

Journalism department sees spike in enrollment

by Dante Koplowitz-Fleming

In the last decade, Western's journalism department has nearly doubled in size.

Between 2007 and 2017, the number of majors in the program jumped from 139 to 271. All three tracks—news-editorial, public relations and visual journalism—have seen significant increases, according to Journalism Department Annual Reports from the last 10 years.

In the last three years, news-editorial has seen the largest spike in participation of the three tracks. Since 2014, it has grown from 46 majors to 96, the largest the track has ever been.

So, why the rising numbers?

Department Chair Jennifer Keller attributes part of the program's recent jump in majors (and minors) to the 2016 presidential election and the increased focus on journalism and scrutiny of journalists.

"We're seeing more people in the government, or authority figures, saying, 'Fake news, fake news, fake news,'" Keller said. "Then there are people saying, 'No, we think journalism needs to exist. We're tired of the attacks on the press and we want to show that there's real news, we want to be part of the real news. We want to be part of this institution.'"

Erasmus Baxter, a junior on the news-editorial track, came to Western in winter of 2016 because of the journalism program. Since then, he has worked for various campus publications and is currently the editor in chief of the AS Review.

"There's definitely a strong tradition at Western of publications being completely student run," Baxter said. "Not just that,

but the respect for student media as an entity stands out."

Baxter said part of what led him to pursue a journalism degree was the importance of watchdog journalism.

"Part of the reason there's been so much growth, people are actually seeing the power that journalism has to hold people accountable," he said.

"Not just hold people accountable, but to push back against abuse of power."

Since spring of 2016 the department saw a 32 percent increase in news-ed majors, which Keller said was the largest increase in the track she has seen since she started teaching at Western in 2007.

"News-ed has had a little up and down, and then, all of a sudden, you see 96. Since 10 years ago, we have not had that many majors, ever, in news-ed," Keller said. "I mean, we have 96 news-ed majors alone right now; we only had 136 majors total in 06-07. We now have 346, when you include the minors. So that's a big difference."

Ron Judd, a 30-year Seattle Times reporter, Western alumnus and adjunct journalism professor, has witnessed the journalism program's growth over the past



Editors of The Western Front at work // Matthew Roland

three decades. In 1985, Judd served as editor in chief of The Western Front while double majoring in journalism and history.

One of the classes Judd teaches during fall quarters at Western is a freshman interest group course combining journalism and history, and part of his goal in those classes is to explain what the journalism program—and industry—looks like right now.

"What's really most encouraging for me is I see a lot of students attracted to the degree now because they feel like it's more important than ever that somebody does this work," Judd said.

Apart from being an adjunct professor, Judd also writes for the Seattle Times' Pacific NW magazine. He said he sees the effects and impact of the growing Western journalism program outside of the class—

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from the chair



Department chair Jennifer Keller.
// Joe Gosen

as Grist, Alaska Airlines, Big Life) to newspapers (including Port Townsend Leader, Federal Way Mirror and Anacortes American) to radio and television (KITV4, KOMO Radio, KNKX) to PR internships (Bellingham mayor's office, Seafair, Seattle Opera and Richmond PR to name a few). Our students also continue to be sought out for jobs after graduation with several opportunities arising from these internships. Journalism continues to be one of the top departments in terms of percent of graduates working in the field in which they majored.

This year, Western's publications were also honored by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) again. The Western Front was named the best non-daily newspaper in the region (Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and Montana). Klipsun's "Impact" issue was a finalist for best magazine. Our students were also recognized in the regional Mark of Excellence competition sponsored by the SPJ. This included two winners—Kjell Redal for in-depth reporting and Jesse Nichols for radio. We had an additional four finalists—Alyssa Evans, Sarah Sharp, Sarah Climaco and Evan Keen. They have also now joined your group—alumni of Western's journalism department.

Don't forget to like the WWU Journalism Alumni page on Facebook to share information and hear more about what's going on in the department, as well as job openings that are forwarded to us.

What a long strange trip this past year has been. One good thing that has come out of it? More students wanting to be journalists and contribute to REAL (not fake) news.

As we began the 2017-18 academic year, we had 242 majors and pre-majors—nearly 10 percent more than the previous year. The latest numbers place 89 in the news-editorial track, 77 in the visual journalism track and 71 in the public relations track plus a few undecided. The news-editorial major has one-third more majors (37 percent) than last year. It marks the first time in many years that news-editorial has had the most majors/pre-majors. We also have 59 minors, with 37 choosing the PR minor and another 22 choosing the news-editorial minor. These numbers are up from last year and we expect that trend to continue. Also, we just brought the environmental journalism major out of moratorium and have the first group of EJ pre-majors in several years.

As we continue to grow (up more than 70 percent since 2009) we are also increasing our faculty. We are conducting a search for a new journalism professor to teach editing and news, primarily, but who will hopefully have a digital media and/or environmental journalism background. This means we will finally have more faculty than we did in 2009.

We convened our Professional Advisory Board in the spring and had great conversations with people working in the field. Many members are alumni and they represent all three majors in the department. With a search this year, we won't have another meeting but hope to get the gang back together in 2018-19.

Last year, our students devoted more than 20,000 hours of community service through internships and service-learning projects in courses such as Advanced Reporting, Advanced VJ, PR Campaigns and Advanced PR Writing. Students had a wide variety of internships from magazines (such

Jennifer Keller
Associate Professor
Chair, Department of Journalism

student awards

WWU Student Scholars Week: Recognized Posters

Alexis Edgar & Erasmus Baxter, “Issues with landlords: An investigative look at failed rental inspections in the York and Sehome neighborhoods.”

Carolyn Trainer, “Fashion and Semiotics: How fashion editorial reflected two different yet socially and politically similar years.”

Christina Becker, “Framing the Frat Boy: An analysis of frames used in coverage of campus rape by The New York Times.”

Lexi Foldenauer, “Reporting with Dignity: Ethics of covering sexual assault.”

Melissa McCarthy, “Cascade Mall shooting: A comparative analysis of coverage.”

Katherine Misel, “The evolution of Presidential Press Conferences as a Public Relations Practice.”

Katherine Misel, Yaelle Kimmelman & Anna Goad, “4th Avenue 4 Seasons Art 4 Everyone.”

Hallie Fuchs & Lauren Drake, “Best Practices in Civic Engagement: A Case Study of the B Kind Campaign by the Downtown Bellingham Partnership.”

Sara Fontenot & Rachel Hunter, “Behind the Scenes at Fringe Boutique.”

Society of Professional Journalists: 2015 Mark of Excellence Awards

The Western Front was named the best non-daily newspaper in the region (Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Montana)

Best Student Magazine - Finalist: Klipsun Magazine “Impact” Issue – by Klipsun Magazine

Breaking News Reporting (Large) - Finalist, “Shooting at Cascade Mall in Burlington,” by Alyssa Evans

In-Depth Reporting (Small) - Winner, “Lawyer: WWU DEFIES LABOR LAW,” by Kjell Redal

Feature Writing (Large) - Finalist, “Ham radio buffs in Blaine dedicate themselves to community service,” by Sarah Sharp

Non-Fiction Magazine Article - Finalist, “Bracing for Change,” by Sarah Climaco and Evan Keen

Radio - Winner, “Yellow Cedars,” by Jesse Nichols

scholarship recipients

Pioneer Newspaper Grant
\$1,200 to Brooke Carlson

Department Tuition Waiver
\$1,800 to Alyssa Evans

Gerson Miller Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000 to Sandra Rees-Bowen
\$1,000 to Langston Thomas

Ralph and Nancy Babcock Memorial Scholarship
\$1,000 to Kaelyn King
\$1,000 to Linh Nguyen
\$1,000 to Matthew Pearson

Pacific Northwest Newspaper Association (PNNA)
\$750 to Natalie Breymeyer

Pete Steffens Native American Scholarship
\$1,300 to Asia Fields

Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship
\$1,700 to Laura Ann Poehner

Steven Rupp Memorial Scholarship
\$1,500 to Kathleen Webber

Ramon Marcus Garcia Memorial Scholarship
\$2,000 to Nick Vitalis

Frank Varga Scholarship for Visual Journalism
Kyra Bruce

Journalism Alumni Scholarship
\$1,000 to Jazmine Torres
\$500 to Asia Fields
\$500 to October Yates

featured articles

Student's dream becomes her reality, Starbucks' style

by **Samantha Frost**

Teena Thach, a 2015 Western journalism graduate in the PR track, has all the great qualities of a Starbucks barista: charm, wit and friendliness. It's a good thing, considering Starbucks hired her as an associate community manager to promote them on social media.

According to Thach, 25, she lucked into her dream job, able to spend her days generating poems, jokes, feel-good Tweets and all forms of creative exchanges to ensure the online community is interacting with the Starbucks' brand.

The job that she now holds didn't just fall into her lap. After graduating and working for nearly two years as a social media manager for at a tech start-up in Seattle, Thach began looking for work that would allow her a more dynamic and creative outlet.

"I worked a job that I wasn't 100 percent interested in, quit, and worked hard to finally get one that I always dreamt of," Thach said. "Going through that stage at 25 years old, I had to remind myself, 'What's meant to be will be.'"

After three months, applying to dozens of jobs, nailing multiple interviews and making it to the final round as a top candidate, she finally landed a position at Starbucks' world headquarters where few have had the opportunity to step inside, ride the elevators with deep green doors and exit onto the top floor.

As a first-generation college

student determined to break ground in all aspects of her life, Thach refused to settle. Although she was comfortable working for the tech start-up,

but recognizable around the world. Inside, workers and visitors are greeted by the Starbucks' green, brass finishing, and the smell of coffee, which

to make a professional digital portfolio, featuring client work she'd completed as a service-learning project as well as other PR work and journalism publications.

McLeod said Thach's work stood out.

"I remember Teena's talent as a student, particularly when she worked as the marketing and PR coordinator for the Ethnic Student Center," she said. "She knew how to draw an audience, create a following and connect people. She's magnetic because she's genuine. Where she leads, people follow."

In her capstone class, PR Research and Campaigns, Thach learned how to approach even bigger projects and clients.

"Professor Jennifer Keller helped me learn how to plan, manage and execute huge projects," Thach said. "I learned a lot of my PR skills from her. She taught me how to interact with people in writing and in public."

For Thach, however, her learning didn't end with Western. Her skills and PR savvy continue to grow on the job—one with terrific beverage perks.

"I love being able to connect with different people all over the world just by one conversation. I learn something new every day here," she said. "I love the people here and how diverse it is. And I just love coffee."



Teena Thach // Photo courtesy of Teena Thach

she was not happy. And although it terrified her, she took a leap of faith and quit.

"I'm a first-generation student from an immigrant family, so throughout life I've had many first moments," Thach said. "I was the first one to graduate from high school, first one to receive a bachelor's degree from college and now the first one to chase dreams of a career I'll love."

Now, three years post graduation, Thach enters Seattle's Starbucks' HQ beneath a green mermaid atop the buildings' clock tower. It's an image known not only to Seattleites,

lingers on everything, the staff included.

Although she worked incredibly hard, Thach admits she couldn't have gotten where she is today without the support she received from her friends, family, coworkers and journalism professors, which helped create a foundation upon which she was able to build.

When it came time to apply for jobs, her Advanced PR Writing and Techniques course helped set her up for success. She explained that the class, taught by Associate Professor Maria McLeod, required her

Samantha Frost, editor of the Journalism Department Alumni Newsletter, is a public relations student at Western Washington University. She will graduate in winter 2019 and hopes to combine her passion for public relations and political science in her career. Currently, she is the public relations and communications intern in Bellingham Mayor Kelli Linville's office. Prior to that, she worked with the Young Democrats of WWU as part of the journalism department's service-learning program. Samantha continues to work with the Young Democrats as a public relations consultant and plans to run for their communications director position this spring.



Journalism alumnus lands at SeattlePI

by Lydia Denney

From working as a carpenter and contractor to running a sound production company and repairing cars, journalism department alumnus Daniel DeMay has a varied background, to say the least. But through his varied experiences, DeMay, 36, developed a work ethic that suits the deadline-driven, multitasking journalist he's become.

He fine-tuned that work ethic (as well as his ability to multitask) at Western, where he worked 30 hours a week at Walmart, taught snowboarding on Mount Baker over the weekends, wrote three to five stories a week for *The Western Front* and took a full load of classes. Despite his challenging schedule, DeMay kept on top of his studies and maintained a nearly perfect GPA.

"In retrospect, that seems insane," he said. "But I think having that pressure to produce and learning that you're capable of more than you thought you were was really vital."

DeMay graduated from Western in 2014 with a journalism degree and a minor in political science, hoping to write about politics or business for a newspaper. In 2015, he became a reporter for the SeattlePI, covering a variety of beats including business, weather, transportation and Seattle cultural issues.

"My overarching goal is to try and write about the things that are most important to people in Seattle as the city continues to undergo probably

the biggest transformation it's ever seen," DeMay said.

His passion for journalism, particularly covering politics, was sparked during the 2008 presidential campaign. DeMay found himself reading the news and wanting to be the person writing those stories.

DeMay quit his job as a carpenter and began attending Shoreline Community College in 2009, writing for their student newspaper, *Ebbtide*. DeMay earned his associate degree at Shoreline in 2011 and attended the University of Missouri for one year before transferring to Western in 2012.

While enrolled in Associate Professor Carolyn Nielsen's reporting class, DeMay had his first story published in something other than

a student publication when the piece, "Scratch and Peck Feeds: A blue chip in a niche market," was accepted by the Bellingham Business Journal. DeMay also worked for the Wellness Outreach Center and helped build the center's social media program.

During DeMay's time at Western, he worked especially closely with Associate Professor John Harris, taking multiple classes taught by Harris, including photojournalism, ethics and feature writing.

"He was so mature and also carried himself really professionally," Harris said. "He was a really good role model for the other students. They could look to him and see how they should act in the classroom."

Four years later, Harris continues to use one of DeMay's first-person feature articles in his classes as an example of outstanding feature writing.

In his senior year at Western, DeMay began his first job as a government reporter at the Skagit Valley Herald. He continued on to become a business reporter at the Bozeman Daily

Chronicle prior to taking the reporting job at the SeattlePI.

DeMay said he is proud of many of the stories he has written for the PI. One story that stands out is a tribute/obituary he wrote for Chris Cornell, the lead vocalist of Soundgarden who died by suicide in 2017.

Another story DeMay is proud of his work for the SeattlePI special report, "Washington's mental health crisis in profile," which detailed the extreme challenges faced by state residents who suffer from severe mental illness. DeMay helped conduct multiple intense interviews for the in-depth series and wrote three of the 10 articles published.

"The experience was one of the best, if not the best, interview experiences I've ever had," DeMay said. "Just connecting with a person and taking time to actually get to know them rather than sort of parachute in, ask a couple things about what happened and then go back and write a story."

One of DeMay's editors at the PI, Levi Pulkkinen, is himself a Western grad who spent his own long nights putting out *The Western Front* and editing *The Planet* magazine. He said DeMay is reflective of the quality journalists who find their way to Western and take advantage of the opportunities to grow and learn during their time in Bellingham.

"Western graduates deliver when it comes to competency in the craft and a grasp of journalism's big ideas—the social value of our world's stories, the commitment to truth demanded of those who would tell them," Pulkkinen said. "I saw Dan as someone prepared to do useful work for our readers, and he has."



Daniel DeMay // Photo courtesy of Daniel Demay

Lydia Denney is an English Literature major with a Journalism minor. She is expecting to graduate in the spring 2018. She is interested in pursuing an internship through a magazine or newspaper after graduation. She enjoys the whole process of writing stories and is excited to see what her future holds.



After traveling the world, VJ grad returns to his digital roots

by **Samantha Newland**

Carey Rose is a visual journalist on the move. Since graduating from Western's journalism department as a VJ major, he has spent time as a photographer, a journalist, a composer and a video producer.

In his most recent incarnation, Rose works as an editorial writer and photographer at Digital Photography Review, an online publication focusing on digital cameras and photography. The publication bills itself as "the world's most popular dedicated enthusiast digital photography site." As a longtime photo enthusiast himself, Rose has been an avid follower of the Review since he was a teenager.

"I remember as far back as late high school and early college, reading the website where I currently work. It was pretty surreal at first, walking into this office and meeting these people whose bylines I'd seen," Rose said. "Since my time there and before me, we're trying to turn it into as much of a photography-focused site as it is about the gear. So I'm proud to not only be in this place that has such a legacy, but also getting to be part of that change."

Prior to writing for Digital Photography Review, Rose worked with Puget Sound Energy as the multimedia specialist, creating video work and photographing everything from events to content for advertisements. During his time there, he and his team won a Totem Award from the PRSA Puget Sound for their work in crisis communications during a turbulent wind storm in 2013.

Since graduating from Western, Rose has taken every opportunity to travel, whether for work or for pleasure. Wherever he goes, he keeps his camera nearby, poised and ready to capture the moment. In the past few years he has shot in destinations such as Sedona, Arizona, Thailand and Iceland.

In March, Rose will travel to Yokohama, Japan, to attend CP+, a photography trade show. While there, he will spend time on the show floor learning about different products and be among the first to hear major announcements from Japanese camera companies such as Fujifilm, Nikon and Sony.

"We will get to meet with higher-ups in some of those companies," Rose said. "And there is the opportunity to take a lot of photos and conduct a lot of interviews and try to create a lot of content around this show. Plus it's always really fun to travel somewhere like Japan."

Although work and traveling with friends has sent Rose around the world, his most cherished traveling memories consist of his time volunteering with The Rose International Fund for Children, a nonprofit run by his father.

"My dad runs a nonprofit for children and young adults with disabilities in Nepal. It's been nearly five years since I've been there this coming fall, but I've been there four times in all," Rose said. "Everytime I go, it's just an amazing experience and I get to visit all the project sites for the things we are working on



Carey Rose at work // *Jordan Stead*

and take photos and video and come back and get to tell that story."

In his free time, Rose does his best to stay practiced in an artform outside of photography: music. He began fumbling around on the keys of his family's piano at the age of 4 and has added guitar and drums to his repertoire since then.

Lately, he has been plucking his way through a pile of classical books he dug up from his childhood. He is always looking for people to jam with and has even found ways to incorporate his musicality in previous job positions.

"It was kind of born out of necessity at my last job, when I worked at Puget Sound Energy. The videos we were producing, I felt like they should have some sort of music, but we were so budget constrained, they wouldn't want to give me \$40 to buy a licensed piece of royalty-free music," Rose said. "It just so happened that if I had extra time on my hands, an extra day or two, I could usually end up composing

some music that I felt was fairly appropriate for the video project we were working on. It was a really, really fun challenge and added a bit of variety to the job."

When asked about what he is most proud of, Rose didn't turn to his long list of past achievements, but instead explained his goals for the future. He plans to apply to graduate school at the University of Washington to pursue a master's degree in communications leadership.

Senior Instructor Stephen Howie had Rose in his Digital Media in Journalism class when the course was first being transformed to focus more on video production. Howie said Rose was an obvious talent with a great eye who seemed genuinely enthused about visual journalism in all its forms.

"Carey was such a great student all around," Howie said. "Sure, he was super talented visually, but you could see that he was really engaged in learning. That hasn't faded since his graduation. That is just who he is."

Samantha Newland is majoring in public relations and expects to graduate this summer. She is passionate about writing and curating the perfect voice for every story, whether creating a PR campaign for Young Democrats of WWU or unpacking social issues when writing for *Odyssey*. Samantha hopes to continue growing in the PR field after graduation by working in media relations for a nonprofit.



Environmental journalism answers the call, major revived

by Lydia Denney

Western's environmental journalism major, offered jointly by Huxley College of the Environment and the Department of Journalism, is getting a reboot. The major was reinstated fall 2017 after a six-year hiatus.

This is a pivotal moment in environmental journalism and for the future of the planet. According to NASA, 16 of the 17 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001. Not only was 2016 the hottest year on record, eight of the year's 12 months also set records as the hottest ever. Faced with these record temperatures, ice sheets in Greenland and the Antarctic are shrinking, along with glaciers in the Alps, Himalayas, Rockies, Andes, Africa, Alaska, and (closer to home) in the North Cascades.

Meanwhile, the sea is both rising and becoming more acidic. Global sea levels rose 8 inches in the last 100 years. The increase in the last 20 years is nearly twice that of the last century. Since the start of the Industrial Revolution (a minute period in terms of the Earth's history), the acidity of surface ocean waters has jumped by 30 percent, according to NASA.

Meanwhile, environmental beats are often the first to be cut by newspapers facing tight budgets and public criticism for coverage of global warming and related issues.

The need for environmental journalists has never been so dire and will only grow more critical in the coming years.

Associate Professor of Environmental Studies Rebekah Paci-Green, former faculty advisor for The Planet Magazine, serves as academic advisor for students pursuing an

environmental journalism major. She also played a part in bringing the major out of moratorium, rewriting and revising the environmental studies side of the major while Journalism Department Chair Jennifer Keller led changes on the journalism side.

The newly revised major combines foundation courses in journalism and envi-

ronmental studies, topic areas, specialization classes and a capstone course.

Students will be required to take core journalism and environmental classes such as newswriting, mass media ethics, understanding environmental data and information, and The Western Front. They also will be required to take an environmental journalism class designed to equip students to write concise pieces on complex environmental and natural resource issues.

"Journalism is a key component of democracy and transparency," Paci-Green said. "Environmental issues are hand-in-hand with social justice issues. We need people investigating, focusing and writing and putting these issues in front of the public again and again and again."

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and journalist Bill Dietrich, a 1973 Western journalism graduate and former Western professor, taught at Western before the environmental journalism major was put in moratorium. As a Western student in the 1970s, Dietrich wrote for both The Western Front and Klipsun magazine and went on to cover environmental issues as a journalist and nonfiction writer. As an

assistant professor, he served as The Planet magazine advisor from 2006 to 2011.

"I think the environmental journalism degree was fairly unique in the nation," Dietrich said. "Most journalists do not have a strong science background, which is

a handicap that I learned when I was in the profession myself."

Dietrich believes the environmental journalism major strengthened Western's journalism graduate output by producing students with a background in environmental science. He also thinks the program was a way to identify an academic elite because the environmental journalism

students were ambitious.

"The advantage of the environmental journalism program is first to let students who were intensely interested in the environment and looking for some vocation that they could incorporate that interest and give them an option that they otherwise wouldn't have," Dietrich said.

Huxley Instructor Warren Cornwall teaches two core classes of the revived environmental journalism major: The Planet Magazine course and Environmental Journalism, a course dedicated to environmental beat reporting that teaches students how to be

"Journalism is a key component of democracy and transparency," Rebekah Paci-Green, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, said. "Environmental issues are hand-in-hand with social justice issues."

working journalists.

Cornwall has been a working journalist for 20 years. For the last decade, his focus has been on environmental journalism. He is currently a correspondent for Science, a scientific journal.

Cornwall said environmental journalism can be applied to many aspects in the world including business, art, science and politics.

"We all live in the natural world in one way or another. Today, some of the most pressing issues we are facing are environmental," Cornwall said. "[Environmental journalism] touches on almost every component of life, which is what makes it interesting."

Sophomore Maddie Smith is an environmental journalism pre-major. She learned about the return of the major in one of her environmental science classes.

Smith said she knew she wanted to study journalism, but after taking a few Huxley College courses she became interested in environmental studies and found the newly rebooted major would allow her to combine those two interests. After college, she hopes to work for a magazine that focuses on local environmental issues.

"In the news, a lot of times, environmental terms get thrown around," Smith said. "I think it's important to have someone who understands both how to write and, also, the environmental and scientific aspects of what's happening in the world."

Professor Harris revisits the brief glory of the Cleveland Browns, publishes book

by Landon Groves

Associate Professor John Harris remembers being 10 years old in his grandparents' basement in Coshocton, Ohio, watching the Cleveland Browns shut out the Baltimore Colts in the 1964 NFL Championship Game (the first Super Bowl would not be held for another two years). What Harris didn't know at the time was that this game, which the underdog Browns won 27-0, would become one of the biggest upsets in the history of American football, effectively birthing a new generation of Browns fans. Now, more than a half century later, Harris' first published book aims to bring that magical game back to life.

"Redemption in '64: The Champion Cleveland Browns" will explore the Browns' unexpected triumph over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts and their Hall of Fame quarterback Johnny Unitas. Cleveland rode the coattails of quarterback Frank Ryan and legendary running back Jim Brown to secure the city's first championship victory in a decade. It would remain Cleveland's only championship in a major professional sport for the next 50 years. Harris, a veteran journalist and founder of the visual journalism major, said he used his decades of experience in the field to write a book that is thorough, compelling and, above all, accurate.

The book began as an article Harris wrote for Timeline magazine in 2014. After that story ran, Kent State University Press reached out to him and asked if he'd develop it into a book. Harris saw the offer as an opportunity to talk one-on-one with the pro football players he'd idolized as a kid, and a great way to reach a monumental career milestone.

To begin writing the book, Harris said he had to research the topic thoroughly. He found himself in Vermont visiting former Browns quarterback

Frank Ryan. He interviewed players from each team, plus Hall of Fame coach Don Shula. Eventually, he focused his research on four men and the redemption the game offered their careers: Art Modell, the owner; Blanton Collier, the coach; Frank

Ryan, the quarterback; and Jim Brown, the superstar running back. From there, Harris tells the story of the fateful months that led up to the game, and some behind-the-scenes events that made the game even more significant, including a brawl outside a movie theater between members of the opposing teams.

"I had no idea at first how the story would evolve," Harris said. "But you start a mile wide and an inch deep, then you start narrowing it down until it's an inch wide and a mile deep."

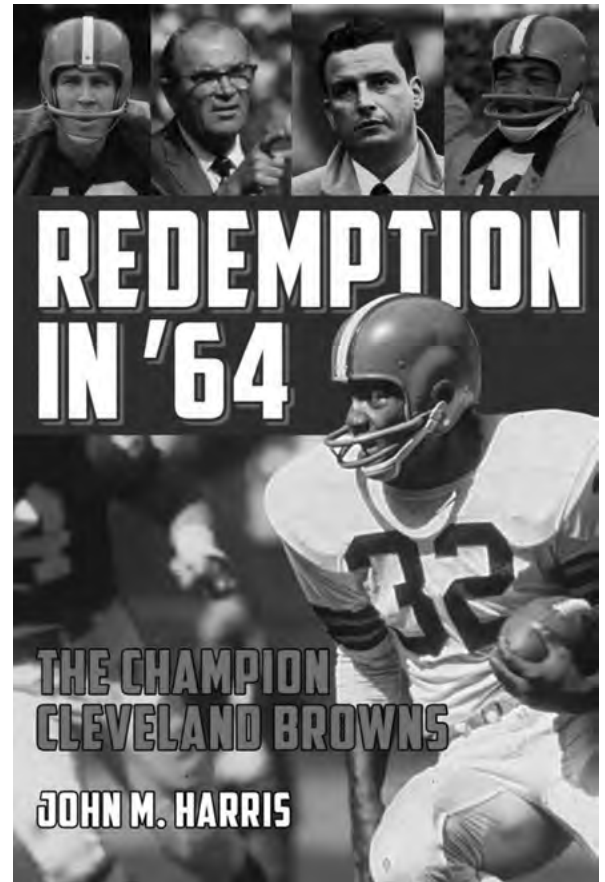
Harris said he chose this story because, growing up in Ohio, he's always been a diehard Browns fan. The experience he had as a kid watching them on TV was one that stuck with him through his entire adult life, and finally getting to write about it was a dream come true. It was an early memory of the home team coming away with the big win (the 1964 championship was actually played in Cleveland Stadium and was the first NFL title game televised by CBS).

He ran into problems, early on, trying to report accurately on an event that happened so long ago. He kept hearing the same stories told differently, he said, but ultimately found ways to work through it.

Many players were eager to talk about the Browns' glory days because, as of late, they haven't been doing quite so well. The '64 championship marked their last major victory, and in 2017 they became one of five NFL teams since 1944 to go an entire season without a single win.

Will Underwood, the acquiring editor at Kent State University Press, saw that humbling season as an opportunity to remind the world that the Browns once stood at the top of the NFL.

"It's nice to do a book about when the Browns were a force to be reckoned with," Underwood said. "Cleveland fans like to



Cover of "Redemption in '64"

relive the glory days, and this is a great opportunity to do that."

While this is Harris' first book, he's no stranger to the long hours required to get book-length projects off the ground. As a police reporter at The Spokesman-Review, Harris' reporting on Spokane's South Hill rapist caught the eye of Jack Olsen, a successful true-crime novelist and longtime journalist. The two became friends, and together they researched three of Olsen's books: "Son: A Psychopath and His Victims," "Give a Boy a Gun" and "Cold Kill: The True Story of a Murderous Love." Harris said that Olsen's guidance was invaluable, affecting not only the way he researches a book, but how he approaches writing in general.

With the book now done and undergoing edits, Harris has been busying himself with other freelance writing gigs. He contributed a chapter to a book on war photography, where he focuses on Vietnam. His chapter, titled "Icons of Horror: Three Enduring Images from Vietnam," outlines three shocking images that successfully shifted the American public's opinion

against the war. As part of his research, Harris had the opportunity to talk to Nick Ut, the legendary war photographer who took the Pulitzer Prize-winning “Napalm Girl” photo of a 9-year-old Vietnamese girl running naked on a road in the wake of a South Vietnamese napalm attack in 1972.

Additionally, Harris had an article published in this month’s issue of *America* in WWII about George Strock’s photo of three dead Americans that ran in *Life* magazine in 1943. It was the first photo published in the United States depicting dead American soldiers on the battlefield.

Harris said that freelancing helps him stay relevant in his teaching. It puts him in the same league as his students and forces him to keep a close eye on the ever-changing field of journalism. He’s reminded of what it feels like to have a pitch turned down, or to have your favorite line edited out.

“Not only does it inform my teaching about writing, but I’m definitely more empathetic to students,” Harris said. “I understand what they’re going through.”

As for the current state of journalism, Harris said he’s dismayed at the way the media is misunderstood in America, but

remains optimistic about the future. Ten years ago, students in Harris’ news-writing class were wary of pursuing journalism, doubtful of their ability to succeed and make a living in what seemed like a dying industry.

“It’s not like that anymore because journalism has morphed into so many different things,” Harris said. “With so many different possibilities, it’s a really exciting thing to be teaching.”

“Redemption in ‘64: The Champion Cleveland Browns” is scheduled for release by Kent State University Press in the summer of 2018.

Landon Groves is a student at Western planning to graduate in fall 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in public relations. Aside from attending classes, Landon is also a copy editor at *The Western Front* and a contributing feature writer at *What’s Up! Magazine*. After graduation, Landon hopes to relocate to Seattle and find a job at a PR firm or continue writing for magazines.



New class focuses on public relations videography

by **Samantha Frost**

This summer, 18 public relations students got the chance to learn the core fundamentals of videography as well as visual branding and storytelling techniques to engage audiences for public relations purposes.

Public Relations Videography, a new class taught by Associate Professor Maria McLeod, with Senior Instructor Stephen Howie, offered students the chance to learn skills in a rapidly changing and expanding area of PR.

“Videography is an increasingly important skill for PR professionals, especially because of its rapidly growing popularization across media platforms, including social media platforms and more traditional digital media outlets,” McLeod said. “We’d be remiss if we didn’t educate our students to be prepared for that.”

While the class culminated in organizational profile videos, students began by capturing short, but telling, moments as a means of learning new filming techniques. Students submitted video clips of bees landing on flowers, friends sharing laughs, electric guitars plugging into amps and eggs sizzling on a hot pan. In class, they viewed and critiqued each other’s work.

Howie said at the core of the process was teaching students how to tell stories visually.

“That’s something we tried to emphasize in the PR videography course. A video is only as strong as the story it tells,” he said. “So, we tried to get students to find the unique struggles and challenges faced by their clients and really focus on working their way through that story as a way to humanize their

subjects and engage potential viewers.”

After a few weeks of intensive learning focused on how to capture moments, tell a story and excel technically, student teams were assigned to six different local businesses to create a 3-4 minute profile video, as well as shorter videos for their client’s social media platforms.

McLeod said she was impressed by the quality of the students’ work.

“While two-thirds of the class had little to no previous experience with videography, I was delightfully surprised how well they rose to the challenge and produced solid, usable work for their clients’ websites and social media platforms,” she said.

Students Scott Blumenfeld, Brooke Weisbecker, and Kirstyn Nyswonger contacted Kacie Cleveland, owner and

head coach of Kulshan Crossfit, to create a profile video and several shorter pieces designed for the business’ social media platforms.

“I loved it because we’re a business and a crossfit gym, so we can seem heartless,” Cleveland said. “But they showed feeling. We are real people with goals and problems. They found that balance between strong and sappy.”

The video told the story behind Cleveland’s struggle to overcome an injury and eventually open Kulshan Crossfit. The students filmed an interview with Cleveland and collected b-roll of her coaching in her gym.

“I think it is important to get as close to real-life experience as you can,” Cleveland said. “These kids learning how to collaborate with businesses—you can’t replace that. There is no classroom setting that can set you up for that.”

Associate Professor Jennifer Keller, journalism department chair, noted that she has seen an increase in interest in public relations videography from other students in the wake of the summer class. In her Public Relations Research and Campaigns class, she said she has about nine students interested in making videos for clients, whereas in prior years she has had maybe one or two.

“I think it’s a fantastic class,” Keller added. “I think the class is so important, she will be teaching it next year.”

Jkids learn to multiply

Alumni become parents

by Kaeli Hearn

Math isn't exactly every journalists' forte; however, some jkid alumni are learning to multiply—or reproduce that is.

Four different jkid couples had babies in 2017: Anna and Jonathan Kull, T.J. and Katie Cotterill, Jeff and Stephanie Twining, and Gabrielle and Casey Gainor.

Their modern-day love stories began during their time studying journalism at Western.

Jkid couple **Casey Gainor** [News-Ed 2009] and **Gabriella Kazuko** (Nomura)

Gainor [News-Ed and Theatre Dance 2010] became parents to Kiyomi Louise Gainor Nov. 12, 2017.

Casey, who works for The Seattle Times in information technology, and Gabrielle, who works next door at the Seattle Opera as media relations manager, enjoy their lives as new parents. They especially like making up songs together to sing to Kiyomi, something they never envisioned when they first met.

"Here we are 10 years later with a kid in our arms, and it is pretty crazy," Gabrielle said. "I always say, never, in my wildest dreams that quarter, would I have thought that I was going to have a kid with Casey."

The two met while working for The Western Front in 2008. Casey was a copy editor and Gabriella was news editor. But it wasn't love at first sight. In fact, when Casey and Gabrielle met, they were dating other people. Casey recalled attending a play at Western, which they'd learned about through a Western Front story. They ended up sitting next to each at the play with Gabrielle's date on one end and Casey's on the other.

"There was nothing romantic between us," Casey recalled.

In fact, according to Gabrielle, Casey didn't think the two would get along, based on her reputation as a prolific

Western Front reporter.

"Casey thought I was going to be this goody-two-shoes chick," Gabrielle explained, "because I had just, as a reporter, broke some record for the most number of stories written, and I got the rookie of the quarter award. So, Casey thought I was going to be super stuck up."

However, those feelings changed as they came to know each other, which included time spent working on The Western Front and, later, both working at the Bellingham

Herald.

"We ended up connecting and realizing that first impressions are not always accurate," Casey said.

The Gainors got married in August 2014 and currently live in Seattle.

"Being a parent is awesome," Casey said. "I actually just had to go back to work this week, and I have been away for two days, and I do not want to ever work again. The past year has been preparing for the social shift, and now we are just getting acquainted with her, learning more about each other and falling more in love with each other."

During their time on The Western Front, Casey's copy editor was Rebecca Rayner. She is now their neighbor and one of the couple's best friends, they said.

"Not only did I meet my husband through The Western Front, but I met my best friend and neighbor. And we are not the only ones," Gabrielle said. "Deep relationships are formed."



Twining family // Photo courtesy of Twinings

Alumni Anna (Atkinson) Kull [Public Relations, 2012] and Jonathan Kull [Visual Journalism, 2012] also met through their time on The Western Front. The couple married in 2013 and had their first child, Eleanor Kull, on Dec. 23, 2016.

"The first story I got assigned for that quarter, Anna was the news editor," Jonathan said. The Kulls spent many quarters on the Front, filling positions such as news and managing editor. "We had lots of good times staying up until four in the morning on the Front."

Both Anna and Jonathan currently live in rural Whatcom County and work for Boundary Bay Brewery. Jonathan is their brand manager, and Anna is a host at the brewery on weekends and on the dispatch team for beer delivery.

Their daughter likes to spend time at the brewery, too.

"We like to read to her, she likes music and hitting things with wooden spoons," Jonathan said.

Anna adds that things with Eleanor are changing fast.

"She is walking," Anna said. "So, right now I feel like we spend the majority of our day chasing her around the house."

But not all journalism couples met doing The Western Front. New parents **Katie** (Greene) **Cotterill** [Visual Journalism, 2010] and **TJ Cotterill** [News-Ed, 2012]

met when they worked together at the Bellingham Herald.

"I transferred from Everett Community College after getting my associate degree there," said TJ. "My first job was at the Bellingham Herald, before I even got to Western, as a sports clerk part-time, 20 hours a week. At that time, Katie had just graduated from Western and was working as a photo intern there. So that is how we met."

The couple got married in 2013 and had their first baby, Cassius, in August 2017. As a reminder of their jkid roots, the couple received a Western baby onesie



Kull family // Photo courtesy of Kulls

from Associate Professor Carolyn Nielsen.

TJ and Katie admit to having started early impressing the importance of journalism to their child. In addition to taking him to the park and out to restaurants, they are hoping to pass on their commitment to the written word.

"We love reading to him," TJ said, "because we think that is very important. Sometimes we read the news to him."

TJ currently works for the Tacoma News Tribune as high school sports coordinator and Katie works for The Seattle Times as a photo/multimedia specialist.

Another kid couple, **Jeff Twining [News-ed, 2010]** and **Stephanie (Castillo) Twining [PR 2010]**, who met in their first news-writing course, welcomed their first



Kiyomi Louise Gainor

child, Miles Twining, on April 10, 2017.

"We met because of Amanda Knox. I went to high school with Amanda Knox, and she was in my class, and Stephanie's best friend went to high school with Amanda Knox. We were talking about it in class, and we were both raising our hands to tell our side of the story. I got called first," Jeff said. "My, 'I went to school with her' trumped her, 'My friend went to school with her.'"

That's when Stephanie introduced herself to Jeff. During the course of their time as journalism majors they continued to take various courses together, getting to know each other best when they worked together at editors for The Western Front, they said.

Jeff currently works as a marketing manager for Amazon Canada and Steph-

anie is a social media consultant for 206 Agency in Seattle. Currently they live in Shoreline, Washington.

"We are Mariners' season ticket holders, so we took Miles to a few games this summer when he was really little, and we really enjoyed that," Stephanie said. "We are big Seattle sports fans, so that contributed to a lot of our summer activities, taking Miles to baseball games and just being really active and outdoors."

Stephanie credited Journalism Chair Jennifer Keller with influencing her and helping her understand the ins and outs of public relations. She said Keller helped her solidify internships that put her on the PR agency path and remains an important mentor to this day.

"We graduated so long ago," Stephanie said. "It is just nice that the faculty can keep in touch and are really invested in the success of their students."

Kaeli Hearn is currently on the Public Relations track at Western. She expects to graduate Winter of 2019 with a degree in PR. She has written for The Western Front and currently writes for Odyssey Online. She has a variety of published photos and is the PR specialist for WWU's A Capella Club.



ENROLLMENT, continued from page one

room, too.

"There's Western alums everywhere in the business," Judd said.

Judd said part of the reason the journalism program is able to place so many graduates in the field is because of the student publications and hands-on focus the program affords.

"Western has a reputation for putting out people, even those who are still undergraduates here, who can walk in the door and start working," Judd said. "Put out a product, put out a publication, publish a newspaper, manage a website. Whatever it is, whatever the job is, the program has that type of reputation."

Judd added that hands-on experience has always been the program's strong suit.

"It's not just a degree on paper, it's four years of kind of boot camp of learning how to be a journalist," he said.

One of those participants in that journalism boot camp is junior Asia Fields, current editor in chief of The Western Front.

"Something I like about the program is that it's really collaborative, so all of the professors, even if you're not in one of their classes, are willing to help out on projects or give advice," Fields said.

Fields recalled anecdotes of additional help received from professors ranging from assistance with ethical or legal issues to career advice.

Fields also named the student-run publications as one of the most beneficial aspects of Western's journalism program.

"I think it's a really great opportunity for students to get experience that will help them in their careers. I mean, working on the Front as an editor, I've been able to write stories that have gotten a significant amount of attention," Fields said. "When I did our Proud Boys story, their Founder and Vice Media Co-founder Gavin McInnes was posting about us on social media. We worked on stories that were picked up on broadcast news."

In the past year, The Western Front was named the best non-daily newspaper in the

region (Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho and Montana), and Klipsun magazine's "Impact" issue was an SPJ finalist for the region's top student-run magazine.

Junior and current news editor for The Western Front, Monique Merrill, said her choice to pursue a news-editorial degree was a result of a penchant for research and investigation into information that is purposefully hidden.

"I have been able to get into some investigative journalism. That's what really inspires me," Merrill said. "I really like deeply-researched, longform journalistic pieces."

Merrill said during high school she wrote for the school paper but wasn't able to get into any investigative reporting or take any risks until working as a reporter for the Front.

"It's nice because it feels like a learning experience for everyone, so it's comfortable to make mistakes and to learn from them," she said.

Dante Koplowitz-Fleming is pursuing a news-editorial degree from Western Washington University. He will graduate in spring of 2019 and hopes to combine his passion for sports, writing and research to have a career in sports media. He is currently a news editor on tThe Western Front, and is excited to keep writing.



from the students

The Planet Update

The Planet started off the academic year with a strong magazine, themed “Education,” and continues to write stories that advocate for the environment with its current issue, “Conservation.” To keep within the constraints of our budget, The Planet is making efforts to focus on stories in northwestern Washington. This requires us to dig down to local roots, and, as a result, we are telling rich stories that are unique to our publication.

For the spring issue, The Planet is digging down to the deepest of roots: the roots of nature itself. Our next issue will be the “Sex” issue. We were inspired by Planet editions published well before our time that unveiled taboo topics with serious effects on the Earth. We plan to tell stories surrounding issues regarding plant and animal reproduction, environmental impacts of sex-related products and the human population as a whole.

We would like to widen our readership, and are working toward that goal by promoting a stronger social media presence and a heavier distribution of our print magazine. The Planet also has high hopes of receiving a 2017 journalism award, as it has consistently since 2011. Warren Cornwall remains as the adviser and now also teaches environmental journalism. With a talented, consistent staff, The Planet is excited to begin the production of its slightly longer, slightly bolder spring issue.

Keiko Betcher, editor-in-chief

Western Front

This is a time of change for The Western Front, and the editors are rising to meet it with innovation and a rethinking of traditional methods. The most exciting news is that we secured a budget increase and higher stipends for our editors, which makes this valuable experience more accessible to students. We are going into winter quarter with a slightly smaller staff than usual, but to accommodate, we are focusing on prioritizing our goals and increasing collaboration. We will continue publishing a weekly paper, but hope to put more time and resources to strengthening our online presence. More and more, we are seeing readers come to our website from social media, and we want to adapt to better serve the public with timely, accessible coverage. I also believe this shift to online-first will better prepare journalism students for their careers and that they will benefit from our growing collaboration with other departments on campus. While there will be changes in how we do things, the mission of the Front stays the same: We strive to get it first and, more importantly, get it right. We will continue to hold power accountable and give voice to the voiceless, and we see our increasing online focus as amplifying our ability to do so. My staff would love to hear from you if you have feedback or advice at westernfrontonline@gmail.com.

Asia Fields, winter quarter editor-in-chief

Western’s National Press Photographers Association

This year, Western’s National Press Photographers Association has explored different photography techniques and issues, such as how to apply for a drone license and how to shoot hyperlapse photography. We also learned about techniques used in shooting food photography. In the coming new year, we expect to delve into studio photography, video projects and portfolio building. The club will have professional visual journalists speak to the club about work, portfolios, photography techniques and more. We are gearing up for our end-of-the-year photojournalism gallery show in Western’s B Gallery, as well as our annual BBQ.

If you’re interested in visiting, please feel free to contact Rose Carr at rosehcarr@gmail.com. We look forward to creating with you!

Rose Carr, WWU NPPA president

Western's Society of Professional Journalists

Western's Society of Professional Journalists chapter is working to increase and maintain its presence both at Western and the greater Washington state journalism community. Early winter quarter 2018, we hosted a panel on naming public memorials, which was open to the public and included prominent journalists, historians, public officials and students. In Fall 2017, we hosted a dissertation presentation by Associate Professor Carolyn Nielsen.

We are also working to emphasize skill building for student journalists through workshops and presentations. Some specific examples of subjects we plan to delve into as a club include use of LinkedIn, covering breaking news, developing social media practices and finding a field internship. We are always happy to host local journalists, especially WWU alumni and professors. Please feel free to reach out to us anytime if you're interested in being involved with the club. We'd love to hear from you, wwuspj@gmail.com

Alyssa Evans, WWU SPJ president

WWU Public Relations Society of America

WWU PRSSA chapter is currently planning trips to Seattle to tour PR agencies, which offers members a valuable opportunity to network. We are in the midst of our speaker series, which will last through spring quarter. On the topic of blogging, we were fortunate to have Annette Bagley from Bellingham Whatcom County Tourism present to us about her team of bloggers for Bellingham tourism. It was a very informational and fun meeting, and we hope to bring in more professionals like this in the quarters to come.

We are also working out the logistics of attending regionals in Fullerton, California, and nationals next year in Austin, Texas, both of which would be great opportunities for our members. If you'd like to connect with us, or serve as a future presenter, please write to us at wwuprssa@gmail.com

Jessica Niles and Jessica Vangel, co-presidents

Klipsun Magazine

Fall quarter, Klipsun Magazine took a step back and refocused. Achieving a goal is almost never about a series of concrete steps. Success of any kind is attained through small, nearly imperceptible steps. Sometimes we go backward, sometimes we stop our journey entirely. There is no perfect way to navigate a river's waters. Such is the nature of any pursuit. In the winter edition of Klipsun, our writers dove into the essence of what drives an 80-year-old ultra-marathoner, the creativity of a Western alumna building her dream home and the realizations of a NCAA athlete closing his final chapter. In the January 2018 edition, readers will find stories about grit and self reflection. They will find stories about us.

If you would like to get in touch with us, our email is klipsunmag@gmail.com

Trish Patterson, editor in chief, fall 2018

faculty updates



Brian J. Bowe Assistant professor

Of course, 2017 has been a momentous year for anybody who cares about journalism. World events have given us a lot to talk about in the classroom, and our students seem especially fired up about the importance of journalism's civic mission. This year, I had the opportunity to teach an honors seminar on religion and news, and I took my first crack at teaching feature writing.

I've continued to teach senior seminar each quarter, and I have been working with colleagues in Western Libraries on a yearlong research project to help students design research projects that are more meaningful to them.

The year began for me with a couple of invitations from the League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County to give presentations on the concept of "fake news." In February, I gave a talk about my research into media representations of Muslims and Islam as part of Western Libraries' reading series.

On the research front, a highlight of the year was the publication of my article, "Permitted to Build? Moral Foundations in

Newspaper Framing of Mosque-Construction Controversies" in *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*. Another article I co-authored was a finalist for that journal's outstanding article of 2016 award.

I have a lot of research projects in process, with a half-dozen articles undergoing peer review currently. Working with colleagues, I contributed to a book chapter about TV network news coverage of immigration and deportation narratives for the forthcoming book, "The Trump Presidency, Journalism, and Democracy." I presented papers at the International Communication Association conference in San Diego and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Chicago. The AEJMC conference was preceded by a tour of Chicago area sacred spaces that I organized in my role as teaching chair of the Religion and Media Interest Group.

I was awarded a research fellowship from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Library & Archives and the Center for Popular Music Studies at Case Western Reserve University to conduct research on the legendary Detroit proto-punk band the MC5. I spent a week in the archives in Cleveland, and I'll be devoting a lot of my research energies to this project in 2018. This is research that is dear to my heart, and it will be nice to get back to my music journalism roots.

Jack Keith Senior Instructor

It's been a great year for both *The Western Front* and for me personally.

I'm now in my eighth year as faculty adviser to the *Front*, and I continue to enjoy working with students to build a strong publication that informs the campus community. The great job by students was rewarded last spring when the Society of Professional Journalists named the *Front* the best non-daily student newspaper in the Northwest's five states (Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana and Idaho). That also placed the *Front* among the top 12 in the entire nation, and that's definitely something we can all be proud of.

In my personal life, my wife and I celebrated a special moment last summer. We have five grandchildren, and the oldest, Adam, graduated from college in May and then married his

longtime love in July. We are so happy for him and his wife, Andrea.

But wait—there's more. Our three youngest grandchildren recently moved up to Bellingham with our daughter and her husband after living near San Francisco. So now we see them often, not just during an occasional visit a few times a year.

Meanwhile, my wife and I continue our favorite pastime: bike riding. We ride trails almost every week to get us into the gorgeous Northwest outdoors and keep us physically fit. We ride along the waterfront in Anacortes or head down toward Seattle to bike through woods and farm fields, soaking up the views of snow-capped mountains and smiling when we spot wildlife including majestic birds, seals, deer and more.





John Harris

Associate professor

The past year has been busy and rewarding in terms of writing projects. A story I wrote about World War II combat photographer George Strock was published in *America* in WWII magazine; the book I wrote about the Cleveland Browns is at the copy editor and scheduled for publication in the fall (Scott Terrell took

my photo for the back cover); and as I write this I'm finishing up a chapter for a book on war photography. I'm focusing on three images from the Vietnam War, and in the process of researching them had the chance to talk with Nick Ut, who took the iconic "Terror of War" photo showing a girl burned by napalm.

I believe it's important to continue working as a journalist to keep my teaching effective and relevant. I don't want to be a dotty old professor in a coffee-stained sweater wandering around reminiscing about the old days. Of course, that could be me, and I just don't know it.

Joan Connell

Instructor

An ethically challenged president castigates journalists as "liars" and "enemies of the people." With mounting incivility, a divided society finds it hard to agree on even the most basic verifiable truths. Social media, that firehouse of information that most people rely on as a source of news, has become weaponized by political partisans, hostile governments and click-bait entrepreneurs in search of a quick buck. It's getting very hard to tell the real news from the fake.

In this turbulent media environment, never has it been more important for journalists and other professional communicators to tell true stories that reflect the real issues we face: war and peace, economic inequality, environmental degradation, hatred and discrimination. Never has it been more important for citizens to be literate consumers of verifiable news. Never has there been a greater need for news media—and the social media that feed our growing appetite for digital content in all its forms—to be guided by a code of ethics that values the truth, respects all stakeholders, is transparent in its methods and is accountable for its actions.

It is a bleak media landscape. But the good news is that our classrooms at Western Washington University are full of students who are idealistic, highly engaged and eager to make this broken world a better place. This idealism is manifest in the students enrolled in courses I'm teaching this academic year: Introduction to News Writing, Mass Media Ethics and the long-form narrative journalism of *Klipsun* magazine.

I see emerging multimedia storytellers who are developing the curiosity, empathy and critical thinking to bear witness to the

challenging circumstances on this campus and in the world: They are exploring the hopes and fears of hundreds of undocumented WWU students who face the very real possibility of deportation if Congress does not take action to protect them. They are considering the challenges faced by 33 percent of Western students who are the first in their families to attend college and the 26 percent of our students who rely on Pell Grants, which the Trump administration is seeking to eliminate. They are seeking to understand the challenges faced by large numbers of veterans and other non-traditional students returning to school. Not surprisingly, they are telling personal stories about the increasing numbers of students for whom anxiety is a fact of life.

It may sound grim, but it's inspiring, actually. I see our students rising to confront the issues of our day and responding to them according to the ethical code that guides us as journalists: Seek the truth and report it fully, fairly and courageously. Minimize harm. Bear witness to issues and events independently, without bias. Be transparent and accountable in our actions.

This is an important time to be a professional communicator; it's an important time for higher education to stand up for the values that bring out our best, as citizens of our country and of the world. It is going to be a challenging year. And we're on it.





Peggy Watt
Associate professor

I'm getting back into the academic routine after enjoying two quarters of professional leave last year to pursue research on public records laws in Washington. I'm still working on several projects and sharing some of my findings in Mass Media Law and Reporting classes. I'm studying how technology – which makes it easier for people to request public records, and

amps up the volume for resource-stretched public agencies – can also provide tools for better record management and easier access for everyone. I'm talking with tech companies offering solutions, and with cities and other agencies that are experimenting.

As for tech at Western, I participated last summer in a program to explore abandoning a textbook and rely on digital course materials delivered through Canvas. I'm trying this in Media Law, since we already rely on current events in that class (and there's been a lot of relevant material in today's headlines!) and because law textbooks are pricey. I'm trying it out this year.

I'm still on the board of the Washington Coalition for Open Government and edit its newsletter. In October 2017, I attended the FOI Summit sponsored by the National Freedom of Infor-

mation Coalition, in Nashville. It was great to share ideas with participants from all over the country. The event was at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University, and the First Amendment was emblazoned on the wall at the entrance – it was my kind of place.

Brian Bowe and I share advising duties for Western's student chapter of Society of Professional Journalists. They've had some great programs already and have an ambitious schedule for the rest of the year.

Being on sabbatical last year also gave me some flexibility to work with the next generation of student journalists, by helping with the Washington Journalism Education Association, an organization of high school journalism students and teachers/advisers. Every summer, Western hosts the WJEA summer "J Camp" conference, which introduces the students to our campus; Western students meet with these visiting high school journalists at "open houses" in the publication offices.

In April 2017, I helped with the national convention of the Journalism Education Association in Seattle, teaching three sessions, judging student contest entries and critiquing student newspapers. Western had a booth at the conference trade show, which introduced our program to nearly 4,000 journalism advisers and students from all over the country. I hope some of them will be Western students someday and, eventually, our journalism alumni.

Maria McLeod
Associate Professor

Winter quarter 2016 through fall quarter 2017 was another action-packed academic year. For starters, I was granted tenure—woot, woot!—which brought with it a change of title, from assistant professor to associate professor. This means I get to stick around for a few more years, and I'm happy to do so.

During winter quarter 2017, I worked with WWU's Campus Equity and Inclusion Forum to stage a revised and updated version of "First Person: Diverse Stories," with a script derived from interviews with WWU students. I was honored to have WWU President Randhawa call upon the campus to attend the play as an opportunity to learn more about the experiences of the diverse students that Western serves.

I've continued to teach Intro. to Mass Media and Advanced PR Writing and Techniques.

This summer session 2017, I was able to offer a new course of my own design, PR Videography, which filled almost instantly. I was joined by Senior Instructor Stephen Howie to teach a fantastic class of highly motivated, skilled and creative students in a six-week session. The results of their efforts can be found on the course Instagram and Vimeo sites. In November, Instructor Howie and I presented on the topic of teaching PR Videography at the Second International Conference on Communication & Media Studies held in Vancouver, B.C. Our presentation was based, in

part, on student responses to a survey I conducted related to production and content choices made based on platforms. We're hoping that our paper, "Mapping Pedagogy and Praxis in the Production of Public Relations Videography: A Classroom Case Study in the Production and Dissemination of Digital Content" will be published in the coming year.

I've also been actively writing and submitting poetry and fiction, which has resulted in seven publications of poetry, fiction, and flash fiction in national and international journals within the past year. When invited, I participate in readings of my work. In October, I read at The Public Pool, a venue in Hamtramck, Michigan, supported, in part, by the Knight Foundation.

Of course, the most rewarding element of my job is teaching #jkids, which I consider an honor and a privilege. This year, Howie and I are looking forward to attending spring graduation together to witness and support a fresh batch of graduates as they make their way into the world, from students to professionals. I especially like to see graduates as visitors. I still keep a bowl of candy on my desk, newly refilled, for just such occasions.





Jennifer Keller Associate Professor

This year I am celebrating my 10th anniversary at Western. I first joined the department back in September 2007. Sometimes it seems like it has been twice that long and sometimes it feels like no time has passed.

I am still serving as chair of our department and teaching our senior PR courses. One great thing about having been here a decade is that I now get to work with some of you through my PR campaigns class. This year I have three former PR students as clients. In fact, one of my former students has now participated in Jour 440 in three

different ways—as a student (and part of the “winning” agency), a project manager for the class, and on the client side.

I began a couple of research projects this past year and look forward to focusing on that side of my professional life more in the spring. I will be on professional leave for the quarter, leaving the department in the able hands of John Harris as interim chair. I continue to serve on far too many committees but at least one of them this year is a search for another new faculty member.

On the personal side, I continue to work on the house (a never-ending project), travel to see my family and catch up with as many JKid alumni as I can. My favorite thing about my job has always been my students and getting to see you all grow and mature during your time here. Even more so following your new adventures and careers. We have such a terrific group of journalism department alumni and I am very proud of all my #JKids. After 10 years there are far too many to count but I feel much more enriched as a person. So thank you.

Derek Moscato Assistant Professor

My first year in the Western journalism department is in the books, and I’m well into year two! It’s been a great pleasure to get to know the Western community during this time, including the community of students, alumni, staff, and faculty in the department of journalism. Exploring Bellingham and the Puget Sound region has also been great fun. Outside of the classroom, I’m enjoying advising our ambitious and talented students involved in Western’s chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America. I’m also keeping busy with Western’s Community Engagement Fellows program. As a fellow, and in tandem with a leading city organization, I’m co-developing a new project devoted to urban and sustainability communication in the Bellingham area. Stay tuned for more details.

One of the great upsides of this region is this longstanding interest and leadership in issues of sustainability and ecology, and this is paramount across Western as well. Inside the public relations and newswriting classrooms, I have appreciated insightful dialogues with our students about topics that have global but also local ecological impacts, including the communication/mediation of environmental activism, corporate social responsibility, and outdoor recreation. There is a growing interest in how journalists, public relations professionals, and advocates factor into green policy decisions—and these topics hold extra weight within the Cascadia corridor.

My interest in this realm also factors into ongoing research. My recent article in the *Journal of Communication Inquiry* examines the contentious media debates, and moral implications, surrounding the legacy of the Fukushima nuclear plant disaster in Japan. This ethical inquiry focuses on how producers of popular culture (in this case, the prominent manga author Tetsu Kariya) can establish new boundaries for environmental debate in the mainstream news media. Similarly, my recent study in the 2017 *Arctic Yearbook* investigated how the global public, through mass media, understands the polar region simultaneously as a site of environmental protection and degradation. At the heart of this research are reality television programs like “Deadliest Catch” and “Ice Road Truckers” and how they depict resources extraction in Alaska and the Canadian North, but also how they contribute productively (and perhaps counter-intuitively) to climate change debates in the press.

Back in Bellingham, I’m excited for the year ahead. It’s especially gratifying to watch our alumni and recent graduates grow into their careers and tackle some fascinating public relations and journalism opportunities both locally and globally. I look forward to staying in touch.





Stephen Howie Senior Instructor

It's been a busy year for me on virtually every level. I am collaborating on a book project with Dr. Lorenzo Cohen, who heads of the Integrative Medicine Program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. The book, *Anticancer Living*, is being published by Viking Penguin/Random House and is due out May 2018.

The process has been challenging but rewarding and I feel incredibly honored to be part of such an ambitious and important project. In terms of teaching, I continue to refine and fine-tune the Editing class I inherited from Carolyn Dale and Tim Pilgrim with encouraging results. Students approach me on almost a weekly basis to tell me they are using their page design skills in internships, in other classes, on the student

publications or in their professional work.

I taught one section of the Digital Storytelling class last year, which was fantastic and resulted in some really impressive video profiles. You can see the results for yourself at www.digitalmediajournalism.com.

Last summer, I co-taught a PR Videography class with Associate Professor Maria McLeod that also was a huge success. The class filled up in less than a week, which is extraordinary for a summer course, and the students, many of whom had no previous video experience, produced amazing work – both 3-5 minute video profiles and shorter social media posts – in only six weeks. I hope the level of enthusiasm for PR video will be enough to push it into our core curriculum during the regular academic year, because I truly believe video is a vital skill and important medium for our PR students moving forward.

At home, Maria and I added an addition to our house, which was, like my book project, both challenging and rewarding. Now we have the ability to host guests and provide them with their own bathroom. Imagine that.

Carolyn Nielsen Associate Professor

In June 2017, I successfully defended my PhD at the University of Washington, which was a big milestone for me. My mixed-methods study analyzed news content about racial issues from the election of Barack Obama through the decision not to indict Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson in the killing of Michael Brown, Jr. and then turned to in-depth interviews with journalists to explore the factors influencing their coverage. Key to this work was looking at emerging paradigms of journalism such as BuzzFeed and NPR's Code Switch and comparing them to traditional publications including The New York Times and The Washington Post. I loved doing this work. I was able to present a portion of it, a look at narratives of the Black Lives Matter Movement across news paradigms, at the International Communication Association conference in San Diego. Earlier last year, I had the honor of workshopping my research with Dr. Donald Shaw (one of the fathers of agenda-setting theory) at the Wayne State Summer Doctoral Seminar.

I'm still regularly teaching reporting and advanced reporting and am happy to say I am zero percent burned out on teaching these courses. My students are regularly using new data tools paired with foundational, solid interviewing and research skills

to produce complex stories. Last year, my JOUR 307 Reporting students worked as a team to produce a fantastic, data-driven piece on the city's new rental-inspection program and The Western Front published it. The Front also published most of the projects out of last spring's advanced reporting class, which looked at topics such as lack of access to mental-health care on campus, the increasing rates at which WWU students are regularly failing basic math classes, and the "bottlenecks" that are resulting in Running Start and transfer students taking longer to graduate that students who begin as freshmen.

I'm also spending a lot of time in my role as Student Publications Council chair trying to ensure our editors are being better compensated and our students have access to the tools they need to continue to grow. Somehow, I thought I might be less busy with the PhD behind me, but I seem to keep finding new things to do... Oh, and those of you who remember Maren being desk-height in office might find it bewildering to know she is now applying to colleges.





Sheila Webb
Professor

This past year I was pleased to teach our mass media history class in the summer quarter. This innovative class, taught entirely online, leverages both the benefits and challenges of digital media to engage students and to create community among the participants. I also taught our, now permanent, Publications: Design & Production class. This class had generated

such interest, we are now offering it during the regular year.

I was honored to receive the Covert Award for my monograph “Creating Life Magazine — ‘America’s Most Potent Editorial Force.’” This award is presented by the History Division of AEJMC to the author of the best mass communication history article

or chapter in an edited collection published the previous year, nationwide.

I also continued my work on photography in “Radical Portrayals: Photojournalist Dickey Chapelle on the Front Lines in Algeria and Cuba,” published in American Periodicals. Another thread of my research is women’s publications and visuals surrounding suffrage, and I presented “The Spectacle of Suffrage: Visual & Cultural Representations of Suffragists in Popular Magazines,” at the AEJMC/AJHA Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference, New York City, March 2017.

My new service activities include becoming co-chair of the Academic Coordinating Committee. This committee serves a vital function in faculty governance, as it reviews all proposed new classes as well as broader curricular issues. I am also now serving on the Post Tenure Review Committee, which evaluates faculty contributions after receiving tenure, another important aspect in faculty governance.

Joe Gosen
Assistant professor

It has been a busy and rewarding time since the last alumni newsletter. I continued teaching courses in the visual journalism track, as well as newswriting and editing. During the spring quarter, students in the advanced visual journalism class decided to use the Nooksack River as a guide for seeking out stories in Whatcom County. Over the span of several weeks, they explored the river from Mount Baker to Bellingham Bay. Together they produced a series of multimedia projects that highlighted the impact and significance of the river on the community. Students sought out researchers, scientists, and members of the Nooksack and Lummi tribes to learn about environmental concerns and possible solutions related to the Nooksack River, including its impact on the native salmon. In contrast, two students, Connor Jalbert and Alex Powell, focused on the recreational aspect of the river by doing a project about kayaking. Their film, “Northfork River Rats,” was accepted in the second annual Streams of Thought Film Festival, which took place during Whatcom Water Week in September. I had the honor of introducing them and their film during a screening at the Pickford Theatre.

Outside of teaching I continue to advise our school’s student chapter of the National Press Photographers Association. At the start of 2017, I was also named the associate director of Northwest NPPA. The Northwest region includes Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, British Columbia, Alberta, Northwest Territories and the Yukon Territory.

In April I served on a panel discussion at the Western Gallery with journalism colleagues Peggy Watt and Dean Wright to discuss the legal and ethical concerns associated with photographing people in public and private spaces. Our panel discussion was

held in conjunction with the gallery’s exhibition titled “Surveillance and Voyeurism.”

During summer I attended AEJMC annual convention in Chicago and participated in a “teaching marathon” where I discussed a multimedia assignment I have students do in the intro visual journalism class that incorporates the history of a building or space over time. A week after my Chicago trip I attended Poynter Institute’s three-day drone school in Portland.

In addition to exploring innovative storytelling techniques, a significant amount of time was dedicated to discussing ethical and privacy issues related to drone use in journalism. Another aspect of the workshop was helping participants prepare for the FAA’s Part 107 drone pilot’s certificate. VJ student Rose Carr and VJ alumna Krya Betteridge attended the workshop, too, and are now certified drone pilots! Taking the exam is on my “to do” list.

Over the summer I also supervised 10 internships. One of the highlights included spending an afternoon at Grist in Seattle to observe VJ student Jesse Nichols produce a video about fixing old iPhones instead of buying new ones.

In the fall I started shooting a video project with Whatcom County Library System. With the help of VJ alumni Robert Dudzik, we filmed a series of book talks with librarians throughout the county. We filmed in Ferndale, Maple Falls, Deming, Lynden, Sumas and Sudden Valley during October and November.



emeriti faculty updates

R.E “Ted” Stannard

Our retirement is increasingly preoccupied with far-flung family and friends from over the years and across the globe, when not sorting out years of accumulated treasures and trash. Not enough revisits to old campus journalism haunts, where we are slowly fading from legend to myth. Especially welcome rare contacts with long-lost former students, many of them turning grey.

Our calendar is cluttered with routine checkups with folk in white coats, but this year we found time to drive over 5,000 miles to and from Ann Arbor, Michigan, for a reunion of old Shanghai American School classmates from the 30s and 40s. We headed south to Oregon for a sister’s 90th birthday and, a few months later, spent a summer afternoon in her garden gazing at flowers, wildlife and a full solar eclipse.

My cameras have become our diary and jogger of memories. Nothing journalistic any more beyond armchair observation. A couple of international trips in planning for 2018, if resources and stamina permit.

If anyone would like to get in touch, my email is restannardjr@gmail.com.

Floyd McKay

Floyd and Dixie McKay celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 2017 by taking a month-long trip to Scotland, their favorite getaway. The trip also marked the windup of an 18-month marketing event for Floyd’s book, “Reporting the Oregon Story: How Activists and Visionaries Transformed the State.”

The tour took them to dozens of events in Oregon and Washington, ranging in size from eight up to a hundred. The book was well-received, and it was good to see old friends from that era (1964-1986), when Oregon was a pioneer in environmental policy.

After a dozen years of intermittent freelancing after his 2004 retirement from Western, Floyd has cut back his writing, although he will continue to pursue his interests in Pacific Northwest history. Life in Bellingham is good.

Carolyn Dale

I added a twist to retired life by returning to teach a course in the Journalism Department this fall. Venturing on campus twice a week, I enjoyed seeing colleagues, working with pleasant students, and griping again about parking. It’s truly heartening, though, to see the surging interest in real news and authentic journalism, and being around our majors gives lots of hope.

Over the past year, I’ve continued writing fiction, most recently delving into short stories. I finished a second novel, a contemporary or slightly futuristic story of a community that reinvents itself in the midst of environmental change. While marketing is less fun than writing, I try to keep manuscripts out for active consideration.

The weather affected our local hiking this summer—after snowshoeing in July on Mount Baker, we were dodging smoke and wildfires a short time later. Travels included Hawaii, Montana’s Bitterroot Mountains and Colorado. It seems wherever we go, I can pick up the local newspaper and magazines and see articles written by our alumni, which is always a pleasure.

Lyle Harris Sr.

In 2003, I took a group of students for a study-abroad program in the Czech Republic and Betty and I return to Prague now and then. We travel the city by subway or tram and love the music, art, architecture and fine restaurants. When we were there in 2016 we visited a small castle in Cizkov that my ancestors owned in the early 1800s. Someone bought it recently and it may be restored soon. In the Czech Republic, castles come in many sizes and are protected by law.

Last year I started making breadboards from beautiful wood on our rural land and from odd pieces people have given me. These are not the standard cutting board that is rectangular and all look alike. I recently sold one of black walnut at Artwood. It weighed close to 12 pounds, had natural edge, was about 2 inches thick and had a curved end. Selling price: \$170. I liked that! Some of the boards are of maple burl, figured maple, cherry with natural edge, plum, apple, sumac, black locust and whatever else I find in my shop. It’s enjoyable and much better than grading exams.

I’ve been reading Nathaniel Philbrick’s books, “The Last Stand: Custer, Sitting Bull and the Battle of Little Bighorn,” “Mayflower,” “In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whale Ship Essex,” and his 2016 story of Benedict Arnold and George Washington, “Valiant Ambition.” He’s a fine historian and writer and I highly recommend him.

This fall and winter I’ve been putting up firewood. If any of you want to get some heavy-duty exercise, let me know. Betty and I would enjoy having you visit. (360-595-2021) Wine is served on a moment’s notice.

faculty accomplishments



Western's Department of Journalism was well-represented at the International Communication Association's annual convention, which met in San Diego. Professors (from left) Brian J. Bowe, Derek Moscato and Carolyn Nielsen all presented research.



Sheila Webb receives the Covert Award, presented by the History Division of the AEJMC to the author of the best mass communication history article or chapter in an edited collection published the previous year, nationwide.

obituaries

Tanya Rowe, a WWU alumna, former lecturer in the Journalism Department, and a friend to many at Western and in the Bellingham community, passed away in Bellingham on Nov. 20, 2017. Tanya worked as a reporter for the Bellingham Herald and later worked for the Bellingham Public Schools administration. She loved her son Benton and adored her brother Brad. Tanya enjoyed spending time in the outdoors, running, mountain biking and hiking. When she wasn't outside, she spent time doing yoga and writing. Tanya is survived by her parents, Larry and Rita Kerstiens; her brother Brad and his wife Holly Kerstiens and their son Alden; uncle Mike and his wife Nancy Kerstiens and their son Mike; uncle Ron and his wife Claudia Rogers; great-aunt Lottie Czekaj and many relatives and friends.

Caleb Huisingh, a budding journalist and tough rugby player, passed away August 2017 in a hiking accident in Alaska. Caleb is remembered as a promising journalism student with talent, maturity and respect. He worked as an emergency medical technician, a firefighter, a landscaper and a door-to-door salesman. Caleb, 23, grew up in Pasco, Wash., and graduated from Chiawana High School in 2012. He is survived by his parents Gregg and Sharon Huisingha and two sisters, Kristina and Erin.

Stuart Holmes Miller, WWU journalism graduate, passed away on Aug. 13, 2017. Stuart loved camping, backpacking, the Mariners and spending time with family and friends. Stuart played lacrosse at Western and graduated with a degree in journalism. He then began to work for the Issaquah Press and Snoqualmie Valley Star, reporting on community issues. Stuart is survived by his mother Laurie Bingham Miller, his father Scott Gatewood Miller, his twin brother Jamey and sister Madeline.

Bruce Lolen Hayes, WWU journalism alumni 1976, passed on Sept. 25, 2017. He spent a year and a half working at the Everett Herald before deciding journalism was not a great match for him and switched career paths. He enjoyed playing cribbage, riding passenger trains, listening to music, reading books and working on crossword puzzles. Bruce is remembered for his gentleness, wit, and literary knowledge. He was preceded in death by parents, Mary Beth and Byron Hayes and sisters, Joyce Hayes and Geraldine Bryant. Bruce is survived by sisters, Julie (and Eric) Wilson of Everett, Susan (and Jim) Thompson of Tukwila, brothers Robert Hayes of Renton, Doug (and Denise) Hayes of Kent, Dick Bryant of Woodinville, nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews. He will also be missed by his long-time friend, Raymond Hirano of New York City.

alumni updates

2017:

Caleb Albright is an assistant editor at World Famous, a video production service in Seattle.

Rossella Bernocco is an intern at Richmond Public Relations in Seattle.

Kieran Boyle is digital account manager for Rairdon Auto Group in Kirkland.

Brie Cleveland is a marketing coordinator at Microsoft in Redmond.

Stephanie Davey is a reporter at The Herald in Everett.

Janae Easlon is a writer with United News International based on Portland, Oregon.

Shannon Finn is a document scanner at Geco Inc. in Mesa, Arizona.

Hallie Fuchs is a public relations specialist for the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) in Seattle.

Rachel Hunter is the corporate partnership media coordinator for the Seattle Seahawks.

Monea Kerr is an office technician and contributes to the communications and PR team at the City of Bellingham.

Yaelle Kimmelman is PR and event assistant at the Downtown Bellingham Partnership.

Jordan Kunigk is a recruiting coordinator at Amazon in Seattle.

Jesse Nichols is contributing associate video producer at Grist in Seattle.

Ryan Parish is a sports reporter and editor at the Williston Herald in Williston, North Dakota.

Alyssa Sanchez is a public relations specialist for What's Your Avocado? Marketing and Public Relations in Mount Vernon.

Sarah Sharp is a reporter at the Peninsula Daily News in Port Angeles.

Morgan Stilp-Allen is a freelance photographer and videographer in Sammamish.

Brenna Visser is a reporter at the Daily Astorian and Cannon Beach Gazette in Seaside, Oregon.

2016:

Racquel Arceo is in inside sales with West Coast Publishing and Washington Military Resource in Tacoma.

Alexandra Bartick is an assignment editor with United News International in Portland, Oregon.

Paolo Bicchieri is director of public relations for Integrative Care Outreach, King County's first holistic health care provider.

Stephanie Bishop is marketing administrator at Lean Technology Corporation in Irvine, California.

Taylor Blumenfeld is a marketing assistant at Dwayne Lane AutoFamily in Lake Stevens.

Genevieve Carrillo is Development and Outreach Specialist at Brigid Collins Family Support Center in Bellingham.

Heidi DeHart is an account executive at Porter Novelli in Seattle.

Ashley Hiruko is a reporter at the Lynden Tribune.

Elizabeth Kayser is an assignment editor at KIRO-7 in Seattle.

Evan Keen is a public relations coordinator for Getty Images in Seattle.

MacKenzie Junor is marketing coordinator at Leas Crutcher Lewis in Woodinville.

Keely Killebrew is a helicopter mechanic and crew chief in the Army National Guard based out of JB Lewis McChord.

McKenna Kloes is now assistant account executive at Curator Public Relations in Seattle.

Robert Krause is a customer service associate at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

Randee Matthews is creative director and videographer at Bailey Media in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

William McCoy is a media intern for marketing and college relations at Edmonds Community College.

Marilyn Napier is a digital content producer at KOMO-TV 4 in Seattle.

Lexi Ortiz is an administrative assistant at Sacramento Medical Oasis in Sacramento, California.

Lauren Prater is marketing coordinator at 3DBioCAD, which develops digital workflow tools, in Renton.

Marina Price is an assistant account executive at Edelman in Portland, Oregon.

Stephanie Roloff is director of digital media at The Plaid Horse Magazine.

Vanessa Thomas is a social media intern at the City of Renton.

Stephanie Villiers finished up her internship at KEZI 9 News in Eugene, Oregon, and is now producing the evening newscast.

Yvonne Worden is a marketing assistant at the Seattle Humane Society.

2015:

Jacqueline Allison is a reporter and photographer at the Anacortes American.

Tyler Crebar is a talent acquisition associate with Fisher Investments in Portland, Oregon.

Anne Elliott is a customer relations specialist at the Port of Portland, Oregon.

Mallorie Estenson is social media support specialist at Superfeet Worldwide in Ferndale.

Becca Freimuth is marketing and event coordinator with the Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance (GWATA).

Anna Jentoft is a technical product manager at Amazon in Seattle.

Kari Kato is an executive assistant with Weber Shandwick in Seattle.

Lindsey Oosterhof is an eCommerce customer service representative for PAC Worldwide in Redmond.

Jake Parrish works as a staff photographer for The Yakima Herald-Republic.

Shelby Rowe Moyer is now a staff writer at Premiere Media Group in Olympia.

Evelyn Sisk is a chiropractic assistant at Natural Way Chiropractic in Bellingham.

Teena Thach is an associate community manager at Starbucks.

Grace Schrater is an administrative and marketing assistant at the Ansel Adams Gallery in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Annika Wolters graduated from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University with a master's degree in sports journalism in August, and worked at the student station as a TV anchor.

2014:

Katherine Garvey is a brand development copywriter for Zulily in Seattle.

Nick Gonzales is senior videographer at the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Paul Grzelak works as a copy editor at The Daily Gazette in Schenectady, New York.

Hannah Leone is a crime reporter at the Chicago Tribune Media Group.

Georgina Napp is the founder of Gift Snobs (giftsnobs.com), based in Bellevue.

Diana Pollock is a communications coordinator at Columbia Hospitality in Seattle.

Allana Schwaab recently relocated to Washington, D.C., where she works at IMGE as a content strategist.

2013:

Brianne Aoki is global internal operations communications strategist at Amazon in Seattle. She just moved there after two years at Weber Shandwick.

Mason Cheung is senior digital content producer and project manager at WE Communications in Bellevue.

Ian Couch is a webmaster and graphic designer for the Washington State Attorney General's Office.

Jules Guay-Binion is senior investigation specialist at Amazon in Seattle.

Laura Going is communications manager at Whatcom Community College.

Brenna Greely is vendor operations account manager at Zulily in Seattle.

Branden Griffith is managing editor at Entercom Seattle (107.7 The End).

Jameson Hawn owns and operates Riverbend Woodworks in Bellingham.

Samantha Heim is events and outreach coordinator for Vertical World, a climbing community in Seattle.

Olivia Henry is engagement editor for the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism in Los Angeles.

Josh Holloway is program manager for loans at North Seattle College.

Brianna Kuplent is marketing and communications manager at the Commercial Brokers Association in Kirkland.

Amy Holm handles sales and customer support for Trojan Labor, a temporary labor service agency in Nashville.

Rachel Lee is a senior account executive at Edelman in Seattle.

Samantha O'Brochta is creative digital and social media strategist for the Matador Network in New York City.

James Rogers is chief digital strategist, managing communications and marketing at YTH (Youth+Tech+Health), a nonprofit in Oakland, California.

Samantha Wohlfeil is a reporter for the Pacific Northwest Inlander in Spokane.

Taryn Wright is an executive recruiter at the Julian Sell Search Team in Bellingham.

2012:

Femi Abebefe is sports director at KTVZ NewsChannel 21 in Bend, Oregon.

Sarah Aitchison is a law student at the University of Washington. She recently completed an internship at the ACLU in Seattle.

Alex Bacon is assistant communications manager at Moneytree in Renton.

Sarah Brenden works at Sound Publishing as an editor.

Gina Cole is engagement editor, managing readership interaction, for The Seattle Times.

Paige Collins is features editor at The Seattle Times.

Brian Corey is now a graduate student at DePaul University in Chicago, pursuing an MFA in screenwriting. His book, "This Day in Automotive History," was published by Veloce Publishing in November 2017.

Christina Crea is a communications consultant for the aviation division of the Washington state Department of Transportation in Olympia.

Brett Flora is a product designer at NBC News in New York.

Amanda McIntosh is an English teacher at 51Talk in Bangkok, Thailand.

Liz McNeil is now senior project manager for Rational Interaction, a marketing agency in Seattle. She recently completed an MBA at Pacific Lutheran University.

Kirsten O'Brien works as a news producer at The Seattle Times. Prior, Kirsten worked as the homepage editor and social media manager of SeattlePI.com.

Marya Purrington is Incoming Communication Manager at Horizon House (CCRC) in Seattle.

Alex Rumbolz is the communications and outreach manager at Yakima Chief Hopunion LLC.

Kelly Sullivan is now a reporter for the Monroe Monitor and Valley News in Monroe.

Adrienne Woods is customer success manager at View / Dynamic Glass.

2011:

Megan Jonas is content editor and marketing writer at Whitworth University in Spokane.

Lindsey Otta is an associate community manager at Starbucks in Seattle.

Alex Roberts works at T-Mobile as a senior analyst in social media marketing.

Mark Stayton is communications and research manager at the Economic Development Council of Seattle & King County.

Jordan Stead is a visual storyteller at Amazon Stories in Seattle.

Benjamin Woodward has been named assistant metro editor/ mornings at The Seattle Times. Previously, he worked at DNAinfo.com in Chicago and Rogers Park News.

2010:

Brian Conner is a senior global product marketing manager with SAP in Bellevue.

Cassi Gallagher-Shearer is a web developer at Slalom Consulting.

Casey D. Hall, MPH received the Lesbian Health Fund Grant from the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association to support data collection for his dissertation titled "A Mixed Methods Study to Examine Identity, Discrimination, and Intimate Partner Violence Disparity in Bisexual Women in the American South." Hall is a PhD student in Behavioral Sciences and Health Education at Emory University in Atlanta.

Nick Johnson is editor of the Mukilteo Beacon.

Mandy (Brady) LeCompte is now communications manager for Highline Public Schools.

Ali LeRoy is now strategic communications manager for the YMCA of Greater Seattle.

Anne Maertens is FoodShare Senior Project Manager at Starbucks.

Amy (Sanford) Racher is search manager for Sesame Communications, SEO specialists in Seattle. She recently married Tyler Racher (WWU business management, '11).

Olivia Scalet is a school counselor for Sequoia High School in Everett.

Jeremy Schwartz is a content marketing manager for MediaPro LLC, a learning services company in Bothell.

Madeline Stevens is a self-employed full-stack JavaScript developer in Seattle.

Colleen Toomey is an associate at Stepherson & Associates Communications in Seattle.

Caleb Heeringa is now marketing manager for the Sports & Outdoors Division of Amazon Canada, based in Seattle.

Stephanie (Castillo) Twining is a social media consultant at 206Agency in Seattle.

Jillian Vasquez is now marketing and promotions manager for San Francisco Ballet in San Francisco.

2009:

Sarah Gordon is a compliance officer with Washington Federal in Seattle.

Kaleb Gubernick is now manager of Herban Legends, a dispensary in Seattle.

Danielle (Koagel) Lothrop recently completed her MBA at the University of Washington Bothell and is now co-owner at Toggle's Bottles Shop in Everett.

Alexis Tahiri is a musician performing on trumpet and guitar in New Orleans.

Kassidy Vietti is now marketing manager at Peterson Sullivan LLP, an accounting firm in Seattle.

Amanda Winters is public relations manager for Blue Nile, an online retailer based in Seattle.

Ian Wright is marketing manager for Roxbury Spine and Wellness Clinic in Seattle.

2008:

Olivia deLeon is a senior digital marketing consultant at Microsoft in Redmond.

Michael Harthorne is a writer and editor for Newser, based in Seattle.

Brady Henderson is online sports editor for 710Sports.com/ESPN based in Seattle.

Luke Stapley is the marketing and public relations manager at CastBox in Beijing, China.

Anh Tuan Huynh is marketing communication manager at Optoma Technology in Tacoma.

Kacie (McKinney) Leacy has become a shareholder at JayRay Ads & PR in Tacoma. She started at JayRay as a college intern in 2007.

Stephanie L Morrell works as the General Manager of the Bellingham Bells Baseball team.

Jon Sayer is now salesforce administrator at YES! Magazine.

Justin Steyer is the director of digital media and technology at KNKX.

Aaron Weinberg is now development director at Binaytara Foundation in Bellingham.

Ryan Wynne is manager of communications and marketing in the admissions office at Western.

2007:

Jacob Buckenmeyer is a writer and instructional assistant with the Mount Vernon School District.

Matthew Gagne is a Renewable Energy Analyst & IT Specialist, ArcVera Renewables in Golden, Colorado.

Caleb Heeringa is deputy press secretary for the Sierra Club in Seattle.

Kelly Joines works at Suquamish Clearwater Casino & Resort as a sales and catering manager.

Zach Kyle is a content author at Micron Technology in Boise, Idaho, and is freelancing.

Boris Kurbanov is a staff writer with the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

Miranda Peugh is now development director for Cygnet Theater in San Diego.

Shawn Query is now a compliance analyst at the UW.

Mark Reimers is community relations manager for Enlivant in Ferndale, Washington.

Mollie Jensen Walsh is internal communications manager with the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

2006:

Elizabeth Adamack is a senior administrative assistant in marketing at Starbucks.

Lauren (Miller) Bunke works at Cision in Ferndale as a quality assurance analyst. Lauren gave birth to their second son in November.

Dan Grohl works at KOMO TV as a producer.

Shannon Hutchinson is creative manager at for the Nike account at Wieden + Kennedy in Portland, Oregon.

Jamie Trudel-Payne is senior client services manager at the Seattle offices of BrightEdge.

2005:

Jelena (Washington) Arnold works at Z57, Inc. and Zurple Inc. as director of client operations. Jelena is married to Ben Arnold, a '04 journalism alumni, and they live in San Diego.

Zoe Fraley is a marketing assistant at Bellingham Technical College.

Kaitlin Goodall is director of business communications for the Seattle Seahawks.

Cari Lyle works at Mighty AI as the director of content Strategy and marketing. Cari married fellow WWU journalism student

Mike Murray ('05) in January 2017.

Ruth E. Wetzel Branson works in data entry at Olympic Collection.

2004:

Cailin Bundrick is a designer and team leader with Origami Owl, based in Seattle.

Jeremy Edwards is a consulting editor with Microsoft in Redmond.

Leslie Sugiura works at the Jewish Family Service of Seattle as the director of special events. She is also mom to Odessa Ann, 18 months.

Katie (James) Quiniola works as a senior communications manager at Microsoft.

Brianne Pruitt works at WE Communications in Bellevue as an account manager for employee engagement.

2003:

Valerie Bauman is a reporter for Newsday in New York.

Andrea Jasinek is a transactional IP and privacy attorney at IdeaLegal in Portland, Oregon.

Candace Nelson works at Premera Blue Cross as a digital content strategist, and is working on a Master of Science in nutrition with a health journalism goal in mind.

Naz Riahi was recently invited to attend #SXSL at the White House.

2002:

Jennifer Collins is a contributor to National Public Radio now based in Mexico City.

Hollie Brown works at Peoples Bank in Bellingham as an assistant vice president and marketing manager.

Bobbie Egan is the external communications director of Alaska Airlines in Seattle.

Curt Woodward is an audience engagement editor at The Boston Globe.

2001:

Andrea Abney works as a technical writer at Vendini in San Francisco.

Tiffany Campbell is executive editor at WBUR, Boston's NPR news station and wbur.org.

Michael Dashiell is an editor at the Sequim Gazette. He took a job at the Gazette as city/features reporter right out of WWU and has been there since.

Jessica Keller is editor of the Federal Way Mirror.

Soren Velice works at National Tropical Botanical Garden in Hawaii as a tour supervisor.

2000:

Laura Campbell Bode is marketing communications manager for the YMCA of Greater Seattle.

Cole Cosgrove is a senior content editor for Alaska Airlines magazine.

1999:

Arvid Hokanson works as the director of audience at KUOW Public Radio in Seattle.

Amy Morgan recently celebrated 10 years at NPR, working now as the digital engagement editor. Amy previously was a copy editor/designer at The Olympian and The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle.

1996:

David Kihara is a senior editor at Politico based in Washington, D.C.

Suann (Landis) Guthrie works at Exxon-Mobil as the operations media manager in Houston, Texas.

1995:

Vanessa Blackburn is the communications director for the City of Bellingham.

Dieter Bohrmann is public involvement specialist with the North Wind Group in the Tri-Cities area, Washington.

Nina Ruchirat is a digital marketing manager with T-Mobile in Bellevue.

Simon Green is marketing communications manager for Alliance Enterprises in Dupont.

1994:

Joshua Barnhill is a senior learning consultant at Microsoft.

1993:

Lyle Crouse is a senior editor at the ESPN.com copy desk in New York City.

1992:

Matthew Baunsgard is a self-employed actor based in London.

Linda Dahlstrom is the director of editorial at the Starbucks Newsroom in Seattle.

Toni Droscher is communications manager and social media manager for the Washington state Parks and Recreation Commission in Tumwater.

Ali Page Henning works as Marketing Manager of Greystar Real Estate Partners.

1991:

Bonny Block is marketing director for Balfour Beatty Construction US in Orlando, Florida.

Pete Kendall is a photographer and a journalism teacher at Centralia High School.

1990:

Tina Ellis is a teacher at Mountain View Elementary School in Olympia.

Doree Armstrong is the owner/editor/writer of PhinneyWood.com in Seattle.

1988:

Janet (Murray) Fernandes is a self-employed oil painter and is happily living in Woodinville with husband, daughter and two dogs.

1987:

Jackie (Solter) Zils has earned her accreditation in public relations. The professional certification demonstrates a mastery of strategic communications practice and a commitment to lifelong learning and ethical standards. Jackie is an advisor at JayRay Ads & PR in Tacoma.

1986:

Roger Hayden is a reporter and photographer for the Jackson Hole News, Wyoming.

1982:

Connie Compton Mennie works as communications administrator at the City of Marysville.

1980:

Leslie Kelly is an editor at Allrecipes.com.

1979:

Gale Fiege recently retired from her position at the Everett Herald. She was one of three people in the features department at the newspaper, and continues to freelance.

1976:

Duff Wilson is the lead reporter for a Reuters investigative team that covered the issue of drug-dependent newborns, which led to Congressional hearings. He was the 1976 Outstanding Graduate.

1977:

Scott Fagerstrom is an editor at China Daily, based in Beijing.

Carolyn Price is the founder and publisher of OutdoorsNW magazine, based in Seattle and now in its 30th year. Her parent company, Price Media, Inc., also produces various custom publications. Carolyn got her start as the sports editor at the Lynden Tribune shortly after graduation, becoming the first women's sports editor of a newspaper in Washington.

1976:

Roy Tanaka is now retired. After leaving The Maui News in 2009 as a copy editor, he became a news editor at the Peninsula Daily News until 2012. He now lives in the Portland area and volunteers his editing skills to an oral history project related to Japanese American soldiers of World War II.

1973:

Scott Anderson is semi-retired; he sold his Alaska weekly newspaper, and has returned to Bellingham where he runs Harmony Taxi.

1968:

Don Wittenburg is now retired. He was one of the original journalism students and The Western Front editor-in-chief for the summer of 1968. He later went on to become a lawyer.

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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 Journalism Scholarship and the Shearlean Duke Memorial Scholarship. If you wish to support a particular student publication or club, each can accept gifts individually. 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.

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