

Journalism alum tops best-seller list

by SEAN MCGROREY DEBUTTS
Journalism alumnus

When it comes to exposing the sinister lies beneath a façade of domesticity, *New York Times* bestselling author Gregg Olsen has made prolific use of his WWU journalism education – and he intends to keep it that way.

“Readers are fascinated by what takes someone, especially a woman, to the dark side,” said Olsen, a 1981 graduate of Western’s journalism program. “That’s true whether I’m writing about a mother who killed her kids or a wife who poisoned her husband.”

An author of seven true-crime books and two novels, Olsen has received numerous local awards and has made the *New York Times* best-seller list for the re-release of his first novel, “Abandoned Prayers,” a story about an Amish serial killer.

He has interviewed a fascinating and disturbing array of criminals, including Mary Kay Letourneau for “If Loving You is Wrong,” and has been publicly honored by Washington’s Secretary of State for his journalistic contributions to state history.

During his time as a Western journalism student, Olsen served as managing editor of *The Western Front*. Professor Carolyn

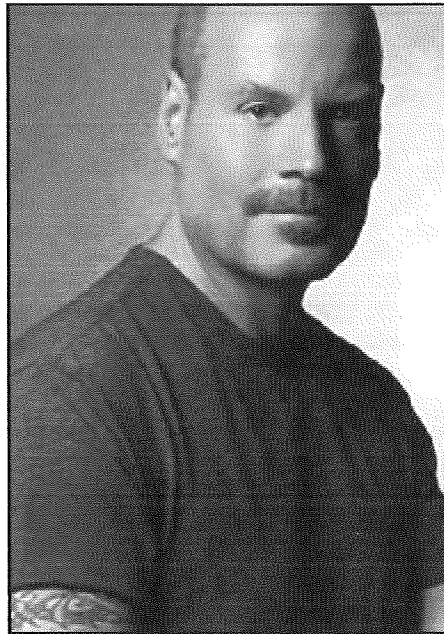


Photo courtesy of Gregg Olsen

Olsen said he learned the strategy for reporting crime first by interviewing police and officials, then by reviewing court documents and transcripts, and finally by interviewing the families of the victims and perpetrators.

“I think my favorite story was [when] I had a big scoop on a prostitution ring

“I knew I was going to be a writer, and Western was and is the best journalism school in the state. We got our hands dirty and did actual reporting.”

- Gregg Olsen, journalism department alumnus

Dale said Olsen was also the first student to serve twice as *Klipsun*’s editor-in-chief, and that his leadership motivated reporters to turn out relevant, savvy *Klipsun* editions.

“I knew I was going to be a writer, and Western was and is the best journalism school in the state,” Olsen said. “We got our hands dirty and did actual reporting.”

in [Western’s Birnam Wood Apartments],” Olsen said. “I got to cover that, and that was very exciting. Here I am a kid from Bellevue – a suburban city, not that exciting – but this idea that we have these hookers going to college there, and we had this pimp running these girls up to Canada, was just very, very bizarre.”

From the chair:

You may notice a theme in this year’s newsletter: It’s all about you, our alumni. About what you have done with your journalism education. We always knew our graduates were successful. This issue contains stories about the variety of successes, ranging from writing best-selling books to educating future journalists. Congratulations. And we want to hear from more of you. Send story ideas and alumni updates to cbrach@hope.journ.wvu.edu.

Shearlean Duke

Olsen said crime always fascinated him, and he has long been an avid reader of local true-crime successes Jack Olsen (no relation) and Ann Rule, a biographer of Ted Bundy.

“Jack and Ann’s books inspired me,” Olsen said. “I could see them on TV or at book signings, so they were more than just names on a cover. I could visualize myself as an author of their kind of work. I consider both of them working journalists.”

Olsen said that to break into publishing nonfiction, a writer needs to show publishers a good idea and credentials – and Olsen had both. After being published in 1990, “Abandoned Prayers” became the number-one-selling coupon book of the year in the Doubleday Book Club.

“It was successful almost to the point of my detriment,” Olsen said. “I kept thinking, ‘I’m going to sell millions and millions of books,’ but it wasn’t uphill all the way.”

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newfacultyprofile

Department welcomes new visual journalism professor

by **KATIE DREKE**
Newsletter editor

When Sheila Webb graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in graphic design and photography, she never thought she would enter a career in journalism. It wasn't until she began working for the Cleveland Museum of Art, taking photographs and working on its newsletter, and later teaching mass communication, that Webb became devoted to journalism issues.

"I think journalism is the way we write history – about our present time," said Webb, who has a doctorate in mass communication.

Webb, the newest addition to Western's journalism department, came to WWU to assist with the new visual journalism sequence.

"I think Western was very perceptive in really focusing on this new sequence," Webb said. "So many of the jobs that we're seeing now are in design or in Web design, and I really see the field going in that direction."

The visual journalism field focuses on the photographs and graphics that are shown in the media and the stories that these visuals tell, Webb said.

"This new sequence of visual journalism really allows me to combine all [my]

feature writing, magazine design, news and information design, Web design, and photography.

Besides having family on the West Coast and both her children now in college, Webb said she was attracted to the position at Western because she supports the university's undergraduate education program.

"I think Western does a really good job of focusing on undergraduate education in a way that is very engaging and welcoming, but also forward-looking," she said.

As an assistant professor, Webb is teaching Mass Media Ethics, Introduction to Visual Journalism and Advanced Visual Journalism.

Webb began her first quarter at Western, last fall, by teaching Introduction to Visual Journalism, in which students learn how to think and communicate visually. According to Webb, the class consists of assignments that help students to critique a project's layout, design, and its effect on the audience, and to create their own projects with those factors in mind.

"I do everything I can to give them the tools that they'll need, but also to see what they make of those tools," she said.

Webb enjoys using projects she worked

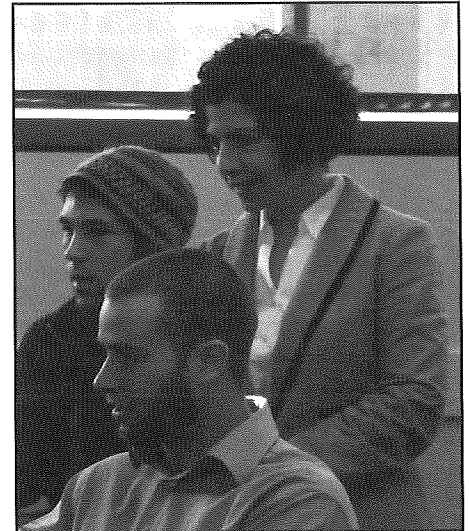


Photo by Katie Dreke
Sheila Webb works with Western students during Introduction to Visual Journalism Nov. 18, 2008.

it an opportunity for hands-on learning by making it a service-learning class in which students will create a project for a real client.

Webb said that journalism students with experience in design will have the advantage over their competition when they enter the working world.

"Students are trained now to be 'backpack journalists,' where a student can take a video camera in a backpack and go out and cover a story, and then be able to produce a multimedia story which would include video, photography, audio and writing," she said.

In addition to teaching visual journalism students, Webb said she hopes these classes will be beneficial to journalism students in other sequences.

"[The sequence] acknowledges the changes in journalistic practice that will benefit students ... who may not necessarily be designers," she said. "Editors still need to know how to work with designers ... The barriers are completely broken down in newsrooms now."

"I think Western was very perceptive in really focusing on this new sequence. So many of the jobs that we're seeing now are in design or in Web design, and I really see the field going in that direction."

- Sheila Webb, Department of Journalism professor

interests because we're focusing on the standards and the values of journalism, but also within a form where we really need to know how to communicate visually," she said.

Before arriving at Western, Webb taught at the University of South Dakota, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Marquette University in such subjects as mass communication, persuasive writing, critical writing, news writing, reporting,

on in the past as examples for the introduction course. While teaching at the University of Wisconsin, Webb assisted with Online@UW, a Web publishing service for nonprofit organizations. Webb said she enjoys using a project she did for The Pew Center for Civic Journalism as a critique because she can show the organization's Web site before and after its reconstruction.

The advanced class will launch this spring, and Webb said she hopes to make

Former student founds high-tech PR firm

Journalism alumnus Justin Hall uses education and experience as business foundation

by **SEAN MCGROREY DEBUTTS**
Journalism alumnus

Justin Hall, co-founder and program director of VOXUS PR, has found his niche.

"When I grew up I always had an interest in technology and my family always had the latest gadgets and computers," said Hall, a 2002 graduate of Western's journalism program. "In high-tech PR, I can combine that with my love of writing."

Hall said his journalism education at Western taught him the fundamentals of media relations and helped him lay the groundwork for his success at VOXUS PR, a firm providing public relations to emerging high-tech companies.

"If you're going to sit down with a CEO or the board of a company, there's no substitute for having high-tech experience."

— Justin Hall, journalism department alumnus and co-founder of VOXUS PR

"Professor Floyd McKay became my counselor and gave me a real talking-to about getting serious," Hall said. "That's when I developed a real love of writing and knew it was always going to be part of my career."

After graduating in June 2002, Hall landed his first job at Sterling PR in time to enjoy the final year of the dot-com boom. He promoted cutting-edge technologies, such as programs allowing users to talk over the Internet and remotely access their computers.

Hall received a series of promotions by proving his competence at database management, by writing press releases and contributing articles, and finally, by sitting with clients and planning product launches for the fiscal year.

Hall said he faced a long learning curve and made mistakes in his first articles and press releases, but that he improved thanks to feedback from his supervisors.

"At VOXUS that's the standard we set for our employees," Hall said. "It doesn't matter if you make mistakes. In fact, you're supposed to make mistakes. It's taking the feedback and taking it in a positive way and not making that mistake again."

After Sterling PR announced it would

move away from emerging technology companies, Hall and two co-workers decided to stay in the technology niche and founded VOXUS PR in January 2006.

"Sterling was actually very supportive and let us talk to a lot of our existing clients and to network through them," Hall said. "If you're going to start a PR business, you need a lot of contacts. Networking is probably 60 percent of getting business."

Hall said he enjoys the challenges of the emerging high-tech market, which allows a close working relationship between VOXUS and clients' founding innovators.

"If you're going to sit down with a CEO or the board of a company, there's no substitute for having high-tech experience," Hall said. "You could be the smartest

and remote diagnostics.

VOXUS has grown 300 percent annually in the past two years and plans to employ 40 public relations professionals within five to 10 years.

"The challenge as we grow is to maintain our team structure," Hall said. "When you get into massive, large agencies, they start getting impersonal and stop having a vested interest in their clients."

At VOXUS, senior-level account managers directly oversee each account at the same hourly rate as do junior-level employees. VOXUS' services include blogging programs, tradeshow support, analyst relations and press tours.

Within the past year, clients have presented VOXUS a novel challenge that could give it an advantage over its competitors: How to use Web sites such as Facebook, Flickr and LinkedIn to market high-tech products.

"Within the next six months we plan to sit down and hammer out a package around social networking or business-networking sites — around giving our clients a presence," Hall said.

As VOXUS continues establishing itself among high-technology startups, Hall plans to expand his outside interests.

"I've really been focusing on building the company ... and I'd really like to get involved in other areas of the city, like networking and sharing ideas at the young executive society or doing some pro-bono work," Hall said. "I don't think I'll do high-tech PR for the rest of my life, but I want to make this company successful."

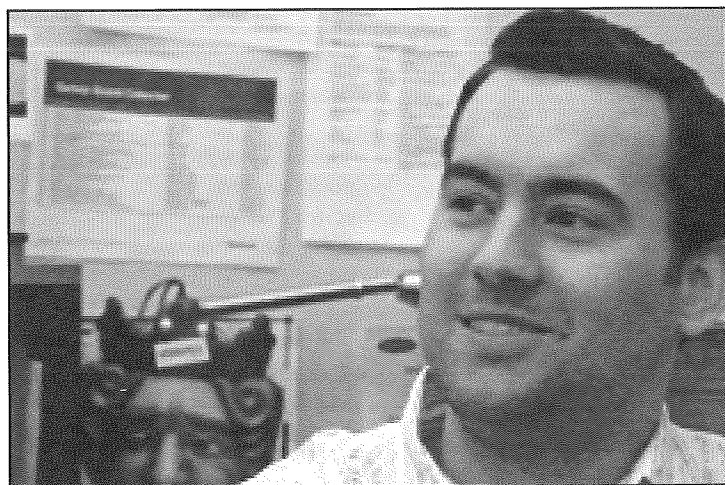


Photo courtesy of Justin Hall

Alumnus leads department visit for teens

To Western and back again: alumnus Thomas Mosby's journey from student to teacher

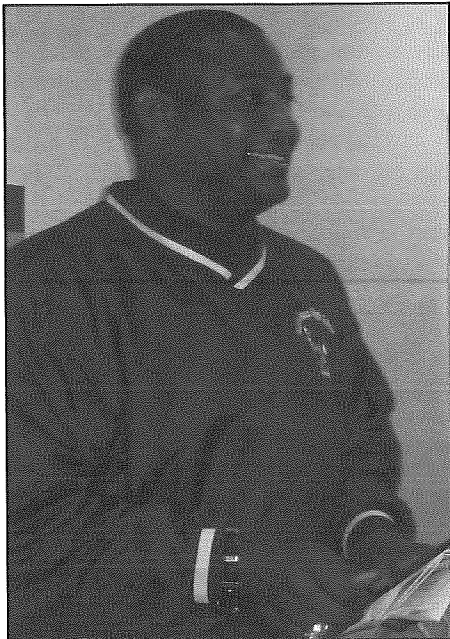


Photo by Lisa Hust

Western journalism alumnus Thomas Mosby visits with high school students in spring 2008.

by **LISA HUST**
Western journalism student

Twenty years after Thomas Mosby graduated from Western Washington University's journalism department he returned, this time with a group of 20 high school students from the South Kitsap School District.

Mosby, who graduated in 1988 with a B.A. in journalism, attended Western with an athletics scholarship in football. He said he knew he wanted to major in journalism.

Between graduating from Western and his time with South Kitsap School District, Mosby did an internship with *The Bellingham Herald*, returned to school and received his master's and doctorate degrees, and spent time coaching. He began working with the South Kitsap School District in 2005. He works with teachers who have journalism or yearbook classes and also works to show high school students that college is a viable option.

Mosby coordinated the event because

he wanted to get the students, mostly sophomores and juniors, excited about going to college. He also wanted them to have an opportunity to see the school he attended and graduated from.

"I had such a good experience at the Western journalism program, I wanted to share that with the students," Mosby said. "I liked the closeness of the department and their willingness to go the extra mile to help students be successful."

The day started out with the students listening to a presentation about the journalism program from department chair, Shearlean Duke. Then the students took a tour of campus, ate lunch at the Viking Commons, returned to the department to hear about the visual journalism major and toured the journalism department.

This was the third year Mosby brought students to visit the department, and he hopes to make the trip an annual event.

"It's a win-win opportunity," Mosby said. "Getting more students into universities."

Olsen: experience writing true-crime novels

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Olsen said competition from crime shows, such as "CSI," has made success as a true-crime author more elusive than it was in the '90s, which he considers to be the golden age of true crime. Many of Olsen's friends and fellow writers gave up the genre.

"The guy next door might be a thousand times better at writing than I am, but I look at writing like a job, and I know every single day I've got to open the laptop, add details and shoot for 1,000 words," Olsen said. "That's the way I move myself forward since I don't have a daily deadline ... Most people don't have that discipline."

Olsen said that, ultimately, the market determines what heroes and villains he puts in his novels and which true-crime stories he reports.

"You want a story that has some national interest, or a good strong regional interest, but is not overexposed," Olsen said.

Whether fiction or nonfiction, unraveling the mystery of the killer's method and

motive until all is laid bare is essential to the success of a crime book, Olsen said. In this regard, Olsen considers "Starvation Heights," the story of a female doctor who starved-to-death more than 40 patients, as one of his greatest achievements.

"I'm very proud because that book was my little discovery," Olsen said. "The story of Dr. Hazzard [of Olalla, Wash.,] if not for me, would have been lost forever. I interviewed people who are dead now. By capturing their stories in the book, I've preserved a little bit of history."

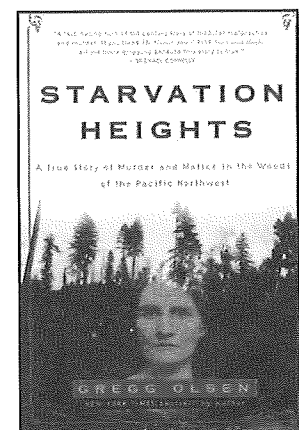
Since the best-selling re-release of "Abandoned Prayers" in 2002, Olsen has published two novels and a fourth, "Heart of Ice," is scheduled for release in March 2009. One of the scenes from the book will take place in Western's Buchanan Towers residence hall – although Olsen gives the building and Western's campus other names in the book.

Olsen said he finds writing fiction liberating because he is allowed to make up stories and borrow events and places from his own life. He has several additional

serial-killer novels in the works.

"At 75 or 80, I would love to be one of those people who stays in the game," Olsen said. "I might have a less demanding schedule, but I'm a writer and I want to be able to write until my fingers don't work or there are no more stories left to tell – whichever comes first."

Editor's note: Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning playwright Tracy Letts will adapt "Starvation Heights" into a film.



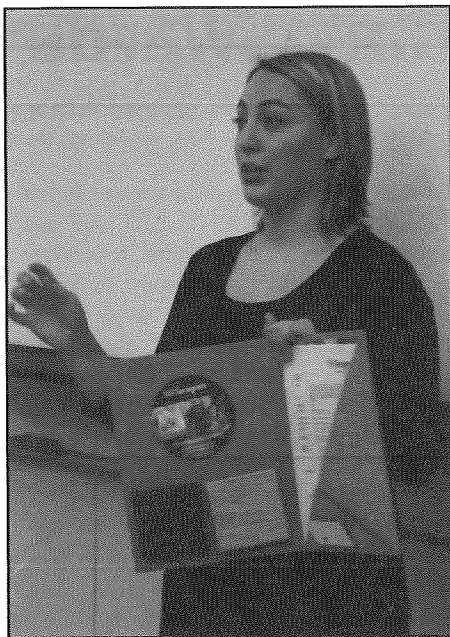


Photo by Katie Dreke

Western journalism alumna Kate Miller discusses the future of public relations with students on Oct. 2, 2008.

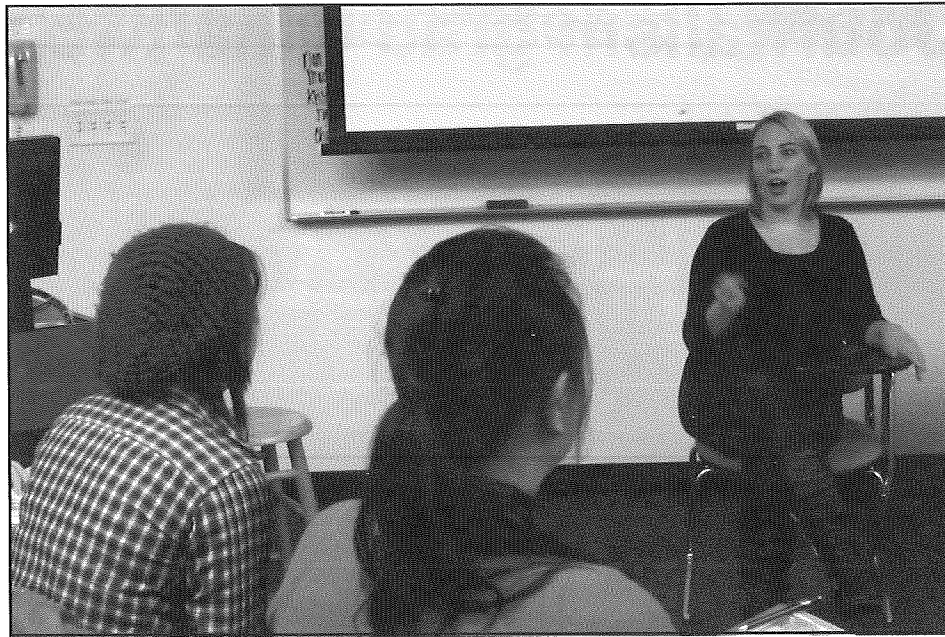


Photo by Katie Dreke

Western journalism students listen to Miller as she shares her experiences as a public relations professional with The Fearey Group, a public relations and public affairs firm in Seattle.

PR grad shares experience with students

by **KATIE DREKE**
Newsletter editor

Less than two years after being hired as an intern at The Fearey Group, a public relations and public affairs firm in Seattle, Western alumna Kate Miller was promoted to senior account executive, a position in which she oversees interns, account coordinators and account executives – a position that would normally take someone more than three years to reach.

On her first visit to campus since graduating in 2006, Miller shared her expertise and professional experience with Western journalism students and other students interested in the field of public relations.

fessions that you can continue to learn about other topics,” she said. “Journalism is the foundation for public relations. It is important to understand the way journalists work.”

During her visit, Miller spoke to the advanced public relations class about the future of PR and what to expect in the working world.

Miller said she enjoys working in an agency environment in which she is constantly learning, but that it can be challenging at small firms, like The Fearey Group, because each public relations professional

Group, Miller has worked with such clients as Teragren, a company which supplies bamboo flooring and textiles, and the Allen Institute for Brain Science, a medical organization which conducts brain research.

Through the years, The Fearey Group has won multiple Totem Awards from the Public Relations Society of America for its work with publications, media relations and special events. In 2008, the firm won a Certificate of Excellence for the media kit it created for Teragren.

In her presentation, Miller noted the rise in multimedia news releases – which include videos, links and press releases – and the change in today’s audience. Miller said she is considering going back to school for digital media because of the way public relations and journalism are moving.

“Bloggers have changed the way PR is done,” Miller said. “It is important to build relationships with them.”

Even with the challenges, Miller said she finds public relations to be fulfilling. She enjoys that her job has a definite beginning and end, and that as a professional she can see the work she has done and the impact it has.

“Journalism is the foundation for public relations. It is important to understand the way journalists work.”

– Kate Miller, journalism department alumna

While a student in Western’s journalism program, Miller said she enjoyed being active in leadership positions, such as editor for *Klipsm*, and she credits her journalism education for her success in public relations.

“Journalism is one of the only pro-

can have nearly seven clients at a time.

“Clients are like professors: they all expect you to give their assignments 100 percent,” she said, “[but] it’s the hard clients that you learn the most from.”

Miller said what attracts her to a client is a great mission. While at The Fearey

Journalism grad wins two emmy awards

by KATIE DREKE
Newsletter editor

Western journalism alumnus Kevin Jackson won two National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences 2007 Sports Emmy Awards for his work at ESPN.com.

In April 2008, Jackson and his team were awarded the Outstanding New Approaches – Long Form Emmy for their work on “Ray of Hope,” a story about the people who benefited from the organ donation of University of North Carolina’s mascot Jason Ray, and the Outstanding New Approaches – General Interest Emmy for “Death Race 2007,” a story about ESPN reporter Jim Caple’s experience in the annual Tough Guy obstacle course in England.

Jackson acted as executive producer on both projects and said he could not have accomplished anything without the work of his team.

“Without brilliant video producers and outstanding in-the-field reporters, there’s no way I would’ve won an Emmy, let alone three,” Jackson said. “Working at ESPN

allows me to work with the best sports journalists in the country, and that is highly rewarding.”

Jackson won his first Emmy in 2007 for “The Real Frozen Tundra,” a story about the first Arctic high school football team in the United States.

Jackson, who graduated from Western’s journalism department in 1992, said he has worked at ESPN.com for more than 13 years in many different capacities, including night news editor, columnist coordinator, NFL editor, and founding editor of the Page 2 section of ESPN’s Web site.

While a student at Western, Jackson acted as the editor-in-chief of *Klipsun* magazine and worked in *The Bellingham Herald*’s sports department 30 to 40 hours per week.

After graduating, Jackson said he worked at *The Bellingham Herald* until 1995 when he learned that Starwave, a Web site company founded by Paul Allen, had plans to contract with ESPN to produce a Web site. Jackson said that because he was inter-

ested in a new challenge he applied for an associated news editor position and was hired on as one of the original employees of ESPN.com. He worked in the Bellevue office for four years before relocating to ESPN headquarters in Bristol, Conn.

In the spring of 2007, Jackson was promoted to the position of vice president and executive editor for ESPN.com and returned to Seattle.

Last year, Jackson attended Western’s Bellingham Visual Journalism Conference where he participated in a panel discussion about multimedia storytelling and gave a workshop on integrating multimedia into a Web site.

“Western was terrific preparation for everything I’ve done in my career,” Jackson said. “The journalism program – particularly with its hands-on instruction and real work experience – allowed me to comfortably step into my role at *The Bellingham Herald*, which prepared me for my time at ESPN.com.”

Alumna finds niche at Kennedy Center

by KATIE DREKE
Newsletter editor

Since graduating from Western’s Journalism program, alumna Emily Krahn accepted a job as a press assistant at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

The Kennedy Center, a memorial to the late President Kennedy, is an arts facility that produces and presents theater and musical acts, and promotes arts education.

Krahn completed a three-month internship with the organization before graduating in 2007 from the journalism department’s public relations sequence. Krahn said she believes her education at Western contributed to her career goals.

“I have an interest in the performing arts and was looking to travel somewhere new, so I decided to apply for the press internship,” she said. “I am especially grateful for the fact that the journalism department requires that its students complete an internship before graduating ... it allowed

me to gain contacts and experience with The Kennedy Center.”

As an assistant to the organization’s press representatives, Krahn’s everyday duties range from writing and editing press releases, pitching stories to the press, creating playbills, and interfacing with the media by handling media requests for photographs and information.

Krahn said she enjoys being able to utilize her academic training, and put it towards a movement for which she is passionate.

“It is a great feeling to work for an organization that I believe in and that continually works to inspire, not only those in our country, but those around the world to share, learn and grow in one another’s experiences,” Krahn said. “That is really what the arts have the ability to do, and it is what The Kennedy Center helps to promote.”

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

The Planet magazine celebrates 30 years

by **KATIE DREKE**
Newsletter editor

In 1979, a nuclear accident occurred at Three Mile Island, Israel and Egypt signed a peace agreement, and a group of students from a small, liberal-arts university founded the only undergraduate environmental publication in the country.

This year Western's student-run environmental magazine, *The Planet*, will celebrate 30 years of production.

"We feel that when we're producing [*The Planet*] that what we're saying with this magazine is incredibly important, and I think that with the 30th anniversary, not only is it amazing that the magazine has lasted this long ... [but] that we're still holding to what *The Planet* initially stood for — which is that we're increasing the awareness about the things that really matter," said Emily Linroth, Western junior and 2008-2009 editor-in-chief of *The Planet*.

In addition to its 30th anniversary, this year *The Planet* also celebrates its third-place win in the design category of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Student Magazine Contest.

The Planet featured Linroth's story "Liquid Gender Bender," about water contamination, on the cover of the award-winning fall 2007 issue.

"It's cool to be published regardless, but to be published in a magazine that has been around since 1979, that has consistently won awards since 1980, that is actually



Photo by Katie Dreke

Writers and editors of *The Planet* magazine look over final proofs of the fall 2008 issue on Nov. 13, 2008.

writing about things that matter ... it feels phenomenal to actually know that you're writing about things that make a difference," she said.

Although today's publication is seen as professional, 30 years ago *The Planet* began as a typewriter-produced, editorial-based publication for students interested in the environment.

"I think it developed originally as an alternative to the other publications on cam-

pus," said Linroth, who is an environmental journalism major.

Through the years, *The Planet* has been a resource for students of many different backgrounds to share their love for the environment.

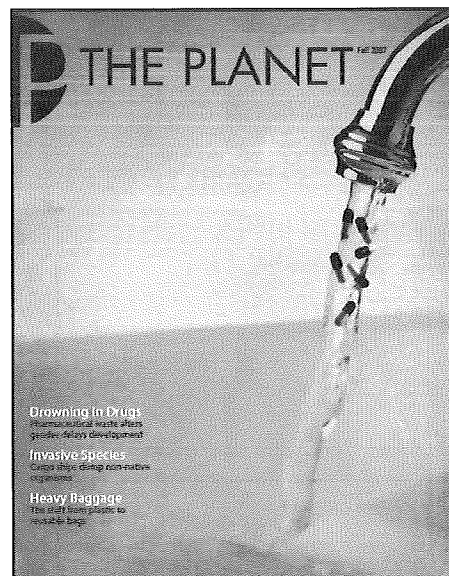
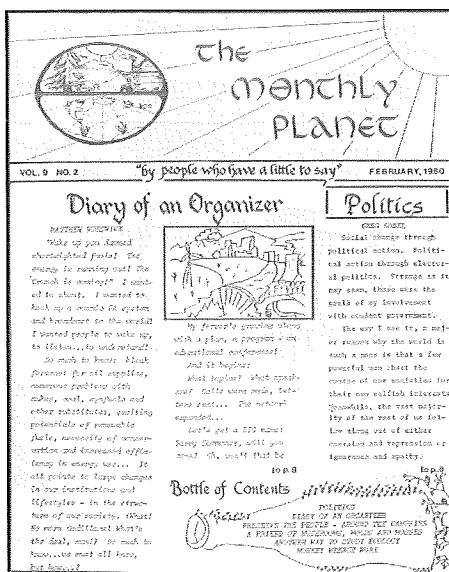
"We get people from all kinds of majors ... not just journalists," said Bill Dietrich, environmental studies professor and adviser for *The Planet*. "They come in sometimes with absolutely no experience at all except for an interest in science and the environment. It is really fun to lead them through an exercise where they have to turn a subject into a story."

According to Linroth, *The Planet* team has consisted of students from such majors as creative writing and biochemistry. In general, the editing staff works with English majors on eliminating opinion, and with science majors on writing with journalistic style, she said.

"It's a weird hybrid of writing," Linroth said. "Essentially you're taking creative writing and you're forging it with science writing ... [but] you still need to put all the issues into a story form so that your reader doesn't lose it because these are exceptionally long articles and very deep issues."

Dietrich said one of the best things

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from the students

NPPA

This year the National Press Photographers Association club will be working on providing a resource for new visual journalism students. The new visual journalism major has sparked interest among many students and the amount of visual journalists is higher than ever. This year's goal is to familiarize students with equipment, multimedia software, portfolios and Web blogs. We will be having professionals coming in to share their experiences with students and give insight on how the industry is today. One of the year-end goals is to host a photo competition and auction off the winners to support the club itself. The NPPA club at Western will always be a means for students to network with fellow students and exercise their need for information about the visual journalism community.

MARK MALIJAN
NPPA president

SPJ

The WWU Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists was founded to promote the flow of information on campus and to encourage a climate in which journalism can be practiced freely and ethically. Our goal is to host one major campus-wide event every quarter, as well as numerous workshops and guest speakers for student journalists and those interested in journalism.

Throughout January we will be encouraging students to enter SPJ's Mark of Excellence Awards, which honors the best in online, print, radio and television collegiate journalism. Many Western students have been individually recognized in this competition, as has *Klipsun* magazine and *The Planet*. We encourage anyone with an interest in journalism, not just majors, to attend an SPJ club meeting.

BRETT WILLIAMS
SPJ president

PRO

The Public Relations Organization kicked off the academic year by teaming up with Western business students in a two-year project to promote the Vehicle Research Institute's Viking 45 vehicle that the team will enter in the national Progressive Insurance Automotive X PRIZE competition. The competition application requires the team to submit an in-depth business plan, and PRO has been compiling a PR campaign to be included in the plan.

In the meantime, PRO is working to offer educational opportunities to public relations students through panels, discussions and other events that often include bringing public relations professionals to Western. The organization is also working with other journalism clubs to help promote speakers and co-sponsored events at Western.

KATIE DREKE
PRO president

2008 Journalism Scholars

Eleven students were honored during Western's Scholar's Week in May 2008 for their contribution to the department and outstanding work in both classes and on publications.

- Alyse Clacy
- Emily Raymond
- Katie Dreke
- Nicholas Rohde
- Peter Jensen
- Jonathan Sayer
- Kelly Lemons
- Colin Simpson
- Sarah Mason
- Justin Steyer
- Ciara O'Rourke

2008-2009 scholarship and tuition wavier recipients

AD Club of Seattle Scholarship	\$2,000	Stephanie Castillo
AD Club of Seattle Scholarship	\$2,000	Rogelie Rael
Babcock Memorial Scholarship	\$1,500	Lisa Hust
David McInnis/PRWeb Scholarship	\$1,700	Alexis Tahiri
David McInnis/PRWeb Scholarship	\$1,700	Katie Dreke
Gerson Miller Memorial Scholarship	\$2,000	Chelsea Crump
Journalism Alumni Scholarship	\$1,000	Mary Truman
Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association Scholarship	\$655	Amanda Winters
Scripps-Howard Internship Scholarship	\$4,000	Amanda Winters
Steven Rupp Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	Megan Harmon
Washington State Tuition Waiver	\$1,800	Gabrielle Nomura

Planet magazine: 30 years

Continued from PLANET p. 7

about writing for *The Planet* is that you have something to take away with you.

“When I was in school the thing I learned the most from was the hands-on portion ... The lectures and the theory were important, but it was really that doing it was how you learned to be a reporter,” he said.

According to Dietrich, who is in his third year as adviser, *The Planet* has seen three other advisers: Michael Frome, Scott Brennan, and Tim Schultz, and all of them had a different effect on the publication.

Linroth said that all of the advisers had a different way of working with the students.

“One of the advisers would come in and edit with the editors on editing night (which we’d be open to doing if Bill Dietrich wants to come down and schmooze with a bunch of college students eating pizza),” she said.

Because *The Planet* is a rare commodity in the information that it produces, Linroth said it is common for the staff to

notice ripple effects from the articles they publish. She recalls noticing a story on the AP wire about drugs in the water shortly after the release of the fall 2007 issue that contained her article on the same topic.

Linroth said she recognizes the importance *The Planet’s* articles have in the scientific world.

“*The Planet* is distributed globally because of the Web site,” she said. “So if I Google my name, one of the first things that pops up is *The Planet* – which is really cool because that means that someone in Taiwan could Google something and some of our research from past issues could come up.”

As *The Planet’s* 30th year commences, the staff plans to utilize its milestone as a promotion for the publication.

“I think that everybody who works on *The Planet* recognizes that it’s a very high-caliber magazine, and that that’s what we are trying to continue the tradition of being,” Linroth said.

2007 SPJ Region 10 Mark of Excellence Awards

Magazine Non-Fiction Article

- Second place: Nicole Lanphear, “With the help of horses”
- Third place: Ciara O’Rourke, “Baby B”

Best Student Magazine

- First place: *Klipsun*
- Second place: *The Planet*

Non-Fiction Article

- Second place: Nicole Lanphear, “With the help of horses”
- Third place: Ciara O’Rourke, “Baby B”

Sports Photography

- Third place: Justin Steyer, “Volleyball celebration”

faculty updates



Shearlean Duke
Department Chair and
Associate Professor

This summer I traveled to Kenya to help develop a different kind of “study abroad” course to take journalism students to Africa.

My goal is to use service learning to provide international experiences for students that go beyond the typical study abroad programs. The visit was designed to lay the groundwork to take students to Kenya. I have been using service learning as a pedagogical method of experiential education in my PR class since 1999. An important goal in the course is to prepare students for real life work. So, working with actual clients in the class is a perfect fit.

Locally, we have worked with such partners as the Lighthouse Mission, Opportunity Council, Red Cross, Whatcom Volunteer Center, Mount Baker Theatre, Whatcom Symphony Orchestra, Bellingham Festival of Music, and others. In Kenya, we will work with Ombogo Girls’ Academy, a boarding school for girls 15 to 18, located in Homa Bay on Lake Victoria.

Traveling to Kenya with me were Timothy Costello, director of the Center for Service Learning, and executive director of Bellingham’s Slum Doctor Programme; Kristi Tyran, associate professor of management, and Mary Sass, assistant professor of management. We are developing the project in partnership with Slum Doctor Programme, a nonprofit organization founded to help people affected by AIDS in Africa.

A highlight of our trip was a visit to Amboseli National Park, where we saw lions, elephants, cheetahs and zebras -- up close. To see photos, email me at dukes@wwu.edu and I will send you a link to my Web albums.



Sheila Webb
Assistant Professor

I am very pleased to have joined the Department of Journalism this fall and am enjoying getting to know my colleagues and the Western students. I am teaching the media ethics class and the new visual sequence. This sequence was developed as a significant contribution to Western’s offerings and the field and will prepare our students for the new multifaceted journalistic environment.

This past year, I gave three conference papers: at the Joint Meeting of AJHA and AEJMC History Division in NYC; for the Magazine Division at AEJMC in Chicago; and at the School of Visual Arts in NYC. My work centers on U.S. magazines in the 20th century. I am working on several projects: the idealization of science and technology in *Life*; news narratives of women in the public sphere in *Woman Citizen*; the creation of community in *Taste of Home*; and changing priorities as magazines go online. I am an officer of AEJMC’s Magazine Division and chair the magazine research submissions to the mid-year conference.

Since moving to Bellingham from Milwaukee in July, I joined the board of the Westcott Bay Institute and Sculpture Park on San Juan Island, which features the work of over 100 artists. I am eager to explore the many outdoor challenges of the Northwest. On a rainy day last week, a student told me it will rain until June, but I’m hoping that’s an exaggeration. Still, I left my snow blower in Milwaukee and have acquired a waterproof coat and some heavy-duty rain boots.



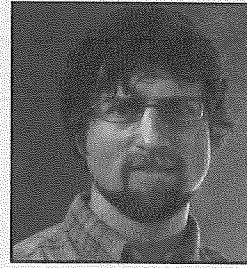
Carolyn Nielsen
Assistant Professor

This is my first year in the tenure track and I am excited to dig in to my research focusing on coverage of immigration issues and growth of ethnic media. My first journal article has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Spanish Language Media*.

In addition to teaching reporting and advanced reporting this year, I'm in my third year as adviser to *The Western Front*. I continue to be amazed at how quickly our students are picking up blogging, video and audio/photo slideshows for www.westernfrontonline.net. The twice-weekly *Front* is now living in the same 24-7 news cycle as the rest of the industry and providing our students with valuable experience.

This past summer, I worked as the editor-in-residence at the *Bellingham Business Journal*. I enjoyed working alongside two reporters who are recent Western journalism graduates and two interns from our program. It was fun to step back in newsroom mix for a little while.

When I wasn't editing stories, I spent my time organizing and leading Circulo de Manos, a summer enrichment program that travels to migrant farmworker camps in Whatcom County. Several of our current and former students volunteered there, as well.



Stephen Howie
Lecturer

During the 2007-08 academic year, I took part in the inaugural year of Western's Video Production Certificate Program, along with my wife, Maria McLeod. Now, Maria and I are taking on the role of videographers, working on a short documentary about a new residential facility on the Lummi reservation for troubled and homeless tribal teenagers. We are hoping to use the 10-minute documentary to apply for funding to create a longer, full-length documentary focusing on the compelling stories of struggling Lummi teens.

At Western, I advised *The Western Front* for the first time this summer. During the regular school year, I am the faculty adviser for *Klipsun*. I also teach news writing, reporting, feature writing, travel writing, and occasionally, literary journalism.

In my spare time, I like to attack the rim during noon faculty basketball games at Carver Gym, and I swim, jog and bike less than I should in preparation for the annual Lake Padden Triathlon, which I have completed with varying degrees of success and pain for the past four years.



Jennifer Keller
Assistant Professor

This is my second year at Western. I regularly teach public relations and newswriting, as well as the occasional media ethics or feature writing section. In addition, one of my primary tasks has been to review our public relations sequence and recommend ways we can make it even better for our students.

I began a research project this summer designed to improve public relations education. I surveyed other universities to find out what they require of their students. I am also asking PR people at nonprofits what skills they look for when hiring new graduates. Since many of our students are interested in non-profit PR, this could help as they move toward finding a job.

Outside of Western, my life continues to be extremely busy. Mark and I bought a house this past summer – one that was in mid-remodel. Together, we have been “camping” in the house while trying to make it more livable. We are excited to finally have heat now that it's getting cold.

Finally, in September, I walked 60 miles during the Seattle Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day. Together, we raised more than \$8 million in hope of finding a cure, a cause that is very important to me.



Brad Howard
Associate Professor

This is my fourth year at WWU. I teach Senior Seminar, Advanced Reporting, History of Mass Media, Newswriting, and Introduction to Mass Media.

My research focuses on the use of geographic information systems (GIS) in the media. I have presented conference papers on the use of GIS, including “GIS for Public Relations Research,” “Human Rights AWhereeness: GIS and Human Rights Campaigns,” and “Mapping Compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.” I have also presented a paper on images of people with disabilities in the news and collaborated with John Harris and Peggy Watt on a paper describing the development of our visual journalism curriculum.

In my free time, I enjoy mountaineering and rock climbing. I am Vice Chair of the Bellingham branch of the Mountaineers, and I volunteer as an instructor in the Mountaineers' basic climbing course.

I have 15 years of teaching experience and five years of experience as a newspaper correspondent. I also have almost two years of experience in radio news.

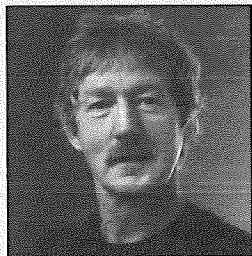


Carolyn Dale
Associate Professor

Last May, I discovered it is 1,499 miles by car from Bellingham to Boulder, Colo. It was even farther to come back, as our route went through amazing country: the Tietons, Yellowstone, and western Montana. Being able to travel in May is one of the great benefits of cutting back to part-time teaching. One of the challenges was getting back into the classroom this fall after six months away! But, classes have proved to be really fun. I'm combining professional work through my writing and editing business with teaching, which is what I was doing 30 years ago when I taught my first class as an adjunct at Western. I enjoy the way professional activity and the classroom complement each other.

Something else I've really enjoyed this past year is hearing occasionally from students from 10 or 20 -- or more -- years ago. Everyone starts their e-mails with "You may not remember me, but ..." So far, I do remember everyone, and it's really interesting to hear the twists and turns their lives have taken.

We continue to muse about the future of journalism given the decline of newspapers, but all of the new media still need editors, it seems. With our new colleagues and new classes, the department is a lively place. Please keep in touch! I'm still waiting for the email that begins, "I'm quite sure you'll remember me ..."



Tim Pilgrim
Associate Professor

I continue to teach Introduction to Mass Media, with its enrollment of about 113 students, and an editing course -- but because I am now two-thirds time (not retired, just tired), I am away one quarter each academic year.

My mass media course is still linked in the fall to another department on campus via the Freshman Interest Group program, this year the link being a lower division philosophy course.

As always, I find time for writing poetry (alumni should steep themselves in a poem such as "Slick: To Exxon 19 years later" at <http://hope.journ.wvu.edu/tpilgrim>), snapping photos for the Columbia Neighborhood Newsletter and running nearly 365 days a year through the neighborhood's streets and canyons.

I also still spend time attending to the two cats (Chelly and Brio) that rule the house and visiting my trio of grandchildren, who rule the roost.



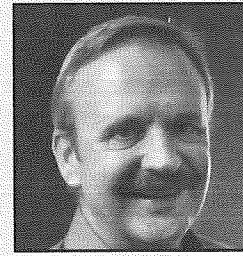
Peggy Watt
Assistant Professor

It's exciting to be part of the new visual journalism sequence, which is in full operation this year. I'm enjoying teaching the online journalism course (not taught online, but about online journalism -- with a mix of theory and practice). I'm still a contributing editor to *PC World*, which helps me stay current with technology.

This fall I also taught a course on covering campaigns and elections. We followed this year's historic presidential contest, and focused on covering a national event with a local angle. The class included a long but exciting election night assignment. It was a one-time class offered as a special reporting project, open to journalism majors and fulfilling the requirement for the feature writing class. However, it was a bit feature writing, a bit advanced reporting and a bit political science.

I also still enjoy teaching mass media law, which is less a moving target than the other two classes, but still involves a fair amount of current events. Online media is also raising new issues in media law.

On a personal note, this summer we celebrated the wedding of my stepdaughter Moira and welcomed her husband Gabe, a video game designer, into the family.



John Harris
Assistant Professor

I'm residing in the blogosphere -- at least I was when I wrote this in the fall. I received a grant from Lummi Nation to document Lummi High School's 8-man football team and I posted my photos and stories on a blog. It provided me an opportunity to apply my journalistic skills to a fascinating story, and the football team received the attention it deserved. It was a great lesson for me in how a blog can be used for community journalism.

The third Bellingham Visual Journalism Conference last summer was the best yet. We had about 100 people attend to hear a lineup that included Pulitzer winner Renee Byer and ESPN.com executive editor Kevin Jackson, a Western journalism grad. We're committed to keeping it going and have scheduled next year's conference for July 17-19. Shearlean Duke recommended that I take on the title of director, which I agreed to do, provided we have a board of directors. We're working on it.

This is a pivotal year for me because I've applied for tenure. It's important that we get someone else in the department tenured because Shearlean is our only full-time, tenured professor. I've got my fingers crossed.

retiredfacultyupdates

Lyle Harris

Since leaving WWU in summer 2005, I have had study-abroad programs in Australia and in India. In Perth, we got to know an Aboriginal artist, Bonnie Deegan, from the Kimberley region. We soon became friends and Betty and I now have four of her paintings. In Alice Springs, the heart of the outback, our group was housed in a motel where our neighbors were Aboriginal artists. The students, (some called home and asked for extra funds), and I bought a number of paintings, including some from the Petyarre family, one of the more famous art groups in the country.

India was challenging and, unfortunately, dangerous: a week after we visited Pushkar and Ajmer, where we had our pictures taken in front of a mosque, a bombing killed a number of people—right where we were standing a few days before. And many times we walked past the Ganesha statue in the old Pink City of Jaipur, where, a few months later, a bomb killed several people.

I miss all of you in my classes, but I don't miss marking papers and exams! I was privileged to go into a classroom and work with bright and attentive (sometimes) students who really did want to tie into a subject. I'd enjoy hearing from you: Leh98284@yahoo.com.

Floyd McKay

I continue to be active in the field since retiring in 2004, and have added radio and Internet news to my previous activities in print and broadcast. I interview authors for Village Books' Chuckanut Radio Hour on KMRE in Bellingham, and have been contributing to Crosscut.com, a Seattle-based news Web site. In March I finished up a six-year stint as an Op-ed columnist for the *Seattle Times*, but I continue to write on politics and history for regional outlets. Dixie and I still live in Bellingham and enjoy travel to Scotland and elsewhere. My e-mail is floydmcKay@yahoo.com.

Ted Stannard

I retired in 1991 after 22 years at Western. My wife, Femmy, and I spent the next decade abroad, where I served as journalism consultant to Indonesia's national press institute (1989-93), journalism faculty member and department chair at The American University in Cairo (1994-2000), and – after a brief time-out for a triple-bypass – as director of two three-month professional workshops in Phnom Penh in 2001 for journalists assembled from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

The next seven years have been filled with personal affairs and travel.

Projects? I hope to organize decades of family correspondence dating back to the 30s and 40s, as well as my own thousands of negatives, slides and prints accumulated over six decades of personal and professional photography worldwide, and perhaps to attempt a joint memoir with Femmy on our separate childhoods in China and Indonesia during World War II.

Pete Steffens

We left Bellingham in 1999 after I retired and Valerie found a job in England at the University of Sunderland. After three years, she found another at Leeds University and worked fulltime as well as writing four books during our eight-year stay on that island. But this spring she also retired, and we've settled (permanently) on Vancouver Island. I've begun writing up my memoirs, to be called "Leftovers." I also joined the Socialist Historians Society, and the demonstrations against the U.S. invasion and occupation of oil-rich Iraq.

I still miss those all-night sessions as *The Western Front's* adviser.

We wish you all well, and invite you to come by sometime!

Students host former Nixon adviser Egil Krogh

by **KATIE DREKE**
Newsletter editor

Western Washington University's student chapter of Society of Professional Journalists and WWU's Public Relations Organization hosted speaker and former Nixon administration official Egil "Bud" Krogh on Nov. 20, 2008.

Krogh, a Seattle native, spoke on such topics as the events that led up to the Watergate scandal, what it was like to work with former President Richard Nixon, and the surprise visit from Elvis Presley.

In 1971, Krogh acted as head of the Special Investigations Unit for the Nixon administration, in which he was in charge of stopping information leaks from the White House.

In 1973, Krogh went public about his

role in the Watergate scandal and the decisions that led up to event. He pleaded guilty to charges and was sentenced to prison.

More than 30 years after serving his prison sentence, Krogh travels around the United States to speak to organizations and institutions about ethical decision making.

Krogh spent the day on campus talking to students from multiple academic backgrounds. In his evening presentation, Krogh discussed his experiences as a lawyer, entering the White House with little political experience, and the ethical decisions he should have made.

Krogh recently published "Integrity: Good People, Bad Choices, and Life Lessons from the White House," a book which he wrote with the help of his son, Matthew Krogh, a graduate of WWU.

**A special thank
you to *The
Bellingham Herald*
for all its
contributions to
WWU's journalism
department
and students
throughout the
year!**

alumni life

2008

Kelly Joines is a staff writer for the *North Kitsap Herald*.

Kacie McKinney is an assistant adviser for JayRay, an advertising and public relations firm in Tacoma.

Kristi Pihl is a reporter for the *Stanwood-Camano News*.

2007

Mary Andom is interning at *The Chronicle for Higher Education* in Washington, D.C.

Adriana Dunn works for GOOD, Inc. in Los Angeles.

Isaac Bonnell is a reporter for *Bellingham Business Journal*.

Jonathan Brandenburg is teaching English in Japan.

Kimberly Champley is an editor for an online tutoring company, GlobalScholar.com.

Kendall Farley is interning with Congressman Jay Inslee in Washington, D.C.

Mollie Foster landed a full-time position as the city reporter for the *Louisville Times* and *Superior Observer*, two of the four weekly papers published by Colorado Hometown Newspapers.

Codi Hamblin works at the *Sedro-Woolley Courier Times*.

Marissa Harshman works at *The News-Review* in Roseburg, Ore.

Lance Henderson is a reporter for *Bellingham Business Journal*.

Andrew Irvine landed a job with ESPN in Bristol, Conn. as a production assistant for college football and boxing.

Sandy Lam works as a communication consultant at the Washington State Department of Transportation in Seattle.

Katherine Mathis is an intern for *Sierra* magazine.

Sean McGrorey DeButts is living near Seattle in Medina, and working as an administrative assistant while searching for a permanent career.

Elizabeth McNeil is an event coordinator for the Bureau of Education & Research out of Bellevue, Wash. She manages educational seminars and travels the United States and Canada.

Kimberly Oakley is at The Fearey Group as an account coordinator. She is in charge of the Flying Heritage Collection account, which is the collection of Paul Allen's World War II planes.

Megumi Osawa is living in Japan again.

Derrick Pacheco is a sports writer for the *Columbia Basin Herald*.

Shawn Query is interning for *Audubon Magazine* and contributing to *E*, the environmental magazine.

Sara Thompson works at the *Tahoe Daily Tribune*.

Shawna Walls works for MSN Entertainment doing Web site editing and development.

Jared Yoakum is doing some freelance photography while firefighting and snowboarding.

2006

Elizabeth Adamack lives in Newport Beach, Calif., and has a job at a small PR/marketing/event planning firm in Orange.

Matthew Anderson is the editor of the *FAST* newsletter, which is published by the Office of University Communications at Western Washington University.

Brandi Bratrude and **Sarah Kuck**, after many months of baby steps, launched seattleDIRT.com in Janu-

ary 2008. The new e-zine (electronic magazine) is based on digging up the under-reported environmental and social justice news in the Seattle area.

Kelsey Dosen is working at a PR firm in Australia.

Stefani Harrey works in the corporate marketing department at an earth science/technology firm called GeoEngineers. The company is headquartered in Redmond, Wash.

Christopher Huber is the sports and schools reporter for the *Sammamish Review*, which is part of Issaquah Press, Inc., and currently lives in Sammamish, Wash. He's shooting sports photographs for the newspaper and some outdoor photography for fun. He also recently started Christopher Huber Photography.

Shannon Hutchinson works as a sales planner in Santa Monica.

Jackie LeCuyer is working towards getting her teaching credentials.

Megan (Lum) Kennedy has a full-time job at *The Chronicle*, the Centralia/Chehalis daily newspaper, as a page designer and copy editor. She married Will Kennedy on Dec. 27, 2007.

Kara Lundberg is having fun in Seattle working at Weber Shandwick Worldwide as a team assistant. She is part of a 13-person team whose client is the Microsoft imbedded mobile products, including its new smartphone.

Evan McLean has taken over the city beat for *The Sequim Gazette*.

Kate Miller works for a public relations and public affairs firm, The Fearey Group, as a senior account executive.

Tara Nelson is assistant editor at *The Northern Light* community newspaper in Blaine, Wash., and a freelance writer.

Tera Randall works at Porter Novelli and loves it there.

Susan Rosenberry is editor of the *Ferndale Record-Journal*.

Timory Wilson was hired as an assistant editor by *Horse Illustrated*.

2005

Lacy Bevis has been promoted to distribution coordinator at PRWeb.

Emily Butterfield works as a Communications Specialist for WIN Home Inspection.

Connor Clark-Lindh is living in Singapore where he markets software.

Matthew DeVeau is working for PRWeb.

Chrystal Doucette accepted a reporter position at the *Columbia Basin Herald* in Moses Lake, Wash. She is also taking classes at Marist College of Graduate and Continuing Education through distance learning. The school is in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Zoe Fraley is a features reporter at *The Bellingham Herald*.

Laura McVicker works as a metro reporter for *The Columbian* in Vancouver, Wash.

Paolo Mottola recently left PRWeb and has now joined Weber Shandwick, where he is an assistant account executive in analyst relations for Microsoft Mobile and Embedded Devices.

Katie Scaief is working as an environmental education promoter with the Peace Corps in Nicaragua.

Travis Sherer is program assistant for the University of Washington Athletic Department.

Anna Sowa works at *The Bulletin* in Bend, Ore.

Jamie Trudel works as a full-time contracted teacher in Forks, Wash.

Christina Twu works with Community Health Plan of Washington where she gets to perform media tracking, design,

writing and administrative duties.

Amanda Woolley now works in the public relations department at Spiker Communications in Missoula, Mont. She previously worked as the communications coordinator at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.

Jenny Zuvella is the marketing specialist for Everett Community College.

2004

Brent Ayres is the audience coordinator for Komo 4's Northwest Afternoon.

Eric Berto is a marketing specialist for Etelos, a provider of open source, on-demand Web 2.0 Applications. He and his wife live in Newport Hills.

Andrea (Boyle) McCoy works as the community relations coordinator for Yakima Valley Community College and freelances for the local wine industry. After graduation, she worked for the public relations firm Rocky Hill and Knowlton in Spokane, Wash.

Heidi Buhman is a consultant for Miller LLC, which specializes in the biotech/healthcare industry.

Christine Cameron is working as a temporary employee/intern in the Home Design Department at *In Style* magazine in New York.

Annie (Billington) Dumond and **Josh Dumond** were married on Aug. 4, 2007 in Bellevue, Wash. Following their wedding, Josh and Annie honeymooned in Maui for two weeks. Annie is a marketing communications manager at Concur and Josh is an entertainment producer for MSN.com. Josh and Annie recently bought a house in Bothell, where they live with their dog and cat.

Jeremy Edwards is a copy editor for MSN Entertainment and handles content concerning music, movies, celebrities, TV, entertainment news and video.

Leah Hadfield moved back to Seattle from the San Francisco Bay area and took a job as marketing assistant at The Essential Baking Co. in Seattle's

Wallingford neighborhood.

Matthew Hietala is the sports editor at the *Los Alamos Monitor* in New Mexico. Matthew's wife, Joleen, gave birth to their first son Boone Henry in July 2008. Their daughter, Gretchen Victoria, is 3.

Brianne (Holte) Pruitt is an editor for *Wenatchee World*.

Katie James is an account associate at Sterling Communications.

Annie Johnson works in communications for the Washington State Department of Transportation in Seattle.

Peter Louras took an internship with *Alpinist* magazine in Jackson Hole, Wyo. Peter will be covering alpinism, mountaineering, climbing, and other outdoor adventure sports.

Jenny Maag is the communications manager for USA Basketball in Colorado Springs.

Colin McDonald is a reporter at the *Houston Chronicle* in Washington, D.C.

Jen Rittenhouse is the national/majors advertising assistant for the *Seattle Times*.

Jaclyn Ruckle works for Weber Shandwick in Seattle.

Joni Schiffner works for Capelli's Gentlemen's Barbershop in Seattle.

Heidi Schiller won four Excellence in Journalism awards from the Western Washington chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Kiko (Sola) Samms is the graphics manager for HSBC North American Purchasing, Printing and Fulfillment Services, a global financial company in Monterey Bay, Calif. She lives with her husband, Matt, and two dogs, Perry and Mandy.

Leslie Sugiura is the communications coordinator at Ste. Michelle Wine Estates in Woodinville, Wash.

Leslie White is doing PR for an engineering firm in Spokane.

Lianna Wingfield is working for Vandenberg Communications.

2003

Betsy Anderson is one of two staff reporters at the *San Juan Journal*.

Valerie Bauman spent seven months in Mississippi covering Hurricane Katrina after working for The Associated Press (AP) in North Carolina. She is now working in a permanent position for The AP in Albany, N.Y.

Amber Blondin previously worked for Continental Television Sales as a media rep in Seattle, New York City, and Washington, D.C., and is currently residing in Washington, D.C. as a senior media buyer for Crossroads Media.

Amber M. Bomar is the lifestyles editor for the *Snyder (Texas) Daily News*.

Courtney (Brousseau) Dunne is planning on moving to New Zealand with her husband, Huxley graduate Dan Dunne. They plan to do sustainability work/home design. She also worked with the Seattle Symphony doing publications/media work.

Kirsten Carlson is the managing editor at *Sports Etc Magazine*, a magazine focused on outdoor sports.

Alaina Dunn is in her final semester of the counseling graduate program at Northern Arizona University and is a graduate hall director.

Robin Duranleau was promoted to account supervisor at Publicis Consultants (formerly Publicis Dialog) in April 2008. She was hired by Publicis in 2003 while still in school at Western, and now oversees multiple accounts and a small staff.

Laurel Eddy is a reporter for the *Daily Astorian* in Oregon.

Ivory (Firsching) Ore works as a recruiting coordinator in the human resources department at SonoSite, Inc. The company makes portable sono-

gram machines and is the leader in their industry. She is married to Trevor Ore.

Alashia Freimuth works in Sponsorship sales and promotions for the SEAFair festival in Seattle.

Robert Gara, Jr. joined APCO Worldwide as an associate. Previously, he worked for Gov. Gary Locke's communications team, went to Santiago, Chile and worked for Captiva Hill & Knowlton. He settled in Seattle working for the Connections Group, where he ran the company's public relations, including production, press, Web site development and event coordination.

Jeff Hoffman was named the sports information director at Biola University in La Mirada, Calif. in July 2006. He is currently living with his wife in Fullerton.

Helen Hollister is halfway through the second year of her master's program and will graduate this May. She also works at a performing and visual arts high school in Harlem, teaching Spanish and a journalism class. They are trying to put together a magazine full of feature stories.

Amber (Hurley) Maechler was recently married.

Brandon Ivey is a reporter for a mortgage technology newsletter in Bethesda, Md. He lives in Silver Spring, a suburb of Washington, D.C.

Andrea Jasinek is a news designer at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and is in the process of applying to law school.

Stephanie Kosonen works in Burlington at the *Argus* newspaper as a reporter/photographer.

Scott Lefeber is a communications specialist for Boeing in Everett.

Sarah Loehndorf is a reporter for the *Sammamish Review* in Issaquah.

Lisa Mandt is doing PR for the Port of Everett.

Candace Nelson left *The Vidette* to take a job as an editor at MSN.com.

Derek Sheppard is a North Kitsap reporter for the *Kitsap Sun*.

Christina Tercero married Jonathan Moore in Oak Harbor on March 29, 2008.

Heather Trimm lives in Renton and works in Seattle as a photo tech for the photo department at the *Seattle Times*.

2002

Marissa Bisnar works at Suzuki Public Relations in Seattle as an account manager, handling Seattle-area restaurants and Washington wineries.

Bobbi Egan works for The King County Records, Elections and Licensing (REALS) in Seattle.

Camille Penix is a technical writer for F5 Networks of Seattle.

Levi Pulkkinen works for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and speaks at WWU journalism classes from time to time.

Jen (True) Shefner is an electronic communications specialist for Columbia Credit Union in Vancouver, Wash.

Greg Woehler is a reporter for the *Leavenworth Echo*.

2001

Andrea Abney works for *The San Francisco Chronicle*.

Kristin (Biggsby) White lives in Naalehu, Hawaii, with her husband and their son, Nate.

Tiffany Campbell is the online producer for the *Seattle Times* and frequent contributor to WWU journalism classes and the Bellingham Visual Journalism Conference.

Michael Dashiell is a sports editor at the *Sequim Gazette*.

Erin Fredrichs is a staff photographer at the *Albuquerque Tribune*.

Soren Velice is working as art director/copy editor/production taskmaster at

CS Group, which publishes *Nalu Underground*, a surf magazine dedicated to amateurs, and *Hui O Hawaii*, a luxury travel/Hawaiian magazine dedicated to rich people.

Linnea Westerlind is communications director for the YMCA of Greater Seattle. She and her husband live in West Seattle.

2000

Laura Campbell manages Costco Wholesale's college internship program at their corporate office in Issaquah.

Justin Hall is program director and co-founder at VOXUS, Inc., a high-tech PR firm specializing in emerging companies.

1999

Amy (Christiansen) Morgan was promoted in October 2007 to associate editor for digital news at National Public Radio in Washington, D.C. She married David Vance Morgan on Sept. 22, 2007, in Olympia. The couple now lives in Maryland outside Washington, D.C.

Jill (Frewing) Hoelscher is a technical marketing writer for Washburn Communication, Inc. in Bellevue.

Bronlea Hawkins works for the Blaine-based company Little i, doing graphic design/marketing/odds and ends.

Tina Potterf is an editor and writer in the communication department at Seattle University, and a freelance writer for the *Seattle Times*.

Anna Shaffer moved to Philadelphia and took a job as a communications specialist for Living Beyond Breast Cancer. She is also doing some freelance writing and editing.

1998

Amy Marie Christiansen is a Page 1 designer and copy editor at *The Olympian*. She plays rugby with a local club, and took a solo, six-week trip to Australia to attend the Rugby World Cup.

Kimberly Vincent is now Kimberly DeCarlo.

Jenny Zappala is a staff writer at the *Bothell-Kenmore Reporter* and board member of Society of Professional Journalists Western Washington Professional Chapter.

1997

Alisha (Holdener) Mark does media relations for Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle.

1996

Brett Davis has worked through Volt Technical Services as a contract writer for World Vision, Inc. in Federal Way since March 2005.

Susan Eick was accepted to the University of Washington Graduate School of Communications in Digital Media.

Dina Elizabeth Hovde is a columnist and editorial writer for *The Columbian*. She and her husband, Ryan, have a son, Luke Bannister Hovde.

Noelle Kompkoff received her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Willamette University College of Law.

Suann (Landis) Lundsberg was promoted to director of communications programs at BNSF Railway Company. She is responsible for its annual and corporate citizenship reports, environmental positioning, executive support, and the supervision of all media relations. Suann and her husband, Christian, have a son, Marshall Scott.

Mike Stiles left SPIE of Bellingham after eight years and joined Omniture in Orem, Utah as the senior manager of partner program marketing. He lives with his wife, Katie, and daughters Dana, Brinley and Mia Kate.

Stephanie (Thomson) Rice covers the courts for her hometown newspaper, *The Columbian*, in Vancouver, Wash. She and her husband, Micah Rice, welcomed daughter Amelia in Oct. 2005.

1995

Kristin Alexander works as a public information officer for the state Attorney General's Office and lives in Seattle. She also covers the South Sound's performing arts scene for *The Sitting Duck*, an alternative newspaper based in Olympia.

Vanessa Blackburn is the publisher and editor of the *Bellingham Business Journal*. She has now discovered the joy of tormenting journalism department interns.

Angela C. Cassidy is a research assistant for a Seattle architectural firm specializing in historical restoration and landmark nominations.

Greg Garrity is the human resource manager for The Home Depot in Issaquah, Wash.

Nicole (Simpson) Colson works for the *Shakopee Valley News*, a Thursday weekly in Shakopee, Minn. She writes features and covers the schools in the eighth fastest growing county in the nation.

1994

Lynnette (Bonnema) Luna is a freelance writer specializing in telecommunications. Lynnette and her husband, Paul, have two boys, Mason and Carter.

Steve Dunkelberger is the editor for the *Business Examiner* in Tacoma. He won two second-place SPJ awards for his writing. Steve also wrote a book about the history of the city of Lakewood.

Erin Middlewood and Stephanie Rice (1996), of the *Vancouver Columbian*, won a national award from the Society of Professional Journalists for best investigative series among mid-sized newspapers.

1993

Steve McClure is the managing editor at the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News* and teaches as an adjunct at Washington State University.

1992

Scott Ayers is the opinion page editor of *The Bellingham Herald*.

Mathew Baunsgard moved to London, and is working as an actor.

Toni Weyman Droscher works in the publications department for the Puget Sound Action Team in Olympia.

Gloria Kruzner is a mother of three. She does freelance work on the side, and lives in Seattle with her husband Bill Kruzner.

1991

Kristi Warren-Slette is a community partnership development and course program manager at the Center for Service-Learning at Western Washington University. Kristi also teaches interviewing skills as an adjunct faculty in the Human Services Cyber-site program.

1989

Eric C. Evarts is a full-time automotive writer at *Consumer Reports*. Eric spent 15 years as an editor, writer, and computer tech for *The Christian Science Monitor* in Boston.

Jim Thomsen is a copy editor for the *Kitsap Sun*.

1988

Thomas Mosby is the career and technical director for education administration for the South Kitsap School District. In December of 2004, he completed his doctorate in education at WSU.

1985

Jeff Kramer writes a humor column that runs twice a week in *The Post-Standard*, the Syracuse-based daily serving Central New York. He moved to New York in 2003 with his wife, Leigh, and their two girls, Miranda and Lily. His comedic stage play, "Lowdown Lies," was produced in Syracuse and won a script contest in Chicago. Jeff also teaches journalism part-time at Syracuse University.

1983

Dale Folkerts is an online editor for the Washington Education Association in Federal Way after working more than 12 years as a reporter and editor at *The (Everett) Herald*. He is exploring telling stories online as video news-features. He is married with two daughters and lives in Maple Valley.

1982

Frederick Obee is a longtime Pacific Northwest journalist, editing for newspapers from Puget Sound to Northern California. He is currently the general manager of the *Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader*.

Lloyd Pritchett is the online editor for the *Kitsap Sun*.

T.M. (Terry) Sell teaches journalism and political science at Highline College and writes a column on economics and business for the *Seattle Times*.

1981

John Greeley is the public information officer for the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission in Austin, Texas.

Audrey Martin is the student media advisor for Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia.

Nina Odell manages the federal government relations program for Puget Sound Energy.

1980

Marla Beaufort lives in Mount Vernon, Wash., where she works as a para-educator for the Mount Vernon School District, tutoring elementary students. She has used her writing skills over the years in the PR field, in church projects and in writing for publications.

Chris Jarvis is the state director of communications and marketing for the March of Dimes, Washington Chapter.

1978

Suki Dardarian is president of the

Associated Press Managing Editors. She is also one of three new managing editors for the *Seattle Times*.

Graham Evan MacDonell lives in Glasgow, Scotland and works for the Association of Chief Police Officers as a communications officer. Graham has worked for many publications in British Columbia, as well as working for Mazda Motors Corp. in Hiroshima, Japan.

1976

Mona L. (Johnson) Harvey celebrated her 20th anniversary with Carolyn K. Harvey. The pair is one of 4,000 same-sex couples who obtained California marriage licenses and wed during the controversial, historic weeks at San Francisco City Hall in February 2004. Mona worked for many years as an editor in Seattle and San Francisco for business publications specializing in international trade.

Roy Tanaka works for the *Maui News*.

1975

Pat Duggan is the HealthLink producer for KING-TV. Prior to that, she spent a year in Ireland with her two children, while earning a master's degree in creative writing. Pat has also been published in *Poetry Ireland*, *Seams* (UK) and *Raven's Chronicles*. She has won three national award this year.

1973

Scott Anderson retired from WWU in June 2007, to return to Alaska, where he and his wife, Cheryl, purchased the *Talkeetna Times* newspaper and *Talkeetna Good Times* annual visitor's guide. They have acquired another newspaper, the *Nenana News*, re-named *Denali Reach*, which plans to expand circulation.

Alice Collingwood is retiring after 15 years with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. She took a full-time job as associate director for Summit Assistance Dogs, an Anacortes-based non-profit that trains and places service dogs for people with disabilities. She also expects to do some freelance work.

donations appreciated

Every year alumni, corporations and friends of the journalism department contribute to the journalism alumni fund and the Gerson Miller Memorial Fund. The alumni fund pays for subscriptions in the journalism library and goes toward scholarships and other special student needs such as the scholars week reception. The faculty, staff and students **THANK YOU** for your generous monetary donations and in-kind contributions, such as photographs to display in the department. A plaque in the journalism library pays tribute to alumni for increasing the library's subscription and student resources. These donations allow the department to support students and give them the best opportunities available. Remember, check with employers because some companies will match your contributions.

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Send your news to Carol Brach via email to cbrach@hope.journ.wwu.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.wwu.edu/~journal.

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