Hall fame, who taught here from 1917-1942. Western archivist Tony Kurtz, '88, B.A., English and '98, M.A., history, alerted by a friend suspecting a case of mistaken identity, started looking into it several years ago, examining letters and photos and files.

His conclusion? In short, it's too tall. A 79-year-old seedling, given the typical foot-per-year growth rate, would be in the 80- to 90-foot range. More evidence:

An aerial photo of campus in 1928 shows a small tree with a similar outline. Research indicates a woman named Olive Leonard Bruce, the sister of a faculty member, planted the tree in her yard around the turn of the century and it was then transplanted to its current location. In addition, a 1909 alum is on record saying students referred to it as the Olive Bruce sequoia. Finally, Kurtz found a 1926 article in the student newspaper noting a 20-year-old, nine-ton sequoia had been planted in front of Edens “and will in time tower above the hall.”

How did it get named for Miller, the noted education and psychology department chair? Kurtz's findings show his family did donate a sequoia in 1941, planted on the Wilson Library's south side. In 1969 the beloved tree and plaque was moved,

at no small expense, to make way for the library's final expansion. But it withered and died a year after it was replanted.

“I don't know for the life of me why the plaque was put in front of the tree in front of Edens,” he says. Maybe guilt over a gift that died? “The tree that Dr. Miller left was a wonderful gesture,” Kurtz says. “Somehow that has been grafted onto this (Olive Bruce) tree...It just shows you how easy it can be to have something forgotten.”

See window.wvu.edu for a photo gallery of the Edens Hall sequoia.

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



BUILDING ENDURING RELATIONSHIPS

Ken Johnsen leads the teams that build some of Seattle's most visible, complex, and well known urban development projects. He's most proud of how these iconic landmarks will endure as a backdrop for future generations, and their memories.

Story by Amy Loeffler

Seattle National Hockey League fans may not know Huxley grad Ken Johnsen, '75, but when they're finally able to attend a game at the new Climate Pledge Arena at Seattle Center, Johnsen will have already gotten to know them. It's in his nature to attempt to not only inhabit the skin of his clients, but tap into the community spirit his structures will come to embody.

Johnsen, the senior project manager and former partner at Shields | Oblatz | Johnsen has a portfolio that includes some of Seattle's most iconic landmarks: T-Mobile Park, King Street Station, Pike Place Market, and the Seattle Waterfront. No doubt his current project at Seattle Center, with partners Oak View Group of Los Angeles, will quickly come to embody the city's comfortably worn, but innovative character as well.

Though Johnsen would never endeavor to pick a favorite landmark (just like he couldn't pick a favorite child) he will admit that executing the planning and construction of T-Mobile Park, the Mariners' baseball stadium formerly known as Safeco Field, left an indelible mark on his psyche. "Baseball is somewhere between sport and religion," Johnsen said in "Green Fire, A History of Huxley College." "During the project I was exposed to baseball fans and saw how much they cared about [the game] in an emotional sense. Baseball has been a part of the rhythm of my life since Safeco."

Canvassing communities is a lesson Johnsen learned at Western's Huxley College of the Environment, where he earned his bachelor's degree in urban and regional planning. Good research and listening to customers proved to be invaluable during undergraduate internships with the Port of Bellingham and Harbor Airlines. "A little bit of research, that's not just an academic exercise, good research and listening to your customers, that's been part of everything I do," Johnsen says. "That all goes back to those early days at Western."

Seeking and incorporating community feedback are what helped preserve the old Key Arena's roofline, with its classic, unfettered mid-century angles. Community feedback also kept the hockey arena downtown and earned the building's designation as a historic landmark of the 1962 World's Fair. "When

1: "When people think of Seattle Center they think of that roof, so it made sense to save that," Johnsen says. "Underneath that roof, we are building a brand new arena."

2: The renovation involves digging out enough earth below the iconic roofline to double the interior space of the arena.

3: Johnsen got to know how passionately people love baseball while he led the planning and construction of the Mariners' baseball stadium. "Baseball has been a part of the rhythm of my life since Safeco," he says.





“I’m the conductor. Everyone from the contractors to the engineers to the designers all have to work well together. The only way to accomplish these large tasks is through really strong teamwork.”

people think of Seattle Center they think of that roof, so it made sense to save that,” Johnson says. “Underneath that roof, we are building a

brand new arena.”

Recognizing the importance of preserving the aesthetics of the roof doesn’t diminish the challenges that come with retaining the recognizable canopy: It would have been far easier to demolish it. Excavating the earth underneath the roof was akin to “building a ship in a bottle,” one of the project’s principals told NHL.com.

Trussing the 44-million-pound roof during the renovation was by far the most vexing aspect of the new arena project. In January the roof itself was “floating” on temporary footings and work began this spring to reconnect the roof to its new support columns. When the renovation is complete 600,000 cubic yards, or about 40,000 truckloads of dirt will have been excavated to double the interior space of the old Key Arena, which for years was the NBA’s smallest. The 800,000-square-foot interior of the new arena will have room for 17,400 hockey spectators and seating for 18,600 at WNBA (and hopefully, NBA) games.

These herculean efforts aren’t just about preserving ephemeral, intangible, and nostalgic notions from a bygone era; these structures exist in our collective imagination and are the essence of what constitutes the soul of urban environments. This endeavor to preserve the soul of Seattle for future generations is what Johnson sees as the unique challenge of his work, safeguarding the delicate and enduring memories wrought in the concrete and steel renovations of iconic landmarks.

When it’s complete next year, Climate Pledge Arena, whose naming rights were purchased by Amazon, will be the world’s first certified net-zero carbon arena and powered by 100 percent renewable electricity. Even the hockey rink will be made from frozen reclaimed rainwater.

“I’ve been going to the Seattle Center since I was 10. And now my sons and daughter go there, too,” Johnson says. “That’s why I enjoy doing what I do, giving the public opportunities to create memories. Besides the actual physical structure, there’s

the nature of the building and what it means to the community.”

Johnson knew this, too, when he managed the renovation of Pike Place Market. During the first phase Johnson and his team had to replace all of the electrical and plumbing infrastructure. They set about doing it by first asking, “How do we work the problem and allow the market to stay open, and get the work done efficiently, and also not make it inconvenient for those who are shopping?”

The Climate Pledge Arena project has further cemented Johnson’s reputation for tackling complex engineering challenges, but Johnson insists that he’s just really adept at getting people to work in unison on large tasks “I’m the conductor. Everyone from the contractors to the engineers to the designers all have to work well together,” he says. “I truly think my best strength is finding really good, smart, talented people. All along I’ve known I’m not going to know everything. I always knew to find really good people and put them on my team.”

Today, Johnson is also a trusted team member at Western, where he was a commencement speaker in 2018 and serves on the Huxley College Dean’s Advisory Board. He was also part of a strategic planning group for President Sabah Randhawa when he first arrived at Western.

Johnson is particularly excited about his work as a founding board member of Western’s Salish Sea Institute, an interdisciplinary program exploring the political, cultural, Indigenous and scientific issues that affect the region. “I’m convinced it will grow into one of the premier programs at Western,” Johnson says.

While each of their Seattle building projects have had uncommon challenges, Johnson and his staff have always started by asking what the community values and challenging themselves to envision the space far into the future.

“All of these projects mean a lot to people,” Johnson says, “and I’m honored to be the steward of those interactions that the community will have with these structures on a daily basis for decades to come.”

Amy Loeffler is a freelance writer based in southwest Virginia with nearly a decade of communications and marketing experience in higher education.

Preserving the Soul of Seattle

Ken Johnson’s work includes some of Seattle’s most recognizable landmarks.



Pike Place Market, 2009-2013: “The Pike Place Market is a revered public landmark. Everyone in Seattle feels like they own it. The challenge for this project was how do we make sure that we don’t tamper with the existing atmosphere of the market that everyone knows and loves. The new Market Place project was the first new project the Market had done in decades.

We had to respect the culture of the old facility, but build it new and make it so it fit the existing aesthetic. That’s a tricky thing for designers to pull off. And they did.”



Photo by Sean Airhart

Seattle Opera Center, 2018: “The interesting thing about the Seattle Opera project was that historically operas did not like to show the back-of-house space to visitors. We made the back-of-house space a bit more transparent so the public could see the offices, the rehearsal rooms, and the costume shop to get an idea of all the things that have to be done to put on an opera.



Photo by Benjamin Benschneider

King Street Station, 2013: “Train travel was so important to the development of the Pacific Northwest and people are deeply passionate about train travel here. When people travel by train they have a distinct image of not only what train stations look like but also the feelings they evoke. We took the knowledge of what train stations were like in their heyday and incorporated those concepts into the renovation of King Street Station.”



Seattle Central Waterfront and Elliott Bay Seawall Project, 2017: Johnson treated the daunting \$370M seawall replacement project as a problem to be worked. The challenge was to replace the failing seawall while keeping out the water from Puget Sound from the west and the city’s rainwater runoff from the east. The project spanned 26 city blocks and was a key element of the overall transformation of the Seattle waterfront. Johnson also managed the team that prepared the design of the park and roadway for Seattle’s Central Waterfront after the Alaskan Way Viaduct was removed

WWU GIVE DAY 2020



1960 — Bob Storms, BAE, music education and '68, M.Ed., music, is a musician and retired music teacher who was named Outstanding Music Teacher in the San Juan District in 2000. Since retiring, he's kept up his lifelong hobby of songwriting and is nearing his 1500th song. "At age 81, I look forward to reaching my goal of 1500 songs and tunes in copyright," he writes, "and then setting my new goal at 2000." Storms also recently published his first book, "School Stories: The Funny Thing about Music," with vignettes from his 40-year career teaching music in public schools. He also keeps up with The Birch Bay Band, an annual music reading session for band directors that has been going since 1958.

1966 — Jim Pearson, BAE, English – elementary; '75, MED, secondary, has a 50-year running streak. Pearson, retired Ferndale High School cross-country coach and member of the WWU Athletics Hall of Fame, has run a mile or more every day since Feb. 15, 1970, through illness, terrible weather, and now worldwide pandemic.

1967 — John R. Richardson, BAE, special education and history, '77, M.Ed., elementary education, is a retired elementary school teacher, college instructor, educational consultant and career coach who recently wrote a book, "Perseverance: Paddling the Mackenzie River" about his trip with three other paddlers canoeing 900 miles in Alaska.

1969 — Lavone Newell-Reim, BFA, art, and '75, M.Ed., art, and **Cathy Pearson Stevens**, '75, B.S., visual communication, teamed up to produce "The Barn Shows 1987-2003: In Their Own Words," a book that chronicles 18 years of art exhibits in the Skagit Valley, beginning in La Conner in 1986 and continuing annually at The Barn on Newell-Reim's property on Fir Island.

1973 — Mike Compton, BAE, PE – exercise and sport science, was inducted into the Washington State Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame.

1974 — David New, B.S.,

interdisciplinary concentration and geology, and his wife **Darlina New**, '72, B.A., anthropology and '78 M.Ed., science education, and their family recently received the Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award from the American Tree Farm System for their efforts to restore a portion of critical watershed on their 165-acre property, Nourse Tree Farm in Bellingham. **Theresa Marshall Schroeder**, BAE, was recently honored with a Gold Medal by the American Dahlia Society for her service as general secretary of their volunteer board.

1977 — Heather Richendrfer, B.A., home economics, was selected for the adjudication panel at the 2019 World Highland Dance Championships in Dunoon, Scotland. Her dance school, the Clan Heather Dancers, is also celebrating its 45th anniversary of Scottish and Irish dance in the Pacific Northwest. She is executive director of the Scottish Dance Society presenting the annual Bellingham Scottish Gathering. She is also a life member of the British Association of Teachers of Dance and her tenure on the Scottish

Official Board of Highland Dancing judging panel has presented opportunities to judge events around the world. **George Trudeau**, B.A., music – performance, recently announced he plans to retire this summer as director of the Center for the Performing Arts at Penn State University.

1979 – Monica Ewing, BAE, physical education, and '82, M.Ed., physical education, was recently elected president of the Washington state association of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors. She has been the benefits manager for Durney Insurance, Inc., in Hoquiam for 13 years.

1980 — Beaming Books recently published "Someday We Will: A Book for Grandparents and Grandchildren," by **Pam Webb**, B.A., recreation. "Someday We Will" is a picture book about grandchildren and grandparents counting the days until they can be together again and have fun adventures.

1981 — Ted Pratt, B.A., theatre and

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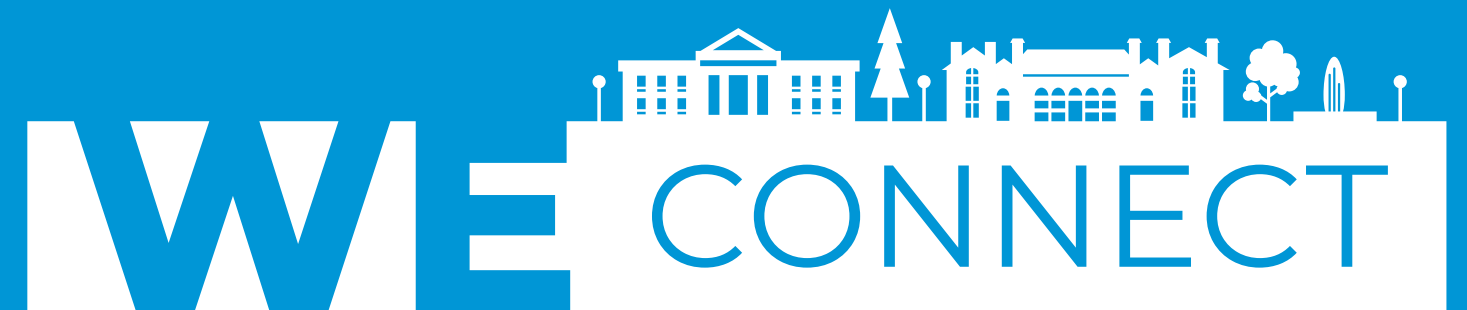
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730 GIFTS totaling **\$125,000**

To date, **163 students** have received more than **\$100,000** in Student Emergency grants

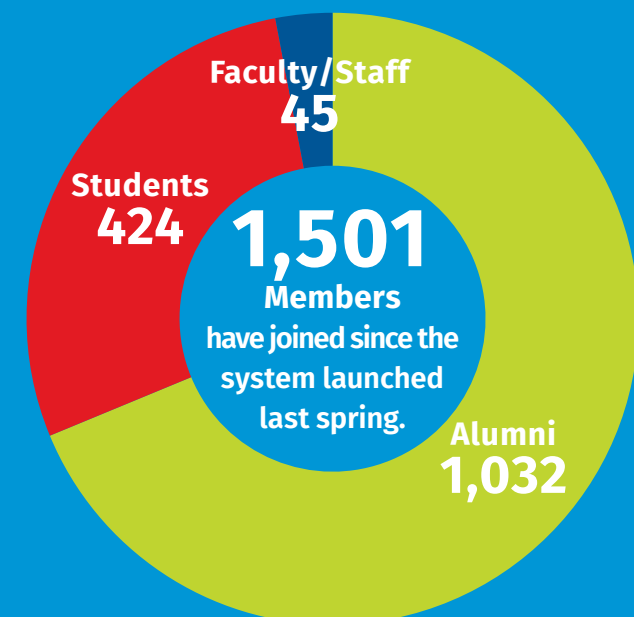


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'93, M.Ed., student personnel administration, recently retired after 32 years at Western and as the longtime dean of students. The Western Foundation is raising funds to endow the Ted Pratt Dean of Students Diversity & Leadership Scholarship. Learn more at www.vikingfunder.com/ **Ted Pratt**, B.A., business administration, is the CEO of Copiers Northwest, where his brother, **Gregg Petrie**, B.A., business administration, is president.

1982 — Greg Cox, B.A., chemistry, had a book published in January, "The X-Men and the Avengers: Gamma Quest," an omnibus volume of a trilogy of Marvel Comics novels that were originally published in the 1990s. **Linda A. (Vandlac) Smith**, M.A., speech communication, retired in 2019 after a nearly 42-year teaching career. For the last 30 years, she taught communication studies at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon, where she created an online speech lab, coordinated the Center for Learning and Teaching, edited the faculty newsletter and served as department chair and division chair. Now, she is looking forward to spending more time traveling, writing, and volunteering locally.

1984 — Natalie Wilson, B.Mus., music education, teaches at Grass Valley Elementary School in Camas, where she coordinates one of the nation's only elementary-level vocal jazz ensembles. She's also the chair of the national Jazz Education Network's K-8 Education Committee, encouraging more music teachers to teach jazz music to kids in the earlier grades. She was recently inducted into the Washington Music Educators Association Hall of Fame.

1985 — Mark Perry, BAE, history – secondary education, recently became director of teaching and learning at Moses Lake Christian Academy. **Jeff Todahl**, BAE, school health education, is an associate professor in the Couples and Family Therapy Program in the University of Oregon's College of Education. **Janice Keller**, B.A., journalism, recently became the communications director for the city of Bellingham.

1988 — Tim DeJong, B.A., political science, is an attorney in Portland who recently recovered \$234.6 million on behalf of investors in the largest settlement of a securities fraud case in Oregon history.

1989 — MaryAlice Wallis, B.A., speech-language pathology & audiology, recently became the mayor of Longview. **Maren Haavig**, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary

concentration, was recently selected as the interim vice provost for the University of Alaska Southeast, where she's also an associate professor of accounting.

1990 — Karla Sperber, B.A., business administration, recently became vice president of human resources for Staypineapple hotels.

1993 — Greg Baker, M.Ed., secondary education, was recently named the 2020 Superintendent of the Year by the Washington Association of School Administrators.

1994 — The Rev. Leonisa Ardizzone, M.Ed., secondary education, recently became the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills. She is also a musician and jazz vocalist who performs with her own quartet and an adjunct assistant professor at Vassar College.

1996 — The premiere of the play "So Damn Proud," about two Squamish Nation siblings and written by **Justin Neal**, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, was postponed to 2021 in Vancouver, B.C. Neal has presented the play at stage readings at Seattle Repertory Theatre and at the Native Voices Annual Retreat and Festival of New Plays at the Autry Museum in Los Angeles. Disney-Hyperion recently published "If We Were Giants" a middle-grades book co-authored **Clete Barrett Smith**, BAE, English – secondary, who is also an English teacher at Burlington-Edison High School. Smith has published six books for kids – this is his first project with musician and co-author Dave Matthews. **Bryan Woodward**, B.A., communication, journalism, is managing director of the Horseshoe Bay Resort on Lake LBJ in Texas Hill Country. **Bruce Dear**, B.A., theatre, produced "Between the Notes," a documentary about musicians and music in New Orleans, now available for viewing on Amazon Prime.

1997 — Ina Howell, principal's certificate, is a retired Seattle Public Schools administrator and recently received the National Educators Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Alliance of Black School Educators. **Joel Runnels**, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, speech language pathology and audiology, is a doctoral student at University of North Dakota recently received a Fulbright Specialist Award to work on his dissertation on Andrew Foster, a deaf African American missionary who established 32 schools for the deaf in 13 African nations. **Steve Kirkelie**, B.A., journalism – public relations, political science, was recently appointed city manager of

Puyallup, where he had been serving as interim city manager since July 2019.

1999 — Nancy Boutte Finn, B.A., general studies, recently became the chief development officer at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Before that, she worked at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. **Darren Orange**, B.A., art, is an artist with a studio on the Columbia River in Astoria. A collection of his work, "Those Who Step Into the Same Rivers," was recently exhibited in the Oregon Governor's Office.

2000 — Chris Adams, B.A., communication, is president of the Northwest Chron's and Colitis Foundation. Earlier this year he spoke at TEDxBig Sky about his journey with the disease and how it helped him connect to a world he had never imagined. Adams works closely with Pearl Jam's Mike McCready, who also has Chron's disease, to raise awareness and funds for a cure. Adams is president of Hockey Talkter records, McCready's small vinyl record label.

2001 — Peter Osvaldik, B.A., accounting and B.S., cellular and molecular biology, was promoted to chief financial officer at T-Mobile, where he had been the company's senior vice president for finance and chief accounting officer. **Jeremy Pataky**, B.A., English – writing, lives in Alaska, where he publishes Edible Alaska magazine and directs 49 Writers, a literary nonprofit. University of Alaska Press recently published his debut collection of essays and poems, "Overwinter."

2002 — Drew Hamilton, B.A., recreation, is president of the Friends of the McNeil River, leading their fight against the Pebble Mine project in Alaska, and works as a wildlife guide in Manitoba. He recently co-authored "BEARS of the Alaska Peninsula" to raise awareness about the region's bear habitat and the potential impacts of the mine project. **Sarah Aronson**, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, won the 2018 New American Poetry Prize from New American Press, which recently published her debut poetry collection, "And Other Bodiless Powers." Aronson, a graduate of the University of Montana's MFA program, is the host of "The Write Question" on Montana Public Radio.

2003 — Jake Licht, B.A., management information systems and East Asian studies, recently became the CEO of Baden Sports, a sporting goods company in Renton. He had served as the company's chief operating officer since 2011. **Ryan Simmons**, B.S.,

environmental science, is a project manager for Seattle City Light, overseeing fisheries projects studying trout and mountain whitefish populations native to the lower Pend Oreille River. The Ohio State University Press in February published "Just an Ordinary Woman Breathing," a lyric essay collection by **Julie Marie Wade**, M.A., English, as part of its 21st Century Essay Series. **Dian Ver Valen**, B.A., journalism, recently became editor of the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin. She has been at the Union-Bulletin since 2015, most recently as news editor.

2004 — "The Good Way: A Himalayan Journey" by **Julie Tate-Libby**, M.A., anthropology, was recently published by Koehler Books, recounts her solo trek in the Himalayas at age 19, her stay in a Buddhist nunnery near Mount Everest, and her search for a deeper faith. Tate-Libby taught a course at Western in Himalayan culture and ecology in 2016 and now teaches sociology and anthropology at Wenatchee Valley College. **Chris Kowitz**, B.S., environmental science, recently became the North Central Region manager of the Oregon Water Resources Department, overseeing the allocating of water and inspection of wells in the Umatilla, Lower John Day, Lower Deschutes and Hood River basins.

2005 — Alex Ramel, B.A., planning and environmental policy, was appointed to represent the 40th Legislative District in the Washington State House of Representatives. He replaces Jeff Morris, who resigned in November 2019. **Caitlin Unsell**, B.A., journalism – public relations, recently opened Neko, Bellingham's first cat café. She also founded the Neko cat café in downtown Seattle. **Kathryn Kegel**, B.S., environmental science, is a senior aquarist at the Seattle Aquarium. "The Sun is a Compass: A 4,000-Mile Journey into the Alaskan Wilds," by **Caroline Van Hemert**, M.A., English, won the 2019 Banff Book Competition Awards for Adventure Travel. Van Hemert wrote about her six-month self-powered odyssey from Bellingham into the Alaskan wilderness with her husband **Patrick Farrell**, '04, B.A., art-sculpture. **Derek Thornton**, B.A., economics/political science and '12, MBA, was recently named senior vice president and chief financial officer of Peoples Bank. He's also vice president of the board of directors for Lydia Place in Bellingham. **Theresa Sheldon**, B.A., law and diversity, is working with the Democratic National Committee as Native American Political Director. Sheldon is also a former member of the Tulalip Tribes Council.

2006 — Casey Mullin, B.Mus., music – performance, head of Cataloging and Metadata Services at Western Libraries, won two awards in 2019, including the Richard S. Hill Award from the Music Library Association for his scholarly work and the Esther J. Piercy Award from the American Library Association for his contributions and leadership in library and technical services.

2007 — Philip Dierking, B.A., communication, is a video producer and multimedia journalist based in Washington, D.C. After several years teaching English in Europe and Africa, Dierking moved to Washington, D.C. and joined Voice of America as a digital writer reporting on education, environmental issues, arts and culture. Now, he's in VOA's Africa Division where he produces television shows on health, news, and entertainment. He also recently completed a documentary on global child marriage.

Kate Gould, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, recently became the senior policy advisor to U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, D-California. Previously, Gould was a foreign policy fellow at the Congressional Progressive Caucus. **Andrew Eakin**, B.A., economics/political science, has spent about a decade in agribusiness and recently became a sales rep for Firestone Pacific Foods in Vancouver, Washington. He also just spent his eighth season volunteering with the White Pass Ski Patrol. **Stefan Kalb**, B.A., economics, is a serial entrepreneur whose latest venture, Shelf Engine, provides demand forecasting for perishable foods so that grocery stores and supermarkets can reduce food waste. **Megan Crumpacker**, B.A., business administration – marketing, is the vice president of Franchise Marketing and Integrated Planning for Lucasfilm, where she is responsible for marketing and strategy for the "Star Wars" franchise.

2009 — Warren Weigel, B.S. electronics engineering technology, earned his Master of Engineering in electrical engineering from Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, in December. He also passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering Fundamentals of Engineering examination and earned the title Engineer in Training. **Julie Stone**, B.A., psychology and B.S. PE-sport psychology, is the youth leadership manager at North Cascades Institute. **Kathryn Eyraud**, B.S., environmental science, earned a law degree in 2012 from Roger Williams University School of Law and is now an attorney in the Olympia and Centralia offices of Althausen Rayan Abbarno. Previously, she was a family law facilitator and family juvenile

court improvement program coordinator in Clallam County Superior Court.

2010 — Kim Harris, M.Ed., student affairs administration, owns Distinctive Voice Consulting, a diversity, equity, inclusion, cultural and bias awareness training and consulting business in Bellingham. She recently received the 2020 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Building Award. **Sam Milne**, B.A., history, is the head brewer at the new Brick West Brewing Co. in Spokane, which he helped design. Previously, Milne was the head brewer at Kulshan Brewing in Bellingham and trained at the Siebel Institute in Chicago, Doemens Academy in Munich through the World Brewing Academy. **Jake Koppenberg**, B.A., general studies, has returned to competitive golf and plays in U.S. Golf Association amateur events. He recently made it to the quarterfinals at the 2019 Mid-Amateur Championship at Colorado Golf Club southeast of Denver. **Carina Kuo**, B.S., manufacturing engineering technology, is the owner and chief operating officer of SportsArt America, which specializes in energy-generating fitness equipment. Also at the company are Marketing Manager **Britt Harris**, '15, B.A., marketing, and Product Manager **Matt Thorsen**, '13, B.S., kinesiology and '17, M.S., kinesiology.

2011 — Laura Bohórquez Garcia, B.A., Spanish and American cultural studies, is the director of the Undocumented Student Center at U.C. Davis. Bohórquez Garcia, who has a Master of Education degree from Loyola University Chicago, co-founded and co-chaired the Undocumented Immigrant and Allies Knowledge Community within the National Association for Student Affairs in Higher Education, and worked as the education equity coordinator at United We Dream. The Tacoma-Cienfuegos Sister City Committee selected **Stephanie Skaggs**, B.A., English literature and '13, MIT, for its first travel fellowship to Cuba. Skaggs, who teaches English and social studies at the Science and Math Institute of Tacoma, traveled to Cuba over winter break. **Matthew Moroney**, B.S., environmental science, is the co-founder and chief operating officer of Raise Green, a financial technology platform that enables people to invest in community clean energy projects and other projects aimed at climate solutions.

2012 — Rachel Lerman, B.A., journalism, recently joined the Washington Post as a breaking news technology reporter. Previously, she covered technology for the Associated Press, the Seattle Times and the Puget Sound



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Business Journal.

2013 — Tavish M. Brown, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, is a graduate of Boston University School of Law and recently became a construction law associate at Hinkley Allen in Manchester, New Hampshire.

2014 — Disability Rights Washington awarded its 2020 Breaking Barriers Award for Advocacy to **Josh Galassi**, B.A., journalism – public relations, a writer for the LGBTQ news website Queerty, where Galassi has profiled several disability advocates and now writes a column, "disgaybled," that covers a variety of topics relating to disability, sexuality, relationships and ableism.

2015 — Paul Heller, B.A., international business and German, lives in Slovenia and works as a regulation and compliance assistant for GEN-I, an energy trading company and one of the fastest growing energy companies in Europe.

2016 — Rachel Roll, B.A., communication sciences and disorders, is a hearing aid specialist as well as a

freelance makeup artist and body painter.

2017 — Arlen Coiley, B.A., Fairhaven interdisciplinary concentration, is the chef de cuisine and partner in a new Bellingham restaurant, Stora Cucina.

2018 — After graduation, Leah Sauter, B.A., history, moved to Israel to pursue a master's degree at the Weiss-Livnat Program for Holocaust studies at the University of Haifa. Then she completed an internship at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York City, where she translated survivor testimonies from Yiddish to English. Now, she's interning at the Virginia Holocaust Museum.

2019 — Allayana Darrow, B.A., journalism – public relations, covers crime and public safety for The Sheridan Press in Wyoming.

Campus School — Joel Connelly recently announced his retirement from seattlepi.com — he started at the Seattle Post-Intelligencer newspaper in 1973 and has covered local and national politics, energy, education as both a reporter and columnist.



Holly Bammert, '10, BAE, special education, and Alex Mittelstaedt, '08, B.A., finance, were married on Nov. 8, 2019, in New York City.

Weddings

Holly Bammert, '10, BAE, special education, and Alex Mittelstaedt, '08, B.A., finance, on Nov. 8, 2019, in New York City.

Allison Andrews, '11, B.A., economics/environmental studies, and Anderson Beebe on July 13, 2019, in Mazama.

Jade Coppiters, '14, B.A., politics/philosophy/economics and Samuel Dunlap, '14, B.S., computer science, on April 7, 2019, in Arlington, Virginia.

Sean Daniel Leaverton and Malia Elizabeth Zurcher, '19, MiT, on July 27, 2019, in Naches.

Obituaries

1938 — Nancy E. Wilson Piovesan, 92, who worked in her husband's veterinary practice, was a partner at Bellingham Travel and served as a community volunteer, on Aug. 25, 2019, in Bellingham.

1949 — Norma Hall, 91, retired from 31 years working for the Skagit County Assessor's Office, on June 16, 2019.

1955 — Donald Dean Jones, 85, a retired science teacher and professor, on Oct. 1, 2019, in Shelton.

1956 — John Bannecker, 88, a retired industrial arts teacher who worked with special needs youth in Seattle Schools, on Oct. 12, 2019, in Shoreline. Barbara Harnden, 84, a retired real estate agent, on Oct. 30, 2019. Robert Suggs, 85, a retired teacher, football and baseball coach, and commercial fisher who served on the Fraser River Panel of the Pacific Salmon Commission and was involved with the implementation of the 1985 Pacific Salmon Treaty, on Nov. 19, 2019, in Lynden.

1957 — Patricia Morton, 84, on Oct. 16, 2019. Ellis Hosmer Robinson, 89, a U.S. Navy veteran who ran print shops, on Nov. 3, 2019, in Wenatchee.

1958 — Kathleen Mae Kreiss, 83, a longtime high school teacher in Edmonds and Shoreline who later worked in human services at the Bitter Lake Family Center, on Nov. 10, 2019. Winston Earl Pearson, 86, retired teacher, principal and superintendent of Napavine schools who later worked as director of student teachers for Grays Harbor County schools, on June 3, 2019, in Yakima.

1959 — Edward Earl Cotter, 94, a U.S. Army veteran and retired social worker, on Oct. 22, 2019. Lucille Marie (Gilliam) McCurdy, 82, who taught for several years in Auburn, on Aug. 26, 2019.

1960 — Don Rice, 81, a retired math and science teacher in New York, on Oct. 12, 2019, in Clearwater, Florida.

1961 — Rosemary Dahlquist, 79, on Aug. 12, 2019, in Bellingham. Truman William Nybakken, 83, who worked for Boeing, EG&G, and Delco, on April 6, 2019. Roy Reichert, 83, a U.S. Army veteran who worked as an FHA appraiser, on Nov. 1, 2019.

1962 — Donald Haase, 80, a retired math teacher, on Dec. 6, 2019. Bill Mortimer, 79, a math teacher in the Longview School District who served on the Board of Trustees for Lower Columbia College, on Dec. 4, 2019. Mary Smelling, 92, of Port Angeles, on Aug. 27, 2019.

1964 — Sandra Strom Mannick, 78, a musician and longtime Bothell resident, on Nov. 9, 2019. Dennis Jerome Pearson, 81, a retired math teacher and commercial fisher, on Dec. 4, 2019, in Oak Harbor. Gary Swanson, 76, a longtime teacher and coach at Castle Rock High School in Cowlitz County, on April 23, 2019.

1965 — Carol Ann Kramer, 78, a retired elementary school teacher for South Kitsap schools, on Aug. 13, 2019. Ann Margaret Donovan Moore, 78, a retired middle school English teacher in Anacortes, on Nov. 4, 2019, in Olympia. Patricia May Skene, 76, a retired teacher who worked in Federal Way, Walla Walla, Beaverton and Saudi Arabia, on Oct. 10, 2019, in Beaverton, Oregon.

1966 — Rudy Baerg, 87, retired music faculty member at Columbia Bible College and the founder of the Valley Festival Singers in Abbotsford, B.C., on Sept. 17. Lance Van Brocklin,

79, retired from Trident Seafoods in Alaska operations quality control, on Oct. 22, 2019.

1967 — Mary "Pat" Call, 100, a retired teacher and community volunteer who served in the Women's Air Service Pilots during World War II, on Oct. 17, 2019. Dennis W. Graham, 77, a retired elementary teacher for the Kelso School District, on Oct. 25, 2019. Darlene Joy Page, 80, a retired teacher, on Nov. 15, 2019, in Bellingham.

1968 — Margaret Gayle Inouye, 73, a retired librarian, on Oct. 16, 2019, in Hilo, Hawaii.

1969 — James William Abbott, 72, who worked as a lawyer and later in commercial construction and development, on Oct. 15, 2019. Karen Dee Barnard, 71, a retired third-grade teacher in the Snohomish School District, on Jan. 10, 2019. Leonard Charles Blauvelt, 78, who worked for the Nisqually Indian Tribe and at Yelm High School, on July 11, 2019. Michael Harmon Davenport, 75, a professional musician and music teacher in Bellingham, Yakima and Tacoma schools and in his own studio, on June 30, 2019, in Tacoma. Kathryn "Kit" O'Connor, 72, a retired teacher of 31 years in Olympia and Bellingham, on Sept. 5, 2019, in Bellingham. Duane Wilcox, 75, a retired lieutenant with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, on Jan. 18, 2019.

1970 — Maxine Strege, 71, who worked for 35 years in education in Washington and Minnesota, on March 19, 2020, in Little Falls, Minnesota.

1971 — Stan Dodd, 69, an exploration geologist, on Aug. 18, 2019. Katherine Grace (Hicks) Green, 71, who worked as a police and ambulance dispatcher and later a substance abuse counselor, on June 30, 2019, in Kent. Evelyn Larsen, 92, a retired teacher in Sacramento, on Oct. 25, 2019, in Provo, Utah. Roge Roush, 75, an actor, ESL teacher and casino worker, on Nov. 12, 2019. Clarence Zylstra, 89, a U.S. Army veteran, dairy farmer, 38-year faculty member at Whatcom Community College, and former board member of Lynden Christian School, the Lynden Pioneer Museum and other organizations, on Dec. 7, 2019.

1972 — Richard Lyle Boyd, 68, a longtime art teacher and coach in Port Angeles who later ran a bed and breakfast inn with his wife, on Jan. 7, 2019. Jim Folsom, 72, a longtime resident of Henderson, Nevada, on April 6, 2019.

"Someday We Will: A Book for Grandparents and Grandchildren," by Pam Webb, '80, is an unexpectedly timely picture book about the generations counting the days until they can be together again for fun adventures.

1974 — Charles C. Doughty, 72, on April 9, 2019. Ronald Lee Martini, 67, a retired elementary school teacher in Wyoming, Utah, and the Las Vegas Valley, on Nov. 26, 2019. Jan Susan Zidell-Dahl, 67, a 40-year teacher in the Bethel School District, on Nov. 15, 2019.

1975 — Olga Beth "Betty" Anderson Speer, 91, a retired teacher in Seattle, on June 17, 2019. Michael Swanson, 77, a U.S. Army veteran, on Dec. 18, 2019. Judy Robards Taylor, 68, a retired teacher, counselor and high school psychologist who also was a veterinary assistant for the World Canine Health Organization, on Dec 16, 2019.

1976 — Betty Merner Chamberlin, 94, who worked in human services, on July 25, 2019.

1977 — Catherine Rose Mesich, 67, who worked for the Washington State Department of Transportation, on June 11, 2019, in Vancouver, Washington.

1978 — Douglas W. Taylor, 65, on Sept. 26, 2019.

1980 — Gilbert Erickson, 62, who worked for Holland America Cruise Line for 35 years, on Nov. 17, 2019, in Coupeville. Katherine Ann Graves, 94, an artist and signature member of the Northwest Pastel Society, on Jan. 27, 2019, in Redmond. Lee Lowe, 95, a retired elementary school teacher in Everett schools, on July 21, 2019. Gretchen A. Ludwig, 70, a retired teacher and administrator in public and Catholic schools, on Jan. 8, 2019 in Inverness, Illinois. Stacy Jo (Lindgren) Rapp, 61, who worked in the banking industry, on Dec. 31, 2019, in Everett.

1981 — Donald John Overmiller II, 62, a pharmacist, on Nov. 4, 2019.

1982 — Don Axworthy, 62, a scientist who spent more than 30 years developing cancer therapies and was a leading authority on multi-step radioisotope targeting in the treatment of cancer, on Sept. 19, 2019. Jeff Phillips, 60, a pediatric dentist, on June 14, 2019.

1983 — Larry Keith Jones, 67, who ran a newspaper distribution business in Whatcom County and wrote a book about his humanitarian work in El Salvador, on June 14, 2019.

1985 — Lance Harris, 60, a painting contractor who sometimes worked as a stuntman in the entertainment industry, on Feb. 1, 2019. Stanley Sakamoto, 58, a U.S. Air Force veteran, on July 29, 2019.

1986 — Janis L. Harnden, 58, on Dec. 12, 2019. Patricia A. Sanders, 87, a former judge for the city of Hamilton, Montana, on Feb. 9, 2020, in Phoenix.

1988 — Roger Flotre, 81, who worked at Georgia Pacific and at WWU, on Feb. 16, 2019.

1989 — Mark Amano, 61, a water treatment chemist, on Dec. 11, 2019, in Mount Vernon. Steve Milward, 63, on July 18, 2019. Robert Alan Robinson, 61, a skilled boater and U.S. Navy veteran who established and ran Signature Yachts on Seattle's Lake Union, on Sept. 15, 2019, in Seattle.

1991 — Teresa Birkeland-Roebke, 53, on July 8, 2019. Jim "Jamie" Blevins, 56, who was a doctoral student in anthropology at the University of Utah and taught for many years at Salt Lake Community College, on May 21, 2019, in Salt Lake City.

1992 — Charles V. Mutschler, 63, interim dean of Libraries at Eastern Washington University, and chair of the Cheney Historic Preservation Commission, on March 10, 2019, near Spokane.

1993 — Thomas Keith, 56, who ran Flickers Coffeehouse in Helena, Montana, and later worked for Conduent, on Dec. 4, 2019.

1994 — Phillip I. Bakke, 49, a FEMA regional manager and state liaison, on Nov. 26, 2019, on South Whidbey Island.

1995 — James Werle, 47, executive director of the Community Anchor Program at Internet2, on Sept. 19, 2019.



1996 — Timothy R. Kirchgatter, 51, on Dec. 6, 2019, in Blaine.

1998 — Victoria Collier, 71, who worked in communications for environmental organizations such as the Sonora Institute in Arizona and the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies in Colorado, and volunteered for the Democratic Party, on Feb. 2, 2020, in Boulder, Colorado.

2000 — Jennifer Lamonica, 44, a speech pathologist in the Concrete and Sedro-Woolley school districts, on Nov. 15, 2019.

2001 — Kimberly Bickle Richardson, 49, on January 27, 2019.

2002 — Curtis Clayton Jacobson, 39, a flight instructor, regional training manager in Boeing's pilot development program and former vice president of the Boeing Employee Flying Association's board of directors, on Dec. 8, 2019.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Cheryl Bishop, 71, CEO of Skagit State Bank, a longtime supporter of WWU and former member of the Western Foundation Board, on June 16, 2020, in Burlington.

Kathy F. Lundeen, professor emerita of English, a former chair of the English Department and a member of the faculty from 1991 to 2018. She was also past president of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages

Association.

Bill Roe, 69, a respected assistant coach and a fixture in the track & field and cross country program for the last 35 years, who was nationally and internationally known for his involvement in the administration of those sports, on Feb. 28, 2020, in Victoria, B.C., where he was making final preparations for the North American, Central American, Caribbean Athletics Association Cross Country Championships. Roe coached distance runners for the Vikings. His athletes set more than 20 school records and earned numerous NAIA and NCAA All-America honors.

Rod Roth, 77, one of the founders of R&D Plastics in Oregon, who established and funded three scholarships in Western's Plastics Engineering Program and supported the program for decades by hiring graduates and interns and providing materials, guest speakers and industry tours. He received the 2019 Community Volunteer Award from the Western Alumni Association.

Albert Charles Shaw, 84, chair of the Music Department from 1978 to 1998, on Oct. 14, 2019, in Bellingham. Before coming to Western, he served as dean and director of the schools of music at Pacific University in Oregon and Illinois Wesleyan University. During his time in the U.S. Navy, he was conductor of the U.S. Naval Aviation Band and Chorus in Pensacola, Florida.

A Look Back



Heroic School Nurse: School nurse May Mead, top, was one of several faculty and staff members who helped tend to ill students during the 1918 flu pandemic. Mead, along with assistant art teacher Dorothy Milne, middle, helped take care of students who lived off campus, while assistant history teacher Nora Cummings, bottom, cared for students at St. Luke's Hospital. Mead's flu-fighting power was immortalized in a cartoon in the 1919 Klipsun yearbook.

STUDENTS MOURN LOSS OF ANNE HARRISON

As school reopens this fall after the epidemic of influenza, we miss from our number one whom we were just learning to know and to love, Anne Harrison. The news that she had succumbed to the influenza was a painful surprise to her many friends at Normal.

The funeral was held at East Sound, Tuesday afternoon, October 15th. Rev. J. M. Canse officiated and Dr. Nash spoke a few words of comfort and appreciation.

Anne Ruth Harrison was born November 29, 1900, at Talgarth Farm, Spring Water, Washura County, Wis., and died October 13, 1918, at 610 Cedar street, Bellingham, Wash., the older daughter of Benj. E. Harrison and Mary E. Jones Harrison. Her brother, Thomas S. Harrison, and sister, Zoa, are still living.

Dolly, her baby name, the one used by all who knew her before her school days, still clung to her. She was an industrious, capable, generous and (Continued on Page Two)

A life cut short: Anne Harrison, known to friends as "Nanny Hoots," was 17 when she became Bellingham's first death in the 1918 flu pandemic.

Flu Fighters

Students' celebrations of the end of the Great War were cut short by the 1918 flu pandemic

Bellingham State Normal School students had a lot to look forward to in fall of 1918, with the end of the Great War in sight and hopes that they'd soon see the return of classmates who had fought in Europe.

But by October 1918, a deadly strain of influenza was hitting the Pacific Northwest. Local health authorities ordered Western's campus closed Oct. 8 and canceled the remainder of fall quarter.

That week, the students' Weekly Messenger newspaper declared that 'Spanish Influenza' is a very serious matter but very much a mystery to most of us," and offered a list of prevention tips from the U.S. Army Surgeon General that sound familiar today—cover your cough, wash your hands, avoid crowds—and a few bits of advice that remain mysterious, such as chew your food and wear well-fitting shoes. (Meanwhile, a nearby notice admonishes "slackers" to show up in

droves at a gathering to roll bandages for soldiers wounded in the war.)

"Avoid the 'Flu', Take a Good hike," offered another story, with a cheerful description of "Dorm' girls" and other students hiking a trail along Whatcom Creek: "The scramble through the woods, and over rocks and water was immensely enjoyed."

After Armistice Day Nov. 11, state and local health authorities declared the pandemic threat had eased and reopened campus Nov. 18. Fall quarter resumed and students rushed back to campus, ending the so-called "flu vacation."

"This terrible disease paid its visit to many of the Normal students," according to an item on the Nov. 23, 1918, Messenger. "Some of the students, who were taken ill before they could reach their homes outside of town, were cared for by housemothers and outside assistance."

Faculty members helped care for students in boarding houses and St. Luke's Hospital, and the Dec. 15, 1918, edition of the Messenger was dotted with reports of students, alumni and faculty out sick as the disease peaked. A student named Nora Dorsey lost both her sister and mother to the flu within a week of each other, then her house burned down a month later.

Another student was Bellingham's first 1918 flu death. Anne Ruth Harrison, 17, of Orcas Island died of pneumonia in a house on Cedar Street Oct. 13, 1918, after being ill for a week. The Weekly Messenger remembered her as a "scrupulously honest" young woman known to friends as "Nanny Hoots," with a special talent for socializing, mathematics, and taking care of little kids.

"She was good, kind, capable and young, with high hopes and bright prospects for the future."



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