

Alumni News

WINTER 2014 WWU DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

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Journalism Department celebrates Pilgrim, Brach retirements



Carol Brach holds notes written by students, faculty and alumni as she speaks with students at the journalism picnic at Fairhaven Park in June of 2013. *Photo by Nick Gonzales*

By Mindon Win

Department manager Carol Brach and Professor Tim Pilgrim both retired from Western's journalism department at the end of the 2012-13 school year, putting a combined 35 years at the University behind them.

Brach began working at Western Jan. 4, 1999, as a part-time assistant to the publications manager. After six weeks Brach was promoted when the previous publication manager left due to illness.

Brach came from a background of social work, and the journalism students were a great resource for her. They helped her understand her job and the publications.

Brach oversaw all of the publication needs until the department brought in a consultant. Her position was split in two, and Brach was hired to replace the outgoing journalism department manager.

Brach's favorite part about her job was working with the students on a daily basis. She learned something new from

them every day and admired the journalism students for their ethics and service to others, she said.

When panicked students came to her office for help, Brach liked to tell them whatever problem they were facing would work out and as long as they remained true to themselves they would succeed.

Brach is renovating her house, a project she said has consumed her summer. After she completes that project, she wants to start volunteering at local organizations focusing on social issues and continue a book bucket list she has compiled.

Pilgrim began working at Western in 1992. During his career at the university he advised both *The Western Front* and

Klipsun magazine and taught classes in Newswriting, Reporting, Ethics, Media Law, History, Advertising, Editing and Introduction to Mass Media.

Pilgrim's first Introduction to Mass Media class in winter 1990 had 25 students. He said from then until his retirement the class continued to grow both in number of students and the content they covered.

The purpose of the class was to increase the student's media literacy and convince them to think about the connection between mass media and pressing issues, Pilgrim said.

**RETIREMENT
continued on page 2**

from the chair

What's new at the Department of Journalism? Plenty!

For one thing, we've welcomed many new students. The number of majors and pre-majors hit 218 as of our annual report last June, a 31 percent increase over the previous year. The latest numbers place 83 in the public relations track, 65 in the visual journalism track and 55 in the news/editorial track, plus a few undecided.

What else is new? Our public relations minor, which is drawing interest from communication studies majors and business/marketing majors. About one-third of our 33 minors chose the PR minor, with the others in the longstanding news/editorial minor.

Our students have landed some new and exciting internships, from a publishing company in London to a nonprofit in South Africa to the White House Press Office. Some found internship opportunities in the Northwest at Willamette Week, U.S. Forest Service, Seattle PR agencies GreenRubino and Revolution PR, The Seattle Times and Fred Meyer corporate headquarters. Others found opportunities with longtime friends of the department such as the Downtown Bellingham Partnership, Port Townsend Leader, several Pioneer newspapers and Bellingham Alive magazine. It's rewarding to visit these interns on site and sometimes visit with alumni as well.

Western's publications picked up a new award: the Sweepstakes for student entries in the Washington Press Association (which came with a cash award). Writers, photographers and designers for The Western Front, Klipsun and The Planet scored 15 first places, six second places and two third places, which together earned a cash award for the publications. The student publications also picked up six awards from the regional Mark of Excellence competition sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Also new is Karen Smith, who joined us as department manager following Carol Brach's retirement in June 2013. She comes to us from the chemistry department, and quickly started auditing classes to get better acquainted with the journalism department.

The Public Relations Organization has a new name, as an official chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America.

Soon, we hope to add a new face to the faculty, as we have received permission to conduct a search for another professor to teach primarily in the visual journalism sequence. This will enable us to offer additional courses in photography, video, multimedia and design and allow students in the other sequences to take visual journalism courses.

You'll find more details about these and other news about student clubs and activities in the pages of this newsletter, as well as some updates about alumni. Please drop us a note to share what's new with you, too.



Peggy Watt
Associate Professor
Chair, Department of Journalism



Tim Pilgrim poses while hiking on Railroad Grade on Mount Baker. *Photo Courtesy of Tim Pilgrim*

RETIREMENT continued from page 1

One of the greatest things the students gave back to Pilgrim was a sense of hope. Pilgrim saw each student as a chance to make a difference in the world and as a hope for change, he said.

Pilgrim is organizing the poetry he already has written while continuing to finish and write new poetry for his website, TimothyPilgrim.org. He would also like to volunteer with political or environmental organizations in the area and is not opposed to someday coming back to teach a class or two at Western.

featured articles

Digital Media class keeps on rolling: telling stories through video

By Mindon Win

The video component of Western's visual journalism track is going strong in its third year. J370 Digital Media in Journalism shifted its focus to video in winter of 2010, said Stephen Howie, who teaches the course.

Howie has formatted the class to teach students the basic elements of telling a story through video. He uses the MediaStorm method of focusing on the audio elements first. He encourages students to find the story through their interview audio and once the narrative has been established, students can make better use of their video.

Over the course of the class, the students build their skills through different projects. All of the class projects help the students work on a quarter-long group project.

Western senior Evan Abell took the Digital Media in Journalism class in fall 2013 to improve his chances of employment after graduating. Abell said this class will further round out his skills as a journalist and provide an opportunity to learn more than just photography.

The quarter-long group project was one of best parts of the class, Abell said.

"I think it's important for students to work on long-term projects outside of the publications," he said.

The class was Abell's first encounter with video work, and he said it will give him more opportunities to practice journalism in the future.

Journalism department alumnus Carey Rose often utilizes his video skills in his work as a multimedia specialist with Puget Sound Energy. His work involves, but is not limited to, video projects, local TV advertisements, YouTube videos, public service announcements, event photography, portraits and documentary work.

Rose's initial experiences in journalism classes, including J305 Photojournalism, put him outside of his comfort zone and challenged him to improve his journalistic skills, he said.



Students from the Digital Media in Journalism Class set up lights and interview a professor as part of a class project. *Photo courtesy of Stephen Howie.*

Classes that involve video and photography work require a certain familiarity with the concepts and equipment beforehand, which might prevent some students from taking them, Rose said.

Video relies more on process and attention to detail than some other visual media, Rose said.

Both Rose and Abell would like to see more classes in the department dedicated to video and photographic work.

Because video is becoming both more popular and easier to produce, video skills are important to employers and are beginning to outpace demand for photography skills, Rose said.

"There is real value in developing these programs for the students," Rose said.

This could be a real possibility as the department hopes to add a new faculty member next year who would help teach classes in the visual journalism track.

Alumna learns how a tough story takes its toll

Editor's Note: Kelsey Rowlson originally wrote this profile as part of the Introduction to Newswriting class during fall quarter of 2013.

By Kelsey Rowlson

Gina Cole rushed out of the cold wet night into a Bellingham Starbucks. At 7:10 p.m. Cole, 24, was just getting back to Bellingham after spending the day working at the Skagit Valley Herald. It had been a big day as the sentencing in a prominent child-abuse trial had been handed down.

At Western, Cole was involved with KUGS-FM radio and held multiple jobs on The Western Front, including editor-in-chief. After graduating in March 2012 with a bachelor of arts in communication and journalism, she freelanced for The Bellingham Herald, Prime Time Magazine and Whatcom Magazine. In June 2012, she began working for the Skagit Valley Herald, covering health and social services, environment and the Latino community.

In May 2013 she took over the courts beat for the Herald. Less than a month later she would be sitting in court, covering the longest trial in Skagit Valley history.

The trial of Carri and Larry Williams began on July 22. The pair was charged with homicide by abuse and first-degree manslaughter for the death of 13-year-old Hana Williams. Hana, adopted by the Williamses in 2008 from Ethiopia, died on May 11, 2011 from hypothermia and severe malnutrition. They were also charged with assault of a child for abusing their adopted son. The Williamses were convicted and Carri sentenced to just under 37 years, Larry to just under 28 years.

During the trial, Cole spent five days each week, 34 days total, in a courtroom and spent about 10 hours each day reporting on the trial. Armed with a laptop, iPad, iPhone, notebook, pens, press pass and a blanket to lay on the uncomfortable bench, Cole started each day by checking with the clerk's office for any new documents filed since the evening before.

Then she would head to the courtroom, sitting in the second row on the aisle. During the trial she would live Tweet and write an article for publication online in the early afternoon, filing a



Gina Cole, a 2012 journalism graduate, is a reporter with The Skagit Valley Herald. *Courtesy of Scott Terrell, photo editor of The Skagit Valley Herald and an adjunct professor of the Journalism Department.*

modified version each evening for print. During lunch break, Cole checked with the clerk's office again before quickly eating lunch and returning to the courtroom. After court was over for the day, she would make her final stop at the clerk's office and then file her second article of the day to editors at the Herald. Over the course of the trial and the sentencing, Cole estimates she wrote more than 1,500 inches of text.

"It's not the kind of job where you put in your eight hours, watch the clock, and then go home," she said.

The trial was both physically and emotionally demanding.

"There would be days where I would go home and at that point I would grab my boyfriend for a hug," Cole said. "I saw autopsy photos of her. She's naked and emaciated and lying on a metal table, covered in bruises and scars. Her head's bloody; it's not pretty."

According to the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, between 86 and 100 percent of journalists have witnessed a work-related traumatic event.

Discussing the trial the evening after the sentencing, Cole said, "I'll never be able to let some of that go, but that's kind

of the price we pay for the privilege of telling stories like this. You're a robot if they don't stick with you."

Joan Connell, former associate director of the Dart Center, said journalists can experience the same kind of trauma as first responders and are just as vulnerable to post-traumatic stress disorder as a soldier.

"It used to be that the attitude in journalism was you have a hard job, just suck it up," said Connell, an adjunct journalism professor at Western. "That means you might drink a lot, you might engage in self-damaging behavior. People didn't recognize that sometimes takes a toll."

Right after the trial, Cole's boss asked her if she would like a few days off. She declined, saying that work would distract her. But a few weeks later, it began to sink in.

"For some reason there was a gestation period; it didn't hit me until recently," Cole said. She sometimes thought Hana deserved someone who would have done a better job telling her story.

"You just can't go down that road. You can't think that way," she said.

After experiencing what is called jour-
continued on next page

nalism trauma, Cole has considered seeing a therapist. She explained that after the trial her editor handed her some pamphlets and suggested that she go see someone.

“The most important thing is to give people information,” said Connell. “Let them know that they are in charge of their choices.”

If any journalist is covering traumatic events, they should seek out someone they can talk to, Cole said. She wishes there was a way to find therapists who deal with journalism trauma, she said.

“You can’t find that in a directory of therapists,” she said. “I think a lot of journalists would benefit from that.”

Steffens scholarship update

By Mindon Win

The Pete Steffens Native American Scholarship is close to becoming endowed. The department is hoping alumni and friends will continue to contribute so the fund will reach the minimum endowment amount of \$20,000. Donors have raised \$14,151 so far, plus the \$2,000 that has already been awarded this year.

The scholarship was created in order to help support Native American and Indigenous students who are interested in studying journalism at Western. Eligible students can receive the scholarship any year during their time at Western.

Valerie Alia, Steffens’ widow, contributed much of the seed money for the scholarship and gave an extra donation in order for the scholarship to be awarded in 2013 to its first recipient, Katie Saryerwinnie.

A committee created by the journalism department chair, with a designated Native American or other Indigenous advisors, awards the scholarship with preference given to Native American students.

The journalism department, students, faculty and Western Washington University would like to thank those who have already contributed to the scholarship and hope other generous donors will step forward to help the scholarship reach its goal within the next year.

For information regarding donations to the scholarship, contact Angela Vandenhaak at Angela.Vandenhaak@wwu.edu.

Journalism department events to be held as part of Back2Bellingham

By Mindon Win

A journalism alumni reunion will be part of the 2014 Back2Bellingham event on May 17, only one of several programs planned for campus that day. The reunion will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the second floor of the Communications Facility. Food and beverages will be provided along with live music.

Back2Bellingham is a campus-wide annual event. This year, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences is the featured host.

Student work from classes and publications will be displayed throughout the second floor. Publication offices will be open for alumni to look at current and past issues in addition to speaking with current editors and staff.

Displays will show how donations are used. Alumni will hear from students about the opportunities and resources provided by donations.

Before the reunion is a Classes Without Quizzes presentation, when faculty offer short versions of their courses; and a lunch on the Communications Facility lawn.

All alumni are encouraged to attend and take this opportunity to catch up with classmates and see how the department has progressed over the years.



2012 - 2013 scholarship and tuition waiver recipients

American Advertising Federation Scholarship

Recipients: Marlena Av, Mindon Win

Ralph and Nancy Babcock Memorial Scholarship

Recipient: Joshua Galassi

Cartridge Family Scholarship

Recipients: Daniel DeMay

Department Tuition Waiver

Recipient: Alisa Gramann

Gerson Miller Memorial Scholarship

Recipients: Margaret Degman, James Kozanitis

Journalism Alumni Scholarship

Recipient: Keegan Strandness

Pacific Northwester Newspaper Association Scholarship (PNNA)

Recipients: Serena Imani Korn

Pete Steffens Native American Scholarship

Recipient: Katie Saryerwinnie

Pioneer Newspaper Grant

Recipient: Brooke Warren

Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship for Public Relations

Recipient: Charmaine Riley

Steven Rupp Memorial Scholarship

Recipients: Stephanie Kirk, Keegan Strandness

from the students

NPPA

Western's visual storytellers gather for a weekly National Press Photographers Association club meeting to collaborate, critique and build Western's photojournalism community.

Nick Gonzales and I have continued the club's semi-monthly blog, WWUphotojournalism.wordpress.com, featuring work from interpretive assignments as well as cellphone photos from Bellingham Visual Journalism Conference's Mobile Storytelling Workshop. About eight students attended the two-day workshop hosted by The Seattle Times' Bettina Hansen with a short presentation from The Seattle PI's Josh Trujillo. The workshop was a success and we're looking to make BVJC workshops a quarterly event.

At the end of last year, NPPA hosted a portfolio critique and barbeque. We managed to bring in more than 10 professional and retired photojournalists from local publications including The Seattle Times, The Seattle PI and the Skagit Valley Herald. This year we hope to repeat the event with more professionals, incorporate presentations and have a student photojournalist of the year competition.

If you are an alumni interested in attending our event please contact me at dannymillerphotography@gmail.com.

Danny Miller

NPPA co-president

PRO-now PRSSA

We finally did it! I am pleased to announce that this year we have been officially chartered as the newest chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America! Having a chapter of PRSSA on campus is an amazing step forward for the public relations program, and the team of our former organization, PRO, is so excited to start offering everything PRSSA brings to students. Since we are a new chapter, we will begin holding our first meetings in winter quarter 2014.

Each meeting will bring one of the many benefits and services of PRSSA to our program, including some great career tips and professional development. Professionals in the field emphasize the importance of PRSSA membership across the board, as well as note the preparedness that PRSSA members have when they enter the workforce. As president of our new chapter, I am excited to welcome our first group of members for our inaugural year! And for all those alumni out there, make sure to keep up with us on Facebook and Twitter.

Mason Luvera

PRO president

SPJ

The Western Chapter of SPJ is currently reorganizing and does not have a president or other club officers.

Klipsun

This quarter Klipsun has seen much growth in its identity and in accessibility. We have continued to push our design in a way that makes Klipsun identifiable as a publication and a brand. One of our goals this quarter was to evaluate our online presence. We decided to begin compiling the two current websites into a new site hosted by Squarespace. We would ask that you check any links you have to our website (klipsunmagazine.com) in February, as they may be missing or changed. Our new website will allow readers easier navigation of both past and present content and will start a new chapter in the way our publication is read.

Mindon Win

Editor-in-Chief,
fall & winter quarters

**Follow Klipsun Magazine on Facebook and Twitter
@klipsunmag. See more at klipsunmagazine.com.**

The Planet

This year, we are redefining ourselves at The Planet. Though our publication only comes out once a quarter, we are breathing new life into our online presence with more consistent updates. We gave our Twitter and Facebook much-needed facelifts. We integrated news-briefs about breaking environmental topics into our website. Our staff has been hard at work writing additional stories and multimedia to go online.

While we are shifting to fill the need for an up-to-date environmental news source for campus and beyond, we are still just as devoted to spreading environmental awareness through scientific research. The fall 2013 mystery-themed issue was released in early December.

Mikey Jane Moran

Editor-in-Chief

See more at planet.wvu.edu

The Western Front

Responsive to increasing demands and potential for news-as-it's-happening, The Western Front has revolutionized the way it approaches the news cycle. We broke out of the semiweekly print schedule this fall, and gave our readers fresh content every day. We have been growing our social media presence for a while, and this quarter we broke a record amount of news on Twitter.

In addition to breaking news, we've been focusing on more investigative pieces, which we hope to do more of in the future. No matter the topic or pace, we remain committed to accuracy and fairness in all that we publish. We are excited to continue to grow as the go-to campus source for news and features relevant to students.

Hannah Leone

Editor-in-Chief, fall quarter

Follow The Western Front on Facebook and Twitter @TheFrontOnline. See more at westernfrontonline.net and sign up for The Western Front's semiweekly newsletter

student awards

2012 SPJ Region 10 Mark of Excellence Award winners

Feature Photography

Second Place: Scream of Strength by Brooke Warren (WF)

General News Photography

Third Place: Amy by Nick Gonzales (WF)

Breaking News Photography

First Place: Accident on Racine St by Nick Gonzales (WF)

Nonfiction Magazine Article

Third Place: 1,000 miles in their shoes by Eryn Akers (Klipsun)

Online Feature Reporting

Third Place: Women on Weights by Klipsun Staff (Klipsun)

General News Reporting

Second Place: Professor owes Western \$20,000 by Olivia Henry (WF)

2012 Washington Press Association Awards

Winner of the 2012 Sweepstakes Award

News - General

First Place: Rental licensing law struck by Nathan Dalla Santa (WF)

News - Investigative

First Place: A border without a fence by Mindon Win (Klipsun)

News - Social Issues

First Place: A chosen commitment by Hannah Leone (Klipsun)

News - Social Issues

Second Place: Cloth shields by Charmaine Riley (WF)

News - Social Issues

Third Place: Three out of 13 candidates for AS are women by Brianna Kuplent (WF)

News - Consumer Affairs

First Place: Infections and infestations by Chelsea Poppe (WF)

News - Sports

First Place: Title hopes ripped from Vikings by Alex Peterson (WF)

Editorial/Commentary

First Place: Table tennis club by Paul Grzelak (WF)

Editorial/Commentary - Arts & Entertainment

First Place: Planet Side 2 Review by Paul Grzelak (WF)

Editorial/Commentary - Arts & Entertainment

Second Place: Halo 4 Game Review by Paul Grzelak (WF)

Features - General

First Place: What's in the bag? by Alex Rumbolz (Planet)

Features - General

Second Place: From the battlefield to the classroom by Michael Lydon (WF)

Features - General

Third Place: King rats by James Rogers (Planet)

Features - Personality Profile

First Place: Living with Huntington's by Osa Hale (Klipsun)

Features - Arts & Entertainment

First Place: Interactive Storytelling - Dungeons & Dragons by Mindon Win (WF)

Columns - Sports

First Place: Women's athletics given stage to shine by Alex Bigelow (WF)

Photography - General News

First Place: Sentimental Journey by Nick Gonzales (Bellingham Herald)

Photography - Feature

Second Place: Tesla coil shocks subdued city by Nick Gonzales (WF)

Graphic Design - Page layout

First Place: Silent Spring Issue by Susan Good & Sarah Morris (Planet)

Advertising - Single Ad

First Place: Taco Lobo ad by Marlies Horberger (WF)

Advertising - Single Ad

Second Place: Grand Avenue Alehouse ad by Marlies Horberger (WF)

Advertising - Campaign or Series

First Place: Diego's ad by Marlies Horberger (WF)

Advertising - Campaign or Series

Second Place: Mi Shoes ad campaign by Marlies Horberger (WF)

faculty updates



Carolyn Dale
Associate Professor

Just as in past years, I have enjoyed teaching the editing and writing structure courses during fall and winter quarters and then taking off spring quarter.

It is a great time to travel, and in May, we spent about two weeks on the island of Crete. It's a very large, rural island and is the farthest southern point of Western Europe.

I wanted to go there to be in the oldest known places that inspired European traditions in our culture. The Palace of Knossos was wonderful to visit; it was a center for the Minoan culture, which reaches back 8,000 years.

The civilization had beautiful artwork, highly refined crafts, and a written language, some of which has yet to be deciphered. This is the place with the tales of minotaurs and catacombs, and the dances with bulls that are re-enacted today in the bullfights in France and Spain.

The food and wine were great, also. Cretans are very proud that they were the subjects studied for the famed Mediterranean Diet, which allows so many people to live such long lives.

I bought a cookbook, and I've been trying out recipes at home, even though they call for greens like nettles and purslane. (I drew the line at black nightshade.)

Summer in Bellingham was great, especially for our big garden of vegetables and berries. I spent many mornings working with the online Feature Writing class, reading stories written by our students working and interning at some far-flung places.

I also spent time working hard at my own writing, which I hope to do more of, soon.

The Professional Editing program at Western continues to bring in people from the community for classes in the evenings, and I teach copy editing and grammar to a wide range of interesting folks during the fall and winter, as well as to Western students, who continue to be the brightest and best journalism students anywhere.



John Harris
Associate Professor

First, a student referred to me in a course evaluation as “the old man.” And later I realized, I’m the department’s senior full-time faculty member (Carolyn Dale, who has been here the longest, is half time). I’m not sure which cliché to employ, but I guess “where did the time go?” is as good as any.

I began as a part-timer in the late '90s in College Hall, teaching students the skills needed to work for a newspaper. When I started teaching photojournalism in the early 2000s, I had an assistant who processed the students’ film and made proof sheets (some of you older alumni might remember what those are).

Today, I teach in a state-of-the-art Mac lab in the Communications Facility, a building that occupies what were perpetually muddy intramural fields.

Despite all those changes, one thing has remained constant: The faculty still stresses the basics of writing, reporting, and ethical and accurate storytelling. How and where our students will use those skills seems to change quarter by quarter (who could have envisioned the title “social-media editor” in the 1990s?). This is a challenging and exciting time to be a journalism professor, even when you’re the old man.



Stephen Howie
Senior Instructor

This year, I am serving for the third year as faculty adviser for Klipsun and working as the primary adviser for the general studies program at Western.

In addition, I’m excited to be teaching a class in video production and editing as part of the visual journalism sequence. This summer, I accompanied Assistant Professor Maria McLeod on a trip to Istanbul, Turkey, where Maria conducted academic research related to the Taksim Square protests. I filmed and audio recorded four of her interviews and shot extensive B-roll around the city and during the Istanbul Biennial, an international

art exhibit focused on freedom of expression. Our summer also was filled with construction and home improvement projects. We refinished our 700-foot deck, had our hardwood floors redone and constructed two flagstone paths.

My academic background dates back to the 80s. I earned a bachelor's degree from Beloit College and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Pittsburgh in creative nonfiction writing.

In 2000, my first book, "The Bluffton Charge," was published by Mammoth Books. The book documents my parents' involvement in the early years of the Civil Rights Movement, when my father was a preacher in rural South Carolina.



Jack Keith

Senior Instructor

I'm in my fourth year as faculty adviser to The Western Front, and I continue to enjoy the day-to-day challenges, excitement and triumphs I share with the student staff. We have fun competing with local media on breaking news stories, but most of our focus is on developing solid reporters, photographers and editors who will be the kind of journalists that companies want to hire. Our track record of placing students in top publications is excellent.

And we continue to win honors for students' work. For the past academic year, Western publications won the first Sweepstakes Award ever awarded by the Washington Press Association, based on an outstanding string of individual honors in the annual statewide contest. Basically, the WPA said we produce by far the best college publications in Washington.

On the personal side, my wife and I have a new focus to our lives: biking. Our three youngest grandchildren (ages 4, 5 and 7) all have learned to ride two-wheelers now, so Polly and I decided we needed to keep up. We haven't owned bikes since we were kids, and now we go on biking adventures on Puget Sound area trails several times a week. Great exercise and a wonderful way to get back to nature.



Jennifer Keller

Associate Professor

This year is quite an exciting one for the public relations track. First, our new Public Relations Case Studies course is now permanent and a requirement for all PR majors. It replaces Comm 428 and helps students understand how to

analyze past case studies in order to apply best practices to future campaigns. In addition, as of this fall, we now have a PR minor in the department. It is already proving so popular that we had to add a second section of the Advanced PR Writing course this quarter and both sections are full.

I'm very excited that our student PR organization is now an official Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter, which will provide many benefits for our students including access to scholarships and internships. Our student PR club president attended the national conference in Philadelphia and brought back many exciting ideas for the future.

For me, professionally, the highlight of the year was receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor. In terms of scholarship, the book "Contemporary Media Ethics: A Practical Guide for Students, Scholars and Professionals in the Globalized World", 2nd Ed., was just published in November and includes my chapter on corporate social responsibility in the wake of a disaster. It focuses Royal Caribbean and the earthquake in Haiti using two different ethical philosophies (utilitarianism and Ubuntu). I also had an article published in PRism, the scholarly journal of Praxis, The Public Relations Resource Centre related to teaching PR students to write like journalists.

On the personal side, my husband and I spent more than a month this summer in western New York with my family, followed by a road trip back across the States with stops to see friends from college. Just proof that even 25 years later, the good friends in college are still close friends no matter how far apart you live.



Maria McLeod

Assistant Professor

Maria McLeod teaches Public Relations, Introduction to Mass Media, Newswriting and Advanced PR Writing. This past summer, she traveled to Istanbul, Turkey, to conduct research on Gezi Park demonstrations in Taksim Square with a specific focus on how communication modalities and public relation methodologies are used, invented and adapted by individuals and groups to advance their socio-political cause.

This included an examination of the use of traditional PR tactics and emerging social media technologies particular to the political situation and media climate in Turkey. She is looking forward to presenting and publishing her research in 2014.



Carolyn Nielsen

Associate Professor

The buzzwords in reporting this year are “digital first” and “interactivity.” I’ve put an increased emphasis on reinvigorating our reporting curriculum to try new things, take more risks and be more engaging. The creative energy involved in exploring these new opportunities with students is exciting and inspiring. Of course, we are still focusing on the building blocks of strong reporting and editing, ethics and compelling storytelling; but we are thinking about pushing coverage in new directions and using new format options. (We’re not thinking “Snowfall” so much as alternative ways to make daily coverage or small projects more interactive.)

I’m still a student as well as a (newly tenured) associate professor. I’m enjoying my second year of Ph.D. studies at UW and now looking at online audience engagement and diversity, which are cornerstones of my research.

It’s so gratifying to me to be in touch with so many of you and to watch you grow in your careers and make differences in the world—and literally our journalism alums are all over the globe. Please don’t hesitate to drop me a line about the cool things you are working on. It always makes my day to hear from you.



Sheila Webb

Associate Professor

This past spring, student teams in Advanced Visual Journalism, J446, created logos, brochures, videos and websites for the Bellingham Food Bank, the Ferndale Senior Activity Center and Growing Veterans, and produced videos to promote the Victory Garden.

These projects benefit the community and also become portfolio pieces for the students. I was honored to be selected for the Teaching Innovative Showcase for 2012-2013, whose theme this year is “Teaching Civic Engagement.” Western’s Center for Instructional Innovation and Assessment features photos and videos of the class, my approach toward service-learning and my pedagogical materials and goals at <http://pandora.cii.wvu.edu/showcase2012/>.

Winter quarter, I enjoyed teaching an Honors class on the coverage of science and technology in American media. In March 2013, I presented my work on the Delphian Society at the Joint Journalism Historians Conference in New York City; in August, I participated in an AEJMC panel on updating a visual

communication curriculum at our annual conference in Washington, D.C.; in October I presented work on collaboration in the arts at the School of Visual Arts Conference in New York City. I was pleased to be able to return to the Midwest in July, gotta love the 105-degree heat, to do research on the Delphian Society in Chicago, but did take time to put my feet in Lake Michigan in Sheboygan. I continue to design and edit the AEJMC Magazine Division’s newsletter Magazine Matter.



Lyle Harris

Professor Emeritus

Some of the best museums and galleries in the world are in Washington, D.C., and—when they are not shut down by the snotty brats who are tea party supporters—are free. Walking through the Natural History Museum, you hear languages of people from distant countries who come to visit. So we spent six weeks in the winter a few blocks behind the Capitol and many days enjoying the fine art works, the monuments and the small pubs with great beer and food. When we took the White House tour we did not see President Obama, but the family dog, Bo, walked through the crowd. And one of our students was a White House intern.

I’ve been teaching J480 Senior Seminar once or twice a year and love it. It’s great to mix with students and at the same time have no committee meetings. And, as it was when all of you were here, we have really great students. Our next adventure is back to Prague for a couple of months. Some of you were there when we did the study abroad program in 2003.



Karen Smith

Department Manager

Karen Smith has joined the journalism department as the new department manager. She began working at Western in November 2011 with the chemistry department. She was hired full-time in February 2012 as the program coordinator. Before Western, she had worked in finance with T-Mobile. She moved to the journalism department because she wanted to move to a department where she could better connect with the students and the department as a whole. She enjoys continuing to work with students and wants to make the advising process both simpler and easier for incoming students.

alumni profiles

Becca Rice

Class of 2010



Becca Rice knew she wanted to major in journalism when she took Introduction to Newswriting with Jack Keith her freshman year. Rice felt the journalism faculty was always pushing the students in the right direction. She credits John Harris for encouraging her to apply to be editor-in-chief of The Western Front, a position she would not have sought on her own. The experience she gained from managing a staff and leading a

publication gave her opportunities after graduation that she would not have had otherwise, Rice said.

Rice's time as Western Front editor-in-chief was one of the best learning experiences of her college career, she said. Harris, the publication adviser at the time, let her take the lead and run the publication. Looking back, she said it was a valuable experience for her to deal with the challenges of running a newspaper.

After graduating in 2010, Rice went to Douai, France to work as an English teaching assistant. She taught students conversation-skills-based English for about 12 hours a week, and was able to freely explore on her own time. Going abroad and teaching is one of the best decisions she has ever made, she said.

She then returned to the United States and interned with Sasquatch Books, a Pacific Northwest publishing company. There she worked on proofreading and evaluating submissions. After she finished her internship, she was hired as a freelance proofreader.

Rice then went on to work for Dye Management Group, a company that

specializes in transportation and government services consultations. Rice used her attention to detail and writing skills learned at Western to copy check written work, edit content and design proposals.

In 2012, Rice moved on to her current job as a copy editor for MSN.com. As a copy editor for an online news outlet, Rice can work remotely. She currently lives in North Dakota, where she also works as a copy editor for the High Plains Reader, a local alternative weekly paper.

Rice's experience at Western learning how to select photos and properly use infographics has helped her edit breaking news stories before they are posted online, she said. Rice likes her work because she can stay involved with breaking news and is constantly being sent articles to work on that have a national and global readership.

Rice would like to continue working with MSN.com and hopes to transition into book publishing someday. She hopes to incorporate art, music and travel into her career.

She encourages current students and other alumni to find employment in subjects that interest them and to keep their eyes open for opportunities in other fields.

Jessica Evans

Class of 2006



Jessica Evans remembers the first journalism class she took – an introductory course taught by Shearlean Duke. She took the class her freshman year and afterward decided she would major in journalism. Evans remembers Duke's commitment to the department and her efforts to help the department further grow.

Evans worked as the community liaison on The Western Front when John Harris was the adviser, which was one of her earliest experiences with public relations-based work, Evans said. Most of her job involved connecting with the community on behalf of the paper. She eventually became the editor-in-chief of Klipsun magazine when Peggy Watt was the adviser. Watt's past experience with working on magazines was invaluable to her learning experience, Evans said. Running Klipsun also gave Evans experience working with and managing a team,

something she said was important to her work today.

After graduating, Evans went on to work in public relations for several companies including Waggener Edstrom, and is currently vice president of Edelman Digital. She describes her work as fast-paced and challenging, with a strong focus on entrepreneurship. In her experience, public relations companies seek out graduates from Western because they are some of the best prepared in the region, Evans said. She is thankful for the positive reputation the Western Department of Journalism has developed over the years.

Evans encourages current students and alumni to stay curious as they work in their current jobs or seek new ones. Staying in touch with classmates and professors helps to build a reliable network of professionals that is important in any area that utilizes journalistic skills.

Vanessa Blackburn

Class of 1995



Vanessa Blackburn started at Western pursuing an environmental journalism degree through Huxley. She switched to the news/editorial journalism track because she enjoyed getting all points of view rather than focusing solely on advocacy, she said.

A former editor and publisher of the Bellingham Business Journal, Blackburn is now community outreach coordinator in the

Bellingham Mayor's Office. She said the transition from journalism to city politics was easy because she uses the same skills to communicate with local businesses.

Lyle Harris' Mass Media Law class was one of the hardest classes she took in the department during her time at Western, Blackburn said.

Harris was also the adviser to The Western Front when Blackburn was editor-in-chief. Running The Western Front was one of the most important learning experiences during her time at Western, she said.

"There are things you just can't learn in the classroom," Blackburn said.

On one occasion the paper printed an advertisement for a business in Canada that some readers found to be racist. Blackburn said it was an important experience to deal with this crisis and find a way to mend the publication's relationships with the community. She felt the experience taught her and her staff to better recognize the implications of what is published in the paper.

The classes and publication experience through the journalism department allowed Blackburn to feel confident as a writer after she graduated. The department prepared her for her career by giving her

marketable skills and invaluable experience, she said.

Blackburn worked as a reporter at the BBJ and found, to her surprise, that she enjoyed covering business-related topics. The experience taught her that entrepreneurs are a dynamic and fascinating group of people who rely on taking risks, she said. Working with BBJ helped her to better connect with her community, she said.

After taking a break from BBJ for two years, she returned as the editor and publisher. Blackburn said the position came with the responsibility of providing a voice in the community and a leadership role in the public discourse in Bellingham.

Blackburn returned to Western after Carolyn Dale and Tim Pilgrim convinced her to come back and help teach some classes in the department.

Blackburn completed her master's degree in communications in leadership at Gonzaga University and would like to return to teaching someday. She advises current students and other alumni to stay in touch with classmates because they create a network that is valuable when it comes to finding employment and working in the field of journalism.

David Cuillier

Class of 1990



David Cuillier will always remember the time a plane carrying the school's president and two vice-presidents crashed, killing all three and one other person.

Cuillier was a news editor at The

Western Front when the crash happened. The process of figuring out how to handle and report on events such as this is not easily taught in class, and has stuck with Cuillier throughout his career as a journalist.

The practical experiences Western offered its journalism students were what made the journalism department stand out from the rest, Cuillier said. He remembers working on The Western Front for four years and spending several nights on the couch in the newsroom in order to get enough rest while working.

After graduating from Western in 1990, Cuillier worked for The Columbian in Vancouver, Wash. and at several other newspapers in Idaho and Washington. One of his favorite jobs was assistant city editor at the Tri-City Herald. He said working night shifts in the newsroom reminded him of his days at The Western Front.

Cuillier is now an associate professor and director of the journalism department at the University of Arizona. He was also

recently elected national president of the Society of Professional Journalists. He is the first Western alum to be elected to the post. The skills he learned managing a staff on The Western Front still help Cuillier today as he splits his time at the University of Arizona doing administrative work, continuing his research into public access to government information and teaching classes, Cuillier said.

As part of his duties as SPJ president, Cuillier has traveled across the country to speak to journalists. Although some people might see traditional journalism as struggling to adapt, Cuillier sees this a time where opportunities for journalists are constantly presenting themselves through new formats. He hopes journalists are able to avoid what he calls "a black hole of negativity," and find these opportunities for growth and innovation in journalism, he said.

Cuillier hopes to continue his work as SPJ president and to encourage journalists to continue to protect their rights under the First Amendment.

Helen Warinsky

Class of 1983

Special thanks to
Ellen Warinsky for contributing

Helen Warinsky had no shortage of life experiences before attending Western. In the late 1930s she worked for a British film distributor in New York City. During World War II, Warinsky was the personal secretary to a member of Franklin D. Roosevelt's inner circle, and was present during a meeting between FDR, Churchill and Stalin. She experienced all this before coming to Western in the 1970s and graduating in 1983 at the age of 67.

Warinsky was pursuing a degree through the Bridge Project hosted by Fairhaven College. The program encour-

aged seniors to continue their education by taking classes through Western.

Over a seven-year period, Warinsky took classes and learned how to write for newspapers, take and develop photos, and operate broadcast video equipment.

After graduation, Warinsky went on to take advantage of her newfound skills. She helped conduct and coordinate exit polls for NBC during the 1984 and 1988 presidential elections. From 1993 to 1994, Warinsky worked at KSER FM, a Lynnwood, Wash. radio station. She hosted a program that focused on issues and advice relevant to senior citizens.

Even into her 80s and 90s Warinsky was active and in 2010 she went to Germany to undergo a relatively new heart valve replacement procedure.

Warinsky passed away on Aug. 1, 2012.



Scott Fagerstrom

Class of 1977



Scott Fagerstrom came to Western from Longview. His father worked at the local paper, and as a result Fagerstrom knew people who worked in the industry. Kenneth Rystrom, an editor at The Columbian, suggested Fagerstrom attend Western because it had the most practical program for pursuing journalism.

The first class Fagerstrom attended at Western as a transfer student was a reporting class with Ted Stannard. He remembers the class interviewed Stannard for a writing exercise and then wrote stories on typewriters. When Stannard handed back the assignments, Fagerstrom's was covered in different colors of ink to signify all the edits the paper needed and across the top was written "Good job!", which led Fagerstrom to

wonder what a bad paper would have looked like.

Pete Steffens is one of the professors Fagerstrom remembers best. Steffens was a legendary professor and fantastic teacher, Fagerstrom said. He remembers taking Steffens' History of Journalism class and learning about how Steffens' father, Lincoln, was part of the muckraking movement.

Fagerstrom said attending Western transformed him into a student of the world, and that Steffens inspired him to study abroad and research objectivity in Israeli media.

After college, Fagerstrom completed an internship at The Columbian that led to him working there for nine years. Fagerstrom covered the religion beat. He had always been fascinated by religion and had considered going to seminary before attending Western. During this time Fagerstrom realized the public's interest in religion was increasing because of people like Jerry Falwell and Jim Jones, who had taken the media spotlight.

In 1984, Fagerstrom entered and won a contest sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation that sent him back to school for a year at the University of North Carolina to study religion.

In 1986 he was offered a job at The Orange County Register, which Fagerstrom said was his big break. There he

focused on covering religion by looking at interesting groups of people, what they believed, and why they believed it.

He also began working on investigative pieces on televised ministries, which ended up turning into a sort of crime beat as he uncovered suspect, and at times illegal, activities the ministries were involved in, Fagerstrom said.

Fagerstrom then became a business editor and worked in Texas, Washington and California.

In 2000, Fagerstrom switched over to public relations when the public relations company Hill+Knowlton asked him to join their company. By 2004, he had joined Northwest Airlines and moved to Minnesota. After about four years with Northwest Airlines Fagerstrom went back into journalism in Minnesota, first as the editor-in-chief of Finance & Commerce Media Group and then as a regional editor for Patch.com.

After he left Patch.com Fagerstrom founded his own public relations company called Minnesota Media, where he focuses on working with clients who want to make the world a better place.

Fagerstrom's advice to current students and alumni is to take advantage of new opportunities and make the most of emerging resources and technology.

Profiles compiled by Mindon Win

alumni updates

2013

Kyle Elliot is a communications consultant at Shoreline Community College.

Amy Holm is 2014 Induction Show Coordinator at Revolution PR.

Dylan Koutsky is a Teach for America Corps member teaching high school special education math at a charter school in northeast Philadelphia and working toward his master's degree in education at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rachel Lee is director of marketing at BennettRank, Seattle.

Chelsea Poppe is an account coordinator at Revolution PR in Seattle.

James Rogers is an intern at the Sierra Club.

Lauren Simmons is a management intern at Nordstrom in Lynnwood.

Taryn (Knudsvig) Wright is project coordinator/recruiter at Management Recruiters of Lynden.

2012

Daniel Berman is a freelance photographer in the Seattle area and a photographer and designer for Northwest Leaf.

Gina Cole just accepted a job as associate news producer/editor at The Seattle Times.

Paige Collins is an associate news producer at The Seattle Times.

Brian Corey is social media manager for MorBiz and writing part-time for Seattle Business magazine.

Christina Crea is a reporter and photojournalist at DeVaul Publishing, Morton, Wash.

Abigail Espiritu is an account coordinator at Richmond Public Relations, Seattle.

Eriver Eugenio is a web marketing specialist at Strategic Asset Alliance, Bellingham.

Femi Abebefe is a reporter/producer for KTVZ News in Bend, Ore.

Kristy Kim is a HR administration assistant at Schakra, Seattle.

Rachel Lerman is government reporter for the Skagit Valley Herald.

Elysia Nazareth is an assistant account executive at Hill+Knowlton Strategies in San Francisco.

Marya Purrington is a communications manager with the Washington State Bar Association.

Alexa Zaske is Chapter Assistant at The Recording Academy, Seattle.

2011

Chelsea Asplund is an account coordinator at GreenRubino, Seattle.

Kimberly Cauvel is environmental reporter at the Skagit Valley Herald.

Celeste Erickson is working as a reporter for the South Whidbey Record.

Joy-Elise Harrington is a marketing and communications professional at GM Nameplate, Seattle.

Megan Jonas is a copy editor at The Spokesman-Review in Spokane.

Chelsea Kennedy is a studio coordinator at Zulily in Seattle.

Samantha Sorden is director of communications at Fairhaven Health.

2010

Mandi Brady is an outreach coordinator at Pacific Lutheran University.

Juan Cornejo is an account executive at DataSphere Technologies, Seattle.

Julie Franz is a producer/project manager at Amazon, Seattle.

Anne Maertens is senior client solutions manager at EnergySavvy, Seattle.

Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura has focused on the arts, dance, involvement in the Asian American community and expanding her media skills. She is dancing professionally in Seattle and is media relations manager for Seattle Opera. She also co-founded Relay Dance Collective, a dance troupe that provides outreach performances at schools, senior centers and nursing homes. She serves on the board of the Japanese American Citizens League in Seattle and participates in the U.S.-Japan Council's Emerging Leaders Program. She writes reviews for Seattle Dances blog and reports for Northwest Asian Weekly. She and Casey Gainor ('09) are engaged to be married on Aug. 16, 2014. gabriellenomura.com

Amy Sanford is lead search engine optimization specialist at Sesame Communications, Seattle.

Madeline Stevens is an intern at Advocate Magazine, Dallas, Texas.

Cejae Thompson is a photographer at Big Takeover Magazine in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Colleen Toomey is in her second year as a donor relations specialist at the University of Washington Foundation. She is also working on graduate coursework in public affairs and nonprofit management, and hopes to pursue a Master of Public Administration at the UW's Evans School of Public Affairs in the fall. She is also a member of PRSA-Puget Sound and City Club of Seattle, and serving on the WWU Alumni Association's new Young Alumni Committee.

Stephanie (Castillo) Twining is an account executive at FleishmanHillard in San Diego. This summer she and Jeff Twining ('10) were married; he is manager of digital media services at the CBS Sports College Network.

Jillian Vasquez is a graduate student at University College in London, England.

2009

Elizabeth Backstrom is a research assistant at the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Analysis, Eastern Washington University.

Casey Gainor is an emcee and trombonist for the Bad Tenants, a blues/hip-hop fusion group that originated in Bellingham and is now based in Seattle. The Tenants recently released an EP, "Eloquent Scoundrels" Vol. 2, featuring Seattle rapper Grynych. The group headlined the Southeast Alaska State Fair last summer and was featured in Portland's Northwest Hip Hop Festival last fall. He and Gabrielle Kazuko Nomura ('10) are engaged to be married Aug. 16, 2014. thebadtenants.com

Danielle Koagel is a digital advertising and market development consultant at the Skagit Valley Herald.

Alexis Tahiri was recently promoted to Program Coordinator for the Department of Journalism.

Amanda Winters is an assistant account executive at Edelman in Seattle.

Kera Wanielista is education reporter at the Skagit Valley Herald.

2008

Keeli Archer is a marketing research executive at The News Tribune, Tacoma.

Elana Bean is a sales and marketing program manager with Isilon Systems, Seattle.

Shannon Deveny is marketing communications manager at Fluke Biomedical, Seattle.

Moira (Hurley) Davin was recently promoted to director of sales at the Tacoma Regional Convention and Visitors Bureau, after being a sales manager for five years.

Alissa (VandenBerghe) Grieves is a marketing coordinator at Osborn Consulting, Bellevue.

Kacie McKinney married Ryan Leacy on Oct. 19, 2013.

Nicole (Lanphear) Miller is an online media manager at University of Western States. She recently started Miller Media Solutions, a marketing consulting business.

Yuki Nakajima is an investigation specialist at Amazon in Seattle.

Nick Rohde is a content engineer at Macy's in San Francisco.

Ryan Wynne is manager of communications and marketing at Western's admissions office.

2007

Isaac Bonnell is program assistant at The Non-GMO Project, Bellingham.

Erin Dewey is an administrative assistant at Scratch and Peck Feeds, Bellingham.

Adriana Dunn is content marketing manager at StellaService in New York City.

Marissa Harshman is a health reporter at The Columbian in Vancouver, Wash.

Kimberly Oakley is a business development specialist at the law firm of Foster Pepper in Seattle.

Marinda Peugh is a major gifts officer at the American Red Cross, San Diego.

2006

Michelle (Acosta) Rodriguez is communications and events director at the United Way of Thurston County, Olympia.

Jamie (Badilla) Holland earned a master of science in human centered design and engineering at the University of Washington and is a content developer at Amazon in Seattle.

Dan Grohl is a producer at KOMO TV in Seattle.

Stefani (Harrey) Braicks is a senior marketing specialist at Geoenigneers in Bellingham.

Megan Lum is executive assistant to the director of operations at the Better Business Bureau (covering Alaska, Oregon, Western Washington) in Dupont.

Kara Lundberg is senior account executive at RH Strategic Communications in Seattle.

Kate (Miller) March is the lead for East Link Community Outreach & Community Relations in Bellevue.

Tera Randall is a technology communications manager at Facebook in Menlo Park, Calif.

Eric Sanford is a computer support analyst at UW Medicine.

2005

Jeanna Barrett is head of digital marketing for Spark Pay, part of Capital One, in San Francisco.

Emily Butterfield is a marketing programs manager with GE Aviation in Kent.

Tara Nelson is a legislative aide to Rep. Jeff Morris, Mount Vernon.

Meghan Walker is editor of MyBallard.com and MyWallingford.com. <http://meghanwalker.wordpress.com/#>

2004

Paolo Mottola is digital engagement manager at REI.

Leslie Sugiura is Director of Special Events at Jewish Family Service, a social service agency in Seattle, and will marry fellow WWU Alum Adam Brown in November 2014.

2003

Valerie Bauman is a reporter covering healthcare and marijuana issues for the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Grant Brissey is assistant editor of music at Amazon and a longtime writer for The Stranger.

Brooke Geery is publisher of YoBeat, a snowboard site based in Portland, Ore.

Andrea Jasinek is a technology and intellectual property attorney at Stoel Rives in Portland, Ore.

Kirsten L'Heure is recruiting director with Matisia Consultants in Seattle.

Brendan McLaughlin is a program director at Resource Media in Seattle.

Orion Stewart is a PhD student in epidemiology at the University of Washington and working as a research scientist at the Urban Form Lab.

2002

Erin Crumpacker is a producer at Part2 Pictures in New York, producing "Our America with Lisa Ling" for OWN and "Hard Time" for National Geographic. She was associate producer for "Hot Coffee," a 2011 HBO documentary feature film.

2001

Christian Knight is a management analyst in the Kirkland City Manager's Office.

Jacob Horn is a senior marketing manager with Microsoft in Redmond.

Drew Linth is senior footwear development manager for Danner Footwear in Portland, Ore.

Melissa Peterman is a partner in the One Night Only Project, event planning for memorable dining experiences, in Seattle.

Brendan Shriane is chief operating officer and cofounder with Dodecki Software, a Seattle startup.

Laura (Query) Stevenson is working with HCS Innovation at Regence in Seattle.

2000

Sara Buckwitz is a nurse in the neonatal ICU at Overlake Hospital in Bellevue.

1999

Katy Calbreath is a change manager in the Online Services Division at Microsoft in Redmond.

Molly Hernandez is special events manager at Macy's in San Francisco.

Tim Klein is a photographer and co-founder of the CoEdit Collection in Chicago.

Sara (Magnuson) Kruger is managing blog editor at the New Rhythm Project in Washington, D.C.

Amy (Christiansen) Morgan is the Digital News editor at NPR in Washington, D.C. She and David Morgan (NYU, UMUC), budget analyst at DHHS CMS, welcomed their daughter, Ellinor Verona Grace, on June 14.

Anna Shaffer is editor and manager of web content for Living Beyond Breast Cancer in Seattle.

1998

Caren "Carrie" Cameron is a freelance writer and editor and occasional cat-sitter in the Seattle area.

Lisa L. Diaz is regional manager of client relations at Graebel Companies in Alpharetta, Ga.

Arlene Hruby is a program administrator and counseling services coordinator at the School of Business at the University of Washington, Bothell.

1997

Amy Blondin is government and community relations manager at the Washington State Department of Early Learning in Olympia.

Allison Gregg is a communications strategist with LSINC in Huntsville, Ala.

Quincy (Hanson) Smith is a marketing communications manager with Vertafore in Bothell.

Annie Pierce is marketing communications manager for North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District in Clackamas County, Ore.

1996

Kristoffer Browne is a video producer with Toffer Productions based in Bellevue.

Joanna Cerar is a sales associate with Title Nine, which supports women's participation in sports and fitness activities, in Bellevue.

Dina Elizabeth Hovde has recovered from a severe brain injury sustained in a skiing accident and remains a columnist for The Oregonian in Portland.

1995

Dieter Bohrman is the communications manager of the Nuclear Waste Program for the Washington Department of Ecology, based in the Tri-Cities.

Dana (Goodwin) Beale is human relations director at PACCAR Parts and recently earned her master's in organizational leadership from Gonzaga.

John Payseno is assistant general counsel supporting intellectual property, software as a service, and online advertising at Microsoft in Bellevue.

Eric Tesauro is satellite operations manager at NBC Sports, based in Samford, Conn.

1994

R.E. Dalrymple is brand director and global brand lead for Kaijudo for Wizards of the Coast in the Seattle area.

1993

John Lindblom is a solutions architect at Tier 3 in Bellevue.

Jeff Quiggle is executive content editor at Plateau Partners in Seattle.

Christina (Prather) Watt is the principal of Christina Watt PR, with a variety of clients in Western Washington.

1992

Michael Flynn is vice president of sales and marketing at Compendium, Inc. in Seattle.

Sandee Watson is an insurance broker at Michael J. Hall & Co. in Poulsbo.

1991

Denise Storaasli is a marketing manager at TrueBlue in Tacoma.

Mike Thomsen is hardware alliances and LSP marketing lead at Microsoft in Bellevue.

1989

David Einmo is president and owner of Pattern 25 Records in Seattle, which manages music licensing for film, TV and other visual media.

Alana Kelton is a senior program manager for merchandising platforms at Amazon in Seattle.

1988

Wendy Staley Colbert's personal essay Proof She Existed was featured recently in The Feminist Wire. Another essay, "Shopping for Breasts," will be included in Kerry Cohen's anthology The Dressing Room, forthcoming from Seal Press in 2014. Her personal essays have been published in Salon, Whole Life Times, ParentMap, This Great Society, Writing in Public, Feel More Better and Writing Is My Drink and in the anthologies We Came to Say and We Came Back to Say.

William Freeberg is a program operations specialist at the University of Washington, Seattle.

1987

Keven Graves will become executive editor and publisher of Whidbey Newspaper Group in February. It includes the Whidbey News-Times, Coupeville Examiner and South Whidbey Record as well as Crosswind, a publication for the military community on Whidbey.

1986

Lisa Heisey is an editor with OTR Global and based in Bellingham.

Holly Powers is a content manager and copy editor at Filter Digital in Seattle.

1984

Paula Allen is senior vice president at Nickelodeon Global Publishing in New York City.

Casey Madison is a visual content creator and educator with Tacoma public Schools.
<http://www.caseymadison.com/Home.html>

1983

Jim Bacon, after a long career in newspapers, including a long stretch at the King County Journal, which folded in 2007, is managing a bookstore and looking for other projects in publishing.

Kate Jackson Anderson is group manager for global internal communications at Avenade in Seattle.

1982

Abby Haight is a freelance writer and writing coach in Portland, Ore.

Don Kirkpatrick is a senior editor with MSN News and Bing News in Seattle.

Grace Reamer has started a new job as Communications and Marketing Administrator for Friends of Youth, a large nonprofit social service agency in Kirkland. After many years in daily and community newspapers, environmental education and, most recently, 13 years with the King County Council, she is delighted to focus on the writing and storytelling skills she learned at Western. She also serves on the board of the nonprofit Together Center, a human services campus in Redmond, and to volunteer as a guide providing environmental education and advocacy for the Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery.

1980

Chris Jarvis is executive vice president of corporate communications at SARKA International.

1979

Bob Slone is a project management officer for Kiewit in Omaha, Neb.

1977

Beth Barrett is a freelance writer and researcher in the greater Los Angeles area, where she previously wrote for LA Weekly and the LA Daily News.

1976

Don Gregory is president of OnTarget Consulting & Research in Seattle.

Keith Olson is "looking for new opportunities" freelancing and helping with fundraising at the Snohomish Education Foundation.

Dan Raley is the home page editor at MSN.com and based in Seattle.

donations appreciated

Every year, alumni, corporations and friends of the journalism department contribute to the journalism alumni fund, the Gerson Miller Memorial Scholarship, Pete Steffens Native American Scholarship 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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Contributing Editors

Alisa Gramann,
Hannah Leone, Lisa Remy

Newsletter Adviser

John Harris

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 Karen Smith via email to karen.smith@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/journalism.

Name _____ Year Graduated _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____ (ext.) _____

Employment _____ Position _____

Email _____ Fax _____

News of career moves, family, life in general (attach info if needed): _____
