

# Alumni News

WINTER 2012

WWU DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

## Western sweeps SPJ awards

## Press freedom challenged

Student Senate resolution proposed censoring campus publications

by **Alexa Zaske and Olena Rypich**

Two Western journalism alumni and one student were honored with Society of Professional Journalists 2010 National Mark of Excellence Awards, and a handful of students won regional 2010 Mark of Excellence Awards in March.

Senior Adrienne Woods and alumnus Benjamin Woodard placed first in the breaking news category for their coverage in *The Western Front* of the death of Dwight Clark, a Western freshman who went missing after the first week of school. Clark's body was discovered in Bellingham Bay.

Woodard was also a national finalist in the in-depth reporting category for his *Western Front* story, "Audit: High-level Administrator Squandered Funds;" and alumnus Carey Rose took first place in the best general news photo, "County jail bloated with inmates," which also ran in

see **SPJ winners**, page 7

by **Anna Atkinson and Olena Rypich**



Student senators listen as (left to right) Marya Purrington, Gina Cole, Becky Tachihara, editors-in-chief of student publications, and Peggy Watt, chair of the Student Publications Council, talk about freedom of the press at the Nov. 2 Associated Students Student Senate meeting

Photo courtesy of Erin Nash / *The Western Front*

### Inside this issue:

Letter from the chair	p. 2
Service learning program praised	p. 2
An immersion in science	p. 3
Klipsun turns 40	p. 3
Investigating coal port	p. 4
Prestigious internships	p. 4
Scholarship helps keep Shearlean Duke's memory alive	p. 5
Club updates	p. 6
Faculty updates	p. 8
Retired faculty updates	p. 11
Alumni life	p. 12
Donations	p. 15

A resolution introduced on Oct. 26 by Kendall Bull, chair of Western's Associated Students Student Senate, on behalf of an anonymous student, aimed to require campus publications to remove content in online archives if a student could claim it was damaging to his or her reputation.

The resolution acknowledged professional publications do not indulge in this practice as a matter of policy but argued college is a "practice run" and is therefore prone to exceptions in the way censorship is practiced.

Gina Cole, fall quarter editor-in-chief of *The Western Front*, said Bull invited Student Publications Council Chair Peggy Watt, and later, Cole, to the Senate's Nov. 2 informational hearing.

Once word got out, about 35 journalism students, professors and staff members showed up to the hearing. Watt and editors-in-chief Cole, Marya Purrington of *Klipsun* and Becky Tachihara of *The Planet*, also spoke to

the senators about publication practices and opposed the resolution on the grounds that it damaged the credibility of publications, and violated the First Amendment.

"The proposed resolution was nothing short of censorship," Tachihara later said. "If something was true and accurate when it was reported in a Western publication, retracting it later just because someone was embarrassed is tantamount to changing history and violates some of journalism's core ethical codes."

The Student Senate's vote would have been a recommendation to the AS Board of Directors. The speakers reminded the senators that even if the resolution passed, the AS Board does not have jurisdiction over the publications. *The Front*, *Klipsun*, *The Planet* and *Jeopardy* are governed by the Student Publications Council, which falls under a charter signed by the Board of

see **Student Senate**, page 14

# from the chair



I'm honored and still more than a bit overwhelmed to assume the duties of chair of the Department of Journalism this fall. As an alumna, I know this department and university prepared me well for my career, which has now brought me back to Western. My primary goal is to maintain the excellence of this department, even as we evaluate what it means to study journalism and become a journalist in an industry that continues to undergo dramatic change.

One answer was adding the third track in the journalism major, visual journalism, with its mix of photojournalism, design and multimedia studies, which now draws one-third of all majors.

However, Huxley College has put the environmental journalism major on hiatus

largely in response to higher education budget cuts. The Planet is still publishing, this year under new adviser Rebekah Green; and would-be EJ majors may do their concentration in environmental studies.

The journalism department is weathering budget constraints by calling on a great stable of adjunct instructors. One was a returnee: Emeritus Professor Lyle Harris, who taught mass media law so I could focus on being chair. We can offer electives only during the self-sustaining summer session, but we have taken this opportunity to explore new courses such as a magazine production course taught by Sheila Webb and a class on the business of journalism originated by Michele Anderson, WWU alumna and advertising manager for The Western Front.

We encourage our alumni to join us in urging state legislators to resist further slashing higher education budgets. The Bellingham-area legislators are

largely supportive; we need help from alumni who are constituents of legislators from all over the state.

We also appreciate the ongoing support of our alumni and friends, whose contributions enable this relatively small department to award many scholarships. Students who are strapped by double-digit tuition hikes appreciate your support as well.

And above all, please keep in touch! Let us know where you are and what you're doing, and if your travels bring you to Bellingham, please look us up in the Communications Facility and say hello!

**Peggy Watt**

Department Chair, Associate Professor

## Find the WWU Journalism Alumni page on Facebook

- Keep us posted on your career changes or any personal updates
- Reconnect with professors and other alumni
- Find networking opportunities

## Service-learning program deemed successful for students, community

by **Olena Rypich**

Whether producing multimedia pieces, create logos or building websites from scratch, students in Assistant Professor Sheila Webb's Journalism 446: Advanced Visual Journalism class are ready to put their skills to practice — beyond the classroom.

JOUR 446, the capstone course and a service-learning class in the visual journalism sequence, partners students with local nonprofits. During spring quarter, students worked with organizations such as Allied Arts, SISU Children's Fund, Whatcom Watch and Advice on Tap.

Webb was commended for her work in teaching the course at Western's Service-Learning Showcase May 19, when she received the WWU 2011 Outstanding Service-Learning Faculty Award.

But her students say they benefited from the course as much as their community partners.

Students said they left the course with strong portfolio pieces and experience of framing a message for a particular audience.

Western alumni Michael Homnick and Mark Stayton, and seniors Colin Diltz and Jonathan Kull, collaborated with Western's Human Services department. The group made two videos: one about Advice on Tap,

a group of students who work on increasing awareness of responsible drinking and bar behavior; and one interviewing human services students from diverse backgrounds as a promotional video for the program.

"It was nice being able to work with a real client, and we really felt like our video and journalism skills were appreciated by Diana Jones, our immediate contact in the department," Homnick said. He said he is glad the videos his group produced would be used by a community organization.

**"The experience showed me I could do projects for people outside of the classroom setting"**

*— Jen Sawyer, alumna*

Webb said one of her goals for the program is to help students develop an appreciation for social and civic responsibility while developing teamwork and leadership skills.

"Through these projects, students gain awareness of their community and its needs and how they can make a difference," she said.

Western alumna Jen Sawyer and alumni Carey Rose and Mitch Olsen worked on the project for Allied Arts of Whatcom County

and developed several products for their client. They designed a black-and-white newspaper ad and color magazine ad; and designed, developed and coded an interactive website that correlated with the materials of the printed art map.

"Being able to take a service-learning course during my time at Western was both beneficial and eye-opening," Sawyer said. "We worked hand-in-hand with our community partners to produce the materials they needed and that gave all of us students a chance to work with real-world situations and put our skills to the test."

All aspects are essential in future internships and employment, Webb said.

"The experience showed me I could do projects for people outside of the classroom setting," Sawyer said. "While Sheila helped facilitate a lot of the discussions and discourse with our community partners — which was amazingly helpful — the students were able to give their input and work closely with someone outside of the academic world. This gave me a new outlook on my skill set and gave me confidence that I can find work and have skills that people are looking for in the job world."

# Immersed in science: A student's summer project in Siberia

by **Olena Rypich**

Environmental journalism senior Becky Tachihara, along with Associate Professor of Environmental Science Andy Bunn and alumnus Matt Moroney, spent most of July in Cherskiy, Siberia, conducting field research as part of the Polaris Project.

The Polaris Project, an independent research project funded by the National Science Foundation, takes a group of primarily undergraduate science students, professors, post-doctoral students and other professional scientists to the Siberian Arctic to assess the rate of melting permafrost and what that signifies about global climate change.



A barge where Becky Tachihara and her group lived in Cherskiy, Siberia, in July 2011.

Photo courtesy of Becky Tachihara

Tachihara's role was documenting the work. "One of the project's goals is to spread awareness of the research. I got to go up and do photojournalism," she said.

She took pictures and took video and audio recordings of the scientists doing their work.

The most challenging part for Tachihara was gathering the necessary equipment for the project. "I'm a little bit outdoorsy," she said. "I like camping and all, but I had to buy a bug helmet and field gear and waterproof pants and a camera bag that wouldn't get destroyed if I went hiking through really thick undergrowth or dropped it in the mud."

She said Siberia pleasantly surprised her. "When people think of the Arctic, they think of snow and ice," she said. "But I thought it was beautiful, and there is so much vibrant green everywhere. It's all untouched; there are no trails anywhere."

The scientists brought many of their samples back to the United States, and will continue to research the work. "That's one of the things I'm trying to communicate," she



Becky Tachihara enjoys a sunset in Cherskiy, Siberia, in July 2011.

Photo courtesy of Becky Tachihara

said. "Scientists aren't going to spend a short time in Siberia and find out how global warming happens."

She said she enjoyed watching the scientists gather data that's never been gathered before.

"One of the best parts about the project is that undergrads get to go up to this area

see **Arctic adventure**, page 11

# Klipsun celebrates 40th anniversary with current, former staffs

by **Olena Rypich**



Spring 2011 editor-in-chief Lindsey Otta, second from the left, holds a cake with a scanned cover of the spring 2011 Hidden issue. Photo courtesy of Shea Taisey

Former and current writers and editors of Klipsun, their families and friends gathered with associate professor Peggy Watt, who was Klipsun adviser before serving as chair of the department, to celebrate the magazine's 40th anniversary on May 15, during Western's Back2Bellingham weekend.

Guests toured the Klipsun office, where students had decorated the walls with covers of past issues. The guests looked through older and most recent Klipsun stories and multimedia pieces, a new addition to Klipsun.

Alumna Lindsey Otta, Klipsun's spring editor-in-chief, presented a cake with a scanned image of the cover of the spring 2011 "Hidden" issue.

The students and alumni noted how Klipsun has progressed through the years.

**Check out Klipsun as it is today:** read the latest issues or go through archives to read past Klipsun favorites at <http://www.klipsunmagazine.com>.

# Class teams up with InvestigateWest to report on Cherry Point controversy

by **Olena Rypich**

Assistant Professor Carolyn Nielsen's Advanced Reporting students spent spring quarter compiling an in-depth investigative package on the controversy brewing at the Cherry Point Terminal north of Bellingham, where Seattle-based SSA Marine is proposing to build a shipping terminal.

After the rigorous eight-week period of reporting, a handful of the students' work was published on the website of Seattle's InvestigateWest, an independent, nonprofit organization with an emphasis on investigative and narrative journalism in the Pacific Northwest and the West.

And while not every student's story was published, all students got a taste of objective and demanding investigative reporting.

At the time, local media had not written about the issue, and the community was exposed to conflicting information coming from supporters of the terminal and those opposing it. Among other things, the terminal promised to create jobs and stabilize the local economy. But critics attacked SSA Marine for proposing to bring coal trains to the county.

"There wasn't agreement on basic

facts," said Western senior Evan Marczynski, a student in the class. "People on both sides of the issue were riled up, but they had conflicting information. Misinformation was rampant."

Students chose to report individually or with a partner, and each team explored a different angle, such as environmental disturbance of the site and global impacts of coal burning.

Robert McClure of InvestigateWest shared investigative journalism pointers with the class and provided feedback on the students' work.

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"People on both sides of the issue were riled up, but they had conflicting information"  
— *Evan Marczynski, senior*

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In class, students conducted interviews with central figures of the controversy, such as Craig Cole of SSA Marine and Bob Ferris of ReSources, an opponent of the project.

"That was especially helpful," said Western senior Rachel Lerman, a student in the class. "If we didn't think to ask something in class, someone else did."

Lerman and her partner, Celeste Erickson, looked into economic ramifications of the project. They conducted lengthy interviews with countless relevant sources. Many people were reluctant to be interviewed, Lerman said.

But the students emphasized their objectivity. "We reassured them we didn't have a position," she said.

Once InvestigateWest chose which stories would be published, the class worked closely with Nielsen and the InvestigateWest team on editing and fact checking — both on par with the organization's standards.

"Every sentence had to be verifiable," said senior Brianna Gibbs.

She said the fact checking process reminded her of the importance of thoroughly citing sources.

"We had to make sure the stories were bulletproof," Nielsen said.

Marczynski and Lerman said they appreciated collaborating with a group on such a broad, complex topic.

"There was a lot of digging and so much work," Lerman said. "But I've never learned so much in a class before as I did in Advanced Reporting."

## Students, alumni land prestigious internships

by **Alexa Zaske**

**Chelsea Kennedy, Seventeen Magazine**



Kennedy's duties as art intern for Seventeen's art department included managing the minibooks, or small samples of the current layouts, throughout the office. She archived files,

pulled layouts for staff in the department, and occasionally helped prepare presentations or web burst flyers.

"Designing for Klipsun was my first time being on a staff, and a lot of that translates to the work room," she said. When the art and photo staffs at Seventeen worked together, she could see some of the same things she did in Klipsun, Kennedy said.

"The senior visual journalism sequence with Sheila Webb taught me how to incorporate design, web and photo skills, something that is really important right now," she said. "No one can just specialize in one thing anymore."

**Keegan Prosser, Rolling Stone**



Prosser worked with the online team to generate ideas and develop content for the Rolling Stone website. She wrote album and song reviews for web publication, created posts for social

media platforms, transcribed interviews and researched trends.

She wrote short pieces for the main website (including write-ups for exclusive videos and songs as well as some breaking news) under the Rolling Stone as well as her own byline. As a bonus, she witnessed in-office performances: by Jeff Bridges, Emmylou Harris and Bush.

"I can honestly say the skills I learned as a journalism student at Western continue to be relevant to the things I did on a daily basis at my internship," she said.

**Lauren Simmons, Seattle Storm**



Simmons, a public relations senior, completed a media communications internship over the summer with the WNBA team Seattle Storm.

She provided the media with necessary documents during the games and faxed out game notes to media outlets.

She created rosters for games, media packets, necessary information for the opposing teams (in the WNBA, most teams do not have a traveling PR person; the PR team of the home team is responsible for all PR-related business). She also assisted in writing CEO Karen Bryant's biography.

"The progression of the public relations classes at Western was really helpful, because it required me use what I was learning and retain it," she said.

# Scholarship helps keep Shearlean Duke's memory alive

by Rachel Lerman

The Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship was founded in spring 2011 to honor Shearlean Duke, the former journalism department chair.

Shearlean died of brain cancer Feb. 2, after battling cancer for about a year and a half.

Her husband, Robert "Bob" Duke, set up the scholarship to commemorate Shearlean's dedication to journalism, public relations and education. The scholarship grants money to journalism students in the public relations track.

"Shearlean Duke had a huge influence on a lot of students, and I couldn't see why that should end with her death," Bob said. "The scholarship, if it gets fully funded, will influence students in perpetuity in her name."

Department manager Carol Brach said she began receiving phone calls from alumni the day Shearlean died; they were asking how to donate to a scholarship fund.

"I can't imagine not honoring her in some way," Brach said.

Brach soon approached Bob with the

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"Shearlean Duke had a huge influence on a lot of students, and I couldn't see why that should end with her death"  
- Bob Duke, Shearlean's husband

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idea to set up a scholarship, which he had already been considering.

"My personal reason for creating the scholarship was pretty simple," Bob said. "I admired her a great deal and wanted to express my admiration in a charitable way."

Shearlean and Bob loved to travel, and Shearlean visited Kenya twice to help set up a service learning project between Western and the Ombogo Girls Academy, which

mostly supports girls orphaned by AIDS.

When Shearlean found out she had cancer, she looked at it as a new adventure, Peggy Watt, journalism department chair, said.

"She handled it with a lot of grace," Watt said. "So long as you have to do something, you have to embrace it, and that's what Shearlean did."

In order for the scholarship to be endowed and become a permanent fixture, \$20,000 must be donated. Once it is endowed, the money will be invested and the scholarship funds will come from the investment returns every year.

Amber Asbjornsen, the leadership annual giving officer of the Western Washington University Foundation, said about \$17,000 had been donated so far.

Asbjornsen said all the donations have come from journalism alumni, staff, friends and family.

"We've all been really touched by the outpouring of support and generosity," Asbjornsen said. Donations have been pouring in at a quick rate, she said, and Asbjornsen expects the \$20,000 goal will be met by spring 2012.

On average, endowed scholarships generate a 4.5 percent return, meaning the scholarship would be about \$900 each year. If the endowed amount is larger, the scholarship will be larger.

Although the scholarship is not yet endowed, Bob decided to give the first scholarship for \$1,000 this year.

To receive the scholarship, applicants must include a 600-word essay with their applications, detailing something they are passionate about.

Public relations senior Alex Bacon received the first Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship in June. Bacon said she was



Shearlean Duke at an art show in September 2010. Photo courtesy of Associate Professor John Harris

thrilled when she found out she had been awarded the scholarship.

"I was incredibly honored to be selected to be the first recipient of the scholarship," she said. "I bawled my eyes out."

She said she thinks it is vital that the scholarship continues.

"It's important that her legacy outlives her," Bacon said. "The people who come to department in five years need to understand her generosity and impact on department, and the scholarship is a great way to do that."

The scholarship will honor Shearlean and all the work she did for the department and the school.

To donate to the Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship, visit [www.wvu.edu/give](http://www.wvu.edu/give), and specify the memorial scholarship with the donation, or mail a donation to WWU Foundation and write Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship in the memo line.

## The Western Front expands online, social-media presence

by Olena Rypich

The Western Front is gradually expanding its online presence and using the web to report news as it happens.

In the past academic year, the Front's website, [westernfrontonline.net](http://westernfrontonline.net), received 194,913 visits, or about 20,000 unique hits each month, according to Google Analytics.

**Beyond articles:** In addition to putting up weekly photo galleries, the Front offers viewers weekly videos and multimedia pieces that often accompany print stories.

**Social media:** The Front uses Twitter

and Facebook for almost every story. "We spread out the stories from each issue throughout the week," said fall 2011 Front online editor Celeste Erickson.

About a third of the website's traffic is generated through referral sites, and the top referral site is Facebook. On a typical production day (Tuesday and Friday) the Front website receives about 1,000 hits but can accumulate more with bigger stories. The Nov. 8 election coverage generated 2,875 hits.

**Breaking news:** "Breaking news is

generally managed between the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editors and the online editor," Erickson said. "Whoever hears about the news first will contact the EIC and managing editor to let him or her know what's happening and write a brief of the breaking news. If the story develops, editors will give updates throughout the day."

Follow The Western Front on Facebook and Twitter @TheFrontOnline.

# from the students

## NPPA

Western Washington University's chapter of National Press Photographer's Association (NPPA) has been sustaining and supporting a small group of avid photojournalists.

Although they currently don't have enough paying members of NPPA to get funding from the national organization, students are using club time to learn more about photojournalism.

Each week, members bring in photos to get critiqued. Recent events for NPPA members include "shootouts" (where members takes pictures at an event and then see what everyone came up with), workshops on camera technologies (including lighting and basics), and even portfolio reviews.

NPPA is looking to expand its meetings to bring in guest speakers and do field trips to Northwest photojournalism events.

**Brooke Warren**  
NPPA co-president

## SPJ

On May 12, the Society of Professional Journalists WWU chapter sectioned off part of Red Square and declared it as our own country, offering passersby citizenship and unlimited slices of free pizza — on the condition they gave up their First Amendment rights.

The event was inspired by the National SPJ's First Amendment Free Food Festival. SPJ student chapters originally organized a similar event to educate their campuses about the value of First Amendment rights.

Participants were allowed to eat as much pizza as they liked but had to cover clothing or symbols indicative of any organization, company, religion, and association not approved by SPJ WWU members.

The lighthearted event proved to be both entertaining and enlightening as passersby stopped to enjoy the sight of a constantly changing group standing by themselves, wearing trash bags and chomping away on their "free" pizza.

**CJ Huxford**  
WWU chapter coordinator

## PRO

We're focusing on retaining the new members who have joined the Public Relations Organization this year, many of whom are attending meetings based on interest, not because they are declared majors.

We are encouraging our members to come to us or each other with questions and concerns regarding class struggles, assignments, ethical dilemmas faced in the field and in the community.

Our long-term goal for the year is to have PRO become a chapter of Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), and in doing so, we have created quarterly objectives. We are planning a bake sale for the end of this quarter to begin raising funds, and have talked about doing a 5k run next quarter to continue our efforts in achieving this goal, and to get our club name out in the greater Western community.

**Elysia Nazareth**  
PRO president

## 2011-2012 scholarship and tuition waiver recipients

Cartridge Family Scholarship	Erin Nash
Cartridge Family Scholarship	Kelly Sullivan
Gerson Miller Memorial Scholarship	Paige Collins
Gerson Miller Memorial Scholarship	Carly Vester
Hale Family Internship Scholarship	Carey Rose
Journalism Alumni Scholarship	Becky Tachihara
Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association Scholarship	Brian Corey
Ralph and Nancy Babcock Memorial Scholarship	Samantha Wohlfeil
Ralph and Nancy Babcock Memorial Scholarship	Adrienne Woods
Scripps Howard Internship Scholarship	Brianna Gibbs
Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship for Public Relations	Alex Bacon
Steven Rupp Memorial Scholarship	Tyler Cotterill
Washington State Tuition Waiver	Gina Cole
Washington State Tuition Waiver	Rachel Lerman

# SPJ winners

from page 1

the Western Front.

The trio reflected on the work that earned them the awards.

They also traveled to the national conference in New Orleans, where they shared the experience of reporting on a tragic death at a panel discussion with other student journalists at the Excellence in Journalism 2011 Convention.

Woods and Woodard worked together on the coverage of the search and later, Clark's death. They talked to Clark's roommate and girlfriend. Woodard said he and Woods wanted to tell the community about Clark and who he was, not sensationalize his death.

Woods said she is especially grateful to Jack Keith, the Front's adviser, who followed the story and made sure she and Woodard were able to handle the stress of writing about tragedy.

Woodard submitted all the stories they had written about Clark during the search. But it was their follow-up story, "Dwight Clark remembered," that won the honor.

Keith said the duo balanced each other out in the reporting. "Sometimes in journalism you need a harder edge," he said, "and that was Ben's role." But in sensitive stories, a softer touch is just as important, he said, and that's where Woods stepped in.

"I think [our reporting] showed we weren't vultures preying on their pain," Woodard said. "It's important to be human, to be connected to the people involved in the story."

## Telling the story with a photo

Rose's photo, "County jail bloated with



Carey Rose's photo, "County jail bloated with inmates," won first place at the 2010 National SPJ Mark of Excellence awards

Photo courtesy of Carey Rose / The Western Front

inmates," accompanied Western alumnus Caleb Hutton's March 8, 2010 piece on Whatcom County's jail overcrowding.

Rose's editors stressed the piece would be more compelling with a photo of the inmates.

Without written permission, Rose could not take a photo of an inmate from the neck up. And out of respect of people's privacy, he didn't want to just point a camera and start photographing, he said.

"Technically speaking, the photos weren't super special," he said. "For me, and I suspect the SPJ Board, it was the effort behind the photos that mattered."

He and Hutton visited the jail for two days to get familiar with the venue and build a rapport with the inmates, who noticed the

students and became curious. "Instead of just acting angrily toward us, as though we were taking advantage of them, the inmates were interested in what we were doing," Rose said. "We explained, and the floodgates opened."

He said the win only solidified his desire to be a journalist.

"That was definitely a shock, and it definitely acted as a sort of validation for what I was doing," Rose said. "Sure, journalism isn't a prestigious major, and there may not be a ton of money to be made. But, after winning that award, I was sure this is what I was meant to do."

Rose now works as a multimedia analyst at Puget Sound Energy.

## 2010 SPJ Region 10 Mark of Excellence Award winners

### Feature Photography

First Place: The Mom & Pot Co-Op by Jordan Stead (Klipsun)  
Second Place: Tijuana Prostitutes on Break by Jordan Stead

### General News Photography

First Place: County Jail Bloated with Inmates by Carey Rose (WF)

### Photo Illustration

First Place: The Business of Pleasure by Jordan Stead (Klipsun)

### Nonfiction Magazine Article

First Place: Siberian Summer by Max Wilbert (The Planet)  
Second Place: Endless Appetite by Hailey Tucker (Klipsun)  
Third Place: Gift of a Lifetime by Kayley Richards (Klipsun)

### Radio Feature Reporting

First Place: Bioplastics by Jeff Emtman (KUGS)

### Radio News Reporting

Second Place: The Beat: Big backers show who would really win on ballot initiatives by Gina Cole (KUGS)

### Breaking News Reporting

First Place: Dwight Clark Remembered by Benjamin Woodard and Adrienne Woods (WF)

### General News Reporting

Third Place: Legal Battle Imminent for Western Professor; Subpoena Battle Over for Professor by Gina Cole and Kathleen Marriott (WF)

### In-depth Reporting

First Place: Audit: High-Level Administrator Squandered Funds by Benjamin Woodard (WF)

# faculty updates



**Carolyn Dale**  
Associate Professor

I continue to teach fall and winter quarters and take spring quarters off for travel and work on writing and editing projects. Last year, I also taught in the Professional Editing evening program and served as interim department chair in the winter.

In the spring, I enjoyed traveling in the Southwest, with high points including a visit to Arches National Park, a late-May snowfall on Mesa Verde, and a hike into some Anasazi archeological sites in southern Utah that hadn't been fully excavated, yet.

As summer finally arrived and melted some snow in the mountains, we got out for some good hikes on Mount Baker.

I've been working on some online classes, and, over the summer, taught feature writing online, which was nice for students away on internships. I've also taught a course called Grammar for Editors as a hybrid class for working adults who are polishing their skills.

The writing, editing and consulting projects that came my way this year brought some nice variety, and I believe that —especially with the popularity of e-books and self-publishing —editors and their knowledge of language are enjoying growing demand.

Recently, I've become interested in e-book publishing, especially its multimedia possibilities, as I've transitioned into a devoted fan of my tablet reader. Not only can I now bring along a ton of books wherever I go, I can also read in the dark!



**Brad Howard**  
Associate Professor

I continue to focus on geographic information systems (GIS), and this year, I began to collaborate with Jennifer Keller to introduce public relations students to GIS. She and I presented a paper titled "GIS in the Public Relations Curriculum" at the ESRI Education User Conference in July.



**John Harris**  
Associate Professor

I completed my dissertation in the spring and am now a doctor and a graduate of the University of Washington, which is a bit tough to swallow since my first allegiance is to the University of Oregon, where I earned my master's in journalism (my doctorate is in communications). Go Ducks!

I was granted professional leave fall quarter to pursue a blog I started a few years ago covering the Lummi High School eight-man football team. The team is the defending state champ, and the blog has proved popular with the community, school and players. Producing it has been challenging and rewarding. As a photographer, I've had to hone my skills shooting high school games at night, never an easy proposition, and as a reporter have been reminded what it's like to hound people to get them to return your calls. It has renewed my appreciation for working journalists. As of this writing, the Lummi team is undefeated and ranked No. 1 in the state. Go Blackhawks!

During the past three quarters, I've taught just one class — JOUR 207 in the summer — because I filled in as chair during spring.

I'm looking forward to getting back in the classroom and being amazed and energized by all our wonderful students. Go Vikings!



**Stephen Howie**  
Senior Lecturer

For the past year, I have been working to shape and refine the digital storytelling class, which I co-taught with Peggy Watt last winter, and then taught again solo in the spring.

The winter class built a website with multimedia components around the theme of "A Day in the Life of Western."

During the spring quarter, students completed video projects in groups. In addition, the class shot, edited and published a four-minute video about a dance based on interviews with inmates, their families and prison workers.

This academic year, I have returned to my role as faculty adviser for Klipsun, and I'm working closely with editors in hopes of another award-winning year for the student-run magazine. Outside of school, I am working on video projects with Maria McLeod and our media company. I'm also trying to stay fit in hopes of completing the Lake Padden Triathlon in 2012.





**Jack Keith**  
Senior Instructor

I'm in my second year advising The Western Front, and I haven't lost an ounce of my enthusiasm for this role. Just about every week, I'm thrust into the middle of some crisis involving critical readers, stressed out reporters, frustrated editors or edgy administrators. I enjoy the challenge — it reminds me of my lively life in the newspaper world leading The Bellingham Herald for 15 years and later being part of the Tacoma News Tribune's editing team for a decade.

But it's the students that make this role so fulfilling. I love to see a first-time reporter blossom or an editor and photographer create a magical features photo package. As most of you know, the Front can drive a student crazy with its heavy writing and time demands. But those who stick with it get hooked on the fun, the excitement, the challenge.

I'm proud of the job our students are doing on the Front. Last year, we earned three national awards from the Society of Professional Journalists, including two first-place honors and a runnerup. Those awards, given to photographer Carey Rose and reporters Ben Woodard and Adrienne Woods, were the most won by the Front in its modern history. We celebrated the fact that we were in the company of much larger schools and that none of our Northwest counterparts was able to match our success.

One of the features I've added to the Front classes are regular visits from professional editors from around the Puget Sound area. Editors from near — including the Bellingham Herald and the Skagit Valley Herald — and far — the Seattle Times, Tacoma's News Tribune — have come to critique the Front and offer advice and encouragement to the staff. We're happy that the Times has agreed to send a small contingent of editors to visit each quarter and tell our students how to make the Front the best it can be.

My wife and I enjoy living on Lake Whatcom and entertaining our five grandchildren as often as possible. In addition, I play recreational soccer each week and try my best not to get injured.



**Jennifer Keller**  
Assistant Professor

The past year for me has been an especially busy one in terms of my own writing. I presented a paper on service-learning at the Western Social Sciences Association in April and a paper on PR and geographic information systems (GIS) with Brad Howard in July. I am in the process of writing a chapter for an ethics textbook due to come out next year.

In October, at the Public Relations Society of America's international conference, I presented a research paper comparing the skills PR students are learning in college with the skills practitioners look for in new hires. This was based on two surveys conducted during the spring with the help of two Western students — Andrea Sperberg and Craig Batson.

To further help our students stand out, I am working with Brad Howard to incorporate GIS into the Advanced PR Writing course. This first quarter, students used GIS to help develop proposals for the Homeless Service Center in Whatcom County. This quarter, students are using GIS as they research potential impacts of the coal train.

I continue to incorporate service learning into both Campaigns and Advanced PR writing — and to date students in those classes have helped almost 50 different organizations with PR plans and communications materials. I also took a couple quarters off from teaching the introductory PR class (we had a couple of great adjuncts share their expertise) and, instead, worked with students in the Feature Writing class.

I also did a fair amount of traveling — starting with an entire month in Australia last December. In addition, we've been to New Orleans, San Diego and Salt Lake City. Plus, I spent much of the summer in Rochester, catching up with my brother. Finally, we are almost (fingers crossed) finished with our house project. Final inspection in November — leaving just some interior work (like kitchen cabinets and the master bath) left to do.



**Tim Pilgrim**  
Associate Professor

I am still teaching fall and winter quarters only. During spring and summer, I focus on publishing and writing poetry.

In the first nine months of 2011, I had 38 poems accepted by 19 journals and anthologies, and I received a billion rejections from a trillion other journals.

I still teach the large introduction to mass media course — during 2011-12 handling three sections of it with more than 120 students in each. Two of the fall sections were linked to environmental science and economics via Western's Freshman Interest Group program.

JOUR 190 still accounts for most of 1.2 million or so hits we get yearly on the department's server, Hope.

As always, I take photos for the Columbia Neighborhood Newsletter, run a couple miles every day and pump iron and emulate Pete Steffens by sitting in the steam room at the YMCA. And, I continue to spend time with our cats and do some hiking on Mount Baker or in the Southwest between visits with my three grandchildren. Life is good.



**Carolyn Nielsen**  
Assistant Professor

A couple of the highlights of my year have been developing partnerships with news outlets to give my students the opportunity to have their work published. My JOUR 307 Reporting students cover Bellingham neighborhoods as hyperlocal beats. KOMO.com picks up the best of their work and those students work with alumna Kera Wanielista, KOMO.com's Bellingham reporter, who edits their work and gets it posted online.

In the spring, my JOUR 450 Advanced Reporting students' project on the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal was published on InvestigateWest's website. The students' coverage of the controversial topic showed tremendous depth and came months ahead of national coverage by NPR and National Geographic. Many of these students took their first newswriting class with me, and it was so gratifying to watch their progress over the years.

As well, I had the privilege of supervising summer interns this year and am happy to report that our students were universally well regarded as prepared and talented.

In my own work, my nationwide study examining whether anonymous online comments on newspaper websites affect how reporters see their jobs will be published in the January edition of the Newspaper Research Journal. In August, I presented a paper about the impacts of this technology in the newsroom at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual conference. At that same conference, I was also honored to be a finalist in the Great Ideas for Teachers competition. I presented my work about using fictional archetypes to teach ethical constructs. I was also elected to the association's Commission on the Status of Women. Finally, I was honored this spring by the university's Center for Innovative Instruction and Assessment as a showcased professor who teaches about diversity issues. In all, it was a busy and fulfilling year.



**Sheila Webb**  
Assistant Professor

Spring of 2011, the Visual Journalism Sequence completed its third full year. The sequence has engendered positive student response and is now a critical component of our program as we continue to develop and expand the curriculum and address the changing needs of the field. Four teams of students in the Advanced Visual Journalism class worked with community partners.

Two teams worked on two separate projects for Allied Arts — one did a website of the Whatcom County art and gallery guide, the second team produced a website for the thrift store that Allied Arts premiered in June. A third team updated and redesigned the website of a local charity, SISU. And the fourth team produced two videos, one for the Human Services Program that focuses on diversity, and the other for Advice on Tap, a program through Associated Students that offers advice for incoming students on how to handle alcohol.

This type of service-learning is a way for the university to extend its skills to the community and is an essential component in all of our capstone courses.

I was pleased to accept two national awards at the annual AEJMC conference. One was for best practices in teaching visual literacy. I am pleased that our program is getting national recognition and that the student work submitted as part of the award narrative was published in a book. The other was the Covert Award for the best mass communication history paper published in 2010 for my article on how Life magazine promulgated modern art and modernism in its pages. I continue my work on the Reiman magazines, and have sent out and received back a follow-up questionnaire to see if and how the relationship of the readers to the editors has changed as the company moves content more and more online. This will be a study of how "legacy media" is (or is not) adopting and adapting to the new media environment.

## Adjunct professors

### Lyle Harris, Professor Emeritus

In fall quarter, I taught Mass Media Law. A few new cases, of course, but we still use those basics, like *Near v. Minnesota* and *Miller v. California*. And then on campus we had a student who was upset about getting a parking ticket and wrote the famous four-letter word about the police on his check, and that created another teaching moment when he received a letter from the judicial office advising him his comment was threatening. After a discussion, he received an apology from the university. He's a real believer in the First Amendment despite his lack of taste in language. So it goes.

We visited friends in Texas and learned that the speed limit is posted at 80, which means most drivers cruise at 95 between Lubbock and Midland. And motorcyclists wear short pants, but not helmets. In Washington, D.C., we rented an apartment just behind the Capitol for a month and took in all the galleries and museums, seeing old friends and getting back to some places we hadn't seen since I was a reporter there in the late sixties.

**Scott Terrell** is a Western alumnus and a long-time photojournalist and current photo editor for the Skagit Valley Herald.

**Vanessa Blackburn**, a journalism department alumna, has worked as a reporter and editor for several newspapers, most recently as editor for *The Bellingham Business Journal*.

**Joan Connell** is an award-winning reporter and editor with 30 years experience and is associate director of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

**Taimi Dunn Gorman** is a Western alumna teaching public relations in the department after working as a publicist and business owner for more than 30 years. The former owner of the Colophon Cafe and the Doggie Diner, Gorman owns Gorman Publicity, a marketing consulting and PR firm. She is a freelance writer with the *Whatcom Magazine* and other publications. She publishes the annual *Fairhaven Guide* magazine and is a photographer.

**Ron Judd** is a Western alumnus, columnist and staff reporter for *The Seattle Times*.

**John Ryan** is an investigative reporter at KUOW-FM Puget Sound Public Radio.

# Retired faculty updates

## Arctic adventure

from page 3

### Pete Steffens

My main news is that I have moved into a good retirement home in Nanaimo (on Vancouver Island) and am being well cared for by the cheery staff. It is called the Malaspina Gardens and is the best of these places here. I'm feeling better and stronger than I have for some time and am enjoying a joshing relationship with several of the patients and staff.

I'm working slowly through my life's adventures and memories and recall with

much pleasure the crazy years assigned to the Front. I do recall two robust women editors announcing to the newsroom about 4 a.m. that their main aim was "to raise the quality of the staff and paper TO A HIGHER PAIN."

Greetings to all: To anyone venturing as far as Vancouver Island (near Departure Bay). Be sure to stop by for some chatter.

Meantime, Merry Christmas and best wishes, Pete.

### Valerie Alia

Valerie Alia taught in the Journalism department from 1996 to '98, while serving as Western's first Distinguished Professor of Canadian Culture. After 8 years in the UK, she and husband, Pete Steffens, retired to Nanaimo on beautiful Vancouver Island.

Valerie edits the Media Topics Series for Edinburgh University Press (book

proposals welcome!) and co-produced, directed and wrote the documentary film, *Opening Doors*, which premiered in 2011. Her latest books are *Names and Nunavut* (2006; 2008) and *The New Media Nation: Indigenous Peoples and Global Communication* (2010; paperback scheduled for February 2012).

### Ted Stannard

The only public activities this year have been serving on the King Mountain Neighborhood Association board and its Communications Committee, and dawdling over a proposal to author a neighborhood blog.

Private preoccupations have dominated the year, including wife Femmy's acquisition of brand-new knees in September,

simultaneously installed by dueling surgeons. No fun, but with three-month break-in regimen, we're to be ready for dancing in the New Year and resumed globetrotting by spring. As usual, bringing order to the chaos in his den is his most enduring challenge, promising to keep him busy for life.

Friends can reach him at [restannardjr\[at\]yahoo.com](mailto:restannardjr@yahoo.com).

### Floyd McKay

Retired since 2004, Floyd McKay continues to write regularly for Crosscut.com, this past year focusing on the huge export terminal proposed for Cherry Point, north of Bellingham. He also interviews authors monthly on the Chuckanut Radio Hour (KMRE) and writes occasionally on Northwest history. Newly discovered skills as assistant gardener and sous chef

for wife Dixie and trips to Oregon for family and old friends seem to take up the hours and days. Trips to Hawaii and old haunts at the East-West Center may be replacing European destinations — except for Scotland, of course.

He can be reached at [floydmcKay\[at\]comcast.net](mailto:floydmcKay[at]comcast.net) for news or views.

that is barely studied even by professional scientists, so the science [the students] are doing is really fundamental to the field."

It is a rare opportunity for student journalists to be scientists, so the work students are doing is really fundamental to the field."

### Storytelling through multimedia

When she returned to the United States, Tachihara put together a multimedia video presentation of the project and presented on Western's campus for the Students' Speakers Series for the Honors College, at Western's Fall Open House and produced a video for the WWU Office of University Communications.

Tachihara also put together a longer video, which she presented on Dec. 9 at the fall meeting of the American Geophysical Union, where she also discussed using multimedia to communicate Arctic science.

"One of the things unique about multimedia is it has all the storytelling power of a written article but you pair it with photographs that allow people to visualize what you're talking about," Tachihara said. "That allowed me to capture some of the more complex things about Arctic science in a way the general public could understand it."

She became interested in multimedia projects in Senior Lecturer Stephen Howie's Digital Storytelling class, she said.

"I took the class and found it really interesting to use visuals and narrative together," she said. "I did a multimedia piece for my internship [at University Communications] and then a piece for Klipsun, and now I'm working on this. It's become my niche."

Multimedia's role in news gathering is increasing, she said. "If you go on to the New York Times website or the BBC or any major news organization," she said, "you're going to see they have video clips to accompany most of their stories now."

And, she said, she has noticed multimedia attracts various audiences.

"People would rather watch a three-minute video than read a long article," she said. "So it's an effective way to communicate news to an audience that would not otherwise pay attention."

### Check out Tachihara's multimedia piece:

<http://onlinefast.org/wwutoday/videos/western-students-faculty-research-global-warming-siberian-arctic>

# alumni life

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## 2011

**Chelsea Asplund** is a communications and marketing intern at the Downtown Seattle Association

**Dan Balmer** is a freelance reporter for the Ferndale Record

**Winnie Cao** is an account coordinator for Media Plus

**Will Delius** is an intern with Atomic PR

**Shawna Leader** is an editorial assistant for Seattle Magazine

**Alison Lo** is a Digital Account Executive for Fisher Interactive Network

**Keegan Prosser** completed her online internship with the Rolling Stone Magazine

**Carey Rose** is a multimedia analyst at Puget Sound Energy

**Samantha Sorden** is an intern with Alaska Airlines Magazine

**Jordan Stead** accepted an internship to photograph for the Daily Herald in Provo, Utah. He and **Mark Malijan (2009)** formed The Emerald Collective, a dual-shooter outlet offering commercial and editorial images

**Benjamin Woodard** is a freelance reporter for the Pioneer Press

## 2010

**Jon Bergman** is a photographer/lab technician at Donette Studio

**Mandi Brady** is a SOAC outreach coordinator at Pacific Lutheran University

**Juan Cornejo** is account coordinator at Waggener Edstrom

**Stephanie Castillo** is an assistant account executive at Rachel Kay Public Relations

**Adam Cochran** is an assistant advisor at JayRay

**Brian Conner** is a PR & Marketing Coordinator at TeleNav

**Carmen Daneshmandi** is a sales associate for Omega Photo Specialists

**Andrea Davis-Gonzalez** is a contributing writer to Ask Miss A

**Tiana Day** is an account management intern at JayRay

**Reiko Endo** is an assistant producer for SV Networks, LLC

**David Gonzales** is co-founder of SellHappLee

**Jordan Green** is a marketing manager at Dick Hannah Dealerships

**Tristan Hiegler** is online producer/reporter at The Daily News

**Emily Linroth** is a community planning intern for National Park Service/SCA/AmeriCorps

**Julia Means** is an accounts payable clerk/ administrative assistant for Waste Management's Bagster

**Kendall Mercer** is a marketing & PR coordinator at Beyond Traditional

**Amy Sanford** is a social media manager for FutureRanking

**Lauren Sauser** is a marketing coordinator for Eddie Bauer

**Olivia Scalet** is an account manager at SuperGraphics

**Katie Greene** is a photo intern at the Grand Rapids Press in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Jeremy Schwartz** is a reporter for The Northern Light in Blaine

**Cejae Thompson** is a special intern to publisher and editor-in-chief at Big Takeover Magazine

**Colleen Toomey** is a digital entertainment intern for Weber Shandwick

**Jeff Twining** is a web editor for CBS Sports College Network

**Jillian Vasquez** is a development associate & board liaison for Pacific Northwest Ballet

**Skylar Wilder** is contributing photojournalist for CrimeVoice.com

**Allison Milton** is an assistant accountant executive for Xbox at Edelman, a public relations firm in Seattle.

**Cassi Gallagher** is a tech support rep with Big Fish Games in Seattle and is a freelance photographer and editor

## 2009

**Kathryn Bachen** – The Seattle Times

**Liz (Beaulieu) Backstrom** is a grants manager for St. Joseph Family Center

**Shannon Goss** is a member services representative for Verity Credit Union

**Kaleb Gubernick** is a freelancer for The Stranger

**David Husa** is a marketing coordinator for CrowdCompass, Inc.

**Lisa Hust** is a district office receptionist at Bellingham School District

**Rogelie (Rael) Johnson** is a full-time mom

**Mary O'Connor** is Agribusiness and Rural Development Advisor in Moldova - United States Peace Corps

**Alexis Tahiri** is an administrative assistant at the Department of Journalism at Western Washington University

**Mary (Truman) Orr** is a psychosocial rehabilitation specialist at Alliance Family Services

**Kera Wanielista** is a communities reporter for Bellingham at KOMO-TV

**Ryan Curran White** is an account executive at Edelman Digital

**Marisa Willis** is a multimedia and marketing coordinator for Seattle Weekly

**Matt Jarrell** is membership director at the

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East Communities YMCA in Austin, Texas

## 2008

**Keeli Archer** is a post-graduate student

**Brynne Berriman** is Epic Program Operations - Project Coordinator - Providence Health & Services

**Alyse Clacy** is an account executive at Publicis Consultants

**Megan Clafin** is an editor at the Ferndale Record-Journal

**Shannon Deveny** is a marketing communications specialist at Fluke Corporation

**Kacie McKinney** is an advisor at JayRay

**Nicole (Lanphear) Miller** is social media coordinator at University of Western States

**Yuki Nakajima** is a bilingual game tester for VMC

**Ciara O'Rourke** is a Hays County reporter for Austin American-Statesman

**Nick Rohde** is an internaut at the Internet

**Annie Runnels** is a communications coordinator for Aging Services of Washington

**Jon Sayer** is a TEFL Teacher at Peace Corps, Fieni, Romania

**Justin Steyer** is a multimedia manager at KPLU-FM

**Abby Vincent** is a TEFL Volunteer - Peace Corps, Fieni, Romania

**Julie Waggoner** is bilingual customer service representative at Hain-Celestial Group

**Tanya Williams** is a nursing student

## 2007

**Sean (McGrorey) DeButts** is Founder of Eastside Net Tuesday

**Mollie Foster** is program director at Denali Education Center

**Matt Gagne** is a consultant for Convivium Renewable Energy; Owner/operator at Zia Imaging.

**Brittany (Greenfield) Anderson** is marketing director at Pacific Party Canopies

**Amy Harder** is at the National Journal Group

**Lance Henderson** is a content editor at Amazon.com

**Molly Jensen** is at Seattle Children's Hospital

**Tom King** is chief concierge at W Hotels

**Boris Kurbanov** manages social media for Sesame Communications

**Sean (McGrorey) DeButts** is chief creative officer at SocTo, LLC.

**Liz McNeil** is Program Manager for 1105 Media

**Marinda Peugh** is Financial Development Director for American Red Cross Mt Baker Chapter

**Mark Reimers** is a reporter at Ferndale Record

## 2006

**Matthew Anderson** is a new media coordinator at WWU

**Jessica Evans** is a senior account supervisor at Edelman

**Lindsay Hamsik** is a graduate student at Boston University

**Stefani Harrey** is a corporate marketing specialist for GeoEngineers

**Christopher Huber** is the owner of Christopher Huber Photography

**Shannon Hutchinson** is a project manager at Team One

**Megan Lum** is a licensing consultant at Better Business Bureau serving Alaska, Oregon and Western Washington

**Kara Lundberg** is a senior account executive at RH Strategic Communications

**Kate Miller** lives in Eugene, Ore. and works for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society

**Tara Nelson** is Jedi journalist and editor

**David Wray** is a copy editor at The Bulletin

## 2005

**Tess Alverson-Hollern** is a PR and event Professional

**Jeanna Barrett** is a digital marketing strategist - Groove 11

**Cari Lyle** is a content editor for Waggener Edstrom Worldwide

**Laura McVicker** is a courts reporter for The Columbian

**Paolo Mottola** is a social media specialist at MultiCare, Tacoma

**Travis Sherer** is a program assistant at University of Washington

**Jamie Trudelis** is a content specialist at Strategic Edge Partners

## 2004

**Sauna (Bakkendatter) Carlson** is an account executive at Integra Telecom

**Eric Berto** is an account manager at Waggener Edstrom

**Ben Brockhaus-Hall** is a senior copywriter for X10 Wireless Technology

**Annie (Billington) Dumond** is senior marketing communications manager at Concur

**Christine Cameron** is a founder/editor at My Style Pill

**Paul Nicholas Carlson** is content producer at MSN.com(Aquent)

**Josh Dumond** is a producer at Microsoft

**Lee Fehrenbacher** is a business reporter at The Wenatchee Business Journal

**Sarah Getchman** is executive assistant for Wright Runstad & Company

**Katie James** is at Nyhus Communications

**Leslie Sugiura** is VIP event coordinator at Ste. Michelle Wine Estates

**Rachel Thomas** is social sales manager at Apulent Events and Catering

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## 2003

**Valerie Bauman** is a reporter for The Puget Sound Business Journal

**Robert Gara** is a senior sssociate at APCO Worldwide

**June Hatfield** is a baker at Flying Apron Bakery

**Stephanie Kosonen** is a reporter for the Snohomish County Tribune.

**Ivory (Firsching) Ore** is a senior recruitment administrator at SonoSite

**Derek Sheppard** is Digital Media Marketing Coordinator at Bastyr University

**Heather Trimm** is the owner/photographer at Heather Trimm Photography

## 2002

**Jennifer Collins** is a freelance reporter for Marketplace Radio

**Bobbie Egan** is a media relations manager for Alaska Airlines

**Tarin Erickson** is a director at the Edmonds History Museum

**Hollie (Brown) Hilde** is a member of Whatcom Young Professionals

**Levi Pulkkinen** is a reporter at Seattlepi.com

**Rick Segreda** is a film journalist at Diario La Hora

**Jen Shefner** is AVP for E-Commerce at Columbia Credit Union

## 2001

**Andrea Abney** is an editor, 96 Hours - San Francisco Chronicle

**Kristin (Bigsby) White** is at Alaska Southeast

**Lisa Curdy** is a bridal sales supervisor at Macy's

**Travis Phelps** is a construction communications manager for Alaskan Way Viaduct and Seawall Replacement Program for Washington State Department of Transportation

**Brendan Shriane** is at West Hawaii Today

**Soren Velice** is a copy editor/paginator at The Garden Island on Kauai

## 2000

**Tiffany White** is strategic account manager at NM Incite (A Nielsen/McKinsey Company)

## 1999

**Arvid Hokanson** is at KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio

**Amy Morgan** is digital news editor at NPR

**Anna Shaffer** is web content and editorial manager at Living Beyond Breast Cancer

## 1998

**Jana Hill** is the owner of writing, editing, design company Scribbleproof.com

**Rich Parsons** is the vice president of Public Affairs for communications agency, Hahn, Texas in Austin

## 1995

**Nick Davis** is a public relations manager at Cray Inc. in Seattle

## 1993

**Betsy Anderson** is an activities director / volunteer Coordinator at Life Care Center of the San Juan Islands

**Keven R. Graves** is the editor and publisher for the Nisqually Valley News in Yelm

## 1992

**Scott Ayers** is a marketing project manager for SPIE

## 1987

**Anne Mackie** retired from a career in the health insurance industry, public relations and marketing. Now, she is the co-owner of Nelson's Market / Marlins' Cafe in Bellingham's York Neighborhood.

## 1982

**Connie Compton Mennie** is at Sound Transit writing and editing newsletters, CEO speeches, video scripts & copy for new website

## 1973

**Bill Dietrich** retired from teaching environmental journalism at Huxley and is a full-time novelist

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# Student senate

from page 1

Trustees. A clause in the charter states, "Freedom of the press must not be abridged by confiscation of issues or facilities, or suspension of publication, except where there is clear danger that publication will violate a public law, nor may it be abridged by academic, personal or financial sanctions..."

Watt, Cole, Tachihara and Purrington explained to the senators that editors of student publications take a significant amount of care in checking stories for accuracy. And while mistakes do happen, editors promptly correct inaccurate information. But a student's hurt reputation alone does not constitute allowing sources to change accurately written and reported stories, Watt and the students argued.

When a senator brought up a concern that an article in a student publication could be unflattering for Western, Cole told him publications are not in the business of protecting the university; they're in the business of accurate reporting and telling true stories.

After the hearing, Cole said she appreciated the opportunity to speak to the senators about campus media, because many people outside the journalism department don't understand how journalism works and how student publications work.

"I felt we clarified a lot of things about student publications," she said. "It was a good learning opportunity."

On Nov. 9, everyone gathered again in anticipation of the senate's vote.

Jennifer Karchmer, a senior instructor in Western's Communication Department and the Washington State Bureau Correspondent for Reporters Without Borders, spoke briefly before the vote. She talked about expectations of college students and said her students are often held to a higher level of responsibility.

The senate opposed the resolution 9-0, with two abstentions. The crowd broke into cheers and applause.

"I was pleased that the Student Senate voted down the resolution," Tachihara said, "but some of the discussion made me think about the way the rest of the world sees journalism and reminded me of how important it is for us to be mindful of the way our practice is perceived by the public."

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# donations appreciated

Every year, alumni, corporations and friends of the journalism department contribute to the journalism alumni fund, the Gerson Miller Memorial Fund, and the Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship. 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. Your support in these tough economic times is doubly appreciated. 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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Olena Rypich

**Newsletter Adviser**

Carolyn Nielsen

# keep in touch

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[at]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](http://www.wvu.edu/~journal).

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