

AlumniNews

WINTER 2010
WWU DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

Program takes faculty, students to Kenya

by **Shearlean Duke**
Department chair

As our small plane landed at Kisumu Airport in Kenya, Africa, we saw a dozen uniformed school girls smiling and waving. I remember thinking, "Wow, what a reception. There must be some VIPs on this flight."

As we got closer, I recognized these smiling faces from my 2008 summer at Ombogo Girls Academy, and it dawned on me: "We are the VIPs!"

At the baggage claim area, Ombogo girls swarmed us. I heard someone call my name. Then a girl hugged me, and other girls rushed to carry our bags to the waiting school bus that took us to a rural area called Homa Bay.

Eunice Adhiambo Ongato took my hand and helped me find a seat on the bus. She remembered me from last year because she was one of the girls in the Home Ec class I visited.

For me, this warm welcome epitomized the thoughts and feelings that enveloped me

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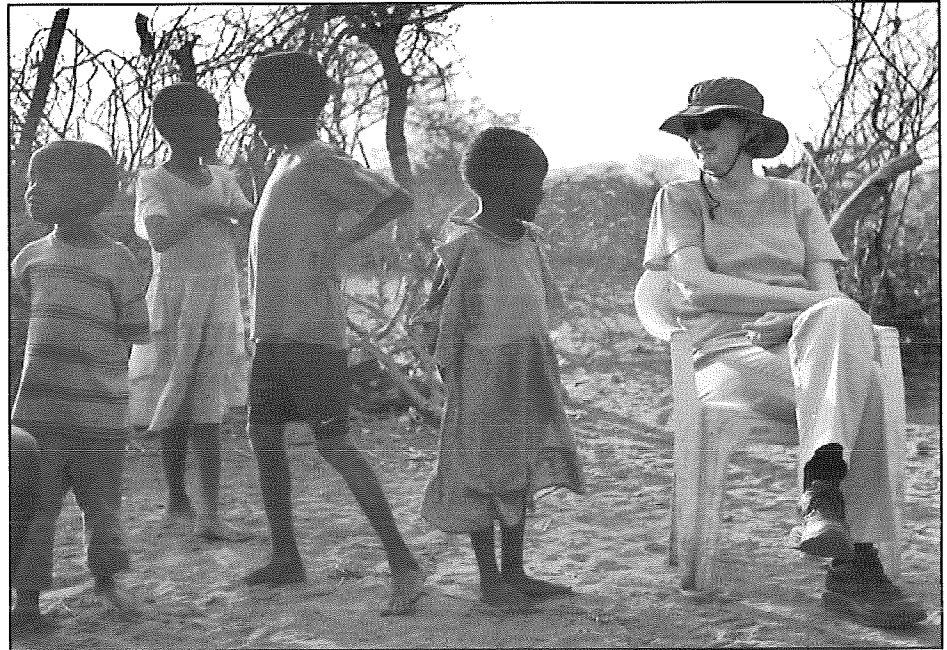


photo courtesy of Kathryn Bachen

Shearlean Duke interacts with a group of Maasai children while visiting the community of Merrueshi in July 2009.

PR students run benefit auction

Proceeds supported photojournalists faced with layoffs

by **Hannah Bostwick**
Alumni newsletter

The 2009 Bellingham Visual Journalism Conference, held on Western's campus July 17 to 18, captured the attention of more than 75 attendees with presentations by award-winning photojournalists, open forum panel discussions and multimedia workshops.

The department is planning a one-year hiatus in running the conference, and at this point is not scheduling one for the summer of 2010. The July 2009 conference adjusted to the current economic downturn by allowing photojournalists laid off within the past year to attend the second day of the conference free of charge, said Carol Brach,

BVJC



Bellingham Visual Journalism Conference
Western Washington University

conference planner and journalism department manager.

With the recent layoffs at The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, the board of directors for the conference decided to help struggling journalists by waiving the \$75 registration fee, Brach said.

Proceeds from a silent auction offset the fee for the July 18 speaker series and

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Western periodicals score SPJ awards

by Daniel O'Hair
Alumni newsletter

Western students in the Journalism Department and Huxley College showed their ability to produce quality media by winning several awards last April for their articles and their magazines.

Klipsun and The Planet were awarded first and second place respectively in the student magazine category for The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Region 10 Mark of Excellence Awards last year.

SPJ's region 10 includes all colleges and universities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and Montana.

"Western has a good track record for producing quality publications," said Bill Dietrich, adviser for The Planet. "It's fun for Klipsun and The Planet to be named first and second-best magazine because they can have friendly competition with each other."

The Planet also received two awards from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's (AEJMC) Student Magazine Contest. The magazine placed third among 17 entries for general excellence and received an honorable mention among 15 entries for design.

According to the judges' comments, (which can be found at AEJMCMagazine.asu.edu) The Planet featured some of the best features and editorial intelligence.

"The writers and editors put together some pieces that could easily run in a major magazine," the judges wrote.

In addition to the magazines, Western students Cody Gillin, Sidonie DeCassis, Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura and Mark Malijan received SPJ Region 10 Mark of Excellence student awards for their submissions.

Gillin, a senior, won third place in the magazine nonfiction category for his piece "Kangaroo: It's what's for dinner."

The article, which was published in The Planet, explores the effects of replacing cattle with kangaroos as a food source in Australia.

Gillin, who is an environmental studies major, said he was shocked when he won the award because he had never taken a journalism class prior to being on The Planet.

"Winning third place was pretty inspiring for me," Gillin said. "It goes to show that everyone should challenge themselves to do their best work; I did, and I am honored by the result."

DeCassis won second place in the same



photo courtesy of Mark Malijan

Western graduate Mark Malijan won first place in the sports photography category for his photo "Out of the hazard." He took the photo at Bellingham's Civic Stadium in April 2008.

category. Her article, "Great Pacific garbage patch," is about the world's largest heap of floating garbage, which is trapped by currents in the Pacific Ocean.

Nomura, a senior, won third place in the in-depth reporting category for "Bellingham's push to end paper or plastic."

Published in The Bellingham Business Journal, the article highlights efforts made by activists and politicians in Bellingham to remove disposable bags from stores to help protect marine life.

"I can remember waking up in the morning and making phone calls to potential sources all day," she said. "There was a lot of research involved, so getting all of the information I needed took a long time."

Malijan, who graduated in spring 2009, took first place in the sports photography category for his photo "Out of the hazard," which depicts a student running through water during a men's steeplechase track event at the Civic Stadium in Bellingham in April 2008.

"Photojournalism is a tough industry, so it is always nice to get recognized for your work," Malijan said.

Klipsun adviser Peggy Watt said Western has historically had a good record for receiving awards for student publications; she hopes to see that trend continue.

"It's always great to see students get-

ting recognized for their hard work," she said.

Submissions for the 2009 SPJ Mark of Excellence Awards are due Jan. 27, 2010.

2008 SPJ Region 10 Mark of Excellence Awards

Magazine Nonfiction Article

Second Place: Sidonie DeCassis,

"Great Pacific Garbage Patch"

Third Place: Cody Gillin,

"Kangaroo: It's what's for dinner"

Best Student Magazine

First Place: Klipsun

Second Place: The Planet

In-Depth Reporting

Third Place: Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura, "Bellingham's push to end paper or plastic"

Sports Photography

First Place: Mark Malijan, "Out of the hazard"

Olympics aren't all fun and games

Western alum and Seattle Times columnist Ron Judd investigates the 'dark side of the Olympics'

by Katherine Garvey
Newsletter editor

In his 12 years of covering the Olympics for the Seattle Times, Ron Judd, a Western alum, always knew there was something suspicious about the tickets.

A casual inquiry into the ticketing process led Judd to write a post on his Olympics blog.

"I started hearing from a lot of readers who had the same exact reaction, which made me suspect that there was a good story there underneath all of that," he said.

A year later, the Times published a four-part series by Judd and investigative reporter Christine Willmsen exploring the reasons behind exorbitant prices, sparse accommodations and preferential treatment.

"I always knew there was a big money changing hands behind the scenes on the business side of the Olympics," Judd said.

With such a localized readership, he had never covered this aspect of the Games in any detail. Now that the Olympics are taking place just across the border, these problems are hitting home, he said.

The point of the series "was to illuminate the behind-the-scenes action from the Olympics, and what they're about from a financial and business perspective," Willmsen said.

Beyond the glow of friendly competition that the Olympic torch casts over the Games, Judd and Willmsen discovered the dubious role of the "Olympic Family." This group is composed not of family of athletes but of people such as members of the International Olympic Committee and corporate sponsors.

"More than a year ago, before the

public had its first chance, Olympic Family members were allowed to pay face-value prices for up to 480,000 tickets," Judd and Willmsen wrote in "Olympic ticket monopoly freezes out the fans."

Willmsen said one of the most difficult parts of reporting the series was accessing information without the help of public records and lack of cooperation from official sources.

"At times in the beginning [the Vancouver Olympic Committee] was somewhat cooperative but refused to answer some questions," she said. "And then in the end, they refused to grant any interviews or provide any information."

After months of researching and reporting, the Times published the series starting Nov. 15, 2009.

"I don't think Ron or I expected it to be this big, but we realized there is so much valuable information there that could really educate the readers and sports fans and people who enjoy the Olympics," Willmsen said.

Readers responded, echoing the experiences that they wrote about in the series, Judd said.

Pete McMartin, a columnist for the Vancouver Sun, responded with a piece titled "Olympics lover looks at ugly truths behind the Games."

"I admired the work they had put in it," McMartin said. "I was struck by the fact that both Judd and Willmsen are both fans of the Olympics and want to come to Vancouver to watch them."

Indeed, the series has not dissuaded Judd from covering the Games.

"Knowing what I know now, it does

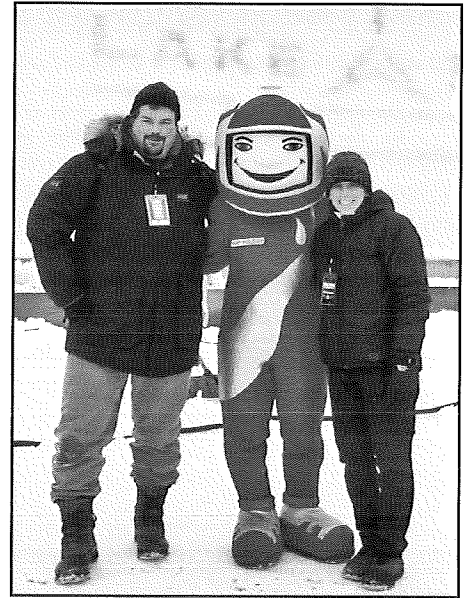


photo courtesy of Ron Judd

Ron Judd, left, with wife and fellow Olympic journalist Meri-Jo Borzilleri, at the Lake Placid Olympic bobsled track with "Bobby Bobsledder."

change my perspective a little bit," he said. "I will still appreciate them, but I think, if anything, it reinforced some of the suspicions I had about how the business of the Olympics works, and I think today that I'd be even more concerned if somebody wanted to host the Olympics in my hometown."

Judd periodically serves as an adjunct faculty member in WWU's journalism department. In February 2009, Mountaineer Books published Judd's "The Winter Olympics: An Insider's Guide to the Legends, Lore, and Events of the Games," a book describing the ins and outs of athletics at the Olympics.

From the inside looking out: backstage at the Olympics

After 12 years, six games and countless hours on buses bursting at the seams with reporters on their way to events, Seattle Times columnist Ron Judd knows the Olympics.

Western alum Judd took on the Olympics beat in 1998 for the winter games in Nagano, and he has been covering them ever since.

"You don't really have a sense of any of it until you've

actually done it," Judd, said. "I don't think you can really be prepared for your first Olympics."

With Vancouver's 86 events taking place at nine different venues in four areas of the city, it's no wonder the Olympics can be exhausting — and that isn't even counting the preparation.

While the games last only 17 days, Judd said Olympics reporters like himself spend

weeks beforehand previewing events and athletes, accumulating information to use for later reporting and scrambling to get it all done before the deadline.

"That's the biggest thing I think people aren't prepared for, is the amount of work," Judd said. "And it seems like there's more all the time because we're always on deadline now because of the Internet."

Luckily, the Olympics Committee provides transportation to ferry the media, but getting to each event can still be a challenge, he said.

"They never seemed to have enough buses," Judd said. "So if you can't get in line really early at the bus corral, you might just get left out altogether, or, worse, have to stand in the aisle of the bus for three hours."

PR students research Special Olympics

After examining the Games, students recommend ways to increase participation

by Jennifer Farrington
Alumni newsletter

In fall quarter 2008, students in Shearlean Duke's Public Relations Research and Campaigns class examined Washington's Special Olympics. After learning about the organization, students formed groups and began researching. Their

she enjoyed working on the project.

"It was kind of competitive in the class because we knew in the end they would be choosing which plan they liked the best," Melde said. "But it was great seeing our hard work pay off in the end."

To learn how familiar Western students were with the Special Olympics, Melde's

intriguing answers that helped enhance their research.

The group then presented their recommendations about how the organization could take advantage of advertising opportunities in order to get Special Olympics Washington's name into the community and increase interest in participation.

"By using these research methods of surveys and in-depth interviews, our group was able to pinpoint the reasons why people love volunteering and coaching for Special Olympics, and why more people, specifically Western students, should get more involved with the organization," she said.

Melde said near the end of their research, her group decided to have a game night at the Wade King Student Recreation Center to raise awareness for the organization.

"Our main target was Western students because we felt that they would be the most likely to want to participate and donate their time to Special Olympics," she said. "By reaching out to the public through community events on Western's campus, and through public service announcements, we figured we could increase their knowledge of how to get involved."

Bill Southern, outreach and public affairs director for Special Olympics Washington, said he found the students to be creative in their approaches and solid in their efforts to raise awareness for Special Olympics.

"Their knowledge and understanding of the influence of new or social media and being able to capitalize on that medium will help to transform communications and marketing strategies into the future," Southern said.

He said the students' ability to narrow their campaign focus to educating the community about the organization through events on Western's campus and through public service announcements was effective and promising as far as recruiting more volunteers and participants.

Looking back on the project, Melde says she gained a lot from the experience.

"It was a great way to see what it was actually like working with an organization and creating a public relations plan," she said. "It's one thing learning about it in class, but to actually apply our knowledge to a real life situation was great."

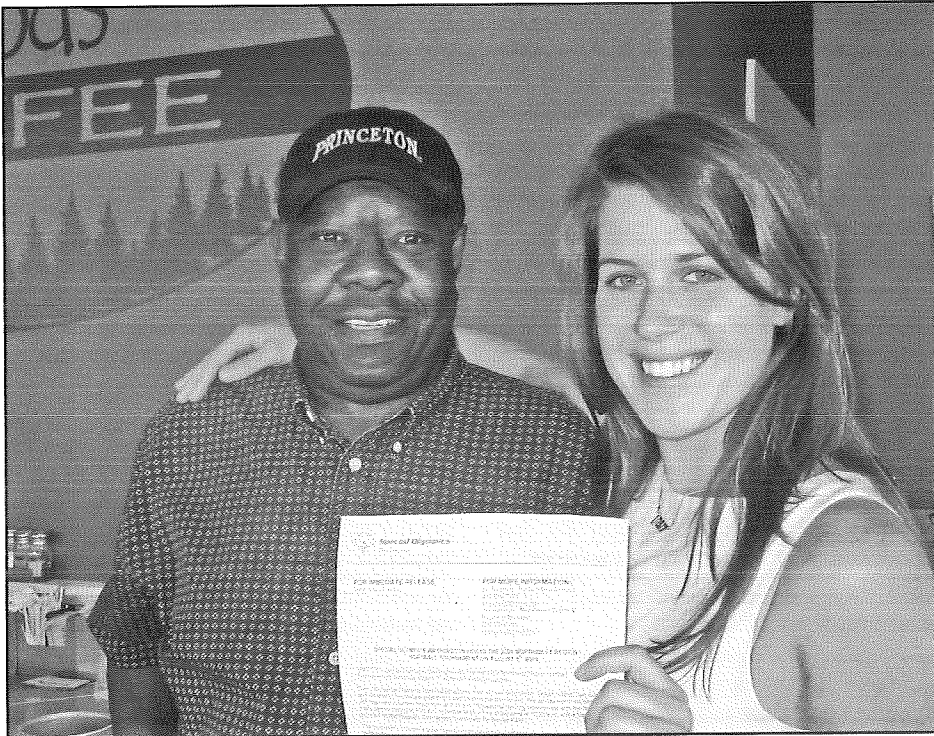


photo by Peggy Watt

Bill Southern, outreach and public affairs director for Washington's Special Olympics, poses with his summer intern, Lauren Sauser, who holds a press release she wrote.

findings were presented in May 2009 as a part of Scholars Week 2009.

Scholars Week, a celebration of undergraduate research, creativity and scholarship from all disciplines, is an annual event at Western. Scholar's Week 2010 will take place from May 17 to 21.

Each group, consisting of four students, was responsible for developing a plan designed to encourage more participation from volunteers and athletes. At the end of the quarter, the groups presented their plan to the board members of Special Olympics, who would choose the plan they felt was the most effective and beneficial to the organization.

Western graduate Amanda Melde, a member of the group whose plan was selected, said although it was stressful at times,

group surveyed students and conducted in-depth interviews, which provided an important baseline in terms of background information that the group could build from.

The survey included questions such as whether students knew what the organization was, and if they would ever consider volunteering. The group distributed 200 copies of the survey around campus.

"Actually passing out the surveys and having students fill them out didn't take very long," she said. "What took the most time and effort was going through the surveys individually and tallying up all of the answers afterward."

Melde said she remembered her group pawing through the endless stacks of surveys as they compiled and interpreted answers. She says they came across some

AUCTION: 'We absolutely exceeded our goal'

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catered lunch Newspapers and journalists from across the country donated more than 35 photographic prints to be auctioned.

"We were really fortunate," said Julia Means, director of administration for Western's Public Relations Organization

into the backseat of a car as the car door was closing, PRO member Mandi Brady said. The photograph was taken and donated by Michel du Cille of The Washington Post, who also spoke at the conference.

Toomey said another conference favorite was an autographed photo of the entire photography staff of the Seattle Post-

The bidding for most of the prints in the silent auction, which took place throughout the second day of the conference, started at \$20, with several selling for more than \$250, Means said.

The conference began with two multimedia workshops, one of which focused on producing audio slideshows and the other on shooting video, Brach said.

The speaker series on the second day of the conference comprised presentations and panel discussions by several leaders in the field of visual journalism, such as video and still photographers and online editors.

Among the speakers was three-time Pulitzer Prize winner du Cille, NPPA Region 11 Photographer of the Year Alan Berner of The Seattle Times, and Jim Seida, senior multimedia producer at MSNBC.com.

Also presenting was senior staff photographer for Getty Images, John Moore, whose photography of the assassination of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto earned him the Overseas Press Club's Capa Gold Medal for courage in photojournalism.

The conference also provided time for student journalists to have their portfolios critiqued by professionals. Conference organizers awarded prizes to the best professional and amateur portfolios, Brach said.

"The mood [of the conference] is so nice and kind and warm and welcoming," Brach said. "I have never felt such good will anywhere else."

"The mood [of the conference] is so nice and kind and warm and welcoming. I have never felt such good will anywhere else."

-Carol Brach

(PRO), which helped organize the auction. "We received way more prints than we expected."

Members of PRO began planning for the auction in mid-June by sending letters to various photojournalists and newspapers requesting donated prints, Means said.

"We absolutely exceeded our goal," PRO President Colleen Toomey said. "We were very excited to see the level of generosity and the quality of the prints donated to the auction."

Among the prints was a black and white photo of civil rights icon Rosa Parks getting

Intelligencer's print edition, which ceased publication in March 2009. The print shows the former staff standing in front of the iconic globe on the roof of The Seattle P-I

"The photo was sentimental and at the same time a little heartbreaking," Toomey said.

Another photo that drew competitive bidding was "Lull in the Battle," a Pulitzer Prize-winning shot by Jerry Gay for the Seattle Times in 1975. The photo captures the exhaustion of four volunteer firefighters after a night of duty. The print was signed by Gay and all four firefighters.



photo courtesy of PRO

Public relations students (left to right) Olivia Scalet, Kendall Mercer, Mandi Brady, Julia Means and Colleen Toomey requested prints from photojournalists and newspapers to be auctioned.

KENYA: Trip marks second visit for Duke

from page 1

during this, my second visit, to Kenya, and to Ombogo.

I was there this summer with Tim Costello, director of the Service Learning Center at WWU; Marie Eaton, professor

up an international summer service learning project between WWU and the Ombogo Girls Academy, so that we could take WWU students to work with high-school age girls, mostly AIDS orphans, who are sponsored by a local Bellingham non-profit called the Slum Doctor Programme. The program

petitive application process. Each professor would be able to take only one student because of lack of funding — but we are working on that.

As for journalism, Kathryn Bachen, visual journalism major, was selected to represent our department. Each student was chosen for skills needed to work on specific projects at the academy.

As you might expect, Kathryn worked hard. I could not believe her stamina as she took photos, shot videos, interviewed girls, produced audio, and much, much more — including even finding her own stories beyond the project itself.

She helped tell a compelling story about all the needs — not just at the school — but in an entire rural area hard hit by AIDS. She even made a university-wide presentation about her Kenya work this fall. I am proud of her and know our department is, too. So, thank you Kathryn.

“For me this warm welcome epitomized the thoughts and feelings that enveloped me during this, my second visit, to Kenya, and to Ombogo.”

-Shearlean Duke

from Fairhaven; and Kristi Tyran, associate professor, Management.

Along with some other faculty, we have been working for several years to set

sponsors the academy, as well as a pre-school and other AIDS programs in Africa.

Our goal this summer was to take WWU students chosen through a com-



photo courtesy of Kathryn Bachen

A group of Ombogo students show Western students Julie Lynch and Heather Handerson the vegetable garden that they produce as part of their agriculture class.

Bachen shares Kenya experience

Western senior Kathryn Bachen accompanied Shearlean Duke and the Slum Doctor Programme to Kenya. Armed with a camera and audio recorder, she brought back more than 4,000 photos, hours of audio and too many stories to count.

How did you get involved with the the Slum Doctor Programme?

Bachen: I was looking for a summer internship, and I had a talk with Sheila Webb. She knew about this trip Shearlean was going on with Tim [Costello, director of Western's Service Learning Center]. She encouraged me to apply for it. I just thought this was a wonderful opportunity to learn about a completely new culture and a completely new place.

Did you have any particularly memorable experiences?

Bachen: There was a community organization down the road from where we stayed. They delivered maize and flour to grandmothers who have no families and are too old to take care of themselves.

It was probably one of the most memorable experiences of that trip. I asked permission to come meet these grandmothers. These women are in their 80s and 90s, and they have a mud hut that's maybe 10 by 10 feet and a mat to sleep on. Most of them were very happy to have a visitor. It was the first time I had actually seen the effects of HIV/AIDS.

The generation after them has been completely removed because of this epidemic. Without the kindness of strangers and this organization they would probably starve to death. The parents have died, and there are so many orphans.

One woman had had five children and 20 grandchildren; of all those people, one grandchild was still alive. It's just amazing the impact that AIDS has had on that community and the survival of that community, because there is no one to take care of those vulnerable people who don't have any support. You hear about it, but actually seeing the effects of it is so [moving] and that's what makes it real. You can read it in the story, but for me, I'm a very visual person and seeing it makes it more of a reality.

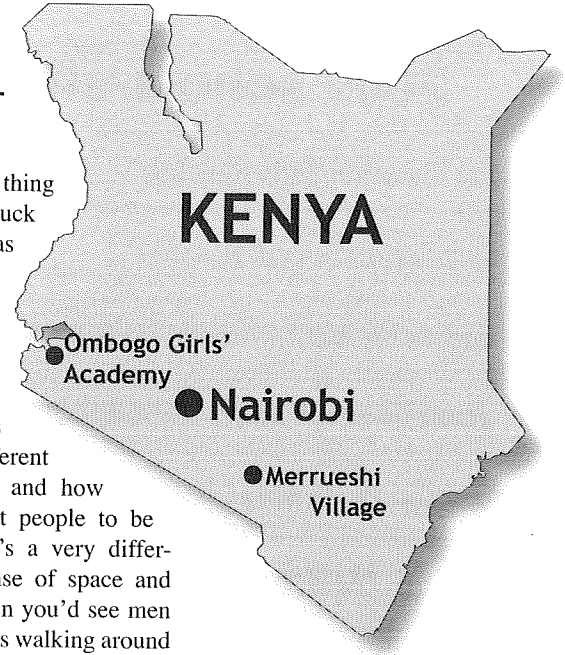
What were some of the cultural differences?

Bachen: One thing that kind of struck me that I saw was what different actions mean. Holding hands in Kenya is a sign of friendship. Americans have a very different sense of space and how close they want people to be to them. There's a very different cultural sense of space and touch. Very often you'd see men who were friends walking around holding hands. In America, it's considered a romantic act or something you do with children. [There,] it's really more a sign that you care about the person.

Polygamy is still practiced there, which was interesting. It's kind of shocking, and sometimes frustrating, to see, as a young woman, that there's still a bride price that is practiced, in which the wives are sold to the husbands. That's part of the culture, but it's also frustrating to see that women are often seen as second-class citizens.

Did you share anything about your culture?

Bachen: One of the funnier moments was at the end-of-the year assembly; we decided to perform something for them. We learned the song "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in Lou [the local language] and performed it for the girls. It was kind of ridiculous because people don't know the song, and they were standing up singing their body parts in order. It was [nothing] in comparison to those beautiful songs and dances. I think Tim said next year [the people in the program] all going to come with songs and dances.



What did you bring back?

Bachen: My favorite non-physical gift or token was the audio I brought back. The girls' singing was amazing. I have some audio-recording, and that, more than photos, brings me back to that place. Their songs are probably the favorite thing I brought back.

What would you say about the trip in general?

Bachen: It was a wonderful experience, and I think the Service Learning Program is going to be a really great thing. I'm excited for other kids to go have that experience and cultivate relationships and be exposed to different cultures. I hope to go back some day, when I can afford the plane ticket.



photo courtesy of Kathryn Bachen

Western senior Kathryn Bachen and Alice, an Ombogo student, wear dust masks while riding from the Kisumu Airport to Ombogo Girls' Academy in the school bus on July 19, 2009.

See Bachen's work and read more about her trip at kathrynbachen.blogspot.com

in the department

2009 scholarship and tuition-waiver recipients

Ad Council Scholarship	\$2,500	Talithia Taitano
EcoSmartSupplies.com	\$1,500	Tuli Alexander
Babcock Memorial Scholarship	\$500	Emily Linroth
Journalism Alumni Scholarship	\$500	Ian Wright
Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association	\$650	Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura
Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association	\$650	Samantha Oberholzer
Scripps-Howard Internship Scholarship	\$4,000	Zack Hale
Tuition Waiver	\$1,800	Stephanie Castillo

Help during budget cuts: Alumni, families need to voice support for higher education

by **Carolyn Dale**
Interim Chair, Journalism Department

All of us in the Journalism Department – students, faculty, and staff – are grateful to our donors for their continuing generosity. This makes a world of difference to the students who receive much-needed scholarship aid, and to faculty who can use some corporate donations toward training and classroom equipment.

Many people also ask about the impact state budget cuts are having on the department, and whether they can do something to help the situation.

Yes, there is a crucial role for parents, families, and alumni: contacting state senators and representatives to let them know how valuable a four-year college education has been to yourselves and members of your family.

A sad fact about Washington state is that, following the Legislature's recent decisions, it funds less than half of the cost of an undergraduate's education. Not only does more of the burden fall on students and their families, but there also are fewer places in the system for our state's young people. Most recent data (from 2005), showd Washington near the bottom – 49th of 50 – in four-year college participation rates based on population.

Parents and alumni may well question whether their children are going to have the same opportunity to attend local universities that they enjoyed.

They may also question whether state universities will continue to be as successful and efficient. Washington leads the nation in its rate of granting bachelor degrees based on undergraduate population, and is second in the nation for its rate of graduate degrees. Yet, the Legislature has cut four-year university budgets more deeply than any other branch of education.

Western's state funding was cut 29 percent for the 2009-11 biennium, and an additional cut translating to \$3.8 million is on the horizon as we begin winter quarter.

These cuts do have an effect. Here in the Journalism Department, we have stripped all elective courses from the schedule, and we cannot add sections of classes when student demand overwhelms the space available. We are taking steps to be creative, such as offering some popular electives and online courses during the summer.

We hope that you, as alumni and families linked to Western, will let your state legislators know of your concerns and support for higher education.

2009 student interns

Winter

Jeffrey Ehrhardt, Cascade Radio Group
Maureen (Tinney) MacDonald, Conservation Northwest
Amanda Melde, Big Brothers, Big Sisters
Ian Wright, United Way of Whatcom County

Spring

Jesse Amorratanasuchad, Bellingham Business Journal
Elizabeth Beaulieu, Northwest Business Monthly
Shawn Brennen, Richmond Public Relations
Alexandra Burrows, Bumbershoot
Sarah Cannard, NorKa Recreation
Jamie DeVall, Communications Office
David Husa, Communications Office
Mark Malijan, Communications Office
Stephanie Sarff, Bellingham Public Schools
Benjamin Small, Funny Feelings, LLC

What was the hardest part of the internship?

*I had to learn very quickly, and I think that was the most difficult, to be able to think on your toes and **not have it all spelled out for you like in school**. If you don't know how to do it, you have to figure it out quickly.*

*-Stephanie Castillo, senior,
Seattle Storm public relations intern.*

Summer

Adam Cochran, University Communications
Shannon Goss, University Communications
Matt Jarrell, University Communications
Andrea Davis-Gonzalez, KSTW-TV
Tiana Day, Vandenberg PR
Jenny Farrington, KIRO, MyNorthwest.com
Devon Fredericksen, The Sheet (Bishop, Calif.)
Zach Hale, The Nation
Anne Maertens, Bellingham Business Journal
Brianna McDonough, Common Threads Farm
Vanessa Mills, WWU Theater
Allison Milton, Downtown Bellingham Partnership
Jennifer Oato, Downtown Bellingham Partnership
Elizabeth Olmsted, Compendium
Harte Onewein, Special Olympics

What was your favorite part of the internship?

*You can't go wrong with attending free sporting events like the Mariners and Husky basketball games. **My last day of work there, I was on the sidelines of the Apple Cup.***

-Jeff Twining, senior, FSN Northwest intern

Rebecca Rice, Alaska Air Magazine
Rogelie Rael-Johnson, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska
Amy Sanford, Downtown Bellingham Partnership
Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura, Bellingham Herald
Lauren Sauser, Special Olympics
Jillian Vasquez, Providence Medical Center
Kera Wanielista, Bellingham Alive
Natasha Walker, InvestigateWest

What was your most memorable experience?

*The very last week, kind of as a capstone, **they had me do the front page**. It was really cool to have that opportunity.*

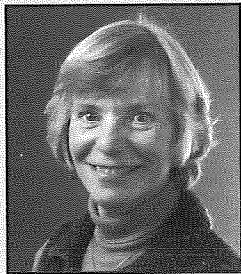
*-Audrey Dubois-Boutet, senior, The Bellingham Herald
copy and page design intern*

Fall

Linda Blake, Community Food Co-op
Hannah Bostwick, Bellingham Herald
Jessie Princevalle, DeLaunay Communications
Marisa Willis, Seattle Times

Do you have an internship that you would like to offer Western journalism students? E-mail information to Carol Brach, Journalism Department manager, at cbrach@hope.journ.wvu.edu.

facultyupdates



Carolyn Dale
Associate Professor,
Interim Chair

A real pleasure in heading up the Journalism Department is helping faculty ideas for teaching take shape as new courses or programs. This fall and winter, I'm serving as interim chair of the department while Shearlean Duke is on leave.

At the end of November, we were finishing plans for some exciting new courses during summer quarter 2010. A class on digital storytelling through video, text and photos, another on developing a new magazine from concept to plan, and a third on blogging, covering skills, risks and opportunities, all will appeal, we hope, to community members as well as Western students.

Summer is a time when we can try creative ideas because the session is funded by the tuition and fees our courses generate, and we are finding that a lot of people are curious about the changing media landscape and interested in writing, editing, photography, video, and legal and ethical issues often because they are participating in social, or new, media. This helps with faculty morale, as we face budget cuts forcing us to eliminate electives and reduce the number of classes offered during the regular academic year.

This fall, I was also involved in launching a certificate program in Professional Editing offered through Extended Education at Western. The courses run for nine months in the evenings, and registration filled up quickly. I enjoyed teaching the first class, copy editing, to a group that ranged widely in age and background; many of the participants want to apply writing and editing skills to publications in their professional and technical areas. I'm also grateful to the group of editors here in town who worked with us for more than a year to shape the program and advise on its content.

I taught Feature Writing as an online course for the first time last summer and will offer an online class, Grammar for Editors, this winter. It's been fun to learn to communicate with students who are far away, rather than present in a classroom.

Even with chairing, teaching, and working with Extended Education, I am still a part-timer at Western. I do professional editing projects through my business, Editing Works, and at times even work on my own novels and short stories. I was thrilled to have the first short fiction I've ever submitted accepted for publication this year.

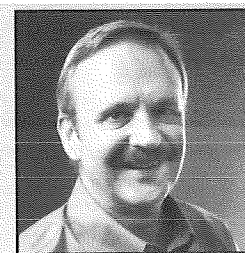
Travels last spring and summer included gathering with family to camp in Idaho's Sawtooth Mountains, then going on to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, where we explored the Grand Tetons. The early snow melt also allowed us to hike late in the summer to some higher reaches of Mount Baker for truly spectacular views. Back home, the vegetable garden, with its bumper crop of chard, and two cats, with their expectations for attention, were always awaiting our return.



Shearlean Duke
Department Chair
Associate Professor
on leave

On August 21, just after I returned from Kenya, I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. On, Sept. 10, I underwent a craniotomy and "awake brain surgery" performed by specialists at the University of Washington. You can learn more about awake surgery, in which the patient has to be awake and talks to the surgeon during surgery at this link: <http://www.uwv.org/programs/displayevent.aspx?rID=4129>.

My tumor was in the area that controls my ability to write, read, speak and understand words. Surgery could have destroyed all of my language abilities. Bummer for a journalist who teaches writing and PR! Thankfully, I had a great surgeon who removed the tumor and left my abilities intact. I regained my speech and ability to read fairly quickly. I am now undergoing chemo, and have a long road ahead. I am on medical leave. Although I want to return to work, my future is uncertain as this disease can return. But so far, I am doing well. I wish all of you well. I am nearly back to normal on my writing, but it takes a while. I welcome positive thoughts, and any good vibes you can send my way.

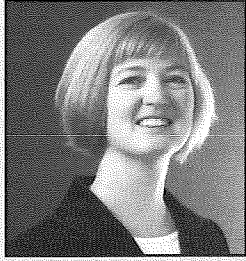


John Harris
Associate Professor

I had the opportunity to fulfill a longtime desire to visit Spain during the summer. My son was studying in Oviedo, and I went over and met him and spent nearly three weeks traveling through the north and Basque country. If anyone knows of any jobs teaching journalism in San Sebastian, preferably within a block or two of the beach, please let me know.

Back home, I came to a difficult decision. Plagued by tendonitis in my heel and faced with teaching every day at either noon or 1 o'clock — what was Shearlean thinking? — I cleaned out my locker at Carver and retired from noon basketball. I depart knowing that my record as the all-time leading scorer from the Department of Journalism is safe; that is, unless Stephen Howie somehow manages to step up his game considerably. And when I want to remember the glory days, I can always look at the basketball signed in 2006 by the Front staff; it sits in a place of prominence in my office.

Good news came last spring. I am now a tenured professor. Thanks to all of the wonderful students I've had in the past 10 years who helped make that possible.



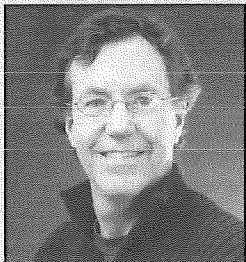
Jennifer Keller
Assistant Professor

As I start my third year at Western, I am very excited to be teaching Advanced PR Writing. Spring 2009 was the first offering, and it is now a requirement for all students in the PR sequence. After reviewing the PR curriculum at Western, I suggested (and the faculty agreed) that we needed a course focusing on all aspects of PR writing — from backgrounders to speeches to PSAs. I also continue to teach the Principles of PR class and occasional sections of Newswriting and Ethics.

This winter I look forward to teaching the PR Campaigns class as well. This summer, with the help of student Jessica Steinberg, I continued my research regarding PR education and success in the field. I surveyed many of our alumni about how Western’s Journalism Department prepared them for the “real world” and also began surveying non-profits to see what they look for in entry-level PR practitioners. I hope to present some of these findings this year and continue to improve our PR sequence. I am also continuing to advise PRO, Western’s student PR organization.

Outside of Western, Mark and I are continuing to remodel our house by ourselves. The framing is finally done (I hope), and we can begin to put in windows and other things that will allow us to install a furnace and run electricity and move into the new space. I have learned an entire new set of skills and vocabulary words — like “joist” and “rimboard” — in the last six months.

Finally, in April, my nephew, Jack, was born, and I met him this summer. Unfortunately, he lives in Australia, but we’re hoping to get there to visit soon.



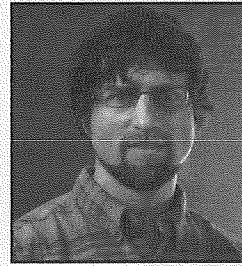
Brad Howard
Associate Professor

Brad Howard teaches Introduction to Mass Media, News-writing, History of U.S. Journalism, Advanced Reporting, and Senior Seminar. In the summer of 2009 he taught Introduction to Mass Media as an online course for the first time. In the summer of 2010 he will teach it and History of U.S. Journalism as online courses.

His current research projects include a study of the “drive-by lawsuit” frame of ADA lawsuits and development of a method for teaching critical thinking skills in conjunction with news mapping.

Brad serves as vice chair of the Bellingham chapter of The Mountaineers.

In his free time Brad enjoys backpacking, climbing and skiing. He also volunteers as an instructor in the chapter’s basic climbing course, and he is a student in the intermediate climbing course.



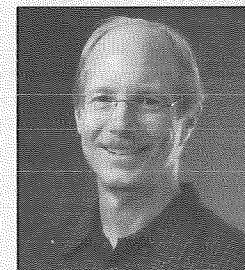
Stephen Howie
Instructor

Stephen Howie spent the summer of 2009 working on an educational video for the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe. He is in the final stages of producing an eight-minute video documenting the tribe’s efforts to keep its history alive by continuing ancient traditions of fishing, hunting and gathering. An accompanying book for children, written by Howie and designed and edited by Anita Boyle of Egress Studio, draws parallels between the life of cedar trees and salmon and connects both to the tribe’s traditions.

Howie and his wife, Maria McLeod, are combining their efforts and names to create “How Loud Media” and redefine themselves as media specialists. They spent the fall working with designers on a new Web site that is set to launch in the spring. Howie also produced a five-minute video featuring women members of the Synchronized Umbrella Drill Team leading up to the group’s inaugural performance at the 2009 Ski to Sea Grand Parade. The final product was shown during a special screening this fall at Mount Baker Theatre.

As part of the advanced session of the Northwest Video Workshop in Yakima this November, Howie worked as a one-man multimedia producer and editor covering the Yakama Nation’s Veterans’ Day Pow Wow. He and McLeod have bids in on several projects they hope will last them through the summer of 2010, when Howie hopes to teach the department’s first course in digital storytelling.

In June 2009, Howie took part for the fifth straight year in the Lake Padden Triathlon.



Jack Keith
Instructor

Jack Keith is in his fourth year as an instructor, and he’s added some duties with the Western Front this fall.

Jack is the former managing editor of The Bellingham Herald and later served in several editing roles at The News Tribune in Tacoma. This year, he’s critiquing the Western Front each week for the Front’s editors and reporters class.

The students appreciate a veteran newsman’s perspective, and Jack enjoys analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the paper.

Jack, who left the newspaper business in 2006 to try his hand at teaching, handles several of the core journalism classes: News-writing, Reporting and Editing.

Outside of Western, Jack and his wife, Polly, enjoy spending time with his grandchildren: Two live in Bellingham and play on the Rangers traveling soccer teams, and three more live near San Francisco.



Carolyn Nielsen
Assistant Professor

Traveling to Mexico City for a global journalism workshop was one of the highlights of my 2008-2009 year. I met with editors of the top national newspapers, toured their state-of-the-art newsrooms and talked with them about their seamless online integration and the ethics of covering drug violence. I also met with journalism students and professors at Tec de Monterrey. In August, I presented my paper, "Mi Patria, Mi País, Mi Periódico" at the AEJMC annual conference in Boston. Student Julio Cortes helped tremendously with my research, which compares immigration coverage in general-market and Spanish-language newspapers. (Thanks, Julio!) I followed this with a WWU Center for International Studies presentation about U.S. Spanish-language media.

This fall brought an end to my 11-quarter run as Western Front adviser, and I am now teaching reporting, news writing, ethics, and editing and enjoying a more predictable pace.

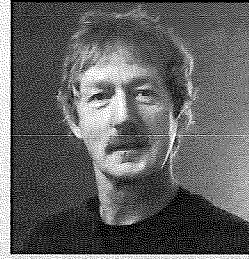
On a personal note, my passion for journalism has perhaps never been higher than it was last May, when I received a phone call from Northwestern University's Center on Wrongful Convictions telling me a story I wrote in graduate school helped free an innocent man from a 45-year prison sentence. In 1994, I covered the trial and wrote a Medill magazine cover story raising questions about the murder conviction of then-14-year-old Thaddeus Jimenez. The story got the center's attention, and they worked for years to win TJ's exoneration, ending his more than 16 years behind bars. My role was small, but my relationship to the family with whom I kept in touch all of these years is significant. I visited them in Chicago two weeks after his release. TJ is working for a law firm and plans to enroll in college. The suspect originally identified by TJ's defense and in my story is now facing trial.



Sheila Webb
Assistant Professor

Summer marked the completion of my first year at WWU. I enjoyed the year and am pleased to have participated in the first full offering of the new visual journalism sequence. Students in the Advanced Visual Journalism class competed in teams on a service learning project to produce a website for the San Juan Islands Museum & Sculpture Park. The winning team's project, selected by the parks board, is now online.

I received a grant to do research in the summer, so I was able to complete a book proposal based on my research on Life magazine. It looks at the first decade of the magazine and makes the case that the magazine was influential in defining and helping create a new lifestyle based on modernism and professionalism in the 1930s and early 1940s. Life's framing of the "good life" reached fruition in the 1950s. I continue my work on the Reiman magazines, and was pleased to receive the top faculty paper of the year award for that work in the Magazine Division at AEJMC in August.



Tim Pilgrim
Associate Professor

Tim Pilgrim remains at two-thirds time and is away one quarter each academic year, usually spring. He still teaches Editing and the large Introduction to Mass Media course, which is linked in the fall to either an environmental science class (as it was Fall 2009) or a philosophy class (Fall 2007) via the Freshman Interest Group program.

Pilgrim devotes lots of time to writing poetry (see his work at <http://hope.journ.wvu.edu/tpilgrim>). This year he has published 11 poems, including three in Australia and one in the United Kingdom.

His U.S. publishing is in literary journals such as Jeopardy at Western, where he published "Vacuuming your cat." He also still spends time tending cats Chelly and Brio, who claim Carolyn and him as servants.

Pilgrim takes photos for the Columbia Neighborhood Newsletter and still runs a couple miles every day. He said he will think about retiring when the nation gets real health care reform.



Peggy Watt
Assistant Professor

This summer I learned to appreciate how much work our department chair performs, because I took the job for summer quarter. Everything went pretty smoothly — with a lot of help from Carol Brach — but I have new understanding of all the things the chair must juggle.

The best part of my summer duties was advising interns, who found great gigs at a wide variety of newspapers, nonprofits, TV stations, PR agencies and magazines. All of them were expected to do some work online, and so we are all examining how we can add online skills to almost every course, not buttonholed into the online journalism course. I was able to visit most interns on site.

To keep abreast of developments in technology and journalism, I attended the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January 2009, and the Online News Association national conference in San Francisco in October 2009. Since I'm still a contributing editor at PC World, I helped with the magazine's CES coverage (which also reminded me what it's like in the newsgathering trenches).

The ONA event was a great place to connect with both professionals and academics who were sharing ideas about the challenges and opportunities online. The ONA has a strong Pacific Northwest membership, which is keeping in touch post-convention.

This academic year I am back advising Klipsun again, and still teaching Online Journalism and Mass Media Law.

retiredfacultyupdates

Jim Schwartz

I first experienced Bellingham in 1962 when I was recalled to the army during the Berlin Crisis. A friend at Fort Lewis invited me to his home for smoked salmon, crab and other vittles, supplied by his civilian summers in Alaska.

When I heard of a teaching job at WWU in 1973 while working as an environment reporter at the Sunday Louisville Courier-Journal and Times, I jumped at the chance. I worked as an assistant professor with colleagues [Gerson] Miller, Stannard, Steffens and Harris. I spent three years in a great collegial atmosphere, especially since the journalism program was detaching itself from the English Department.

Following were three busy years teaching courses ranging from beginning Newswriting to a 400-level course. Many students went on to outstanding careers in journalism and related fields. Talents like Duff Wilson, Suki Dardarian, Ken Rosenthal, Jack Broom, Dan Raley, Peggy Watt and others speak to the quality of Western's people, programs and internship opportunities.

After three years of teaching and advising, I enjoyed a media rush again for five years as director of the university's Public Information Office. Since then, I've worked as media/publications chief for a Montana utility/energy company and directed University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire's news bureau, where I did some teaching/consulting. Later came development posts for two Wisconsin private colleges.

Currently, I'm entering my ninth year as development director for a Benedictine monastery/retreat-conference center in Eau Claire (www.saintbede.org).

My wife Lori and I are thinking of the Pacific Northwest, mainly due to geographically distant daughters—Julie, an alumni director at Oregon State University, and Sally, on Evergreen State's admissions counseling staff.

Gail, our middle gal, is living in Germany with grandsons Ryan, 8, and Andrew, 3. She's a former United States Air Force public affairs officer; her husband, Rob Dillon, commands an MP battalion in eastern Afghanistan and anticipates a state-side assignment and reunion with family in March. Say a prayer for all those military folks and families who are giving up much for all of us.

Lyle Harris

For the past six months I've been carpenter, concrete man, roofer, painter, planter, shovel jockey for many tons of gravel, logger, electrician, plumber, designer and landscaper for our place off-the-grid in south Whatcom County. So be forewarned: that's what you do at some point after you retire.

During the winter months when it's really dark and soggy, Betty and I go to Costa Rica for a couple of months for sunshine. Last spring when we came back, it was cold, wet and awful for another month! Should you be in Tamarindo, let me know. We know the best place to get margaritas on the beach. Favorite books recently have been "Blue Latitudes" by Tony Horwitz, his journey following Capt. Cook's route until his demise in Hawaii in 1779. Moral there is beware of upsetting the natives. Also "Moon Tiger," Penelope Lively, winner of the Booker Prize; Diane Ackerman's "Zookeeper's Wife;" Karen Armstrong's "Muhammad: A Prophet for Our Time;" Obama's "The Audacity of Hope," and Michael Pollan's "The Omnivore's Dilemma." Send me a note if you have a book to recommend.

Floyd McKay

Floyd McKay keeps his hand in journalism with contributions to Crosscut.com, the Seattle-based news Website, and is interviewing authors for The Chuckanut Radio Hour, sponsored by Village Books. He's also working on a couple of Northwest history pieces, and he and Dixie continue to travel and tend their 14th Street home.

Pete Steffens

Hi, all — Valerie and I have retired to this little port city of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island and would enjoy seeing Western scalawags who get this far north.

We've now had two years' attention and support from the Canadian Health Service and are more grateful than you can imagine. Come and hear the specifics.

In this brief note, we can't do better than share the definition of that famous oldtime criminal lawyer Clarence Darrow: "A criminal is a person with predatory instincts, without sufficient capital to form a corporation."

Ted Stannard

Ted and Femmy Stannard took a long car trip in 2008, "circummeandering" North America, beginning in August and returning in December.

During 2009, they found themselves quite busy with family. For 2010, they are looking forward to a trip to Southeast Asia in the fall.

Nancy Walbeck (1942-2009)

BA Journalism 1982; MA Political Science 1985, both Western Washington University.

For many years, Nancy Walbeck was the arts and entertainment editor of the Anacortes American. Her work for that newspaper garnered her over 40 awards (according to one source) from the Society of Professional Journalists. Forgive me for not double checking; she was the journalist, I write plays.

During her years at WWU, she served in various capacities, including Editor of the Western Front. She also got her first national byline, with fellow undergraduate Gregg Olsen, from an interview with musician Randy Bachman. She was proud of being invited back to WWU as a faculty adjunct for several years.

She was found in her house in Anacortes on May 13, 2009, having died sometime previously of unspecified natural causes.

She is survived by her four children (Sean, Christopher, Kellyann, and Robin) and their spouses, her seven grandchildren, her brother Peter and his wife Elaine, her four nieces and nephews and her grand-niece and two grand-nephews.

A remembrance ceremony was held at the Croatian Cultural Center in Anacortes last May.

Thank you, Lyle, for helping us reach people from those years spent at Western. She went in a working mother and became a citizen reporter in a town she loved, writing news and promoting the arts. Who says there's no second acts?

Wish there was a third.

-Sean Walbeck

alumni life

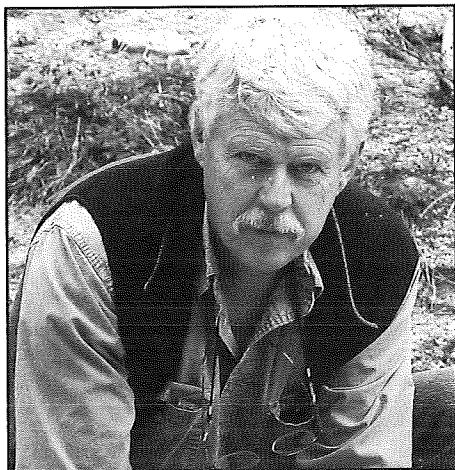


photo courtesy of Niels Nokkentved

Niels Nokkentved (1987) recently published his second book, "A Forest of Wormwood: Sagebrush, Water and Idaho's Twin Falls Canal Company," about development of the country's largest privately owned irrigation company. In addition to some southern Idaho history, it covers Western water law, the role of irrigation, irrigation history in Idaho and current issues facing water users in the arid West. Nokkentved said writing this book taught him that the real history of the American West is not the story of individual heroes, but of people working together to build communities. The author may be contacted at sparre@olynet.com. The book costs \$15, plus \$3 for shipping.

2009

Amanda Winters is county and general assignment reporter for the Record Searchlight in Redding, Calif.

Kaleb Gubernick is a music intern at The Stranger in Seattle.

Shannon Goss is an intern at United Way of Whatcom County.

2008

Keeli Archer is an account assistant at Waggoner Edstrom, the Bellevue public relations firm that represents Microsoft.

Michael Harthorne is the Web Editor and reporter for Ballard News-Tribune in Seattle.

Ciara O'Rourke is covering the Texas state legislature as a staff reporter for the Austin Herald-Statesman.

Justin Steyer is multimedia manager for NPR News and All That Jazz. He and **Liz McNeil** (2009) were married this summer.

2007

Amy Harder moved to Washington, D.C. for

an internship with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and is writing for the Web site of a political magazine, National Journal.

2006

Kathryn (Brenize) Bradley has been working for an issues-based PR firm in Seattle, GMMB, for almost two years.

David Wray is copy editor at The Bulletin of Bend, Ore.

Shannon Barney is marketing coordinator at Microsoft.

Michelle (Acosta) Rodriguez is a reporter for the Killeen Daily Herald in Texas, writing primarily for its smaller weekly paper, The Cove Herald, and contributing to the daily.

Stefani Harrey was promoted to corporate marketing specialist in the GeoEngineers' Seattle office (and headquarters).

2005

Kaitlin (King) Goodall is Communications associate at Duo Public Relations.

Amanda Woolley is the PR account executive at Partners Creative, an advertising agency in Missoula.

Travis Sherer joined the Marysville Globe and Arlington Times, writing a column and covering high school sports.

2003

Heather Trimm runs Heather Trimm Photography full-time, shooting weddings and commitment ceremonies, and the occasional freelance assignment.

Helen Hollister's trek across the Himalayas can be tracked on her blog, www.unrulyredhead.com.

2002

Melissa (Evavold) Peterman is working for www.foodista.com, an online cooking encyclopedia. She has written four Northwest-inspired recipe and wine-pairing cookbooks, EAT & DRINK in the Northwest, with a co-producer, and is involved in the farm-to-table movement and the Northwest food scene. She is married and lives in the Greenwood area of Seattle.

Chris Fuller was featured in What's Up!, Bellingham's entertainment magazine. An article by Brent Cole describes him as the premier photographer of the local music scene. Fuller owns the Darkroom, a photo gallery and darkroom available to the public.

2001

Jessica Keller is news editor for the Argus Observer in Ontario, Ore., where she has worked for the past five years. She lives in nearby Payette, Idaho, with her husband, Dionicio del Valle, and their 2-year-old daughter Twila Eve del Valle.

Andrea Abney, after three years as a copy editor and part-time writer at the San Francisco Chronicle, now edits 96 Hours, a section on weekend events in the Bay Area. She worked as a sports designer in Santa Rosa, Calif.; a sports writer in Merced, Calif.; and a reporter/designer in Montesano. She lives in San Francisco. E-mail: [abneyandrea\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:abneyandrea[at]gmail.com).

1999

Jessica Schenck teaches fifth grade at Chief Kamiakin Elementary School. She has earned several grants that allow her to focus on science and technology in the classroom. She lives in Sunnyside with her husband and their 6-year-old and 3-year-old sons.

1996

Dina Elizabeth Hovde is now a Sunday columnist for The Oregonian. She and her husband have two boys, ages 1 and 3.

1991

Rob McDonald has been the communications director for his tribe, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in Western Montana, for four years. He is also raising two boys, Joseph, 7, and Kai, nearly 4.

1990

David Cuillier got his PhD at WSU and teaches journalism at the University of Arizona. He is an authority on freedom of information issues and won a new faculty award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

1987

Keven Graves is the publisher of the Nisqually Valley News in Yelm and an officer of the Washington Newspapers Publishers Association.

1982

T.M. Sell, Ph.D., writes for Crosscuts now and then, and is a playwright who runs a theater company on the side. He is a journalism professor at Highline Community College and sends a lot of transfer students to Western.

1976

Roy Tanaka is news editor at the Peninsula Daily News (Port Angeles) after a long stint at the Maui News as a reporter and editor.

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Katherine Garvey

Newsletter Adviser

Peggy Watt

Have we heard from you lately? Keep us posted on your career changes, travel adventures, graduate degrees or any personal updates you want to share. Alumni news will be added to our online edition of the journalism newsletter.

Send your news to Carol Brach via email to cbrach@hope.journ.wvu.edu; via fax to (360) 650-2848, or to Western Washington University, Department of Journalism, MS 9161, 516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Complete alumni news and updates can be found on the web: www.wvu.edu/~journal.

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