

Alumni News

WINTER 2015 WWU DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

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Alumni return to campus for May open house

Visitors bid farewell to retiring professor Carolyn Dale and tour Communications Facility

By Stefanie Donahue

Faculty and staff from the journalism and communications department welcomed a slew of visitors last May at an open house held during Back2Bellingham, an annual event that attracts thousands to campus each year.

Attendees, which included former students who graduated more than 20 years ago, shared stories, toured on-campus newsrooms and celebrated the legacy and retirement of Associate Professor Carolyn Dale.

"I had so much fun," said Journalism Department Manager Karen Smith. She



Attendants check out a multitude of Klipsun Magazine covers plastered on the walls of the on-campus newsroom. Alumni, students and faculty attended the open house set in spring during Back2Bellingham. // By Margaret Degman

worked for several months behind the scenes to plan the event, which featured food, drinks and live music from former Journalism Program Coordinator Alexis Tahiri and his band Ubiquitous.

Editors from The Western Front, Klipsun Magazine and The Planet magazine opened newsroom doors to talk with

See **BACK2BELLINGHAM** on page 7



Portrait of Lydia Denney // By Rachel Brown

Western student first freshman recipient of dept. scholarship

By Becky Campbell

Last year, pre-declared journalism major Lydia Denney became the first freshman recipient of the Pete Steffens Native American Scholarship. The scholarship was established by his wife, Valerie Alia, after Steffens, a journalism professor emeritus at Western, passed away in 2012. Alia first proposed the idea for the scholarship

for First Nations students as a way to ensure that an education in journalism would be available to students of Native descent. Denney opened up about her experience in college since receiving the award fresh out of high school at age 18.

Q: Why did you pick journalism as your major?

A: I love writing and I am really interested in writing for

a magazine. Right now, news editing is a good path for me. I'm interested in fashion, but anything with writing is what grabs my interest.

Q: How did you find out about this scholarship?

A: Karen Smith (journalism department manager), sent out an e-mail to students at Western who had indicated

See **SCHOLARSHIP** on page 4

from the chair

Greetings to alumni – near and far. As the new chair of the journalism department, I am excited to let you know how we are doing here in Bellingham. The journalism department is thriving with many familiar faces, but also some new additions and changes.

First, we are very excited to have a new faculty member, Joe Gosen, teaching primarily in the visual journalism track. He was at Brooks Institute in California for more than 12 years where he taught a wide variety of courses ranging from photojournalism to newswriting to audio storytelling to publication and website design. Prior to his teaching career, Joe was a staff photojournalist and a graphic artist at newspapers in California, Florida and Nevada, as well as a regular contributor for The Associated Press.

In addition, Joan Connell, who many of you may remember from a writing or ethics course, is now half-time and taking on the Klipsun advising responsibilities. With a background in journalism and online journalism, we know she'll provide great leadership for the magazine. This allows Stephen Howie more time to devote to digital storytelling and editing classes. We are also excited to be one of only three departments in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences given permission to search for a new tenure-track professor this year. This person will primarily focus on senior seminar, editing and newswriting, with additional teaching in another area; we hope public relations as that major/minor is growing! We are also so excited that VJ alumna, Lydia Love, has joined us as our program coordinator, replacing Alexis Tahiri who is now in the music department. Lydia is already doing wonders for our department and our students.

As we begin the 2014-15 academic year, we have 195 majors and pre-majors. The latest numbers place 81 in the public relations track, 61 in the visual journalism track and 48 in the news-editorial track, plus a few undecided. We have 39 minors, with 29 choosing the new PR minor and another 10 choosing the news-editorial minor. We also continue to listen to our students and many in news-ed and PR have expressed a desire to know more about the VJ side of our industry. Beginning in 2015-16, students in PR and news-ed will be able to substitute a VJ class (photojournalism, intro to VJ or digital media) for one publication, although they will all still need to write for both The Western Front and Klipsun.

Last year, our students landed a wide variety of internships from working in fashion PR in NYC to being a photojournalist in London to working as a reporter in Portland, Oregon. Other students interned at a variety of organizations beyond Bellingham such as the Seattle Sounders' Women's team, the Boeing Classic, the Tacoma News-Tribune, KEXP Radio and TVLine in New York City. In addition, students continue to promote our community through their internships at the Bellingham Herald, the Downtown Bellingham Partnership, the local United Way, the Whatcom Chamber of Commerce and many more. It's always so nice to hear the wonderful things supervisors say about our interns during midterm evaluations and visits.

This year, one of our PR students was a finalist for the PR Week Student of the Year contest – one of only five students selected as a finalist in the country. In addition, Western's publications picked up a new award this year: First place for design of a single issue of an ongoing publication for the "Balance" issue of Klipsun. This award was granted by the Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Student Magazine Contest. Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication is the leading professional organization for journalism education.

Western's publications were also honored with the second annual Sweepstakes Award for student entries from the Washington Press Association (which came with a cash award). Writers, photographers and designers for The Western Front, Klipsun and The Planet scored 21 total awards from the WPA, with nine first place awards, six second place awards, four thirds and two honorable mentions. The student publications also picked up 10 awards from the regional Mark of Excellence competition sponsored by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ), along with a national award for The Planet as runner-up in the Best Student Publication category. Our students also won another eight awards from SPJ and WPPA for work done outside Western Publications.

Be sure to like the WWU Journalism Alumni page on Facebook to share information and hear more about what's going on in the department. Also, please mark your calendars for the Back2Bellingham weekend in May. This past year we hosted an open house for our alumni and more than 25 former students joined us for beverages, appetizers, live music and good conversation. You'll find more news about faculty, student clubs and activities in this newsletter, as well as some updates about alumni. Please drop us a note to share what's new with you, too.



Chair of the journalism department, Jennifer Keller

Jennifer Keller

featured articles

Western VJ alumnus dishes about digital media and photography

By John Boone

Determined vines creep up the sides of dilapidated buildings. Ghosts walk the abandoned streets, the quiet wind their only companion. Western alumnus Jordan Stead crouches and aims his camera; with a flick of his thumb he takes the shot and freezes time.

Stead, a photographer, reporter and video producer with the Seattle PI, has come to an abandoned Washington town as part of his photo series documenting urban decay. Stead came up with and executed the idea all on his own, retaining creative freedom throughout the entire process.

"It's amazing to photograph these ancient towns being overcome by nature," Stead said.

This freedom to think creatively and explore the limits of his talent is what attracts Stead so strongly to his work with the PI; the publication's online exclusive format gives Stead the wiggle room to explore a new medium and places Stead at the forefront of a new wave of journalism.

Journalism a crossroad of interests

Stead always enjoyed writing and making videos, but it wasn't until he discovered his love of still photography that he decided on journalism as a major.

"I realized that cameras are not just for pictures but to tell stories," Stead said.

Stead graduated from Western spring quarter 2011 and majored in visual journalism and minored in environmental science.

During his time at Western, Stead wrote and photographed for The Western Front, Klipsun Magazine and The Planet magazine. He shot photos for Western's athletic department and was also hired for several internships, culminating in an internship with The Seattle Times shortly after his graduation.

After finishing his internships Stead, along with several other colleagues, started their own video production and photography company, The Emerald Collective, which he left after being offered a job with the Seattle PI in early 2013.

Seattle PI at the crest of the new journalism wave

The Seattle PI became an online exclusive publication in 2009, a move derided by many as a death knell for the historic publication. Yet, by the time Stead joined the staff in 2013, he found a determined group of journalists working to shape their publication to reflect the 21st century digital world.

This was the first online-only publication Stead had worked for, and he noticed the difference right away.

"Anytime you work on a publication that has both online and print, print is going to take priority," Stead said.

Stead pointed to the expense of print and the tight deadlines demanded by printers as contributing to this inequality.

In the Seattle PI Stead found a unique and forward-thinking organization, devoted to original online content and photography. He also found the freedom he had long craved.

"I am not just a photographer," Stead said. "Every single picture you see, those pictures are researched, arrived at, built and promoted all by myself. There is no one else involved in the process."

The ability to drive his own content – from the inception of an idea to the reporting and photography – is part of why Stead loves his job so much.

The new and exciting pace brought by the PI newsroom also contributes to Stead's enjoyment of his work. He describes the PI as having a startup mentality, but with 150 years of journalistic integrity and experience backing them up.

The PI has a headstart over its competitors, Stead said. It provides online content in a uniquely Seattle fashion, while giving its staff the creative freedom to report on content that interests them.

"This is easily the most

powerful thing that has happened to me as a photographer," Stead said. "I have 100 percent control."

The immense creative freedom Stead has to select and control his content has allowed him to pursue some of the most interesting work of his career.

Faces and Figures

Faces and Figures is a blog Stead runs, focusing on the daily lives of Seattle residents. The series is loosely based on the massively popular "Humans of New York" photo blog.

Stead's weekly photo series is a way for him to get onto the streets of Seattle and interact with the people he is working to serve.

"It's a way of connecting with the community," Stead said. "It seems and feels right to bring the community to a personal level; as a journalist you should always be rooted in community."

The Faces and Figures photo series is an excellent example of Stead's ability to find stories that interest him and then report on them.

Stead believes he does his best work when he's able to focus on stories and issues that interest him.

"I've never shot a city council meeting while working with the PI," he said.

Stead's position gives him the freedom to dream up projects and then begin working on them.

The cool meter

Times change. And journalism must change with them.

See JORDAN on page 4



Portrait courtesy of Jordan Stead

JORDAN:

Western grad talks about work at the Seattle PI

Simply trying to copy print content for online is ineffective, Stead said.

Stead hopes to bring a new approach to journalism, focusing local, on issues that actually mean things to the average reader. This means less meeting coverage and more of what appeals to the common interest.

“If we think it’s cool, someone else will too,” Stead said. “We try to tap into things that inherently interest people in an inherently Seattle way.”

This, “cool-o-meter” gave rise to Stead’s urban exploration photo blog, which is one of the PI’s most popular photo series.

Exploring urban ruin

Stead decided to take ad-

vantage of his freedom and power to determine content to explore an old interest of his: urban exploration.

“I love photographing old forgotten stuff,” Stead said.

He pitched his editor a photo story exploring old ruins around Washington state. Originally, the plan was to make this a one-time story featuring Washington’s abandoned mining and fishing towns.

But once Stead posted his first story those plans changed.

“Once I got the gallery up it became one of the biggest hits in some time,” Stead said. “The number of people who saw it was astronomical.”

Stead has gone on to photograph 10 to 12 more ghost towns, and he doesn’t plan on stopping anytime soon.

Stead attributes the success of his photo series in a modest way:

“I thought it was cool, and others did too.”

SCHOLARSHIP:

Western freshman pursues journalism degree following scholarship award

their interest in journalism and communications, and I thought it would be interesting to apply for it as I was trying to pay for as much school as possible with scholarships.

Q: What do you think of Western?

A: This is my first quarter and I love it! I like the atmosphere. I love the rain. I love the people, and I really like all my classes like my Introduction to Mass Media and Introduction to Women’s Studies classes and all of my professors.

Q: Why did you apply for this scholarship?

A: I do have a Native American background, so it made sense for me to apply for this

scholarship. On my mother’s side, my great grandmother is full Native American.

Q: How does it feel to be the youngest recipient of this scholarship?

A: I didn’t realize it was that big of a deal and thought that there would be more people applying and considered for this, and that it would be much more of a competitive scholarship. It covers about \$2,000 and is split equally during all of my first three quarters at Western. Karen Smith was super excited to meet me and was happy that I was interested in journalism, in addition to receiving this scholarship. I applied at the end of my senior year at La Center High School in La Center, Washington. I found out that I received it during this past summer when Karen Smith called me. It is really helpful.

Recent visual journalism grad newest addition to department

By Stefanie Donahue

From an early age, Lydia Love knew she wanted to go to Western. Even after earning her degree last year, she hopped on the chance to stay.

Twenty-two-year-old Love received her degree in visual journalism and a minor in sociology and anthropology at Western

and gladly accepted the position as program coordinator

for the department just a day before her spring commencement.

“By the time you get invested into the program and department it’s over,” she said. “What better way than to stay!”

Love was raised in Custer, Washington, just 20 minutes north of Bellingham. She started classes at Western in 2010 where

she developed an admiration for journalism — more spe-

cifically, photojournalism.

Her philosophy: “Every face tells a story and every story needs a face.”

Love started working for the department in July and, among other duties, facilitates plans of study for majors and pre-majors.

“I just like being here,” she said.

After just a few weeks into fall quarter, Love admitted she was excited to act as a mentor to students — after all, she has been in their shoes.

“Anyone in the department as a student feels welcome,” she said. “It’s been the same working here.”



Western graduate Lydia Love was recently named program coordinator for the journalism department. // Courtesy of Lydia Love

Carolyn Dale retires

Associate Professor Carolyn Dale retires after a combined 30 years at Western

By Tyler Crebar

On a warm and sunny day in the late 1970s, Carolyn Dale was walking by the Fairhaven Outback Farm on her way to College Hall. A goat had escaped the farm and began chasing Dale, lunging for the straw hat on her head. She was eventually able to outrun the goat, but for Dale, who retired in September, this experience symbolizes the changes Western has gone through over the past several decades, evolving from a small state college to a major regional university.

Dale had never thought about teaching until serving as a teaching assistant in graduate school at the University of Washington. While working at the Bellingham Herald in 1977, she was approached by Pete Steffens, the director of Western's Journalism Department at the time, to teach newswriting. It was an easy decision for her, as Western's journalism department was well respected throughout the Northwest.

In 1984 she became a full-time assistant professor, then in 1989 she was tenured and promoted to associate professor. Dale served as the department chair of the Journalism department for four years, helping establish the public relations major and transition The Planet Magazine into one of Western's four student publications. In the last few years she helped develop and teach the

professional editing program for Extended Education so community members could receive certificates in professional editing. She also co-authored with Tim Pilgrim "Fearless Editing: Crafting Words for Print, Web and Public Relations," a textbook that combines multiple types of editing techniques and multimedia applications.

Dale's favorite part of teaching has been interacting with students.

"Some mornings I come in to teach and I feel like I'm sucking in their youthful energy," she said. "Being a part of their creative process is really amazing."

Dale said she has been lucky to work with colleagues who have been both challenging and supportive. Throughout her time at Western, she has been involved in hiring and mentoring almost all the current faculty in the journalism department. Pilgrim, her husband, retired from Western last year after teaching in the journalism department since 1992.

She officially retired on Sept. 15 and plans to continue to travel and write fictional novels and short stories.

Dale said the immense changes in media have kept journalism, and the content of the courses, constantly evolving. She never imagined she would do the same job for so long, but Western was the perfect place for her.

"It's always been a wonderful aspect to say I've been a professor here," she said. "I'm sure I will miss being a part of this big entity."

This story was previously published in Western Today

"Some mornings I come in to teach and I feel like I'm sucking in their youthful energy. Being a part of their creative process is really amazing."

-Carolyn Dale, associate professor

PNW photojournalist inspires new scholarship

Former editor shares fond memories of former staff photographer after his passing in January 2014

By Becky Campbell

After his passing in January of 2014, longtime Pacific Northwest photojournalist, Frank Varga inspired a new scholarship for Western students going into the journalism field.

Varga started his career in Nebraska working for the South Omaha Sun and the Lincoln Journal Star. After moving to the Northwest in the 1970s, he attended Everett Community College and worked for The Daily Herald in

Everett for 14 years. In 1994, Vargas came to work at the Anacortes American publication before landing a position as photojournalist at the Skagit Valley Herald, which he held until his death in January of this year.

"[Frank] was always a good mentor to [Western] students who passed through the Herald's doors," said Colette Weeks, managing editor of the Skagit Valley Herald.

Varga helped to influence many students who came to the newspaper from Western's campus. Editors and reporters at the Herald felt like the scholarship could "help other students take journalism a little farther by extending their options and bringing more talented professionals

into this business," she said. Weeks explained that Varga was known well for his passionate nature.

"Photojournalism was Frank's art," she said.

Varga looked at the world from a different point of view and it was clear in his work, she said.

"[He] cared so much about everything and everyone. He had a lot of respect and value in the newsroom," she said.

"[He] cared so much about everything and everyone. He had a lot of respect and value in the newsroom."

*- Colette Weeks
managing editor of the
Skagit Valley Herald*

Staff at the Skagit Valley Herald wanted to preserve his memory and felt that the scholarship was a gift Varga could "continue to give the world."

Highlights of Varga's career include his work on the scene of the I-5 bridge

collapse in Burlington as well as covering the sentencing of a man who shot and killed Navy Lt. Scott Kinkele in July of 2000.

Scholarship details have not been finalized and donations are still being accepted, Weeks said.

To donate to the Frank Varga Journalism Scholarship, visit Western's Foundation website at www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?wfwww

Journalism students and faculty welcome new VJ professor

Assistant Professor Joe Gosen begins his first year at Western following spring hire

By Stefanie Donahue

Hailing from the golden state of California, Assistant Professor Joe Gosen made his debut in the journalism department this fall.

After being hired last spring, Gosen began teaching two journalism courses to Western students: Introduction to Visual Journalism and Photojournalism.

Gosen's passion in photography dates back to his years in high school. When he was attending Washington High School in Fremont, California, he spent six semesters studying and growing as a photographer.

He put it simply: "I was really into it."

From a young age, Gosen developed an interest in cinematography and even hoped for a career in the film industry — more specifically, he wanted to be the cameraman for *The Price is Right*.

"I just thought it would be fun," he said with a grin.

For Gosen, the lure of photography rested in its ability to make him feel like he had the power to express himself, he said.

"It was a true creative outlet for me," he said.

Following high school, Gosen enrolled at Ohlone College located in Fremont, California, and pursued a job at the college newspaper. The

perks: Gosen had his hands on his own dark room and did not have to pay for film and processing.

His work at the paper made him fall in love with the journalistic side of photography. After receiving his transfer degree, he made his way to San Jose State University to study journalism. In 1988 he left with a bachelor's degree in journalism with a concentration in photojournalism and a minor in art.

rapher — landing positions with The Associated Press and The Daily Commercial in Orlando, Florida.

In 2000, Gosen headed back to school and received his masters in journalism at Reynolds School of Journalism, University of Nevada, Reno.

"I realized I didn't want to be shooting high school football on a Friday night," he said.

At the time, he aspired to

exciting way, he said. While in school, he got acquainted with online media — a medium which certainly had a different look and use than it does today.

After Gosen graduated with his masters he headed back to the Reno Gazette Journal, and not as a photographer this time around. Instead, he started work as a graphic artist in 1999.

"I really felt like that's where I learned to be a better journalist," he said.

In 2001, Gosen took a swift turn in his career and pursued an opportunity in academia. Gosen landed a spot at the Brooks Institute visual journalism program where he taught courses covering photojournalism, web design and ethics — just to name a few.

Combining elements of traditional journalism, video and design, Gosen took to the classroom and taught students how to master the use of a camera and computer.

Gosen taught at the school for 12 years before heading over to Western in the fall.

"I like seeing the progress over time," he said about his students. He likes to know that he plays a role in their evolution and growth into professional reporters.

After starting his first course at Western this fall, he has nothing but positive things to say about his students and the department. Its size and grounded belief in traditional journalism while incorporating forward-thinking elements is what he likes the most.

Get to know Joe:

First camera:

Pentax ME Super, 50mm, 1.8 lens

Most memorable assignment:

The first day of U2's Zoo Tour in Oakland, Florida

Favorite photojournalists:

Henri Cartier-Bresson, W. Eugene Smith and Jerry Uelsmann

Out of college, Gosen got his first job at the Reno Gazette-Journal as a general assignment photographer. His assignments ranged from spot news to photo illustrations. He admits the job was an eye opener.

"My specialty is to dabble," he said.

Gosen spent years in the news industry as a photog-

rapher — landing positions at a newspaper or magazine with a stronger focus on writing and new media. While enrolled at school, he also developed an interest in academia and admits to catching the "teaching bug."

His interest rested in the web and alternative story forms. He wanted learn how to tell stories in a new and

Alumni and local professionals talk curriculum at annual department meeting

Journalism department holds annual advisory board meeting on campus

By Stefanie Donahue

Adjustments in department curriculum, including the push to incorporate a focus on developing multimedia skills, were at the forefront of this year's professional advisory board meeting held in October.

Department faculty and staff as well as professionals representing Edelman, The Seattle Times, KING 5, the Skagit Valley Herald, Everett Herald and The News Tribune attended the meeting, which featured department updates and

expectations for the year ahead.

Perhaps one of the most noteworthy changes expected to impact all tracks in the department is the change in publication requirements beginning next fall. Credits received for taking the course will go up by one, while the number of times a student is required to take The Western Front will go down by one for news/editorial students.

Pending approval, students in PR and news/editorial will have the chance to substitute one visual course, including photojournalism, digital media or introduction to visual journalism, for one publication course.

Curricula will also focus more on digital media.

Carolyn Nielson's Reporting 307 class, for example, will focus on a "digital first" mentality, teaching students how to produce quick content for the web as it breaks. Nielsen already incorporates the use of open-source data analysis tools into her Advanced Reporting 450 course, introducing students to software including Google Fusion Tables, Google Forms, Django and Excel.

Visual journalism courses will also introduce a different software program each quarter including Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator,



Dean LeaAnn Martin, left, and Carey Rose ('11 graduate), right, greet one another at the annual professional advisory board meeting held in October. // By Lydia Love

2013-2014

Total majors: 82

News-Editorial: 23
Public Relations: 40
Visual Journalism: 19

Total pre-majors: 113

News-Editorial: 25
Public Relations: 41
Unspecified: 5
Visual Journalism: 42

Total minors: 39

News-Editorial: 10
Public Relations: 29

Final Cut Pro and Dreamweaver, among others.

For public relations students, faculty are incorporating digital media through the use of popular online applications such as Vine to promote a brand or organization. Students also produce video and radio public service announcements and video profiles. In addition, students use Instagram, Twitter and Facebook to promote their message across a variety of platforms.

New alumni on the advisory board:

Allison Milton, '10 graduate, senior account executive at Edelman PR

Carey Rose, '11 graduate, multimedia specialist at Puget Sound Energy

BACK2BELLINGHAM: *Students, faculty and alumni showed up to tour the department and celebrate Carolyn Dale's retirement*

visitors. For Smith, a recent hire in the department, it was great to hear grads talk about what the program was like years ago.

"It was amazing," she said. "Just the stories they had about the professors and their con-

nections with them."

The philosophy of the department has yet to change, she said.

"It matters what they do here," Smith said. "When they come back they are so proud."

The department is one of several included in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences which was named anchor college of the year. As a result, the journalism and communication departments were given a combined \$1,000 for the festivities.



Associate Professor Carolyn Dale retired from the Department of Journalism after working at Western for 30 years. // By Margaret Degman

Service-learning courses connect students with the community

By Stefanie Donahue

The Department of Journalism offers students in all tracks the chance to get hands-on experience in their field by partnering them with local organizations in need of marketing or journalistic aid.

This fall, two service-learning courses were offered to students. Below are a few highlights from fall quarter 2014.

J440: PR Research and Campaigns

Under the direction of Associate Professor Jennifer Keller, students spent fall quarter working in teams using their PR skills in the community.

Six teams of three or four worked to develop PR campaigns for one of two organizations: The Lighthouse Mission or Western's own The Planet magazine. One team, Tyler Crebar, Sam Sunderland and Terry Thammawan, worked with The Lighthouse Mission, an organization

which aims to break the cycle of homelessness.

Midway through the quarter, the three-person team had completed a survey and headed to Haggen to gather input from the public. The team hoped to question 100 individuals for the survey.

While Crebar admitted that surveying is a tough job, acknowledging that shoppers are not always the most receptive, he was hopeful the survey would be useful for the team in the future.

Ultimately, the team aimed to increase the organization's social media presence, help host more events and increase donations, but also admitted they had no specific objectives prior to the survey process.

The students presented their final campaigns in December.

Tyler Crebar, left, speaks with Terry Thammawan Tuesday, October 21 while surveying customers at Haggen grocery in Bellingham, Washington // By Stefanie Donahue



Did you know?

Students provided 16,765 hours of community service in a department service-learning course from 2013 to 2014



Journalism 380 students collaborate on a video project. // By Lydia Love

J380: Advanced PR Writing and Techniques

In her second quarter teaching the course, Assistant Professor Maria McLeod directed six teams as they worked directly with student clubs on campus to produce promotional work.

Each group worked with a student organization that has a social mission. In the past, classes have also worked with local nonprofit organizations.

Students focused on media relations and produced a number of promotional pieces, including, but not exclusively, a media backgrounder, an FAQ and a PSA package.

"They love that they actually get to do something," McLeod said. "It's like a step into an internship or a job right there."

Students work directly with clients who often use the promotional pieces created by students. As a result, students get closely acquainted with the industry and build a solid portfolio in the process, she said.

Students learn about brand consistency, multi-platforming and message penetration through a number of mediums.

Heidi DeHart, a student enrolled in the course, worked in a group of two for the on-campus club To Write Love On Her Arms, which creates a platform for public discussion about depression and recovery.

"[It is] a cause we all really felt strongly about," she said.

DeHart says she and her teammates aimed to help host more fundraisers and develop the club's website.

In 2013-2014 PR students served 31 organizations, including:

SPARK Museum
Pickford Film Center
YMCA
Lions Club
Middle Women
Light House Mission
Red Cross
Whatcom Work Opportunities

from the students

SPJ

Starting our second year after making a comeback at Western, the Society for Professional Journalists is hoping to expand our student reach.

The objective of the group is to better prepare journalism students for future employment in the media through discussion and critiques. We will bring in real world professionals to speak, while looking at current themes in media and discussing issues we will be facing in the realm of journalism in the years to come.

After successfully renewing our charter with SPJ last year we are hopeful to maintain the charter in the year to come.

President Racquel Arceo
wwuspj.wordpress.com

PRSSA

We're excited for the first full year as a chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. This program is an amazing opportunity for PR students at Western. Each PRSSA member has the opportunity to register for the Public Relations Society of America at a discounted price.

Students network and learn from each other each week while discussing current events, listening to guest speakers and relating discussions back to Western's PR curriculum. Our goal is to educate and prepare each other for "real life," and we'll share tips and tricks for entering the workforce.

Alumni and students should feel free to reach out and keep up with us on Facebook and Twitter.

PRSSA Co-Presidents, Rhoades Clark and Stephanie Kirk
@PRSSAWWU
facebook.com/prssawwu

The Planet

The Planet magazine is Rachel Carson's commitment to environmental truth mixed with Carl Sagan's appreciation for the beauty of the cosmos conveyed through words, images, video and now podcast. We dwell at the intersection of complex science and contentious politics to bring news that is socially relevant and accurate. The Society of Professional Journalists recently awarded The Planet second-best collegiate magazine in the nation, thanks to the dedication of our small, sleep-deprived staff. Find our print magazine on campus and in Bellingham once per season. Go online to read written articles, see photo stories, watch videos and listen to podcasts.

Editor-in-Chief Christopher Zemp
Message written by Planet editor Julian Theberge
planet.wvu.edu
@theplanetmagazine
www.facebook.com/ThePlanetMagazine

The Western Front

My colleague last year in this little section wrote that The Western Front has revolutionized the way it approaches the news cycle. This year, we have taken one more step toward that. For the first time, we have a person fully dedicated to producing daily online news content in a timely manner.

What this means is that we not only have an online focus, it frees up our other editors to work on more in-depth stories. The Front is constantly changing and we are pushing to be more responsive to readers demands. There hasn't ever been a more exciting time in CF222.

Editor-in-Chief Joshua Hart
Fall quarter
@TheFrontOnline
www.facebook.com/westernfrontonline

Klipsun Magazine

With each passing quarter the Klipsun staff and journalism department work hard to ensure that the publication continues to create exemplary stories. Big changes are continuing to happen this year as the Klipsun staff pushes forward into the world of digital first journalism. Changes were already made previously on the website, however, we now plan to compile all the old publications into one easily searchable archive. This archive will allow anyone to access an old publication by simply typing in the title of the publication. Regardless of these online changes, Klipsun will continue to print stunning magazines worth picking up and saving. As always, we appreciate your support and readership.

Editor-In-Chief Carina Linder Jimenez
www.klipsunmagazine.com
@klipsunmag
www.facebook.com/KlipsunMagazine

NPPA

Throughout the last four years as a club member I have been able to witness steady growth and increased involvement with our group. It is incredibly exciting to see our group create new opportunities and increasingly engage in fostering a community of visual storytellers at Western.

Last spring (2014), we continued with our second annual NPPA portfolio critique barbeque where we invited professional photographers and photo editors from around Western Washington to work one-on-one with visual journalism majors to critique their portfolios, offer insight and advice. This year, we hosted a panel presentation where photographers from The Seattle Times, The Everett Herald and The Seattle PI presented their photos and personal experience covering the Oso Mudslide tragedy.

In September, I flew out to St. Paul, Minnesota for an NPPA meeting with board members, regional members and student chapter presidents. We collaborated and brainstormed new ideas to increase student NPPA membership.

As we begin the 2014-2015 academic school year, our club will continue to host photojournalists as guest speakers, as well as push our selves to learn and grow as student photographers

If you are an alumni who has time, and visual journalistic experience to offer at one of our club meetings, please email us at www.nppa@gmail.com.

President Danny Miller
www.facebook.com/
groups/6111194959/

faculty updates



Joe Gosen
Assistant Professor

When I learned about the opening for a new visual journalism professor in January I leapt at the chance to apply. Life progressed quickly from that moment on. In February I experienced the exhaustive job interview process at Western and by March my family was plotting a move to Bellingham. We arrived just after Labor Day weekend. It was raining. Actually, it was a downpour.

Even some of the long-time residents in the neighborhood said it was an unusual amount of rainfall. However, coming from drought-ridden Southern California it was a welcome relief.

I am thrilled to be joining the Western faculty and teaching alongside

such an accomplished group of professionals. I am also inspired by the talent and dedication among the journalism students, and eager to work with them in my courses this year, which include Photojournalism, Digital Media and Introduction to Visual Journalism.

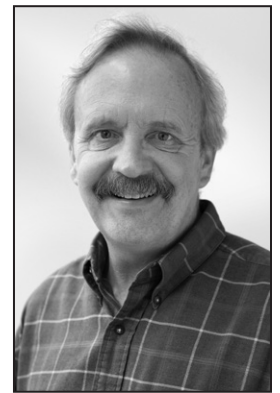
Prior to Western, I was a full-time visual journalism instructor for 12 ½ years at Brooks Institute in Ventura, California. I taught a variety of classes across the curriculum and always enjoyed helping students hone the craft of multi-platform storytelling. In other incarnations of my journalism life I worked as a photojournalist, a graphic artist, web producer and the occasional writer.

I am honored to have an opportunity to bring my experience to the journalism department and help continue its rich traditions while forging ahead into the ever-changing media climate. I look forward to making connections with alumni and hearing about milestones and other accomplishments, as well. Off campus, I look forward to exploring the Pacific Northwest with my family and having many beautiful outdoor adventures.

John Harris
Associate Professor

They say you can't go home again (actually, Thomas Wolfe wrote it), but when you're a journalist you have the luxury of visiting — through research, if not physically. I grew up in Ohio and for the past decade have been writing for Timeline, a publication of the Ohio Historical Society (it pays well and is a great market in case you have an Ohio-related story). Earlier this year I wrote about the 1964 Cleveland Browns, the last sports franchise from Cleveland to win a championship. I had the opportunity to interview some of the old-timers from that team, players who'd been heroes of mine as a child. Yeah, journalism doesn't pay well, has long hours, etc., but how many other professions afford such a possibility?

The '64 Browns pounded a Baltimore Colts team that featured the great Johnny Unitas at quarterback, and they did it in stunning fashion, blanking the Colts 27-0. I mention this because of the parallels between the Browns of 50 years ago and the Super Bowl champion Seahawks of last season. The future looked so bright for the Browns back then, something diehard members of Seattle's 12th man might want to keep in mind considering the half-century championship drought Cleveland has endured. I hate to inject such context into all the hoopla surrounding the Seahawks, but you know us journalists.



Jennifer Keller
Chair and Associate Professor

This year has been quite exciting. The public relations major continues to grow and our new PR minor is extremely popular. In addition, now that our student PR club is an official Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) chapter, our PRSSA co-presidents are looking forward to a great year. For me, professionally, I presented a paper this spring at the Western Social Sciences Association about group

projects in an online PR course. Some of our more recent PR alum may

remember that 330 experience. I also served as chair of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Affairs Council, working to promote faculty issues across our college. Most recently I began serving as chair of the journalism department and am very excited to be able to work with all our students to help them achieve success at, and beyond, Western.

On the personal side, we hosted the annual journalism department welcome to the new school year party at our house in October. It was a lot of fun to celebrate together the passion we all have for helping our students succeed. And I was overjoyed to get to catch up with many of our #JKid alumni at a recent PR grad's wedding. While never surprised, I'm always impressed with all the wonderful things our alumni are doing out in the "real world."

Last, but not least, no, our house is not finished. Thanks for asking.



Maria McLeod
Assistant Professor

This July, I participated in the Inaugural European Conference on Media and Mass Communication (EuroMedia 2014) by video as a virtual presenter, delivering an academic paper in documentary form, “People Power PR: Recasting Activists as Practitioners in Turkey’s Gezi Park Resistance.” I also presented on crowd funding for Bellingham nonprofit Northwest Innovators Resource Center – this time in person – addressing aspiring entrepreneurs about the process of creating online campaigns and harnessing the power of social media for promotional efforts.

In August, I departed for a European bike tour along the Danube

with Journalism Department Senior Instructor Stephen Howie, beginning at the headwaters in southern Germany and cycling to Vienna. From there, we took trips to both Prague and Budapest by train. I was thrilled to learn how to say “potato” in three languages and eat copious amounts of fine European cuisine, which, on a bike tour, is referred to as “fuel.”

We returned home a month later to the start of classes. Shortly following, I presented “The Lady in Red: Resistance Imaging and the Gezi Park Uprising” as part The Society for Photographic Education’s Transfixed | Transmedia 2014 Northwest Regional Conference.

Currently I’m teaching Advanced PR Writing and Introduction to Mass Media. The mass media class includes a Freshmen Interest Group section of 25 students whose academic focus, and part of my class focus, is on effects of media representations of gender, which makes for dynamic class discussion. I look forward to 2014-15 as another exciting academic year of teaching, research and service to the department and to the university.

Carolyn Nielsen
Associate Professor

I am still working on my PhD at the University of Washington. This quarter, that involves conducting fieldwork at The Seattle Times, where I have the pleasure of seeing five recent grads (Paige Collins, Gina Cole, Katie [Greene] Cotterill, Coral Garnick and Colin Diltz), and have met several WWU journalism alums. It’s wonderful to see these recent grads doing such impressive work so early in their careers. My research examining how newsrooms allocate resources to online coverage is so much fun it doesn’t even feel like work.

On the research front, my journal article “Coproduction or Co-habitation? Gatekeeping, Workplace, and Mutual Shaping Effects of Anonymous Online Comment Technology in the Newsroom” was published this year in *New Media and Society*. This summer, I attended the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

conference in Montreal and presented my research examining neoliberalism in presidential discourse about immigration. Hearing Jill Abramson’s keynote address was a highlight — as was the food in Montreal.

This year, I am regularly teaching Reporting and Advanced Reporting and have been excited to teach the Diversity, Mass Media and Social Change course again. I have been working to put more time and emphasis imbuing the reporting courses with a digital-first mentality and working with open-source tools for data mining.

I am still enjoying all kinds of adventures with my kiddos, spending as much time on the water as possible... and completely freaking out that my oldest has started high school!



Peggy Watt
Associate Professor

This academic year starts for me in January, because I had a break from the classroom during fall quarter 2014. I received a research grant for professional leave to do a project on public records laws in Washington.

The idea came from my work with the Washington Coalition for Open Government, where I’ve been a board member for four years.

I try to stay involved in the industry we teach about, and for which we’re preparing students. As a longtime member of the Society of Professional Journalists, I advise the student chapter here at Western,

which is ramping up again. I also serve on the SPJ Journalism Education Committee at the national level and judge contests at the regional and national levels.

For something different, I evaluated education software in the “Code” award contest run by the Software and Internet Industry Association (an organization I used to cover as a tech reporter).

I continue to do some freelancing, often for tech and business publications, and a summer ago I filled in part-time as community editor at the Skagit Valley Herald. That was especially fun because I was working with a newsroom full of our alums.

I’ve recently enjoyed visiting some high school journalists, including my own alma mater, Auburn High School. Its strong Trojan Journalism program encompasses online and print news and a yearbook. I also taught high school journalists about open records and meetings laws at the Washington Journalism Education Association conferences. I encourage all alumni to reach out to your former high school and en-

See WATT on page 12

WATT:
Journalism professor
shares annual update

courage young journalists!

After three years as department chair, I am glad to return to teaching full-time in winter quarter 2015 after my fall quarter leave. I'll be teaching Mass Media Law and Reporting. I also enjoyed advising Klipsun again during summer quarter 2014.

On the personal side, I had a great time at a high school class reunion last summer, renewing some friendships and catching up. Also, we try to visit the San Francisco Bay Area a few times a year to see grandchildren Spencer, 4 and Avery, 2. Next, we'll set them up on Skype or Google Hangouts.

additional updates:

Associate Professor, Peggy Watt:

Watt took a quarter-long leave of absence during the fall to pursue an extensive research project looking in to the cost of Washington State Public Records Act.

Watt is examining the true cost to comply for public agencies within the state — some claim the



Sheila Webb
Associate
Professor

This past winter and spring quarters, student teams in Advanced Visual Journalism, J446, created flyers and brochures for Law Advocates, Restorative Community Coalition, and BAAY; an annual report for Law Advocates; logos for Addict's Mom and Restorative Community Coalition; promotional videos for Law Advocates, Addict's Mom, Restorative Community Coalition, and Whatcom Literary Alliance; and websites for Addict's Mom and Whatcom Literary Alliance. These projects benefit the

Act is a burden on finances and staff time.

Watt is surveying a sample of public agencies, both large and small, about their requests, including their scope, volume and cost to produce and how that is quantified and recorded. Ultimately, Watt hopes to produce a report of her findings, detailing the cost to compile public records in the state, with the goal of enforcing a public and statewide discussion.

Associate Professor, Sheila Webb:

Spanning the length of two quarters, Webb is taking a professional leave of absence to work on a multitude of research projects. At the forefront is her evolving investigation of Life Magazine.

Webb has been working on the long-range project for several years and is now taking a look at the buildup to the start of the first American pictorial magazine.

"It became a whole new media form," she said.

community at the same time they become portfolio pieces for the students.

I enjoyed visiting Montreal in August 2014 for the annual AEJMC conference, then took time to visit Salem, New York and Brooklyn to hang out and do some fine dining with my daughters. Two publications — the article "A New Digital Community? An Analysis of Gawker's Commenters-to-Contributors Approach," in the Journal of Magazine and New Media, and the book chapter "Magazines and Visual Art: Recent Research," in The Future of the Magazine Form: Research Perspectives and Prospects, continue my interest in online communication, as well as art in the media.

I am very pleased to have received two quarters of professional leave, time I will devote to completing my very long project on Life magazine. I continue to design and edit AEJMC Magazine Division's newsletter Magazine Matter.

Webb is sifting through the archives and hopes to uncover what cultural aspects were in play leading in to the magazine's debut.

"What was there culturally that made Life Magazine an instant success," she asked. "I am really interested in the startup."

Webb has produced a number of articles as well as one book chapter on her study of Life Magazine. Eventually, she would like to publish all of her work in a book.



Stephen Howie
Senior Instructor

This year, I handed off my Klipsun advising duties to the capable hands of Instructor Joan Connell and turned my focus to teaching. In my section of J307 (Reporting), students are covering the Bellingham City Council and reporting on everything from replacing Columbus Day with Coast Salish Day to Bellingham's long-awaited rules to protect renters from negligent

landlords. I'm also excited to be teaching the editing class I inherited from retired professors Carolyn Dale and Tim Pilgrim, and I remain in the afterglow of an epic summer vacation cycling 500 miles down the Danube River through southern Germany and Austria.

Winter quarter, I am scheduled to teach J370, the digital media class in which students create short, interview-based video documentaries. Last winter, we had some amazing work. Students profiled Western's head basketball coach, documented the life of a ski bum who lives in his remodeled truck, explored the connection between horses and riders with

See HOWIE on page 13

HOWIE:

Journalism professor shares annual update

members of the WWU Equestrian Team, interviewed a skateboarder who has turned his lifelong love into a viable business and showed a day in the life of a woman who has lived car-free for more than a decade. (www.digitalmediainjournalism.com)

In addition to teaching, I'm continuing as the adviser for the newly renamed multidisciplinary studies major (formerly general studies). This year, I am the sole contact for close to 90 majors.

In October, I presented an animation project I've been working on as part of the Transfixed / Transmedia conference on Western's campus. I screened and discussed a nine-minute video essay that combines home-movie footage, stop-motion animation and stills to explore the connection in my family between masculine identity and physicality. I have submitted the animated short to film festivals across the country.

Jack Keith

Senior Instructor

I'm into my fifth year as faculty adviser to *The Western Front*, and I continue to enjoy this role. As a career editor in the daily newspaper world, I've always loved participating in the news process. We've had continued success in journalism contests, and I never get tired of seeing students win awards and *The Front* getting recognized as one of the best student papers in the Northwest.

During the 2013-14 academic year, I introduced a new visual journalism approach as part of our publications classes for the *Front*, *Klipsun* and *Planet*. And the credit for this idea goes to journalism major Danny Miller.

Much of the three publications' focus in class is on reporting, interviewing and writing, but Danny suggested we break the photographers out for some focused training and discussion in a separate classroom. The three faculty advisers met with the photo editors and launched a once-a-week breakout, where all the photographers meet to discuss issues such as dealing with low light, shooting video and finding creative approaches to assignments. We bring in guest speakers and have the photographers critique each others' work. It's been a great addition.

This year brought another major change, and again the



Joan Connell

Instructor

Joan Connell is an award-winning journalist with a longstanding interest in media ethics and moral issues. A pioneer in digital media, she served as executive producer at MSNBC.com from 1996 to 2004; and from 2005-2010, she was editor of the online edition of *The Nation* magazine in New York City.

Earlier in her career as Religion & Ethics Editor at the *San Jose Mercury News*, she was a member of a Pulitzer Prize winning team that covered the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. In 1992, as national correspondent for *Newhouse News Service*, in Washington D.C., she was a Pulitzer finalist for reporting on religion, ethics and moral issues. She subsequently served as editor of the D.C.-based *Religion News Service*, a global news syndicate specializing in religion and ethics.

Prior to coming to Western, Joan was Associate Director of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University Jour-



nalism School, working with journalists and news organizations worldwide to raise the ethical standard for crisis reporting with an emphasis on the needs and dignity of victims.

Joan is currently teaching Mass Media Ethics and serving as adviser to *Klipsun Magazine*. She lives in Birch Bay with her husband, Dean Wright, who also teaches journalism at Western. Over the summer, Joan and Dean edited the memoir, "God Is Not Here: A Soldier's Struggle with Torture, Trauma and Moral Injury," Lt. Col. Bill Russell Edmonds' account of his experiences in a U.S. Army Special Forces Unit in Mosul, Iraq. It will be published in February 2015 by Pegasus Books.

credit goes to one of our majors, Josh Hart. As editor-in-chief of *The Front* for fall quarter, Josh changed the long-time pattern of production nights lasting until 3 or 4 a.m. He and his editors split production into two days, and editors all go home by 11 p.m. or midnight. Sounds simple, but it was a major shift.

Meanwhile, my wife Polly and I continue to spend much of our summers with three of our grandchildren (ages 5, 6 and 8). This past summer, we taught them to paddle kayaks and paddle boards. They learned fast. Maybe we'll try sailing with them next summer.

student awards

Washington Press Association Awards 2013:

For the second year in a row, Western's Department of Journalism won the Sweepstakes Award for the College Division of the 2013 WPA Awards. Several students were also recognized for their work.

For work on Western's publications:

Hannah Leone First, News-Breaking News; Second, News-General News

Shelby Rowe Second, News-Social Issues, Religion, Minority Affairs

Shannen Kuest Third, News-Social Issues, Religion,

Minority Affairs

Isaac K. Martin First, News-Agriculture and Environment

James Leder Second, News-Agriculture and Environment

Meg Duke Third, News-Agriculture and Environment

Kira Taylor First, News-Government/Politics

Genevieve Iverson Third, Features-General

Francine St. Laurent First, Features-Personality Profile

Alisa Gramann Second, Features-Personality Profile

Mindon Win Third, Features-Personality Profile

Brooke Warren First, Features-Food

Margaret Degman Honorable Mention, Photography-General News

Nick Gonzales First, Photography-Breaking News; Second, Photography-Breaking News; Second, Photography-Feature; First, Graphic Design/Editing-Cover Art; Third, Graphic Design/Editing-Cover Art

Evan Abell First, Photography-Portrait

Margaret Degman Honorable

Mention, Photography-Portrait

James Rogers First, Graphic Design/Editing-Page Layout

For work outside Western's publications:

Hannah Leone First, Features-Arts and Entertainment; Second, Features-Arts and Entertainment

Nick Gonzales First, Photography-General News

Brooke Warren Second, Photography-General News; Second, Features-Arts and Entertainment; Third, Photography-General News; First, Photography-Feature; First, Photography-Sports

Society of Professional Journalists 2013:

The Planet was named Best Student Magazine

Nick Gonzales for work outside Western publications: Finalist, General News Photography

Shannen Kuest, finalist, Breaking News Reporting Newspaper

Olivia Henry, Region 10 Awards: Winner, In-Depth Reporting Newspaper

Hannah Leone, Region 10 Awards: Finalist, In-Depth Reporting Newspaper

Shelby Rowe, Region 10 Awards: Finalist, Feature Writing Newspaper

Stephanie Kirk, Region 10 Awards: Finalist, Feature Writing Newspaper

Danval Lotfi-Chahardeh, **Hannah Leone**, **Mike Gore**, **Allana Schwaab**, Region 10 Awards: Finalist, Editorial Writing Newspaper

Danny Miller, Region 10 Awards: Finalist, Feature Photography Newspaper

Meg Duke, Region 10 Awards: Finalist, Nonfiction Magazine Article

Evan Abell, Region 10 Awards: Finalist, Feature Photography

MORE:

Klipsun "Balance Issue" First Place - Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine: 2014 Association of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

Emily Willeman - PR Week Student of the Year Contest: Finalist

Scholarship winners:

Miller:

\$500 Hannah Johnson
\$500 Stephanie Kirk

AAF Seattle:

\$1000 Ashley Hiurko
\$1000 Lauren Prater

Miller:

\$1000 to Beatrice Harper

NuLeaf:

\$1500 to Maggie Degman

PNNA:

\$650 to David Anderson

Pioneer:

\$1000 to Stefanie Donahue

Rupp:

\$600 to Kameron Payne
\$600 to Jennifer Seifried

Tuition Waiver:

\$900 to Keegan Strandness
\$900 to Sigourney Gundy

Babcock:

\$1000 to Yvonne Worden
\$1000 to Meaghan Flesch

Alum:

\$500 to Carina Linder-Jimenez
\$500 to Bailey Barnard

Duke:

\$1000 to Brian Traverso

Steffens:

\$2000 to incoming freshman Lydia Denney

alumni updates

2014:

Eryn Akers is a recreation communications consultant for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

Daniel DeMay is a business reporter for the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

Lauren Foote is a marketing manager at TableSafe in Kirkland.

Nick Gonzales is a photographer at the Elkhart Truth in Elkhart, Indiana.

Michael Gore is a deputy press secretary at the Seattle Office of the Mayor.

Genevieve Iverson is an account manager and assistant to the publisher at SIP Northwest Magazine.

Lydia Love is the journalism program coordinator at Western Washington University.

Allana Schwaab is a special markets intern at Workman Publishing.

Brooke Warren is an associate designer at High Country News.

2013:

Brianne Aoki is an assistant account executive at Weber Shandwick.

Jessica (Pain) Carter is a copy editor and writer at the Glenwood Springs Post Independent in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

Mason Cheung is a PR intern working on the Xbox Games account at Edelman in Seattle.

Ian Couch is the director of marketing at Heating Green.

Branden Griffith works in communications at the Seattle Sounders FC.

Jules Guay-Binion is a seller vetting specialist at Amazon.

Olivia Henry is a public affairs fellow at Mother Jones.

Amy Holm is the director of public relations at The Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum.

Brianna Kuplent is a digital intern at Weber Shandwick.

Rachel Lee is a customer solutions specialist at ChemP-oint in Bellevue.

Nasra Mohamud is a graduate student in nursing at the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Samantha Wohlfeil is a reporter at The Bellingham Herald.

2012:

Sarah Aitchison is a reporter at the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Daniel Berman is a photographer and designer for Northwest Leaf. Berman has been with Northwest Leaf for more than five years and recently celebrated its launch in Oregon last July.

Brittany Brown is the development assistant for The Lighthouse Mission.

Sydney Brusewitz graduated with the master of communications program at Hawaii Pacific University. Brusewitz is now a strategic planning intern at Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu.

Gina Cole is a news producer at The Seattle Times.

Paige Collins is a features producer at The Seattle Times.

Brian Corey started a video and content marketing contracting company, Spare Change Multimedia, LLC.

Brianna Gibbs is a news reporter for KMXT Public Radio through Kodiak Public Broadcasting, Corp. located in Kodiak, Alaska.

Rachel Lerman is a reporter at the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Evan Marczynski is a reporter at the Skagit Valley Herald.

Michelle Naranjo is a copy editor at the Wenatchee World.

Erin Nash is the director of development at the Hope Project, a Washington non-profit that supports a Pre-K through 12th grade school located in Liberia, Africa. Nash visited the school with Brian Corey, another former journalism student, in 2013 and documented the school with their cameras. Nash has created videos, revamped the nonprofit's Facebook page, designed a new website, produced advertising, written, edited, fundraised and more. She is currently spearheading a campaign with The Hope Project to help with Ebola relief in West Africa.

Elysia Nazareth is a client executive at Voce Communications in San Francisco.

Kirsten O'Brien is a community manager at Projectline in Seattle.

Marya Purrington is a communications specialist at the Downtown Seattle Association and maintains all of the social media for the DSA (follow @downtownseattle), writes the newsletter, blogs on their website and plans events.

Janessa Rosick is a public information coordinator at the Redmond Police Department, in Redmond, Washington.

Alex Rumbolz is working within a region of nine Red Robin restaurants in Los Angeles, California. Previously, Rumbolz accepted a position with the corporate restaurant chain in 2013 where he assisted in planning regional events, local marketing projects and restaurant operations.

Olena Rypich is the communications director for the Washington Center for Nursing, a nonprofit statewide nursing workforce center.

Carly Vester is an associate of marketing and publications at the Village Theatre in Issaquah. In January 2015, Vester will take about three months off to travel to Costa Rica to become a certified yoga instructor and plans to pursue nonprofit Environmental Education work. Vester also plans to return to school to receive a Master's degree in fall 2015.

Adrienne Woods is a programs and marketing coordinator at the AGC Education Foundation.

2011:

Chelsea Asplund is an account executive at GreenRubino in Seattle.

Dan Balmer is a freelancer at the Ferndale Record.

Craig Batson is an English teacher and is working on the radio in South Korea.

Winnie Cao is a marketing/business associate at Digitaria. **Kimberly Cauvel** is a freelance reporter at The Current.

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

Chelsea Kennedy is a process improvement coordinator in the Product Photography studio, Zulily in Seattle.

Victoria Law is pursuing a career in nursing. Law is currently working at the Seattle Children's Hospital in the Emergency Department as she satisfies pre-nursing credits at the North Seattle Community College in Seattle.

Alison Lo is a talent agent representing sports/fitness and lifestyle models. Previously, Lo worked at KOMO 4 News and eventually landed a position at a post-production house in Hollywood producing promos for live talk shows such as Ellen, The Talk and Live with Kelly & Michael.

Rhys Logan is a visual specialist at the Office of Marketing and Communications at Western Washington University.

Andrew Mitchell is a media relations manager at the Omaha Storm Chasers Baseball Club. Previously, Mitchell worked with the Colorado Springs Sky Sox Baseball Club.

Lindsey (Otta) Zachary is a social media specialist at Allrecipes.com. This fall she married Andrew Zachary, 2012 graduate.

Keegan Prosser is a staff writer at ReelWorld Productions.

Carey Rose is a multimedia specialist at Puget Sound Energy.

Jordan Stead is a photographer at the Seattle PI.

Benjamin Woodard is a reporter/producer at DNAinfo.com, an online-only news startup that was founded in New York City and has been operating in Chicago for the past two years.

2010:

Stephanie (Castillo) Twining is a senior account executive at Fleishman Hillard in San Diego.

Juan Cornejo is an office marketing manager at Greenpoint Landscaping.

Andrea Davis-Gonzalez is an editorial manager at iSpot.tv.

Zack Hale is a web producer at Politico.

Peter Jensen is a partner in The Washington State Wire, an independent news organization that covers state politics at the capital in Olympia.

Nick Johnson is a reporter and photographer at the Port Townsend Leader.

Mandi (Brady) LeCompte is the outreach coordinator at Pacific Lutheran University, the School of Arts and Communication. She married Billy LeCompte '09 in September 2013. LeCompte also writes a small lifestyle blog www.livingforpretty.com.

Ali LeRoy is a digital communications manager at YMCA of Snohomish county and is living in Seattle.

Julia Means is a marketing and communications coordinator at Benovate Holdings, Inc. in Minneapolis.

Allison Milton is a senior account executive at Edelman Public Relations in Seattle.

Gabrielle Nomura Gainor is an in-house public relations manager at the Seattle Opera. She is also a dancer and 2014 choreography grantee of Seattle's Office of Arts & Culture. This summer, she and Casey Gainor ('09) got married. He is the trombonist and emcee in the The Bad Tenants.

Lauren Sauser is a managing editor at UP Global.

Andriy Semenyuk is a journalist at Worldwide News in the Ukraine.

Colleen Toomey works in donor relations and strategic communications for the University of Washington-Seattle. She is also pursuing a master's degree in the UW's Evans School of Public Affairs.

Hailey Tucker is a field communications manager which involves getting to collect content and manage small communications teams across East Africa, One Acre Fund, Kenya. Previously, Tucker was the staff writer and freelancer for Sun Valley Magazine for a few years before moving to Kenya to work doing content creation for a social enterprise called One Acre Fund (www.oneacrefund.org) that works with smallholder farmers.

Jeffrey Twining is the manager of digital media services at CBS Interactive in San Diego.

Jillian Vasquez just completed a master's degree in Comparative Literature at University College London and works in arts communications in London.

2009:

Megan Claflin is a marketing and communications manager at Centrum Foundation.

Lisa Hust is a communications technician at the Bellingham Public Schools in the Department of Communications and Community Relations.

Danielle Koagel is a digital advertising manager at Skagit Publishing in Everett.

Nick Rohde is a developer at Smashing Ideas in Seattle.

Jon Sayer is a database and web communications coordinator at School's Out Washington.

Alexis Tahiri is an undergraduate adviser and recruiting coordinator at Western Washington University's Department of Music. Tahiri also plays guitar in a surf punk band and trumpet in a jazz trio.

Amanda Winters is an account executive at Assembly Media Inc., which is a member of the Daniel J. Edelman Holdings family of companies.

2008:

Amy Harder is an energy reporter at The Wall Street Journal in Washington, D.C.

Michael Harthorne is an online crime reporter at KOMO News in Seattle.

Brady Henderson is the editor-in-chief of 710Sports.com, 710 ESPN in Seattle, Washington. Henderson has been there for about four years overseeing all content on the website and helping with Seahawks coverage. He spent a week in New York and New Jersey covering the Super Bowl in February. Previous to 710 ESPN Seattle, he covered high school sports on a part-time basis for The Seattle Times.

Kacie (McKinney) Leacy is a senior digital marketing manager at Rational Interaction.

Molly Maloney has been pursuing a K-8 Teaching Certificate in the School of Educational Studies at the University of Washington-Bothell. Currently, Maloney is student teaching in a 2nd and 5th grade class.

Stephanie (Elkins) Morrell is an assistant general manager at the Bellingham Bells, a summer collegiate baseball team in Bellingham.

Ciara O'Rourke is a staff writer at the Austin American-Statesman in Austin, Tex.

Taylor Scaggs spent time in 2010 to 2014 living on the island of Jeju-do in South Korea. He was focused on teaching English and also volunteered at the local English language newspaper. He is currently employed with Northshore Fire Department in Kenmore, Washington. He works with the Public Information Officer and writes press releases, letters of commendation for citizens, compiles video and photographs for the training division.

2007:

Adriana Dunn is a content marketing manager for Twitter in New York. Follow her on Twitter at @adrianadunn.

Lance Henderson is content acquisition editor at IMDb.com.

Lisa LeClaire is a product implementation supervisor education at PACCAR (Dyna-craft Division) in Puyallup.

Michael Lycklama is a sports reporter and copy editor at the Idaho Statesman.

Liz McNeil is a project manager at Cole & Weber in Seattle.

Bradley Thayer is currently finishing a third year in law school. He hopes to move to Portland to practice law in the area. He previously worked in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility for teenage boys for a brief period after graduating. He then sold class rings for Jostens before moving to Spain to teach English for two years.

2006:

Coree Naslund Boston is a crew coach at Community Rowing, Inc.

Stefani Braicks is entering her eighth year at the engineering consulting firm GeoEngineers, Inc. in Seattle, WA as a senior marketing specialist. She got married in 2013 and had a baby boy in April of this year.

Brandi Bratrude is working at the Seattle Children's Research Institute, Center for Integrative Brain Research, Dobyns Lab News. She is also a local performer for shows including Grudge Rock, The Anita Goodman Experience, Pinata Bash and Prize Girl Brandi's Chicken Shit Bingo. Bratrude started Brabraham Lincoln, a Wayne's World cover band. Check out the facebook page: [Facebook.com/BabrahamLincolnBand](https://www.facebook.com/BabrahamLincolnBand).

Shannon Hutchinson is a project manager for Wieden+Kennedy in Portland, Oregon.

Kelsey Dosen Taylor is the events and marketing manager at a nonprofit called Housing Hope in Stanwood.

2005:

Sarah Alway is an executive assistant for Wright Runstad & Company, a commercial real estate developer in downtown Seattle. In 2014, Alway married Stewart Alway, also a Western alum, and had their first child, a boy, last May.

Jelena Arnold is a senior client operations manager at Z57. Arnold and Ben Arnold, a fellow Western Alum, welcomed a daughter, Adeline James Arnold in January 2014 and are living in San Diego, California.

Heidi Lane Buhman-McNeley is a marketing director at HealthForce Partners in Camas, Washington.

Emily Butterfield is a communications specialist at Sound Transit in Seattle. Previously, she worked for GE Aviation as a marketing programs manager.

2004:

Lauren Fior McCaffrey previously worked in hospitality and lifestyle PR from 2005-2009 at two different Seattle agencies. In 2009 she founded her own PR agency, Evado PR, with a business partner and is excited to celebrate her fifth year of business this November! Check out their

website here: <http://www.evadopr.com>. She also served on the board of NARAL for two years and currently sits on the University District Food Bank's Capital Campaign Committee helping to raise funds for their new food bank facility. She and her husband live in downtown Seattle.

Laura McVicker is a social media manager/digital producer at NBC Universal in San Diego.

Paolo Mottola is a manager in content planning at REI. He is also working part-time as a member of the faculty at Edmonds CC and is on the Professional Advisory Board for the journalism department at WWU.

Amanda Woolley is the communications manager at Zillow in Seattle.

2003:

Betsy Anderson is a promotions and marketing coordinator for Salem Communications in Seattle. She is engaged to Robb Morris and lives in Lynwood.

Michael Dashiell is working at the Sequim Gazette.

Liam Doyle is the director of marketing and sales as well as assistant wine maker at Lost River Winery in Winthrop, Washington.

Scott Lefeber has worked at Boeing for 10 years in Communications/Public Relations. He married Lisa Lefeber, also a Western journalism graduate, seven years ago. They had two boys, one named Shawn (4) and Ryan (2).

2001:

Candace Nelson is a freelance copywriter and occasionally writes magazine articles or other writing. Nelson lives in Seattle.

Dian (McClurg) Ver Valen is a deputy director of emergency management as well as the operations manager of the 9-1-1 center in Columbia County. She is also a freelance writer for the local paper, The (Waitsburg) Times. Ver Valen is also the Public Information Officer for the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.

Linnea Westerlind is a communications consultant and freelance writer living in West Seattle with her husband and three sons. She also writes an online guide about regional parks and blogs at yearofseattleparks.com.

Kristin White is an elementary school teacher living in Haines, Alaska with her husband and two sons.

Robin Winkworth is the manager of guest loyalty communication at the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group in Minneapolis, MN.

2000:

Bobby Beeman is the communications manager at Olympic Medical Center in Port Angeles, Washington, where she is the PIO, and involved in public relations, internal and external communications, legislative advocacy, strategic planning and marketing (among other things). She married Western alum Wes Beeman. They both had two children. Beeman received her Master's Degree in Communication and Leadership Studies from Gonzaga University.

Erica Oakley-Courage is the Corporate Market Director at the American Heart Association. She oversees the Go Red For Women Education Day & Luncheon and the Heart & Stroke Walk in Colorado Springs.

Michele Rennie recently became a realtor with Windermere Walla Walla, specializing in winery and vineyards properties. She and her husband own their own inn, Girasol Vineyard & Inn in Walla Walla's wine country.

Erin Becker-Wade is a senior web content and usability consultant at Group Health Cooperative in Kirkland, WA.

1999:

Molly Hernandez works in Special Events for Macy's in California.

Jill Hoelscher has spent 10 years in various marketing communications positions for healthcare companies. Jill is now a freelance writer and editor.

Amy (Christiansen) Morgan has worked at NPR headquarters in Washington D.C. as an editor for Digital News for seven years. She lives in Maryland with her husband and 1.5-year-old daughter. They are expecting their second child in February.

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

1998:

Jana Hill is editing and writing. She has been an independent copy editor and science writer since late 2006, and before that worked on-staff at the Skagit Valley Herald, Enterprise Newspapers and Snohomish County Tribune. She also served as assistant editor for Bellingham-based Continuity Publishing, now publisher for Retailing Insight. Jana lives on Camano Island with her husband and two school-aged children.

1997:

Jesse Hamilton works for Bloomberg News and occasionally Businessweek magazine covering federal oversight on Wall Street in Washington D.C. Previously, Hamilton was D.C. bureau

chief at the Hartford Courant. In addition, he wrote about the Iraq war for the paper.

1996:

Kevin G. Blondin is a partner in the law firm of Reitsch, Weston and Blondin PLLC located in Longview, Washington where he lives with his wife, Andra, and two daughters, Peyton and Kendall. His primary area of practice is criminal defense.

Joanna Cerar returned to school and is now an O.R. nurse in the Seattle area. Previously, she spent many years directing youth camps in Western Washington. She continues to write, edit and photograph through volunteer projects.

1995:

Angela Cassidy is a designer for General Builders Supply in Seattle.

Brad Meyer spent 15 years working as a technology consultant in Seattle before moving to Spain, where he is currently living and teaching in Palma de Mallorca.

Hilary Parker is an adjunct faculty member in the journalism department at Western. She splits her time between teaching and consulting/freelancing work. She is a regular contributor to Western's alumni magazine, Window.

1994:

Guy Bergstrom is the lead speech writer for the House Democrats at the House of Representatives. Bergstrom also wrote an award-winning novel that won an award. Check out his personal blog: redpenofdoom.com or Twitter: [@speechwriterguy](https://twitter.com/speechwriterguy).

Steve Dunkelberger has been a working journalist since he left the offices of College Hall, working at various publications around Washington's Puget Sound region. He started his journalism career locally by working a stint as a reporter and then editor of the Lakewood Journal. He was then the editor of the Business Examiner newspaper. He is now a news writer/online editor at Pierce County Community Newspaper Group, which is a locally owned group of newspapers that includes the Tacoma Weekly, the Fife Free Press, the Milton-Edgewood Signal and the Puyallup Tribal News. He is also a Communications instructor at Pierce College. He also does freelance writing and photography projects for web sites in Pierce County. He is also a judge for the Society of Professional Journalists national Sigma Delta Chi Journalism Awards as well as serves as a lecturer on issues ranging from "new journalism," nonprofit operations and local history. Dunkelberger is a member of the Knights of the Pythias and several ukulele groups. In his spare time, he is a Cubmaster for his son's Cub Scout Troop and takes his daughter to more

theater performances than one could dream up. He has written two history books on the city of Lakewood and is working on one about McNeil Island. He has had several of his historical articles published on Historylink.org and in Columbia magazine, the magazine of the Washington State Historical Society.

Michele (Thielke) Graves is a marketing/PR specialist at the Everett Clinic.

Tara Perry is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Western Washington University. Perry is committed to her local, national and international community. Thus far, students in the courses that she teaches have contributed more than 15,000 hours of service-learning.

1992:

Vanessa Bloy is the director of public relations for Paul Gauguin Cruises, Inter-Continental Resorts French Polynesia and The Brando in Bellevue.

Toni Droscher is a communications manager with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission in Tumwater. Previously, Droscher was a communications manager with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for nearly six years where, in the last two-plus years, she was involved in communications and media relations with the agency's Aquatic Resources Division.

She worked on derelict vessels, geoduck and shellfish harvesting, aquatic restoration, etc. She and her husband Tom live in Mason County and own 35 acres of mostly forested land, including some stands of old second growth and old growth trees.

1991:

Rob Martin is the chief operating officer at BDA, Inc.

Kristi Warren-Slette is a Senior Instructor for the Human Services Program, part of Woodring College of Education. She has been teaching since 2000. Previously, she wrote a column for the Bellingham Herald, did report writing to targeted audiences, worked in advertisement sales and interviewed clients. In 1997 she returned to Western to receive her M.Ed in Adult Education in 1997. Most importantly, is a dedicated partner, traditional soccer and hockey mom (cow bells and all!) and continues to be a community member, volunteer, friend, daughter and colleague.

1990:

Vicki Alonzo is a public information officer at the Auburn School District in Auburn, Washington.

Doree Armstrong owns and runs PhinneyWood.com, a neighborhood news website for the Phinney Ridge and Greenwood neighborhoods in Seattle. She lives with her husband, Dale Steinke (whom

she met at the 1989 SPJ convention in Houston) and their 9-year-old son, Alex.

Dan Ramsay works at Kenworth Truck Company and has been for 18 years. Previously he worked at local weekly newspapers for four years near Seattle. He now lives with his wife Cynthia and two of his four children, Ben (15) and Molly (12). He also has two older daughters, Amy (28) and Katy (26), and two grandsons.

1988:

Brian Bean is a homeowner advocate and co-owner of The Dream Big Team at Realty ONE Group Champions in Riverside, California.

Wendy Staley Colbert lives in Mukilteo and is in the process of pursuing her MFA in nonfiction writing through Pacific University's low-residency program, where her thesis is a book-length memoir. Her personal essays have been featured in publications such as Salon, Whole Life Times, ParentMap, The Feminist Wire and This Great Society. Her essays are also included in the 2014 anthologies SPENT: Women Write About Their Complicated Relationships to Shopping and Three Minus One.

Brenda Higley has been the Seattle office manager for Miller Nash, LLP, a regional law firm based in Portland, Oregon for just over six years. She is married with an 8-year-old son and lives in Sammamish, Washington.

1987:

Jon Bauer was recently named editorial page editor of The Daily Herald in Everett, Wash. Bauer has worked at The Herald since 2001 as a copy editor, assistant news editor and interim features editor. He is married to Herald features writer and fellow Western graduate, Class of 1981, Gale Fiege.

Keven Graves is an executive editor and publisher at the Whidbey News-Times. He recently became the new president of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

Monica Jerbi moved to Washington, D.C., where she has primarily worked as a U.S. federal government contractor, largely for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) after spending a year in France after graduating from Western. She is currently an independent communications consultant with the USAID-NetHope Global Broadband and Innovations (GBI) Alliance as her main client. GBI, under USAID's newly created Global Development Lab, finds ways to expand broadband access and innovations in information and communications technology for development worldwide. NetHope is a nonprofit consortium of more than 40 leading international development nonprofits working with leading high-tech firms to better serve the developing world through smarter use of information and communica-

tions technologies. Her work involves developing communications plans and strategies as well as researching, writing, editing and desktop publishing a variety of print, audio-visual, interactive and web-based outreach and other support materials for dissemination in the United States and abroad.

Paul Swartz is a business strategy and technology consultant at Slalom Consulting in Portland, Oregon. Previously, Swartz worked at Nordstrom, Microsoft, CVS Pharmacy and Boeing. His last journalism job was helping launch MSNBC, guiding them through their first year as an editor, graphic designer and producer for interactive news applications. Swartz is also a photographer. See his work at www.paulswartz.com.

1986:

Tricia Gill has been working with Microsoft for about 15 years as a writer, content manager, site manager, executive producer and people manager. She recently changed her focus to developing training courses for Office 365 and is excited about the challenges ahead. In 2012 she received her MFA in creative writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her son is a sophomore at University of Puget Sound, her daughter is a freshman at Liberty High School. Gill and her husband Gordon will celebrate their 27th wedding anniversary this year.

1985:

Ron Judd writes a Sunday column and magazine features for The Seattle Times. He has worked there since 1988. Judd lives in Bellingham and has taught part-time at Western (newswriting, reporting and freshman interest group seminars) for nine years. He is also working to complete his master's degree in history and sometime this summer will defend his thesis about the Red-Scare-inspired firing of Western's 1939 President Charles H. Fisher.

Lori Mayfield is in her 20th year as an attorney. She recently became the managing attorney for the Oakland office of the Nationwide Insurance Company Trial Division. Mayfield was promoted to that position from her Sacramento office where she was a member of that Trial Division team.

1984:

Carolyn Casey is the public information officer for Community Colleges of Spokane where she manages the district's Marketing, Graphics and Communications Departments. She previously worked as the Port of Bellingham's Director of External Affairs.

1983:

Shari Campbell is working as the vice president and co-owner of JayRay, a branding, advertising and strategic communications firm, based in Tacoma, Washington. She also became president of the Western Washington University Alumni Association.

Lauri (Reed) Hennessey is the vice president for Corporate & Public Affairs at Edelman Public Relations in Seattle. Earlier Lauri worked on Capitol Hill, for the federal government, and working with nonprofits doing public relations before she landed at Edelman.

Lori McGriff is currently a kindergarten teacher at Anglo-American School of Moscow in Russia after receiving her master's in education and teaching for about 15 years. She has been there with her husband, Daniel Nellor and my children Sam and Ellie for almost four years. Ellie graduates from high school this year. Sam is working at our school part-time and studying Russian. Her older son, Bob, is living and working in Bellingham, sailing part-time on the Zodiac schooner out of Bellingham Bay. They plan to make a move to another school soon either in Southeast Asia, Africa or the Middle East. McGriff and her family have been traveling a lot in Europe and look forward to seeing more of the world. Before coming to Russia they lived in Morocco for three years and were fortunate to

see the Sahara and many ancient cities in that part of the world. McGriff is writing in her spare time, including a memoir of her travels. Right out of college, she worked for Time and Life magazines in New York as a photo researcher and later worked for small dailies in the Pacific Northwest. She did PR work for WWU and later for school districts before becoming a teacher.

1982:

Steve Hunter is a news reporter at the Kent Reporter newspaper in Kent, Washington. He was named a News Writer of the Year finalist in the WNPA 2014 contest.

Fred Obee has been a reporter, editor and manager of weekly, twice weekly and small daily newspapers in the Pacific Northwest for the past 30 years. He was editor of the Whidbey News-Times in Oak Harbor, Washington for 11 years, editor of the Daily Triplicate in Crescent City, CA for three years and has spent 17 years at the Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader in Port Townsend, Washington, first as a writer and editor, and finally in his current position as the general manager. He is a former Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce President, a current Rotarian and he serves on the boards of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association and the Washington Coalition for Open Government. He lives in Port Townsend with his wife Mary.

1981:

Rudy Yuly is a freelance writer and content strategist. She works for Microsoft, Starbucks, Cisco, the University of Washington and other clients. Her novel, Sparkle, was named one of the Top Five Books of 2012 by Crimefictionlover.com, and is available on Amazon and everywhere books are sold online.

1979:

Gwen (Collins) Waller recently published Doses of Comfort, a book of daily insights into grief and suggestions for healing, which is available at Amazon.com on Kindle and in print. Since graduating, her career path has meandered through various jobs, including writer and editor for an international nonprofit organization; copywriter for an advertising agency; freelance magazine writer and book editor; and grant writer and bereavement facilitator for a nonprofit grief agency.

1978:

Graham Evan MacDonell is a professional genealogist, based in Abbotsford, focusing on Scottish-Canadians. His background in genealogy includes being the world's foremost genealogist on Canada's first Prime Minister, Sir John A. Macdonald as well as on Kiefer and Donald Sutherland and their link to one of Cana-

da's respected politicians, the late Tommy Douglas, whose legacy is the introduction of medicare into Canada. Since Western, where he completed most of his undergraduate studies by 1976, he has been the editor of two community newspapers, a public relations staffer with B.C. Hydro, a PR Consultant for School Boards, an ESL teacher and communications specialist for several multi-national corporations in Hiroshima, Japan and a communications advisor and elections campaign specialist for the B.C. Liberal Party (currently in power in B.C.). In 2004, he moved to Scotland to study genealogy at the University of Strathclyde while providing communications services for the Scottish Police Service. He is also a grandfather of seven.

1976:

Lou Phillips was recently recognized for 20 years of service in King County's Information Technology Department. He is an applications developer.

Becky Marshall worked for weeklies in Port Orchard, then Ferndale. In 1978, she went to work at the Bellingham Herald as the criminal justice (i.e. blood and guts) reporter. She covered the trial of LA's Hillside Strangler, the murder of a border guard in Sumas, and the beheading of a Texas woman by her husband in a Blaine hotel. She met her husband and in 1982 moved to Bainbridge Island. After freelancing, editing newslet-

ters and doing PR for the city of Bainbridge Island, she worked 11 years for Sound Publishing, as editor of the Bainbridge Review, and of their paper in Silverdale. She headed up a centralized copy desk for Sound's five newspapers. In 1998, she went to the internet as a content writer for the travel site destinations. A year later she rode the dot-com bust train and had four or five jobs in rapid succession as they went out of business - hardware.com, cubitz.com, b3interactive.com, etc. Marshall became very skilled at interviewing, and at recognizing the beginning of the end - when a company comes in and carts off the leased fire extinguishers, you know the company is weeks or days from closing, or that you'll likely die in an inferno. She ended up at expedia.com in 2001 - heading up the content team for hotels - 20,000 hotels, 14-member team - descriptions, photos, videos, reviews, star ratings, etc. During this time, she continued to write a humor column for the Bainbridge Review, and then the Kitsap Sun, until giving it up in 2006. In 2005, quite the Bainbridge-to-Bellevue daily commute to take a job with Town & Country Markets, a family owned chain of (then) six retail grocery stores in and around Seattle. Today she runs their web sites (three so far) and social media efforts, as well as providing editing for the recipe program, which she founded. She has two daughters - one (Abby) a Teach For America alum now teaching Fourth Grade on Bainbridge Island where she lives with her husband, Chris;

the other (Claire) is a lawyer in Boston, Massachusetts, where she lives with husband, Mike. Marshall volunteers for Field's End, a writers' organization founded by Bainbridge author David Gutterson.

1975:

Victoria Hamilton is an arts and community development manager at Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation.

1973:

William Dietrich published his 20th book, a Young Adult environmental thriller called "The Murder of Adam and Eve." Also out in 2014 is a collaborative book he was the lead writer on called "The North Cascade: Finding Beauty and Renewal in the Wild Nearby" and the seventh Ethan Gage adventure, "The Three Emperors." Dietrich lives in Anacortes.

1971:

Paul Madison is in his 47th year as director of sports information at Western Washington University. The last 40 being full-time, following two on part-time basis and five as student. In 2011 he was an inductee into College Sports Information Directors (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame. He and wife Geri Forsberg have one child, son, Aaron, 15.

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. This year, alumni may also contribute to the Frank Varga scholarship (see story on page 5). The alumni fund pays for subscriptions in the journalism library and goes toward scholarships and other special student needs such as the Scholars Week reception.

The faculty, staff and students thank you for your generous monetary donations and in-kind contributions, such as photographs to display in the department. A plaque in the journalism library pays tribute to alumni for increasing the library's subscription and student resources. These donations allow the department to support students and give them the best opportunities available.

Remember, check with employers because some companies will match your contributions.

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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.chss.wwu.edu/journalism.

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