Meet our new president

The epidemic
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Cover: 1964 AIRSTREAM GLOBE TROTTER, PHOTO DOUGLAS KEISTER. LEFT: THE PALOUSE FROM KAMIAK BUTTE, PHOTO CLRLY/IMGUR
It's not summer without (Washington) peaches

**IN SEASON**

**18**
Emily Hall discovered a world of possibilities at Washington State University. Here the doctoral student was inspired to apply her passion for nature to research that showed a correlation between de-icing salts and the susceptibility of wood frog tadpoles to disease. She received an $84,000 fellowship from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to boost her efforts.

Hall’s research not only will assist tadpole populations, it also could help preserve wetlands for future generations to enjoy.

A bold approach? Definitely. But, after all, you’ve counted on us to inspire the next generation of problem-solvers since 1890. And you always can.

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The long view. A hundred years ago, Theodore Roosevelt’s vision of conservation came to fruition with the establishment of the National Park Service. Although President Woodrow Wilson established the NPS, Roosevelt had doubled the number of national parks and passed the Antiquities Act in 1906 when he was in the Oval Office. Roosevelt believed that we must have a deeper and longer-term view of our country’s natural and historical heritage.

In the spirit of Roosevelt’s aims, former chief historian for the NPS and WSU alumnus, Robert Sutton, tells the story of America to help us interpret our past and better understand who we are, as you’ll read in this issue.

At our University, new President Kirk H. Schulz brings his experience and knowledge to lead WSU into future success, with an eye on the land-grant legacy of accessibility and service. But it’s not just him; we all play a part in advancing and improving research and education. William Stimson ’99 PhD, in his essay on citizenship in the 1920s, reminds us that students have worked to better WSU since its early days.

Today, our researchers at WSU’s Cook Farm have a 30-plus-year plan to understand long-term impact and changes in agriculture. Along with colleagues around the country, they’ll help farmers and others better understand and cope with drought or other environmental changes.

On a personal level, we also often need time to overcome adversity. As a heroin epidemic sweeps the country, Matt Layton, from the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, and other WSU researchers help addicts recover, knowing that it’s not a quick or easy process. They also build on scientific understanding of the drug and the neuroscience behind addiction.

Real solutions to problems usually require time and vision, one reason why “conservationist president” Roosevelt fought so hard to preserve the nation’s natural wonders and historic places. His concern emerged from experience on the ground that, like WSU’s efforts, kept his eyes ahead to the interests of posterity and shared benefit.

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Another close encounter with outer space

Fifty years ago, 1966, I graduated from WSU and then went to work for NASA Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, California. I spent the next 40 years exploring our solar system. WSU gave me the “right stuff” to be a part of sending a “spacecraft where no spacecraft had gone before.” I was in the Pioneer Project and we sent the first spacecraft to the outer planets, Pioneer-10, to fly beyond the orbit of Mars through the asteroid belt and encounter Jupiter in 1973. After the flyby of Jupiter, Pioneer-10, on an escape trajectory from the Sun and hundreds of millions of years later, will enter an orbit in our Milky Way Galaxy. It was in 1979 that I realized the extent and size of our universe when I saw a plot of the Pioneer-10 galactic orbit. It just occurred to me that Pioneer-10 can go no further than our Milky Way and our galaxy is one of “billions and billions” in the universe. “To infinity and beyond,” as Buzz Lightyear has said.

KATHLEEN GALLAGHER ’83

Regarding the article in the Spring issue of Washington State Magazine, “Take a walk … and call me in the morning,” seniors here on Whidbey Island are able to participate in the Senior Striders hiking group every Thursday morning through the South Whidbey Senior Center. Unseen by the casual traveler on Whidbey Island, there are networks of trails on the island that provide endless opportunities for those who love to hike. Roads here typically have narrow shoulders, so hiking these trails is where to safely enjoy the beauty of the island.

The Senior Striders, created years ago by a few hiking women companions, has turned into a hiking community of almost thirty women and men. Seniors here hike weekly through the forests on its trails with wondrous meditative scenic beauty which is lovingly spiritual. As we hike we meet new friends with heartfelt socializing as our social facades or “masks” begin to disappear.

I hope my description of the hiking opportunities and friendships on Whidbey Island have made you want to come and hike the trails sometime or perhaps walk in your neighborhood. Every place one walks is a special place. Enjoy it, walk with others, make friends and have good days. As one can see, walking is so much more than about walking.

KEN SIMPSON ’61

Coug at the Olympics

I enjoyed the article by David Wasson in the summer edition of Washington State Magazine regarding WSU’s Olympic athletes.

I, too, was a WSU athlete, having been a two-year letterman in boxing in 1958–59 (a lifetime ago) and on the boxing team with Ike Deeter as the coach. I ultimately graduated in 1964 with a doctor of veterinary medicine degree.

Although I wasn’t a member of the Olympic boxing team, I was honored to have been selected as a U.S. Olympic Track & Field Official for the 1984 games in Los Angeles and 1992 Olympic trials in New Orleans. If there was a running event, I was there to officiate. It was quite a responsibility; an incorrect call could result in a significant kerfuffle.

There are many Olympic venues and it would be of great interest to know which WSU alumni rose to that level of officiating and their stories of getting there. I know mine is rather unique. As a veterinary medicine graduate, how I ended up as an Olympic track and field official and not in equestrian events is another story.

DONALD L. BRUST ’64 DVM

Rademacher’s pro boxing days

Concerning boxer Pete Rademacher (Summer ’16 issue): Brashly self-confident following his Olympic success, he challenged champion Floyd Patterson for the world title in his very first professional fight, held in the Seattle Sick’s Stadium in August 1957. And, seemingly validating his boldness, he knocked Patterson down in the second round, but then lost by a K.O. in the sixth.

RICHARD BOYCE

Take a walk

When I moved to Riverside, California, in 1955, my father told me the biggest transportation mistake was to sell the trolley right of ways. The rail tracks were still there. The trolleys were fun and I never gave a thought to walking to them in San Francisco. I rode on the last run of a trolley in Waukegan, Illinois. There was a pot belly stove on it and the rail fans let me sit next to it.

Exercise and camaraderie.

DAVID LOZIER ’66

EDITOR’S NOTE: A number of WSU alumni have been involved with space exploration. Read about some at magazine.wsu.edu/extra/spacecoug and write us if you know of more.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Sign up for the monthly Washington State Magazine email newsletter to get previews of stories, videos, and more bonus features: magazine.wsu.edu/email
As David Huggins looks out across the rolling hills of the R.J. Cook Agronomy Farm at Washington State University in Pullman, his enthusiasm about soil is tempered with a sense of urgency about the future of agriculture.
Huggins, a USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) soil scientist, is keenly aware of the squeeze placed on agriculture by a growing global population in the face of limited resources and a changing climate.

“At no time in the history of the world have we known more about our farming system and our understanding of soil, the atmosphere, and our crops,” he says. “At the same time, you look around the planet and those natural resources are being depleted and degraded at an alarming rate.”

A better understanding of the complex interactions between agriculture and ecology is necessary to meet this challenge. But developing that knowledge can take decades.

At the same time, to stay in business and be profitable, farmers are necessarily pressed to make short-term decisions based on market forces like the price of wheat, chickpeas, or fertilizer. Although having a long-term perspective is important to farmers, it can be challenging to balance that perspective with short-term needs.

A comprehensive, long-term approach to research can help. Huggins, an adjunct WSU faculty member, is at the helm of a cadre of farmers working with scientists at WSU and the University of Idaho on a decades-long research program to improve our understanding of the agroecological processes that take place in dryland farming of the Palouse.

The USDA selected nearly half of WSU’s 300-acre Cook Agronomy Farm as a Long Term Agroecological Research (LTAR) site in 2011, one of eighteen locations around the country looking at how different farming systems might respond to weather stresses, natural disasters, or market changes. The LTAR designation comes with a nearly $1 million annual budget. The LTAR program figures prominently in the ARS’s man-on-the-moon grand challenge: “To transform agriculture to deliver a 20 percent increase in production at 20 percent lower environmental impact by 2025.”

“The LTAR is really key to assessing progress with these challenges,” says Huggins. “How will we know if we’ve had this type of shift in productivity and environmental impact? How well did we do, what direction are we going in?”

Extending research far beyond the typical two- to five-year studies allows scientists and farmers to better understand changes that take place slowly over time, and that vary from year to year.

We need data collection and perspective over longer than usual time horizons to...
assess efforts like increasing the resilience of farms to disturbances like drought, and sustainably intensifying production, says Huggins.

In addition to improving our understanding of ecological factors, the project can evaluate efficient use of resources—from water to crop nutrients—and the economic performance of different farming systems.

“Our role as scientists is to try to quantify the outcomes of different farming systems, to look at some of the tradeoffs, so we can make better decisions,” says Huggins.

At the Cook Farm LTAR site, scientists investigate agroecological processes at scales that range from the molecular and microbial to the field, landscape, and atmosphere.

For example, at 369 georeferenced points on one 92-acre section, field sampling and instruments collect data on crop productivity, soil organic matter, soil-borne diseases, the weed seed bank, water quality and dynamics, carbon sequestration, and more for analysis.

Returning to these same points year after year will provide consistent data that will lead to insights into changes over time and across the landscape.

Huggins believes the future of farming will require that our scientific understanding of agriculture and ecology is aligned with the way society values things like soil, water, and biodiversity.

He stresses the importance of being able to assess one practice or another in terms of longer-term benefits or drawbacks, particularly when it comes to creating incentives for farmers.

“If we don’t have good quantitative data, it’s really difficult to put into context what’s worth supporting to reward farmers in the short term for farming in ways that help to maintain and sustain the resource base.”

## Get out the tweet

### SOCIAL MEDIA’S EFFECT ON POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND CIVILITY

In the nonstop flow of Twitter, Facebook, and other social media, it’s hard to avoid comments and news about politics, especially in a presidential election year. Many worry the geyser of political rhetoric and uncivil comments might discourage some from participating.

That’s not always the case, says Porismita Borah, an assistant professor in the Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University since 2012. As a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin and at WSU, she researches emerging technology and how it affects politics. She coauthored a study in 2008 that found young people became more civically involved in real life when they engaged on social media.

“My own research and several other studies have shown the more you use social media for political purposes—you go to Facebook or Twitter to learn more about politics, follow political leaders, or discuss politics—leads to more online and offline political participation,” says Borah.

That bodes well for civic engagement. Voting, keeping informed, and expressing opinions on political leaders and issues form the heart of democracy. Government traditions in the United States depend on individual and group participation.

Facebook and Twitter can act as an arbiters for informed involvement, a cornerstone of U.S. politics since New England town meetings before the Revolution.

Even back then, people bemoaned incivility in political discourse. On the other hand, nasty comments can drive some people to get even more involved. In Borah’s published work on the political blogosphere and current project, Facebook use in presidential campaigns, she found that people become more intensively engaged if someone attacks a political leader they like.

“It’s possible they get angry and they’re willing to do more if the political leader they like is attacked: put up a lawn sign, donate, or volunteer,” says Borah.

The rapid changes in social media and political campaign strategy have also cast traditional campaign advertising in a different light.

“What is campaign advertising anymore? Our terms are getting more muddled as technology has advanced,” says WSU political science professor Travis Ridout. Some campaigns have adjusted quickly to the new era of social media, he says. “This presidential campaign especially, if a candidate says something stupid on Twitter, all of a sudden the opposition has crafted a 30-second ad.”

Ridout says that negative campaign ads have increased significantly since 2000, but it’s unclear whether or not negative ads change behavior. “Political scientists have been debating this for 20 years. We’ve come to a pretty good consensus that on average, the tone of the ad doesn’t matter too much in terms of whether you’re going to participate or not.”

Online political ads do tend to be more positive, he says. Political campaigns often post online to speak to existing supporters. That doesn’t prevent uncivil responses, though, as many have seen in Facebook or YouTube comments.

“Social media anonymity makes it easier to be uncivil. You can say whatever you want because you’re not held accountable,” says Borah.

Incivility can have some detrimental effects on political participation. “If it’s mudslinging about things we think are irrelevant—such as about the candidate’s religion or family—that might be enough to turn off people and they won’t participate,” says Ridout.

For political and communication researchers, it’s tough to nail down all the effects when social media changes so rapidly.

“It’s dynamic. Facebook data and features from three years ago are different than its current form,” says Borah.

Ridout agrees with that assessment: “Data on Facebook from four years ago have become dated quickly. Who is on Facebook has really changed.”

She and Ridout are not dissuaded by the shifts in social media. Instead Borah sees even richer research opportunities to explore how politicians are changing and using social media, and how social media is making a difference to the public’s engagement.
What’s new?

Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center

Former WSU President Elson S. Floyd pulled together a group of campus leaders in late 2014 to sketch out a vision of a new kind of building on campus: a place for cultural education and events. Although Floyd died in 2015, the Elson S. Floyd Cultural Center, under construction on the corner of Stadium and Main, will be a signature welcome to WSU with a “rolling hills” roof and open design.

Maria de Jesus Dixon, manager of operations for the Cultural Center, believes the center is unique among the nation’s universities and colleges. WSU’s multicultural student population has grown to 29 percent, and Dixon says the new center does not replace support for those students, but rather delivers educational and meeting space for the whole campus.

“It’s an extension of the classroom,” says Dixon. “We want to augment the academic departments of the University with educational programs related to the cultural and interdisciplinary experience of students, faculty, and alumni.”

She says the center will host scholars, lectures, and meetings, such as multicultural alumni events. Job fairs, conferences, and collaborative work with WSU colleges will enhance the new center’s offerings.

The architects sought extensive advice from the WSU community for the design. This led to amenities that include four knowledge rooms, an open “living room” space for larger events, and a commercial and demonstration kitchen. Food’s a big part of culture, says Dixon, and the center’s kitchen will be integral to events. Art and design also educate visitors on the histories and contributions of African, Native, Latina/o, and Asian Americans to the state of Washington and WSU.

A dedication by Nez Perce leaders paid homage in early 2016 to the traditional lands that WSU Pullman sits on. The Cultural Center is set to open in spring 2017.
The glassblowers

Glass is a snob, and that’s a good thing for science. For the most part, glass doesn’t interact with other substances. Essentially inert, glass is perfect for containing the otherwise uncontainable: strong acids, bases, and solvents.

Glass, of course, is fragile. That’s why Norbert Kruse, a chemical engineer at WSU, had to take a glassblowing class when he was a chemistry student in Berlin in the early 1970s.

“We had to do our own repairs!” Kruse recalls. These days, researchers at WSU don’t have to know glassblowing to keep their labs running. Scientific glassblower Aaron Babino takes care of that.

WSU contracts with Babino, who works at the University of Idaho. There he not only makes repairs to lab glass but builds custom specialized pieces as well. Babino came on board about a year ago, replacing 30-year-veteran Dave Gover.

“Most of what I made involved creating a vacuum,” recalls Gover. Working with evacuated glass involves extremely tight tolerances, as interconnects of metal or glass must fit perfectly to enable researchers to filter, distill, sublimate, desiccate, and analyze substances without risking contamination from chemicals outside the closed experimental system.

From investigating the basic chemistry of technetium—a radioactive element that the Hanford cleanup teams must contend with—to studying the ways CO₂ might be recycled into fuels, glass remains essential.

At a recent street fair in Spokane where Gover demonstrates glassblowing, he says that the skill involves “trying to outsmart a tube of glass.” How will it heat in the narrow span of flame? How will one color anneal to another and yet still maintain integrity? Gover explains all this as he deftly shapes a tube of glass and brings it to life as a holiday ornament.

Gover’s career ranged from working with neon signs (“plumbing,” he says derisively, referring to the fact that sign making is mostly bending tubes) and artisanal work to his steady paycheck from scientific glass. Along the way, he consulted with Harvard University on their glass flowers collection.

The anatomically correct glass flowers, made by the Dresden-based father and son team of Leopold and Rudolph Blaschka, were made in the Bohemian lampwork style. Actually originating in Venice over 500 years ago, lampwork involves embedding one color of glass into another, as is often seen with intricate glass beads. Harvard wanted the flower collection in order to teach students botany and plant physiology year round.

Babino and Gover both studied scientific glassblowing at Salem Community College in New Jersey—the only program of its kind. And although the profession has shrunk, glassblowers still play a crucial role in the lives of chemists, engineers, geologists, and all researchers doing benchwork.

Visit magazine.wsu.edu to learn more about the Harvard Glass Flower collection and watch a video of the lampwork glassblowing technique.

Photo courtesy Harvard Museum of Natural History
Fort Hunt was built during the Spanish-American War on a portion of George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate to help bolster the Potomac River’s coastal defenses. It later served as a staging point for the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression, hosted an ROTC unit for African American soldiers during segregation, and now is managed by the National Park Service.

But until historians began digging, a clandestine piece of the 136-acre site’s military service was so tightly hidden away, it was at risk of being lost forever.

“This started coming together during a tour when someone raised their hand and mentioned their neighbor used to be an interrogator there,” says Robert K. Sutton, a 1984 doctoral grad who retired this year as chief historian for the U.S. National Park Service. “What they found as they started contacting and interviewing these former vets and other people who were there at the time was pretty dramatic.”

The once-abandoned military installation about 15 miles south of Washington, D.C. is where top-ranking Nazi commanders and other high-value prisoners were interrogated during World War II. The project, known only as PO Box 1142, was so secretive that many of the wartime prisoners arrived aboard submarines up the Potomac. It also was where the U.S. military coordinated escape efforts for Allied prisoners of war being held overseas and was operated by the secretive government program that would later become the Central Intelligence Agency.
The discovery, along with eventually declassified Department of Defense documents, helped illuminate a previously little-understood piece of the war effort. And it spotlights an often-overlooked role of the Park Service as a keeper and interpreter of American history.

“What I think is interesting about the Park Service is we pretty much cover the ground on every important event and historical development in our nation’s history,” says Sutton, who spent 24 years with the Park Service. “For me, it was important to get past the dates and names associated with these big events and explore why these things were happening.”

He focuses on the narratives that preserve and tell the story of America.

Sutton’s approach to historical interpretation was so compelling, many of his projects have been turned into books and classroom educational materials. His interpretive exhibits are designed to immerse visitors not just in the historical moment but in the cultural periods and the lives of those affected.

“National Park Service exhibits are a little different than museum exhibits,” Sutton says. “They are designed to help visitors understand the significance of the site and then go out and experience the site.”

A Pacific Northwest native, Sutton is an internationally recognized expert on the history of the U.S. Constitution, the American West and the U.S. Civil War. He worked for the Park Service while completing his doctorate at WSU, then left to take a teaching position at Arizona State University. A few years later, he returned to the Park Service as a historian and eventually was promoted to superintendent at the Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia, the site of the Civil War’s first major battle. He became the agency’s chief historian in 2007.

It was at Manassas where Sutton began digging into Civil War history and where others began noticing his knack for finding the important but sometimes less-obvious narratives.

He gathered stories about African American experiences during what essentially was their war for freedom. He chronicled the horrifying stories of civilians trapped between fighting armies, including the first civilian casualty at Manassas. He coedited a book of essays in 2013 exploring the various wartime roles of Native Americans, who fought on both sides of the conflict in what would amount to futile efforts to protect their homes, land, and autonomy.

WSU history professor Raymond Sun praises Sutton for weaving together crucial themes that traditionally haven’t been considered together, describing his work as delivering “a richer and more complete treatment of our history.”

That focus is on full display this year as the National Park Service celebrates its centennial. The agency oversees 84 million acres of preserved parks, monuments, battlefields, historic sites,
lakeshores and seashores, scenic and recreation areas, and the White House.

About two-thirds of those sites have historical or cultural aspects to them.

But there’s still one major piece of American history that has yet to be memorialized: the Reconstruction Era.

It’s something Sutton still thinks about. He and the superintendent at Gettysburg National Military Park, John Latschar, had talked about it for years, promising each other they’d somehow find a way to make sure that such a critical period of post-Civil War history is properly remembered.

Sutton even has a location in mind: Beaufort, South Carolina. And to understand why, you must immerse yourself in the narrative of the time.

Beaufort, a tiny coastal town between Savannah and Charleston, was where the United States got its first glimpse of what the Reconstruction Era would require. It was captured by the North early in the war, with most of the wealthy white families hastily fleeing in advance of the military columns and leaving behind hundreds of slaves with no preparation for what it meant to be free.

The federal government, along with religious and humanitarian organizations, moved to establish schools and training programs that would help the former slaves learn to manage their own lives. African Americans who had escaped slavery earlier and had been living as free men and women in northern states were sent to Beaufort to help.

Among them was Robert Smalls, a native son who, along with a handful of other slaves forced to fight for the South, had stolen a Confederate warship in 1862 and surrendered it to a Union naval blockade. He later was elected to Congress.

“Beaufort was like a rehearsal for Reconstruction,” says Sutton. “That’s where we first began to realize what something like this was going to take.”

The details. Sutton knows that’s where history truly resides. He compares it to the way we peel back layers of an onion to get past the rough surface.

“I think what we were able to do is really broaden the scope,” he says. “We need to understand what was causing these events in our history … and the way we can do that is to look beyond the basics.”
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Kids solving the unsolvable

BY LARRY CLARK

Flushing the toilet stirred up a good idea in four young women from Walla Walla High School. They recognized that families use hundreds of gallons of water per day, a real problem in places faced with water shortages. To ease that, Karen Maldonado, Edlyn Carvajal, Sandra Escobedo de la Cruz, and Ruth Garcia developed a trapping system using an inexpensive charcoal filter to recycle wastewater back to the toilet tank.

The Walla Walla teens took their plan to the Alaska Airlines Imagine Tomorrow competition, an annual problem-solving challenge at Washington State University that encourages high school students to propose and present ideas that can impact sustainability on a local and global scale.

Spread through the Compton Union Building ballrooms in late May, over 130 teams of professionally dressed high schoolers were eager to explain their projects, from the earthly—a community garden in La Center complete with biochar and biodiesel stations—to the skyward—envisioning space travel using algae as fuel. Detailed scale models, posters, and even a working smartphone app enhanced their innovative presentations.

For nine years, the competition has drawn teens to WSU, where they present their ideas to judges from companies such as Boeing and Weyerhaeuser, the utility industry, and WSU faculty and graduate students. The top projects win cash prizes for the participants and their schools. Others receive awards for specific aspects that can impact sustainability on a local and global scale.

Imagine Tomorrow originally focused on energy, but this year the competition covered several topics: food, energy, and water; the Boeing aerospace challenge; the McKinstry built environment challenge; and the NARA biofuels challenge. NARA is a five-year, $40 million USDA bioenergy grant led by WSU. Students develop their projects within those four themes, using technology, design approaches, or ideas to change behaviors.

Claiborn and Norton say the students benefit not only from their creative projects, but through increased confidence as they present to the judges. “This is like a real scientific conference and they become very polished,” says Claiborn.

Imagine Tomorrow brought Hanna Raine ’15 into the engineering field. As a high school student from Blaine, Raine joined three consecutive Imagine Tomorrow competitions. One year, her team built a micro-hydropower generator using downspouts to generate electricity.

“I loved talking to these adults who are experts in their field, and seeing them excited to talk to you, a 16- or 17-year-old,” says Raine. “It also taught me the experimentation process.” She earned her mechanical engineering degree from WSU and now works on Boeing’s 737 retrofitting program.

As a judge for all nine competitions, Howard Wallace has been intrigued by how students apply their knowledge. He is a health physicist and radiation safety expert at Boeing and former high school physics teacher. “I’m looking for unusual applications or open-minded reexamination of old ideas,” says Wallace, pointing out a team’s plan to use zeppelins for cargo transport.

Norton says sponsors such as Alaska Airlines, Boeing, and the utilities benefit from encouraging the high school students to not only consider a career in their industries, but to think broadly about solving problems. “These companies want to build connections to their communities and schools,” he says.

Whether they came from Caldwell, Idaho, with a design for a single-person, lightweight electric helicopter, or from Redmond’s Tesla High School with a smartphone game to simulate the benefits of biofuels, the high schoolers left with the knowledge that their ideas can shift the world toward a sustainable future.

Many of the schools keep coming back—like Camas, Ballard, and Lake Roosevelt, which have sent teams to the Imagine Tomorrow competition every year. The teams want to improve on their projects, like the young women from Walla Walla, who plan to bring a working wastewater-recycling toilet to prove their concept next year.
Fat furnace

Body fat has gotten a bad rap in recent years. It’s understandable given that 70 percent of American adults are reportedly overweight or obese, costing $190 billion per year in related medical bills. But new research shows not all fat is created equal.

Washington State University professor of animal sciences Min Du says our bodies are equipped with both good and bad types of fat that naturally work together to balance weight and metabolism. The process—in addition to diet and exercise—involves an intricate interplay between white, beige, and brown fat— or adipose tissue.

“When most people think of body fat, they’re thinking of the ‘bad’ white fat,” says fellow researcher Eva Szentirmai, an associate professor in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at WSU Spokane. Although protective in healthy amounts, “white fat stores the extra calories we eat in a form of fat that makes people obese,” she says. “It also increases chances of metabolic disorders.”

Du says overeating allows white fat cells to enlarge to the saturation point. As the overloaded cells age and die, they release molecules called cytokines that cause inflammation leading to problems like insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes.

Nature provided a feedback loop meant to prevent such inflammation, says Szentirmai. As white fat accumulates, it secretes a hormone called leptin that decreases the urge to eat. But those with obesity can also become resistant to leptin and no longer respond to the hormone’s appetite suppressing effects.

Until recently, scientists believed adults were at the mercy of this “bad” fat and had little of the “good,” heat-generating brown fat typically found in infants. In 2009, several independent studies revealed that adults actually have quite a bit of brown fat. Not long after, it was discovered they also have “good” beige fat.

Szentirmai says brown fat is good because it actively signals white fat to release stored lipids which are then burned as heat. “Brown fat burns calories and can help decrease weight. It has also been shown to increase insulin sensitivity thereby lowering blood glucose levels and decreasing the incidence of metabolic disorders.”

Brown adipose tissue owes its power to the many mitochondria—tiny energy plants—that pack its cells. Beige fat, a cross between white and brown fat, also has mitochondria and the numbers increase as it becomes more active.

Du says beige fat forms as small islands of cells within white fat in a process called “browning.” This conversion from white to beige fat is initiated by things like antioxidants in food, exercise, cold, and certain anti-diabetic drugs.

He recently demonstrated that resveratrol, a polyphenol antioxidant found in red wine, berries, grapes, and other fruit, can enhance the conversion. In the study, mice on a high-fat diet gained 40 percent less weight than controls when supplemented with resveratrol in amounts equal to 12 ounces of fruit per day for humans.

“Whole fruit contains a range of polyphenols that increase gene expression and enhance the oxidation of dietary fats so the body won’t be overloaded,” he says. Curcumin and the capsaicin in hot peppers also activate good fat as does exposure to cold temperatures.

Du says physical exercise helps keep you trim by triggering fat conversion through irisin, a newly discovered hormone in skeletal muscle.

Fat also plays a role in sleep quality. Szentirmai, who studies the interaction between sleep and fat, says brown fat not only burns calories, it also promotes normal sleep patterns in mice. Obesity, with its preponderance of white fat, is often associated with sleep loss.

Together, these findings offer intriguing new avenues for future treatment and prevention of obesity. For now, Du recommends exercise and a diet rich in fruits and vegetables … along with a caveat: You have to keep at it or that beige fat will convert right back into white.
The music of life

In Yakima’s Garfield Elementary School, Principal Alan Matsumoto ’75 is hearing music ring through the halls after school. With 100 percent of the students facing poverty, the afterschool Yakima Music en Acción (YAMA) gives them the opportunity to transcend their circumstances with instruments.

YAMA, based on a Venezuelan program called El Sistema, brings professional musicians to the school to teach Garfield students how to play violins, cellos, and other instruments in ensemble groups.

The program launched four years ago with just seven students. Matsumoto says he first heard about El Sistema from Stephanie Hsu, who had recently graduated from training and now leads YAMA. “She could have started a fully-funded program in Boston, but Stephanie chose to come to Yakima.”

They received consistent support from the Yakima Symphony, community members, parents, teachers, and school staff. YAMA has grown to 57 students from all over the district this year and is funded primarily with philanthropy.

Matsumoto says he sees the difference with the kids. “They know the value of education and work really hard,” he says.

Some YAMA students have seen their grades improve. YAMA and the 61 other similar music programs around the United States are gathering data on academic improvement.

One thing is certain: All of the students have seen growth in their confidence and self-esteem as they learn to play beautiful music together.

Matsumoto says YAMA exposed kids to the potential of attending college through visits to Central Washington University and community colleges. This year three kids were even invited to the Aspen Music Festival, all expenses paid.

“I’d love to see one of our YAMA students as director of the Yakima Symphony one day,” he says.

Listen to the stories—and the music—at Northwest Public Radio: magazine.wsu.edu/extra/YAMA

Part One: The YAMA program and its history; Part Two: Students in YAMA, and how they and their parents have benefitted; Part Three: The future of the YAMA program

Also watch for the documentary series about YAMA on KWSU-TV, Northwest Public Television from the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication.

Among the fruits of summer, one stands alone for its juicy sweetness, sunset colors, and soft fuzzy skin. There’s a reason we refer to good things as “peachy.” Washington’s fame may be apples, but peaches sit proudly next to them, as well as our pears and Rainier cherries at roadside stands and farmers markets.

The volume of other tree fruit grown in the state dwarfs peaches and their siblings, the fuzzless nectarines. According to the USDA, Washington produced 13,800 tons of peaches in 2015, compared to 3.15 million tons of apples and 340,000 tons of pears.

One reason may be that peaches are highly perishable and can’t be stored long-term like apples and pears, says Washington State University horticulture professor Desmond Layne.

Some varieties suit the state’s climate well: Frost, Red Haven, Contender, to name a few. Flat doughnut peaches, especially the Chinese variety pan-tao, have also grown in popularity. In western Washington, peaches and nectarines do tend to fight leaf curl and other problems with cold, wet weather around bloom time.

At WSU’s Tukey Orchard in Pullman, horticulturists grow 11 varieties of peaches. Some is for research, but the orchard also offers u-pick and pre-picked sales at the orchard in late summer and fall.

Peaches have long pleased palates around the world. Originally from northwest China, they’re mentioned in ancient Chinese texts as far back as the tenth century B.C.E., when they were a preferred meal of emperors. From China, Silk Road merchants spread peaches to Persia and the Middle East. Alexander the Great took peaches to Europe, where they were later grown by the Romans and others.

Europeans also cultivated peaches as a treat for royalty. In Victorian England, it was written that no meal was complete without a fresh peach on a fine napkin. Hidden peach groves in Montreuil, France, a suburb east of Paris, are protected from the cold by walls. Those orchards have fed French diners since the seventeenth century, and even garnered a prestigious Legion d’Honneur for a horticulturalist.

Find orchards that sell peaches through WSU’s “Farm Finder” at smallfarms.wsu.edu
Although the Spanish brought peaches to South America first, the fruit came to the North American colonies supposedly by way of English horticulturalist George Minifie in the seventeenth century. Cherokee and Iroquois traders sold peach seeds to the west. Eventually peaches crossed the continent to Washington.

Peaches not only taste sweet and delicious, WSU and other research has shown health benefits. In 2014, WSU assistant professor of food science Giuliana Noratto and colleagues at Texas A&M found that compounds in peaches can inhibit the growth of breast cancer cells and their ability to spread. Peaches are a fine source of antioxidants, as well. Interestingly, peaches have long been considered a symbol of long life and good health in China.

Some of the findings connect to a better understanding of the DNA of peaches. WSU horticulturist Dorrie Main mapped the genome for the rosaceae family, which includes peach trees, in 2006. Her work in bioinformatics can lead to shortened time between improving tree fruit varieties and planting them for production.

New improved cultivars could come from other WSU tree fruit research, says Layne. Cameron Peace, another WSU horticulturist, is codirector of a national USDA breeding project which features peaches.

Orchardists from Camas to Kettle Falls, Wapato to the Skagit Valley, grow peaches until mid-fall. Roadside stands, u-pick, farmers markets, and local grocery stores will deliver those sweet, sun-ripened peaches to you, but the ways to prepare them are numerous.

Peaches taste wonderful by themselves or with ice cream. Peach pie—perhaps through a grandmother’s secret recipe—can transcend even the classic apple pie.

The fruit also takes well to the grill, which adds a smoky layer to the peachiness. It’s a favorite grilling fruit for celebrity chef Alton Brown, who recommends about four minutes a side on high heat.

Even after the season ends, you can retain some of the goodness of peaches by canning. WSU Extension advises using fresh, firm fruit when preserving peaches, about two or three pounds worth for a quart of canned peaches.

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### The Peach Melba

*from the Auguste Escoffier School of Culinary Arts*

1. **1 1/2 cups water**
2. **1 1/2 cups sugar**
3. **2 tbsp lemon juice**
4. **1 tsp vanilla extract**
5. **4 peaches**
6. **1 pint vanilla ice cream**

**Raspberry sauce:**
- **1 1/2 cups fresh raspberries**
- **2 tbsp confectioner’s sugar**
- **1 tbsp lemon juice**

1. Combine water, sugar, lemon juice, and vanilla extract into a large saucepan and heat on low until sugar has dissolved. Increase heat to medium and bring to a boil. Let cook at boiling for about 3 minutes and then turn back down to a simmer.
2. Cut peaches in half. Place in the syrup and let poach for about 2 to 3 minutes per side. Test doneness with a knife. When finished poaching, remove to a plate.
3. After the peaches have cooled, peel off the skin and remove the stones. Set aside.
4. For the raspberry sauce, combine all ingredients in a food processor or blender and puree until very smooth. Strain through a colander and into a container.
5. Assemble the dish by putting 2 peach halves in a bowl along with a scoop of the ice cream. Spoon the raspberry sauce generously on top and serve immediately.
Nearly two weeks before the Seattle Seahawks won Super Bowl XLVIII, Cindy Kelley was arriving in New York to set up a temporary team headquarters that would become like a cross between a satellite office and a MASH unit.

Kelley ’81 and the rest of the advance crew scrambled to keep up with a schedule measured in hours, not days. Telephones, computers, office space, accommodations, meals, air and ground transportation, special events, family activities—all needing to be arranged immediately.

“The whole goal is to make sure there are no distractions for the players and coaches,” says Kelley, vice president for human resources for the Seahawks. “It’s a huge challenge because you don’t know if you’re going to the Super Bowl until two weeks before the game.”

The temporary HQ typically is established in the same hotel where the team is staying. Everything from lining up charter buses and dining options to arranging travel and accommodations for the players’ families is coordinated through the hastily assembled temporary offices.

Kelley, who started with the Seahawks in 1983 and has been to three Super Bowls with the team, is among a steadfast cadre of nearly 20 WSU alumni working behind the scenes to help keep the elite National Football League franchise running smoothly.

Also among the Cougars is Chief Operating Officer Chuck Arnold ’94. Mike Flood ’74 is vice president for community outreach. Kirk Parrish ’93 MED, ’03 PhD is a college recruiting coordinator. And, of course, there’s franchise owner Paul Allen, who attended Washington State for two years.

Flood, a retired U.S. Coast Guard commander who joined the Seahawks franchise in 1997, was a member of the Phi Kappa Theta fraternity with Allen in the early 1970s.

Much of what Flood has done for the team can be seen in its legendary fan loyalty, a level of support that has led to sold-out home games.
since 2003 and two listings in the Guinness World Records for loudest crowd at a sporting event. He also spearheaded the statewide campaign to build a new sports stadium in Seattle and persuaded the Washington Legislature to authorize a Seahawks specialty license plate benefiting education.

Now, he’s pushing to continue expanding the fan network’s enthusiasm beyond the stadium.

“We know what these fans can do for this team,” explains Flood. “We’d also like to show what the fans can do for their communities.”

Seahawks fans are known as 12s, a reference to how their cheering and support is seen as comparable to having an additional player in the lineup. “We want to take the spirit of the 12s and move it into something that reaches beyond the team,” Flood says.

The effort appears to be taking root. During the devastating Central Washington wildfires last summer, for example, Seahawks fans began donating and collecting food and supplies for firefighters and displaced residents. The team helped out, he says, but it was the already-organized network of Seahawks fans that got things moving.

Building and maintaining that kind of fan loyalty was no accident.

Each year, players and staff tour the Pacific Northwest in advance of the upcoming season to meet with fans and talk about the schedule. Thomas Buren ’10 is the fan development manager and, among other things, organizes the annual tours.

“What we do is really connect the team to the 12s and the 12s to the team,” Buren says. “When people look at the Seahawks, they realize the fans are really part of the team. We practically put them right there in the huddle.”

One of the more memorable tours for Buren was a couple years before the Super Bowl win. The players assigned to the tour that year were strong safety Kam Chancellor and rookie Richard Sherman, who replaced retiring WSU standout Marcus Trufant x’03 at cornerback.

“A lot of fans still didn’t know these players,” Buren recalls. “But the reason I remember that tour so clearly is because Chancellor and Sherman are really engaging. They both enjoy interacting with the fans—and two years later they were playing in the Super Bowl.”

For a team that’s been to three Super Bowls since 2006, each season is treated as another opportunity to improve. That push spreads throughout the organization.

Kelley, the human resources executive, looks forward to the first day back at the team’s Renton headquarters following a Super Bowl season. After the Super Bowl win in 2014, Kelley says the administrative staff gathered for its usual weekly meeting and Coach Pete Carroll came in to address the group.

“He said it was great to win the Super Bowl,” Kelley recalls. “But then he told us we now have to work even harder because we’re not here to win just one.”

Opposite, back row, left to right:
Thomas Buren ’10, Manager of Fan Development; Heidi Karim ’07, Administration; Chris Lawrence ’95, Director of Ticketing; Tony Drovetto ’09, Digital Media Manager; Jeffery Girmus ’16, Fan Development Intern; Kirk Parrish ’93, Scouting; Jill Quinn ’78, Receptionist; Chuck Arnold ’93, Chief Operating Officer; Cindy Kelley ’81, VP Human Resources; Erin Johnson ’97, Box Office Manager; Suzanne Lavender ’89, Director of Community Outreach/Communications

Opposite, front row, left to right:
Melanie Hoshino ’98, Retail; Kara Edwards ’15, Ticketing; Allysa Knutson ’16, Fan Development Team

Not pictured:
Mike Flood ’74, VP Community Outreach; Keli Imus ’11, Coordinator Community Outreach; Ryan Coffey ’08, FGI Box Office Manager; David Glass ’00, Production Services Manager; Vikki Knoff, Retail; Jeremy Young ’01, Team Travel/Training Camp; Lisa Young ’02, Director of Corporate Partners; Allen Olson ’88, Information Systems
the 11th
Kirk and Noel Schulz packed up their 25-foot, silver Airstream trailer in early June, and hit the road from Manhattan, Kansas. Kirk H. Schulz had just concluded seven successful years as president of Kansas State University. The journey to Washington State University—where he will take the reins as president, and Noel will join the engineering faculty—provided a time to reflect on careers of serving higher education, especially at land-grant universities like WSU.
They hung a Cougar flag on the Airstream when they camped at Rocky Mountain National Park and elsewhere along the way, getting ready to join the WSU community. However, this wasn’t the first visit to Washington for the Schulzes since his presidency was announced in late March. Soon after accepting the position, they visited WSU locations all over Washington, meeting alumni, faculty, state leaders, and students, while preparing to lead the next era at the University.

Many people also got to know the new first family through social media, as both Kirk and Noel Schulz are avid Twitter users—including regular photos of their trip and moving into the president’s residence. Kirk Schulz has an easy smile and down-to-earth manner that puts people at ease, and his priority is clear to anyone he speaks to: access to high-quality, affordable education at a premiere research university.

Before WSU, before Kansas State, the road began for Kirk Schulz at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. His father, Carl, was a mathematics professor there since 1961. His mother was a geography instructor. He remembers the Chronicle of Higher Education on the family’s coffee table.

“I’d pick it up and leaf through it,” he says, a hint of Virginia lilt in his voice. “I thought higher education might be the right place to be.”

He also grew fond of the natural world as the Schulz family camped at Shenandoah National Park, often for Boy Scouts. Originally, Kirk set out to be a medical doctor, even though aptitude tests all told him to go into engineering, he says with a laugh. He began his chemistry degree at Old Dominion, but transferred to Virginia Tech once he realized that chemical engineering was more his forte.

That move changed his life. He completed his undergraduate degree and then his doctoral program at Virginia Tech, but he aspired to leadership. His research advisor, David Cox, said at Kirk’s Kansas State inauguration that Kirk had told him back at Virginia Tech that he hoped to become a university president.

His life changed significantly at a Baptist Student Union volleyball game as well. There he met a freshman from Blacksburg, Virginia, named Noel Nunnally. They hit it off, but both were dating other people until a spring break mission trip to Kentucky repairing homes for people in poor areas of Appalachia in 1985.

“I got back, dumped my boyfriend, and told Kirk I wanted to go out. The rest is history,” says Noel.

The two were married by the minister who introduced them at the volleyball game, which set them on the road to a strong marriage and partnership. They have two sons, Tim and Andrew.

Attending Virginia Tech also infused the Schulzes with an understanding and appreciation of the land-grant mission. Like WSU, Virginia Tech has well-established veterinary medicine, engineering, and agriculture programs.

“I love the importance of land-grant universities to states, the idea that a lot of land grants are easy to get into and hard to get out of. We’ll give you a shot; you’ll have to come and work really hard,” he says.

Kirk started his teaching career in chemical engineering at the University of North Dakota, followed by several years at Michigan Tech. He says his time as a professor was crucial to his future role as a president.

“I felt it was really important that I become a good faculty member before I become a good administrator,” he says. “I believe a university president is a faculty member at heart that just happens to be doing a different job. It’s very difficult to lead an institution if you haven’t been in the trenches.”

He moved into administration at Mississippi State University, another land-grant institution, where he went from director of their chemical engineering program to dean and finally to vice president for research and economic development. He spent seven years there before reaching his next destination in 2009: president of Kansas State University.

Over seven years there before reaching his next destination in 2009: president of Kansas State University.

THE PATH TO PULLMAN

After previous President Elson S. Floyd’s death in June 2015, the WSU Board of Regents started to search for a new leader. The regents appointed an advisory group of 25 people from a broad cross-section of WSU and the state.

Regent Michael Worthy ’77 led the committee as they deliberated on the desired traits of the new president. “We had 24 meetings all over the state with our constituents,” says Worthy. “Everyone was clear that we wanted an excellent communicator and relationship builder, and someone committed to academic quality.”

The strength of the candidate pool impressed Worthy and the search group. Hundreds applied, says Worthy, but it crystallized to eight and then three.

Kirk Schulz rose to the top, eventually becoming the unanimous choice of the Board of Regents.
“He’s straightforward, someone you can sit down and talk to. He had done his homework and was already very articulate about WSU,” says Worthy.

Kirk Schulz says the WSU opportunity appealed to him for three reasons. First was the land-grant mission of access to higher education, which motivated him throughout his career. He saw the state of Washington’s commitment to continuing that tradition by keeping costs under control, which offered a second incentive.

“...very interested in keeping public higher education as affordable as practically possible.”

“A lot of states want to see tuition reduced but they’re not willing to put in the investment,” he says. “Washington state is very interested in keeping public higher education as affordable as practically possible.”

The Schulzes pulled into the president’s residence to officially begin work on June 13. They settled into the new place—along with their cats Amber and Onyx, and their young Corgi, Cayenne. Cayenne loves the big backyard, according to her Twitter feed.

**THE ROLE OF A PRESIDENT**

Now that they’ve parked the Airstream in Pullman, Kirk continues the rigorous work of leading the University, getting to know WSU, and articulating his vision.

“A president must look out at the entire institution and play a leadership role in setting the vision for the University. I don’t mean a lightning bolt strikes you know,” he says. “You need to work with the faculty, staff, and students and say, ‘Here is where the institution needs to go.’”

The new president says another major piece of his work is garnering resources for WSU’s programs. “I’m here to provide faculty with the resources they need to do great research and teaching, and our students to have an affordable education with first-class facilities,” he says.

That’s become more complicated recently. “If I talk to people who served as a president 15 years ago, you went to the legislature, developed relationships, and got some money each year. Now, you need to have this mixture of private philanthropy, state dollars, and tuition.”

Both vision and resources serve the land-grant mission of WSU: accessible education for state residents, and research that benefits the state and world. The president emphasizes that includes a robust undergraduate research program.

“Doing $350 million of research each year, we’ve got to ensure it has a positive impact on our undergraduate experience,” he says. “Whether you’re in English, engineering, or biochemistry, being able to attack an unknown problem, figure out a way to solve it, and then doing that—sometimes leading a team—those are very marketable skills for Boeing, Microsoft, Amazon, and anywhere.”

Like his time at Kansas State, the research enterprise remains a priority across all disciplines. Research needs to benefit the state, he says. “Sometimes you sit down with a legislator and talk about research, and he’ll ask, ‘How is this helping to grow the economy in the state of Washington?’”

Kirk Schulz wants to promote a top-notch student experience, but WSU should be selective and make sure those students have skills to succeed.

A facet of the student experience, shared with faculty, staff, alumni, and others, is the camaraderie and affinity with Cougar athletics. Both Kirk and Noel are sports fans, and Kirk was chair of the NCAA Board of Governors. But he knows it goes beyond the games.

“I can’t get out there and call plays and get in the coach’s business, but what a president can do—and President Floyd did this—is..."
recognize part of Washington State’s brand identity nationally is Cougar athletics,” he says.

He knows personally the dedication of student-athletes, 99 percent of whom are there to get a degree. Noel was a tennis player at Virginia Tech as well as an electrical engineering student.

“Everyone looks at the four football players who go to the NFL and they forget about all the others who see this as a way to get a degree on scholarship, go out and be teachers and doctors and lawyers and engineers.”

At sports events and elsewhere, Noel and Kirk say they love to meet the WSU community and people around the state. They don’t want anyone to be shy.

“I’m a little more of a casual person, and I prefer people to call me Kirk, not President Schulz,” he says. “I want to encourage anyone in the Cougar Nation who sees us at the airport or at a restaurant, to come up, say hello, introduce yourself. We want to be approachable as possible.”

They enjoy movies and dining out, and have already developed an affinity for Cougar Gold cheese. “I know what I’m sending for Christmas gifts this year,” says Kirk.

Another draw of the Pacific Northwest was the natural beauty and camping opportunities. That could include a dream trip to Montana next year. “I’ve wanted to go to Glacier National Park for 30 years. Now we’re finally close enough that we can finally do it,” he says.

Before they can travel next year, though, the president sees the challenges on the near horizon: managing budget issues in athletics, shepherding the new medical school’s development, beefing up the research presence, and getting to know WSU in depth.

Through it all, WSU’s new president wants to make sure everyone knows and participates in the direction of the University. Whether it’s Twitter or face-to-face, Kirk will let people know what’s happening with his work as president, and in turn listen to them. ♦️

THE 11th President

Years before they moved to Pullman, Noel Schulz was tuned into WSU. An electrical engineer, she knew the power engineering program at Washington State would be a fit.

“The power program is in the top five in the country—with Anjan Bose, a world leader in electric power, Chen-Ching Liu, and others,” says Noel. “The intersection of computer science and power engineering is a great match for me.”

Noel Schulz grew up around the field, with an electrical engineering professor father. She excelled in math and science, and loved engineering. “I even had resistor earrings,” she says. After getting her degree at Virginia Tech, and later her doctorate at the University of Minnesota, she taught and did research at Mississippi State and Kansas State.

About ten years ago, Ed Schweitzer ‘77 PhD, the power systems pioneer who started Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, called her up. “He said I should apply for a job at Washington State,” she says. The timing didn’t work out, but she did work with SEL.

Noel also led in professional organizations, becoming president of the Power and Energy Society in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, only the second woman president in 130 years.

Noel has diligently pursued ways to bring more women faculty and students into engineering and science. “We’re not going to have enough engineers unless we recruit women and minorities. I want to complement what’s being done at WSU,” she says.

Another passion is rural electrification and microgrids around the world, particularly in Ethiopia where Noel has worked to bring lights and power.
When the United States formally became a nation in 1787, everyone involved, from George Washington down, knew there was a piece missing. The nation might be bound together by a Constitution, but it actually remained a conglomeration of states, religions, ethnicities, regions and cultures. The lack of national unity was a serious threat, as the Civil War would demonstrate.

But how do you create national feeling? As twentieth-century philosopher Allen Bloom put it: “How do you get from individuals to a people, that is, from persons who care only for their particular good to a community of citizens who subordinate their good to the common good?”

One solution turned out to be the campuses of American colleges. A campus where the future leadership of the nation gathered was a likely place to raise a student’s gaze to the larger picture. Harvard President A. Lawrence Lowell, at his inauguration in 1909, spoke for most American college presidents of the time when he said Harvard’s purpose would not be to “produce hermits, each imprisoned in a cell of his own intellectual pursuits.” Human beings are first and foremost social animals, he said, “and it is in order to develop his powers as a social being that American colleges exist.”

That was the belief of Ernest O. Holland through his 29 years as president of Washington State College. In a weekly address to students in 1925, he said that the graduate who served society “has been true to his college ideals.”

Nothing unified the campus like interest in the school’s athletic teams. This peaked in the excitement of the WSC victory in the Rose Bowl in 1916. In the next few years students adopted the cougar as the school mascot and two students, Phyllis Sayles and Zella Melcher, wrote the fight song. Students managed to round up a stuffed cougar for a mascot.

But what really tested student “spirit” were difficult years. Weeks after the stuffed cougar was obtained, a band of marauders from the University of Washington stole it from Bryan Library and carried it to Seattle.

It was like a curse. The football team started a series of losing seasons. Whitman College, a harmless liberal arts institution in Walla Walla, beat the Cougars. To paraphrase Tom Paine, these were the times that tried men’s—and women’s—souls. The Evergreen exhorted students to back the players through the difficult times. It was a duty. The whole campus was responsible for a turnaround.

In 1925, the Cougars won the season opener, but then suffered four losses in a row. And the final game of the 1925 season was against the West Coast power-

cont’d page 50
“This program saved my life,” he says as he enters the room. Kris, 37, is in the Spokane Regional Health District methadone clinic where he has come for treatment of heroin addiction since 2008. The intense, dark-haired man speaks openly, earnestly, as if he has nothing left to lose.

Kris says his journey into addiction began, “Quite simply, by a doctor.” Struggling with pain from a minor car accident in 1999, he was prescribed increasingly stronger doses of hydrocodone and OxyContin over a nine-year period. The FBI eventually raided the unethical physician and closed his practice, leaving patients like Kris stranded and facing withdrawal when their prescriptions ran out. Kris couldn’t afford the price of black market pills so, in desperation, turned to the much cheaper street heroin.

Years later, in the hospital, Kris was offered a chance for rehab and took it. “I’m a huge proponent of methadone,” he says. “Fear is a strong motivator. Once you’re clean, the fear is you’ll go back, so you’re very compliant.

“It’s almost incalculable the difference in the cost to society. I had over 20 ER visits per year and I can’t imagine how much that cost. You go from sucking tens of thousands of dollars out of society to being a normal human being again.”

With slight variations, Kris’s story is typical of the 700 patients currently enrolled in the Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) Opioid Treatment Program, says program medical director Matt Layton, a clinical associate professor in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University Spokane where he teaches psychiatry and behavioral health.

Layton is among those at WSU doing battle on the front lines of the nation’s sweeping heroin epidemic. Together with researchers from the University of Washington and the Washington State Department of Health, he helps investigate the behavioral and biochemical basis of opioid addiction, while working to dispel confusion and stigma surrounding its treatment.

Death rates tied to heroin use in the United States have nearly tripled since 2010. In Seattle alone, there were 156 fatal overdoses reported in 2014, up 58 percent from the year before. At the same time, deaths from prescription opioid painkillers have declined.

Layton says the trend began with the release of OxyContin, a high-potency opioid drug, in 1996 by the Purdue Pharma company. Marketed for a wide spectrum of maladies, it appeared to be a godsend for those dealing with chronic pain. But in 2007, the company was sued in federal court “for misleading doctors and patients about the addictive potential of OxyContin and that it had been misbranded as ‘abuse resistant.’”

The opioids were in truth highly addictive and, in conjunction with similar drugs, led to thousands of cases of dependence, death, and subsequent heroin use. Once largely confined to ‘skid row’ areas,
heroin has now moved into affluent neighborhoods where teens with money to spare are a target for drug dealers.

“We talk about kids bypassing the liquor cabinet and going for the medicine cabinet,” says Layton. “Many don’t mess around with alcohol or weed anymore. They have parties where they pass around a bowl of pain pills—hydrocodone, oxycodone, OxyContin. Kids don’t understand the reality of addiction or how dependent they are getting.”

In 2008, federal and state officials began placing restrictions on the use and formulation of opioid drugs. Layton says Washington state now requires a second opinion for approval of stronger prescriptions. The formulation of OxyContin was also changed to make it “burn like crazy if you try to snort it and gum up if you try to dissolve it for injection,” he says. The drugs took a corresponding leap in price.

“The result was a bunch of people addicted to pain pills that suddenly got very expensive and difficult to obtain,” says Layton. “So, they went to heroin, the opioid that was cheap and plentiful. But, it’s junk and it makes people very sick.” Injecting heroin can cause health problems like HIV/AIDS, heart disease, hepatitis, abscesses, and sepsis. “About half of our clients have HIV or hepatitis C,” he says.

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act and expansion of Medicaid in 2010, people with drug addiction, including the homeless and mentally ill, became eligible for health coverage. Today, instead of jail time, many repeat drug offenders are offered counseling and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in methadone and Suboxone programs.

In the dispensary at the SRHD methadone clinic, Lakeisha, 27, smiles and nods at other patients as they queue up for their daily doses. Men and women, young and old, mill about talking quietly. Some are in line for urinalyses, or blood and breathalyzer tests to check for illicit drugs. Signs of alcohol or benzodiazepines—deadly if mixed with methadone—can cost the client that day’s dose.

Methadone is a drug that binds and activates the same brain receptors heroin uses but does not produce the euphoric high. The program is based on a harm reduction model that helps patients stabilize and rebuild a normal life while reducing cravings for heroin. As with other therapeutic use of opioids, clients develop physical dependence on methadone, but are considered to be in recovery. Since the 1960s, hundreds of studies have documented the program’s success in lowering the incidence of crime, disease, death, and ongoing drug abuse.

At SRHD, each dose of methadone lasts 24 to 36 hours, so most clients are experiencing symptoms of withdrawal by the time they are back in line each morning: anxiety, nausea, body aches, sweating. Missing a dose is not pleasant.

Behind a locked door, employees prepare the methadone in a room that is sweet with a scent like cherry cough syrup. Outside, clients enter private booths where they present photo IDs through a window. Once approved, a dispenser fills a small plastic cup with their individualized dose of pink methadone.

Lakeisha has just taken her dose. Her hair is up and she’s wearing an apricot-colored top that compliments her skin and also reveals her seven-month pregnancy. This will be her fifth child and she’s been on methadone for seven years.

Layton says pregnant women are given top priority into the program. Under the 2003 Keeping Children and Families Safe Act, all states are required to identify potentially drug dependent babies, regardless if the mother’s drug use is illicit or prescribed, he says. The act provides treatment for infants experiencing withdrawal symptoms and also alerts child protective services to follow up on the infant’s safety upon returning home, helping to break the cycle of addiction.

Soft-spoken and articulate, Lakeisha says she began using opiates when prescribed hydrocodone for sciatica and a broken tail bone during her second pregnancy. “I knew enough not to take them everyday—I wanted to avoid physical addiction,” she says. But one day she discovered her doctor had stopped her prescription without telling her. She missed the drug’s euphoria, so went to another doctor for a prescription of Dilaudid and traded it with a friend for OxyContin.

Soon she was taking it daily.

The first time Lakeisha went through withdrawal, she didn’t know what was wrong. “I thought I had the flu and was deathly ill—laying on the floor shaking and vomiting.” Her friend said, “You’re pill sick. I’ll get you something.”

That something was more OxyContin but this time Lakeisha smoked it to get it into her system faster. She vowed never to go through withdrawal again and would do anything to prevent it. She kept smoking the oxy.

“You become addicted to the process,” she says. “You get the feel, take the coating off the pill, then burn it and use a straw to suck up the smoke.”
“The result was a bunch of people addicted to pain pills that suddenly got very expensive and difficult to obtain,” says Layton.
The costs kept going up: from $10 per pill to $80 and she was using five per day. “I was lying to my family, stealing, taking away from them. You become a person you don’t recognize anymore—and fast!” she says. “Within one month, I lost two cars, my apartment, two jobs and was living with my mom. But I kept wanting more.”

Lakeisha had heard so many bad stories about methadone that she resisted until becoming pregnant with her third child. She finally took the step to enter a treatment program for the child’s protection. She has been clean ever since.

“My third and fourth kids had no withdrawal problems, but the second had slight symptoms and was hospitalized 10 days,” says Lakeisha. “My kids are 100 percent normal—my six-year old is at the top of her class.”

Today, Lakeisha is studying social work with the dream of helping at-risk youth and single parents. “My childhood had a lot to do with the choices I made and how I became an addict. If I’d been better informed, it might not have happened,” she says. “Everyone deserves a chance.”

She sees the heroin epidemic getting worse. “I have old teachers and friends on it, so it scares me to get off methadone,” she says. “I keep to myself; me and my kids go to church. Everybody I’ve cared about has died, is in jail, or addicted to drugs. I thank God everyday for this program. It’s not a crutch—I got my apartment and car back, the things I lost. It’s a constant thing I have to work on.”

Heroin, arguably the world’s most addictive drug, originates in the milky sap of an opium poppy. The sap contains morphine which is extracted and processed to produce heroin. Once the drug is snorted, smoked, or injected into the body, it is metabolized back into morphine plus a kicker, a chemical six times stronger than morphine called 6-MAM.

At the Spokane Police Department Evidence Facility, Officer Teresa Fuller unlocks a cabinet and retrieves confiscated samples of black tar heroin—a cheap and impure form smuggled from Mexico and commonly trafficked throughout the western United States.

Wearing orange gloves, she cuts the “EVIDENCE” tape on several manila envelopes and removes the heroin. One dark brown sample comes prepared in an insulin syringe; another is covered in plastic wrap. A large flat piece feels squishy like a sheet of taffy; others are hard or powdered. Black tar reportedly smells like vinegar. In Spokane, a typical buy is said to run about $70 for a gram, enough to keep a typical buy a week.

“A small percentage can go the abstinence route and quit cold turkey,” he says. “But most people will relapse again and again. With the harm reduction model, we can change patient’s lives for the better—they often get their kids back, get a GED and jobs. They can work while on methadone—one stabilized, they are not sedated.”

The “good” opioids—endorphins—relieve pain and create euphoria while “bad” opioids—dynorphins—cause anxiety and depression. Heroin produces its high by overriding endorphins and binding directly to their receptor sites.

As the effects wear off, dynorphins kick in and cause some of the misery of withdrawal. More heroin eases that distress and the vicious cycle continues. It also results in unhealthy brain changes.

Caleb Banta-Green, senior research scientist at the University of Washington Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute and affiliate associate professor in the UW School of Public Health, collaborates with Layton on the statewide opioid task force. Banta-Green says long-term use of drugs like heroin damages the production of natural opioids in the brain.

“We believe for many people that change in brain chemistry is profound and permanent,” he says. Scientific evidence shows that in order for those people to feel normal again, “they will need opiates like methadone or Suboxone on their endorphin receptors just like a diabetic needs insulin in his pancreas.”

“Potentially, people will be on treatment for many years, and I think that’s fine.”

Layton says there is no actual cure for heroin addiction and agrees for most people it is a chronic, recurring condition that requires extended treatment. He cites research showing that short-term Medication Assisted Treatments result in a 90 percent relapse rate within 9 months, often involving overdose and death. Counseling or behavior modification alone show similar results.

“Since the plan was to go cold turkey, he says. “But most people will relapse again and again. With the harm reduction model, we can change patient’s lives for the better—they often get their kids back, get a GED and jobs. They can work while on methadone—one stabilized, they are not sedated.”

Chatting in the SRHD lobby, Mike, 61, reveals he’s been on methadone for about a decade after 19 years of being in and out of prison on drug charges. It’s a far cry from the plans he had as an eighth-grader attending Catholic school with a tentative scholarship to Gonzaga Preparatory School. Those plans were derailed when an altercation landed him back in public school where he had no friends. The only boy he knew was a neighbor who introduced Mike to drugs and eventually to heroin.
“It was a stupid urge and I did it and pretty soon I was addicted,” he says.

The last time Mike got out of prison, he wanted to stay clean. “I’m pretty strong-willed but something about heroin kept pulling me back,” he says. “I fought it. It drove me crazy, so I researched it and learned how heroin changes the hippocampus in the brain. I can control anything—cocaïne, pot, cigarettes, alcohol—just stop. But I cannot control heroin. It used to drive me crazy—always there in the back of my mind.”

Yet, the idea of being addicted to a second drug discouraged Mike from enrolling in the methadone program for years. Today, thanks to SRHD, the once up-and-coming sprint car driver says he’s got his life back together. “I have a new Harley. I’m partnering with a buddy and have my street rods and show cars back.

“I’ve known 30 people who’ve been on opiates a long time and only two have gotten clean without using something like methadone,” he says. “They’re all on methamphetamine, still using heroin, or are alcoholics, every one.”

Richard, 62, agrees. Native American and Vietnam era army veteran, Richard is a computer hardware technician and works at the VetsGarage in Spokane, a program that offers skill training and support services for veterans.

He entered the world of drugs at age 13 as a result of constant battles with “a really nasty stepfather who killed my dog,” he says.

His angst was apparent when a family friend returned from Vietnam with 25 kilos of pure heroin. “I saw the bricks in his bag and said, ‘What’s that?’” recalls Richard. “It’s the cure for all ills,” the friend replied. “Want some?”

“The addiction part was nasty,” Richard says, looking down. “The withdrawals make you wish you were dead. Narcotics never turn into anything good. You will gladly give heroin everything you value.”

Like Mike, Richard was fearful of methadone and addiction. But after years of prison and nearly dying of an overdose in 2011, he agreed to try.

“I have to stay on the program if I want to maintain the life I have right now,” he says. “I have two wonderful grandchildren who adore their grandpa. They are worth everything I can do to maintain it.”

Controversial and confusing, Medication Assisted Treatment programs are often dismissed as merely swapping one addiction for another. It’s a stigma that Layton and Banta-Green challenge constantly.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, physical dependence can occur with the use of any substance, legal or illegal, and it’s not the same as addiction. Whether a person is using opioids to treat cancer pain or shooting heroin to get high, they all develop the same symptoms: tolerance, needing more to get the same effect, and withdrawal once the drug is removed.

True addiction includes psychological and social aspects in addition to the physical symptoms. Examples are compulsive, uncontrollable drug seeking, anxiety about withdrawal, and loss of the ability to maintain healthy relationships.

The American Psychiatric Association DSM-5 manual further states that if a person is doing well and taking MAT as prescribed, without the psychological-social parts, they are no longer addicted, says Banta-Green. “They’re physically dependent but in recovery.”

Yet the stigma lingers. Family and friends often continue to treat methadone or Suboxone patients as addicts. Addicts themselves resist getting treatment, or once on MAT, try to get off as quickly as possible. The misconception can kill if it prevents people from getting appropriate help.

Layton confronts such stigma on a daily basis and says he’s working to educate the medical community about the realities of MAT and “to make sure medical providers of the future understand just how important the issue is.”

It is possible, however, for some well-stabilized patients to be safely weaned off MAT. At the SRHD clinic, approximately 25 percent of Layton’s clients are tapering their doses of methadone in hopes of eventually stopping treatment.

“It may take years but some are committed to getting off the program,” he says. “They will need a slow tapering period along with support and mental strength. If they can do that, fantastic! But if others are stable and want to continue, I’m not going to tell them they have to get off methadone,” he says. “The program is tailored to each person’s needs.”

Even with treatment there can be relapse. Drug-related brain changes make people sensitive to environmental cues associated with previous use months or years after getting clean. Returning to the sights, smells, and sounds of old neighborhoods can reignite an intense craving for heroin.
Poverty, prison records, unemployment, lack of education, and concurrent drug use can also derail efforts, as can untreated mental health issues like depression and PTSD. Most addicts also have genetic risk factors and family histories of addiction.

Despite the alarming statistics, Layton says 85–90 percent of prescription opioid users never become addicted.

“One study showed that only 3–4 percent of patients develop aberrant drug-related behaviors—overuse, early refills, multiple prescriptions—that can lead to addiction,” he says. “If just one screening question was used—'Have you ever had problems with alcohol or drugs?'—that rate dropped to 0.3 percent. You monitor those patients more closely.”

Layton believes it’s possible to change some addictive behaviors through doctor-patient relationships built on trust and open communication. “We call it patient-centered health care where there’s a give and take with each patient,” he says. Patient-centered health care will be a cornerstone of the curriculum at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.

Giving medical students “an understanding of human behavior and how to deal with it in the doctor’s office is the best way to get better outcomes in addiction cases,” he says. It is especially needed in rural communities where doctors with few resources often struggle to treat pain and addiction effectively.

Layton is also pleased to see medical education moving toward more team-based health care. WSU students are already assisting in the methadone program through affiliation agreements with SRHD. With the August opening of the new Spokane Teaching Health Clinic at Riverpoint campus, they will be given greater opportunity.

Layton says a collaborative grant between WSU and Spokane Providence Health Care will help medical residents at Spokane Teaching Health Clinic screen and identify people with addictions and refer them to SRHD for treatment.

“We’re going to have an exciting new connection that will broaden the WSU-SRHD relationship,” says Layton. “The idea is to bring in WSU medical residents, nursing and pharmacy students—plus social work, physical therapy, and occupational therapy students from Eastern Washington University—and train them together in how to identify addictions and do interventions.”

At the same time, the methadone clinic is undergoing remodeling to enhance their services. Capacity will be increased to 1,000 patients and Suboxone will be added as a treatment option.

It all makes a difference to those struggling to overcome addiction and rebuild their lives, like Kris who now talks of going back to school. And Mike as he restores family relationships. To Richard, investing his life to help others in the Spokane community. And to Lakeisha, who aspires to be a writer, and one day share her story of recovery with those still waiting to take that first step.
“Patient-centered health care allows give and take with each patient,” says Layton, who jointly manages the SRHD methadone clinic with administrator Julie Albright.

Patient-centered health care will be a cornerstone of the curriculum at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine.
FALL ON THE TERRELL MALL, PHOTO DAVID PATTERSON ’76. [DAVID’S FATHER, EUGENE G. (PAT) PATTERSON, WAS WSU ALUMNI DIRECTOR FROM 1952–1976.]
LONG BEFORE HE WAS ELECTED to the New Zealand Parliament, served as immigration minister, and held other national cabinet positions, Tuariki “John” Delamere ’74 was a long jumper with an attention-grabbing technique.

Delamere, a fixture on Washington State’s track team in the early 1970s, didn’t invent The Flip. But he so excelled at the leaping mid-air forward somersault it sometimes seemed as if he had.

His style was so gravity-defyingly smooth that when Sports Illustrated wanted to learn more about The Flip, and the debate that would eventually lead to the technique’s prohibition, the magazine sent a crew to the 1974 national qualifiers to watch Delamere jump. Just a few weeks earlier he’d tied the Olympic record holder, University of Southern California’s Randy Williams, during the Pac-8 championships.

“Looking back, I’m somewhat amazed that I did it because I had never even done a somersault into a swimming pool—and, ironically, I still haven’t,” says Delamere, who lives in Auckland and still competes at the master’s division in track and field events. “I started by somersaulting onto the pole vault pit. That convinced me I was onto a good thing because we were able to see how far I was somersaulting.”

Delamere, 64, is tall, physically fit, and has an easy-going demeanor. He speaks with a tell-tale Kiwi accent and his mixed ancestry—native Maori father and English mother—enables him to navigate New Zealand’s cultural landscapes with relative ease.

He was back in the Pacific Northwest last May to reconnect with friends and colleagues while helping cheer on Cougar athletes at the Pac-12 Track and Field Championships in Seattle. The steady rainfall that weekend did nothing to dampen his enthusiasm.

“You get used to it,” he said, wiping rain drops from his brow while striking up conversations with other track enthusiasts. “It’s just part of the experience.”

Like the weather, unpredictability and a flair for the unexpected have been hallmarks of a life that has taken Delamere from corporate boardrooms to political upsets.

A WSU track scholarship brought him to the United States in 1970. That led to a stint in the U.S. Army, where he served as an accountant and helped coach long jumpers at West Point. His ties to the South Pacific and his Maori roots later turned into a job as chief financial officer at Polynesian Airlines. And after returning to New Zealand, where he took on leadership roles with indigenous tribes, he won a seat in Parliament as part of a swing bloc in 1996 that tipped control of the federal government and landed him in various cabinet roles as a rookie politician.

It was toward the end of Delamere’s collegiate track career that he began contemplating the mid-air somersault, already an experimental maneuver that a pre-Olympic champion Bruce Jenner and a handful of European athletes were experimenting with as well.

Although it involved a type of acrobatic skill that likely could become a crowd-pleaser, Delamere took a scientific approach to the new technique, blending his personal experience as an accomplished long jumper with the expertise of Washington State’s human biomechanics lab. When long jumpers leap, they begin to naturally rotate forward around their midsections, which become like a fulcrum. That’s why jumpers must tilt their upper bodies backwards slightly to remain upright when they leap.

The science behind The Flip, specifically the forward mid-air somersault, is...
based on taking advantage of the natural fulcrum. "I thought it was a better way to jump," Delamere says. "My theory was, why fight the rotation? Why not take it to its logical conclusion? And so I decided to do the somersault." Some, however, dismissed the technique as a stunt. Others worried that it could lead to severe injuries. A fierce debate over The Flip raged within track and field circles, and in 1975 the International Association of Athletics Federations, citing safety concerns, banned the mid-air somersault from use in long jump competitions.

Since Delamere had the longest recorded jump in a sanctioned meet using the mid-air somersault, the ban effectively sealed his status as the technique's world record holder. But decades have passed since Delamere last somersaulted into a long jump pit.

Now, he spends most of his time working internationally as an immigration consultant. He and his wife, Jo-ell, who he met at WSU, raised three children and have eight grandchildren. He remains an avid track and field enthusiast and, in his spare time, still contemplates ways the sport might improve its spectator appeal.

Nothing as dramatic as a leaping, mid-air somersault, but perhaps just as eye-raising: fantasy league gambling.

Delamere isn’t the only person talking about that. A fledgling internet-based track and field fantasy league already exists. But whether the idea to introduce cash prizes and payouts ever takes root, the willingness to think broadly and take chances is classic Delamere.

“It’s controversial, I know that and understand that," he says. "But the idea is you need to find some kind of incentive for people to start following these amazing athletes … and maybe it’s going to take having money on the line to get that started.”

Upside down on the mountain

On a sunny Saturday in Leavenworth, Holly Fiske ’06 and Leah Hemberry set out to work on the mountain.

They dig through the back of Fiske’s SUV and pull out a backpack and yoga trapeze from under a paddleboard, snowboard, and other outdoor accessories. They hike up Icicle Ridge trail and, after a few switchbacks, Hemberry spots a picturesque backdrop.

Fiske drops her bag and sticks a handstand into one of the many yoga poses in her repertoire. Hemberry captures the moment with photos that Fiske will share with her more than 100,000 Instagram followers.

When Fiske née Robertson graduated from Washington State University in 2006 with a communication degree, she never imagined social media would launch her into a career as a celebrity yogi and entrepreneur. “It’s not what I left school thinking would happen,” Fiske says. "But everything I’ve learned, even my sports management minor, has all come into play.”

After college, Fiske packed up and moved to Hawai’i for what was meant to be a year, but Maui turned into home. Fiske climbed the corporate ladder working in marketing and radio, then found herself unemployed at 26.

Marriage and two young children changed her mind about returning to a career in an office. While rehabbing a hip injury from a marathon and triathlon, Fiske limped into a yoga studio and was hooked by the intensity of the session. Yoga became her outlet as a stay-at-home mom.

It was on Instagram that Fiske learned of a community of aspiring yogis. She started posting her own photos and participating in challenges, and as her yoga skills increased, so did her following. Because of her love for inversions, she became known as “upsidedownmama.” "I got addicted because it was a way for me to practice yoga while I watched kids twenty-four-seven," Fiske says. “It’s my new sport.”

Fiske and her family traded in island living for the Bavarian landscape of Leavenworth, where Fiske’s husband opened a restaurant. It was there Fiske’s path crossed with Hemberry, a professional photographer. With a mutual love for the adventure lifestyle, the pair set out for the outdoors, where they incorporate nature into many of Fiske’s photos.

It was there that a business venture was born: to produce and market leggings featuring their photos of the scenic Pacific Northwest. They launched their business, Wild Movements, in January.

“The mission is to inspire people and to get outdoors,” Fiske says. “It’s our lifestyle to take these adventures with our kids. We made the business revolve around our lifestyle.”

After hiking Icicle Ridge, Fiske and Hemberry drive the short route to their office space just outside of town to package orders.

The duo recently branched out on other social media to promote their business, using applications such as Periscope and Snapchat during their outings. “It gives followers a glimpse into the adventure and see the legging that comes out of it," says Fiske.
Music is embodied, a word that means it grabs you by the guts until you do something: dance, weep, make love ... something. Music is visceral in another way, too: We connect the dots of our personal histories based on the tunes we were listening to at the time.

For a veteran, that might be more than she bargained for. Hearing a song first experienced when her life was in danger might result in memory replaying the original trauma. And, yes, Hendrix was indeed in the 101st—but was drummed out, per one of his sergeants, because he couldn’t simultaneously perform his duties and think about his guitar.

In the course of We Gotta Get Out, we hear what all those great songs meant to those with boots on the ground in Vietnam. We also hear the voices of the men and women who knew that music in the context of their service and how it changed them. More, we realize that music is always already changing our perception of the world. In the words of Dave Rabbit, the renegade broadcaster who ran Radio First Termer from a hotel somewhere in Saigon, “Take heed. And take care.”

—Brian Charles Clark

Or, take Hendrix at Woodstock: The fringed white vest and red bandana are now icons of those three days of love, mud, and music. But Hendrix’s deconstruction of “The Star-Spangled Banner”—rent with machine-gun staccato riffs and the dropped bombs of whammy-bar bent notes—made us hear things we’d never heard before, in a national anthem or anywhere else. For Hendrix’s friends in the 101st Airborne, the rendition was the perfect evocation of the hell they were living through. And, yes, Hendrix was indeed in the 101st—but was drummed out, per one of his sergeants, because he couldn’t simultaneously perform his duties and think about his guitar.

In the course of We Gotta Get Out, we hear what all those great songs meant to those with boots on the ground in Vietnam. We also hear the voices of the men and women who knew that music in the context of their service and how it changed them. More, we realize that music is always already changing our perception of the world. In the words of Dave Rabbit, the renegade broadcaster who ran Radio First Termer from a hotel somewhere in Saigon, “Take heed. And take care.”

—Brian Charles Clark

Pardon My French: How a Grumpy American Fell in Love with France
Allen Johnson ’85 PhD
Yucca Publishing: 2015

Funny, sexy, smart. If I only had three words in which to tell you about the pleasures of Allen Johnson’s Pardon My French, those’d be the ones.

Johnson spent a year in France with his wife, Nita, and Pardon My French relates their adventures in short vignettes arranged thematically.

One of the themes is that the French are not like us: They have their own special ways of doing—or not doing—things. Take, for instance, retail operations. A highlight of this hilarious chapter on trying to shop in French stores is this comment: “For the French, the customers are not always right. More often than not, they are seen as gravely misguided if not flat-out wrong.”

Johnson has great insight into the French language—and the pains and pleasures of learning to speak as do the French. The best way to learn French, Johnson points out, and “enjoy the French experience,” is “through full immersion. You have to mingle with the French. Those who lock themselves away in a hotel room will, of course, learn nothing—except perhaps a few novel ways of using the bidet.”

As an adult learner, Johnson’s acquisition of French is full of ecstatic successes and dismal misunderstandings. Just recognizing a native speaker (as opposed to all of us who speak the language with a “foreign” accent) is cause for celebration. One night Johnson was writing letters and his wife was watching TV. He heard an unusual accent and said, proudly, “That person is not French.” “You’re right,” said his wife, “it’s a robot.”

Johnson learns that it takes three generations to be considered a native—but that does not deter our intrepid Americans. Allen and Nita are adopted by an entire village. Chalk that up to the couple’s charm, hard work as cultural ambassadors and goodwill anthropologists, and a sense of humor that won over even the most sour of grumpy Frenchmen.

—Brian Charles Clark
Tenor saxophonist Dave Hagelganz leads a quartet of highly compatible musicians in this overdue self-titled debut album, joined by fellow professors Brian Ward (Washington State University) and Scott Steed (Eastern Washington University, Whitworth University), as well as young lion Dru Heller from Spokane. On the surface, this album appears as a humble offering to today’s jazz scene. What can six tunes by an acoustic quartet contribute to the current jazz atmosphere? Dave Hagelganz offers something hard to find in the world of jazz. The album is an artistic statement that reflects Hagelganz himself: direct, unpretentious, and genuine.

The opening track “Vepishta” is a good introduction to Hagelganz and pianist Ward. Though the melody is presented as a quartet, solos are presented in trio form, allowing both soloists’ lines to weave in and out of the harmony with complete freedom. “Integrity” and “Four Always” are the real introduction to the band with stretches of improvised melodic line, moving freely and without hesitation. Steed demonstrates this with ease, with unpredictably long lines and a singing tone. Hagelganz’s unmistakable and delicate sound shines through on the simple melody of “Four Always,” with a short walk to the bluesy side built into the form. “Bea” alternates between sections of pedal points (a nod to the likes of John Coltrane and McCoy Tyner) and more straight ahead changes, cohesively fusing both styles. The tribute piece “For Jobim” is more than a tribute in name. The tune is craftily written in the style of Antônio Carlos Jobim, melodically simple yet haunting.

The quartet engages listeners with a vibe of comfort and engagement that can only be presented by like-minded musicians sharing a musical understanding. Hagelganz does something remarkable in the span of six tunes—it gives us a glimpse into the soul of an artist.

—Patrick Sheng

Patrick Sheng ’08, ’10 MA is director of instrumental jazz studies at Long Beach City College.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Conversations: Jury Selection

DAVID L. CRUMP ’81
ICENET PRESS: 2016

A glimpse into the minds of prospective jurors through 50 conversations, this book written for trial lawyers teaches about juror biases and prejudices, and how to connect with potential jurors. Crump is a 1981 political science graduate and successful Pacific Northwest trial lawyer.

Angel’s Bounty

DIRECTED BY LEE FLEMING ’07
2015

A dark, gritty comedy shot on the Palouse and throughout Washington state tells the tale of a bounty hunter on a quest to bring her father’s killer to justice.

The Descent into Happiness: A Bicycling Journey over the Cascades and Rockies and across the Great Plains

DAVID HOWELL ’97 PHD
BLUE EAR BOOKS: 2015

Howell’s solo bicycle ride from Seattle to Milwaukee becomes a chance to ponder questions of solitude, introversion, and family in this travel narrative.
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BY BRIAN CHARLES CLARK

She graduated with her PA degree in 2012. Tung started work on a graduate physician assistant program in 2010, Tung started work on a graduate physician assistant program. In 2010, Tung started work on a graduate physician assistant program. Diagnosing their medical problems and providing direct care.” In area. Tung says. That passion led her to her first jobs after graduating from WSU with a nutrition degree, working as a registered dietician in the San Francisco area.

Later, she says, “I wanted to do more for patients in terms of diagnosing their medical problems and providing direct care.” In 2010, Tung started work on a graduate physician assistant program. She graduated with her PA degree in 2012. “We were in one of the poorest regions of Vietnam,” Tung says. Over the course of a week, the all-volunteer Venture to Heal team offered two clinics, treating nearly 1,300 people. “We had a 67-year-old man who had never before seen a health care provider.”

“I have always been interested in global health issues and in serving people in underprivileged areas,” Tung says. That passion led her to her first jobs after graduating from WSU with a nutrition degree, working as a registered dietician in the San Francisco area.

Tung says that her time at WSU gave her a great beginning in health care. She particularly remembers her anatomy course. “We worked on cadavers,” she says. A little gruesome? Maybe, but she points out the distinct advantage over other schools that use color-coded plastic models. “Those are easier to deal with,” she says, “but working with a cadaver is more clinically accurate.”

The team of 50 that worked together in Vietnam consisted of two MDs and three PAs, as well as nurses, radiology technicians—and family members. Tung says there was plenty for everyone to do—even nonprofessionals, who helped intake patients and guide them through the clinic’s processes.

“Would I do it again? Yes! But I want to wait until my son, Kai, is a little older so he can experience it with me.” Medical missions are “a lot of hard work, but you not only get to work side by side with others who share your passion, you also learn about other cultures while you’re there.”

VERNE D. CAMPBELL (’61 Music) recently published his book, Encore Horns: Giving Wind Instruments a New Life for Young Musicians, which chronicles his efforts to acquire, refurbish, and donate used flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, and other wind instruments to middle schools for the use of beginning band students. ✝ VIRGINIA (FRANKLIN) CAMPBELL (’61 Music) was elected president of the National League of American Pen Women, Inc. Comprised of professional writers, artists, and musicians, this is the oldest women’s arts organization in the United States, founded in 1897. ✝ WHITLOW W. L. AU (’64 MS Elec. Eng., ’70 PhD Eng. Science), emeritus research professor at the Hawai’i Institute of Marine Biology, received the Gold Medal of the Acoustical Society of America for contributions to understanding underwater bioacoustic, and for service to the Acoustical Society.

KATHERINE (KAY) KEVAN CALLENTINE (’70 History) retired in 2011 after more than 40 years as a high school algebra and history teacher. In her new career as a writer, Kay recently published two devotional books, Lesson Plans for Life and Between God and Me. ✝ JERRY JAEBER (’70 HBM) received the 2016 Idaho Governor’s Lifetime Achievement in Recreation and Tourism Award. Jaeger is Hagadone Hospitality president and Coeur d’Alene Resort co-owner. ✝ HARVEY CROWDER (’73 DVM) retired from his post as director of the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health after 11 years at the helm. The new retiree said he has only one item on his to-do list: to sleep in. “If the dogs will let me,” he added. ✝ DALE DANIEL (’73 Zool.) won the 2016 Physician Exceptional Contribution Award. He was also recognized with an award from the General Surgery-Fontana, and for his leadership establishing the Ontario Vineyard Surgery Center. ✝ DAVID SMELTZER (’76 Acc.) is the 2016 Washington State Apple Citizen of the Year. The award goes to a person who helps advance Washington’s reputation as the apple capital of the world. Smeltzer became plant manager for Custom Apple/ Starr Ranch Growers in 1997 and currently serves as chief financial officer. ✝ BILL NIX (’77 Comm., ’77 History) recently retired from three positions. For 26 years he served as municipal court judge for North Bonneville, Oregon. He was a chief petty officer Master-at-Arms for 36 years in the U.S. Navy. After 22 years, he retired from his position as a parole officer in Hood River County, Oregon. ✝ AbSci appointed V. BRYAN LAWILS (’79 PhD Biochem.) to its board of directors. Lawil is the CEO and founder of numerous biotechnology companies and currently serves on the board of directors for a number of biotech companies.

BRETT EMMONS, PE (’80 Mech. Eng.) retired after 30 years at the BP Cherry Point Refinery in Blaine. Emmons worked as a machinery engineer, machine shop supervisor, project engineering superintendent, and reliability engineering superintendent for the refinery. ✝ The Port of Seattle promoted DAVE SOIKE (’80 Civ. Eng.) to the position of chief operating officer. Soike has worked for the port for nearly 36 years, beginning as a junior engineer and quickly advancing into positions in project management. ✝ PAUL GOLLNICK (’81 Biochem.), a University at Buffalo professor of biological sciences, has been elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. An accomplished scholar, Gollnack has collaborated on and published more than 100 academic articles, helping to advance
Last spring, the WSU Alumni Association exceeded 30,000 members for the first time, ever! Members joined because of the amazing events, exclusive programs, special services, and fantastic discounts. When Cougs get together, the more the better. Become a member and help us reach 40,000—because it’s Cougs like you who make the difference. Find us online at alumni.wsu.edu/join or call 1-800-ALUM-WSU.
the field of microbiology. STEVE PERRY (’81 Comm.) has been promoted to general manager of the Peninsula Daily News, Sequim Gazette, and Forks Forum. KENNETH BOUTLON (’84 Music) is the new dean of the School of Fine Arts at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. Boulton is a Grammy-nominated pianist whose performances and recordings have garnered international acclaim. His discography features nine recordings of both solo and chamber repertoire, much of which is devoted to contemporary American music. Professional services firm Sikich LLP announced that its partners elected CHRIS GEIER (’84 Crim. Jus.) as new managing partner and CEO. In that role, Geier will oversee the firm’s strategic and financial planning and guide future growth.

Social media publishing company the Audience brought in publishing industry veteran DEBBIE MENIN (’85 Comm.) to serve as executive vice president of strategic partnerships. She is in charge of the sales team. Matheson Trucking, Inc. named BROCK M. VANN (’85 Ag. Econ., ’97 MBA) its director of operations. Vann taught transportation and logistics at WSU and served as a member of the WSU Transportation Advisory Committee. Cal Fire’s GLENN BARLEY (’86 Forest & Range Mgmt.) was promoted to the position of unit chief of Cal Fire’s Inyo, Mono, San Bernardino Unit. The unit is one of the largest in California, stretching from San Bernardino in the south to Topaz Lake in rural Mono County to the north.

DWIGHT D. DOZIER (’86 Social Science) has been named chief information officer of the Georgia Tech Foundation in Atlanta. As CIO, Dozier sets strategic direction and provides leadership for all GTF’s information technology initiatives. WSU baseball legend JOHN G. OLERUD (X’88) was named the Pac-12 Conference Player of the Century. Olerud played for Toronto, the New York Mets and Yankees, Seattle, and Boston during his 17-year pro career. He is a member of the WSU Athletic Hall of Fame and the College Baseball Hall of Fame. The John Olerud Two-Way Player of the Year Award, given annually by the College Baseball Hall of Fame, was named in his honor.

JOHN BRUCE (’90 Busi.) has been appointed rooms division manager at Coast Bellevue Hotel, a 176-room property that recently joined Coast Hospitality’s portfolio of managed properties. In his new role, he will be responsible for managing all front-of-house operations. DOUG HAMRICK (’90 Mech. Eng.), a retired chemical disposal project manager, was given the WSU Tri-Cities’ Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Award in recognition of his service, career achievements, and dedication to the promotion of educational excellence. Hamrick has 40 years of experience working in nuclear operations and chemical weapons demilitarization.

JACKIE VAN WORMER (’90, ’92 MA, ’10 PhD Crim. Jus.) has been tapped to serve as permanent administrator of Spokane County’s criminal justice reform efforts. Roughly $120 million, or 66 percent, of Spokane County’s general fund expenses in 2016 go toward public safety. After 25 years at Columbia Grain, JEFF VAN PEVENAGE (’91 Agribusiness) was promoted to serve as the corporation’s CEO and president. Van Pevenage now oversees all operations for a company that manages almost 25 percent of the wheat exported out of Pacific Northwest ports.

The Elk Grove, California, City Council named JONATHAN HOBBS (’93 Busi.) the city’s permanent attorney. Under contract through law firm Kronick, Moskovitz, Tiedemann & Girard, Hobbs served as Elk Grove’s city attorney since 2011. The Washington State Historical Society named ERICH R. EBEL (’96 Comm.) its marketing and communications director. “The unique and storied history of the State of Washington has long been a passion of mine, and I can’t fully express how satisfying it is to be able to put my knowledge, skills, and abilities to use doing something I love,” he said.

JEFF BISHOP (’98 Accounting) has joined GridLiance as senior vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer. Bishop will work closely with the board of directors and executive team to address critical electrical transmission challenges and ensure that customers receive reliable and cost effective transmission service. Irish equine nutrition company Plusvital has hired equine veterinarian LISA KATZ (’98 MS Vet. Sci.) as a consultant. Drawing on her background in equine exercise physiology, Katz will work with the company to provide innovative products across the areas of nutrition, genomics, diagnostics, and equine performance.

CURTIS CLEVERINGA (’99 Elem. Ed.) is the new principal at Capital High School in the Olympia School District. Cleveringa has served as principal and athletic director in the Taholah School District on the Quinault Indian Reservation in Grays Harbor County for the past two years.

KJELL ANDERSON (’00 Arch.) received the 2016 Young Architect Award from the Seattle chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Anderson is an architect, author, and sustainability coordinator at LMN Architects in Seattle. LUKE BOEHLAND (’00 Psych.) is now the Idaho regional manager for Veyo Logistics. He will be overseeing Veyo’s Idaho operation as they partner with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to provide nonemergency medical transport for Medicaid participants. Northwest Public Radio’s Richland correspondent, ANNA KING (’00 Comm.), is WSU’s 2016 Woman of the Year. The award recognizes women who have distinguished themselves in public service. King has covered agriculture, rural issues, and the Hanford nuclear reservation since 2007.

Laramie High School named TRAVIS BROWN (’02, ’08 PhD Neurosci.) as its new boys’ basketball head coach. Brown has over ten years of coaching experience. Since moving to Laramie, Wyoming, he has established a competitive youth basketball program, the Gem City Wranglers.

HONG SOON-MAN (’03 MS, ’07 PhD Mech. Eng.) was named president and CEO of Korail, the Republic of Korea’s state-owned rail operator. Hong was previously president of the Korea Railroad Research Institute and has held key positions in government transport divisions.

also check out class notes online
The wait is nearly over. Cougar III is almost here.

The third wine in the Cougar Collectors’ Series is a limited-edition red blend from the amazing Cougs at Bergevin Lane. To ensure you get your bottle of Cougar III – and enjoy other incredible Cougar wines four times each year – is to join the Wine-by-Cougars wine club. WBC is a service of the WSU Alumni Association, and it gives you the chance to enjoy premier Cougar-connected wines, delivered right to your doorstep. How great is that?

WBC and the Cougar Collectors’ Series celebrate Cougar wineries and showcase the impact WSU alumni have as leaders in the wine industry. By becoming a WBC member and purchasing Cougar III, you’ll support scholarships for the next generation of wine-industry leaders from WSU as well as other important WSUAA initiatives.

The Cougar Collectors’ series always sells out quickly. To guarantee a bottle, join the Wine-by-Cougars wine club by September 7. To join, go to winebycougars.com or call 800-258-6978.

Three’s a charm

It’s easy to find the Cougar wine along the row of stainless steel tanks at Bergevin Lane Winery in Walla Walla. The WSU logo gives it away. But what’s inside really distinguishes Cougar III wine.

“The idea that what’s in the bottle comes first is the predominant feeling around here,” says winemaker Dave Harvey ’88. “But what’s most unique about this vintage of the Coug wines is that everybody is Coug: vineyard owners, winery owner, winemaker.”

Winery owner and manager Annette Bergevin ’86 laughs at the synchronicity as she, Harvey, and winery dog Paco walk past the tanks.

Cougar III wine also has three varietals of grapes—Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Malbec—from three vineyards, notes Harvey.

One of those vineyards is on land where Bergevin grew up. She is a fifth-generation Walla Walla native who returned and started Bergevin Lane in 2002.

Bergevin brought on Harvey, with 20 years of industry experience, as winemaker about five years ago. She and Harvey emphasize the importance of chemistry between winemakers and vineyards, and the sourcing of the fruit to get the right blend.

“It’s Cougar pride—you want to put the best product you can out there when all of your peers are enjoying it,” says Bergevin. “It’s also great to see those students get scholarships.”

Kelly Brantner ’96, the Alumni Association manager who conceived of and manages the Cougar wine series, agrees: “You get to have fantastic wine and you support scholarships in viticulture, enology, and wine business management.”

Brantner says the sure way to get the bottle is through the Wine by Cougars club. A release party at Bergevin Lane on September 24 offers another opportunity.

She says alumni and Cougar fans should also know that they can send to any state where it’s legal to ship wine.

To pair food with Cougar III, Bergevin encourages people to experiment, and maybe post some recipes to Facebook for Cougar tailgate parties.

Harvey has a suggestion to start: “I think you need to bring out your best peppercom steak recipe for it, because Malbec has just a little bit of spice to it.”
If you want to get to know Bob Olds ’64, DVM ’67, just ask Lizzy. Sure, Lizzy is a dog and can’t speak, but her story speaks volumes.

Found beaten on the streets of Tijuana, Lizzy’s jaw was so badly damaged she couldn’t close her mouth, and could neither eat nor drink. Rescued by members of a Los Angeles-based nonprofit, The Forgotten Dog, Lizzy got a complicated, pro bono surgery that repaired the damage to her jaw. The surgeon? Bob Olds. Lizzy is now a happy, normal dog.

Olds always wanted to be a vet. Kids love animals, he says, and he never had any doubt about his path through life. At Pasadena High School, Olds played football alongside Mel Hein Jr. Football fans will recognize the name, as Hein Jr.’s father, Mel Sr. ’31, led the Cougars to the 1931 Rose Bowl. Hein Sr. went on to play center for the New York Giants and was a charter member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It was the Heins, father and son, who endorsed WSU so enthusiastically that Olds applied there without hesitation.

As a vet med student, Ghery Pettit inspired and guided Olds into surgery. Olds’s WSU gymnastics coach, Hubie Dunn, and Dick Fry, former WSU sports information director, were also influential in giving the aspiring vet his start. Olds says that, after he flunked out his first semester, the two men both wrote letters in support of his reinstatement.

“That was a terrible time,” says Olds. “I feel that, without those two letters, I would have not been able to continue my education at WSU, my gymnastic career would have been over, and my dream of a veterinary career would never have come true.”

A husband of 40 years to Janice, Olds has two sons and a granddaughter.

Olds recently received the Animal Health Foundation’s Cortese-Lippincott award in recognition for making the world a better place for both animals and humans, as well as for service to his community, the veterinary profession, and—perhaps most applicable of all—the human-animal bond.
IN memoriam


WAYNE LELAND AMAN (‘50 Pharm.), 93, December 17, 2015, Stevenson. RUSTIN ARCHIE BREWER (‘50 History), 90, January 23, 2015, Hermiston, Oregon. ANNE CUMMINGS
IN memoriam


FACULTY AND STAFF
house, the University of Southern California.

The few radios on campus were tuned to the game and heralds shouted out the latest events. In the final quarter the score was 12-10 and WSC students were buoyed by the knowledge that they were going to lose to a national power by just a few points. Then WSC quarterback Butch Meeker took the hike and flicked it to halfback Bill Sweet, who was about to be toppled by two or three USC defenders when he planted his left foot and threw a long pass down the sidelines to a waiting John Parkhill. Parkhill tucked the ball against his ribs and sprinted to the goal line.

The Cougars beat USC!

Once students on campus were able to calm down, they realized now they had a responsibility. The students had to put together a welcome for the players commensurate with their accomplishment. Leaders called a meeting and Bohler Gymnasium was packed with students. There followed a debate about what kind of celebration the returning football players should find when they returned to campus.

One problem was that the team would be arriving on a weekday morning, when students normally were in class. President Holland was in Olympia at the time so students went to his chief assistant, Vice President O.L. “Dad” Waller, and put this question to him: Wasn’t it true every student was allowed three absences per semester? Yes, Waller said, that was true. The problem was solved. Students could just spend one of their three allowed absences. Students spread the message that they could attend the ceremonies and only lose one of their three unexcused absences. There were no students in class and practically everyone jammed the trackside as the heroes of Los Angeles arrived.

Unfortunately, the calls to newspapers to advertise the big event prompted reporters to ask President Holland in Olympia if it was true that the college had released students from their studies to celebrate a football game. Of course not, Holland said. The headlines said WSC students had “walked out” on classes.

When he returned to Pullman, President Holland directed the faculty committee on student discipline to investigate what had caused this embarrassment. The committee called in student leaders one-by-one and a stenographer recorded the interrogations.

Student Harry Rymond admitted there was a mix-up in signals. But he asked if the college was going to regard it a “walk out,” why hadn’t the vice president told students that? A faculty committee member answered, “Vice President Waller was waiting for word from President Holland.” Rymond might have pointed out, but didn’t, that in the time it took the two administrators to clarify their policy, the students had called a campus-wide meeting, debated the matter, voted, organized four huge celebrations, with
bands, and notified newspapers all over the Northwest.

Another student called before the committee was Sally Jo Walker. She was something of a character on campus. She led an all-girl band that was much in demand and earned her way through college by fetching students and their luggage at the train station with a horse-drawn wagon.

Walker told the committee she had not made up her own mind until she attended the mass meeting in Bohler gym. She decided to take part because she detected “a spirit of dissatisfaction that needed helping.”

When a committee member asked her to explain why, if students were going to break rules, the college and the state should allow them to remain in the state college, Sally Jo—who was studying to be a teacher herself—responded with a very wise observation. People who made mistakes were the very ones who should be in school because that’s where they could learn to do better.

No professor could have designed a better discussion of ethics and duty than that which followed the 1925 event. Students had demonstrated leadership in a larger cause. They were motivated by a sense of obligation. They set out to organize an orderly and memorable celebration and they did so. “As a matter of fact,” one member of the faculty discipline committee said, “better leadership than in most things we have had on campus this year.”

These students were the forerunners of what would later be called “The Greatest Generation.”

The 1925 rally stood as the greatest demonstration of spirit until it was displaced by the event in 1932, when students devised and executed a plan to retrieve that cougar mascot stolen by the Huskies in 1919. That involved thousands of students, about equally divided between Huskies and Cougars, and made the national newsreels. But that’s another story.

Dear Loretta,

Each volcano’s life is a little different. Many of them are born when big chunks of the Earth’s crust, or tectonic plates, collide or move away from each other. The moving plates force hot, liquid rock, or magma, to rise up from deep within the Earth.

When things get super hot and a lot of pressure builds up in the magma chambers, volcanoes can erupt. Some volcanoes can spew ash and lava several miles into the sky. Others will slowly ooze out lava.

Just as each volcano is unique, so are the reasons they go extinct. Generally, though, if a volcano doesn’t have a source of magma, it won’t erupt.

That’s what I found out from my friend John Wolff, a geologist at Washington State University. To explore more about how volcanoes lose their magma, Wolff and I headed to the plains of southeast Idaho. There, the remains of really old volcanoes are buried underground.

Millions of years ago, we would have been able to see these volcanoes at the surface. They might have been spewing out lava and ash. But now, they no longer have their source of life.

If you are anything like me, you might be wondering what on Earth happens to the magma. Wolff is really curious about this, too.

He explained that volcanoes, and all of us, are riding on pieces of the Earth’s crust.

These pieces of crust move very slowly—just about as fast as our fingernails grow. They move over heat sources, zones of hot, upwelling rock from deep in the Earth’s interior. It melts the crust when it gets near the surface to fuel the volcano.

“It’s burning a hole in the plate,” he said. “Just like if you passed a plastic sheet over a candle flame.”

Eventually, when volcanoes have rafted away from the heat source, they falter and die.

As the Earth’s crust moved, slowly but surely, over millions of years, the magma that was under old volcanoes in southeast Idaho ended up in Wyoming—under a big super volcano.

Never having seen a super volcano before, I imagined a huge mountain erupting tons of lava. You can imagine my surprise when Wolff explained that this super volcano was actually Yellowstone National Park.

Millions of years ago, the Yellowstone super volcano erupted and collapsed. There is still magma under Yellowstone, but we don’t expect it to erupt anytime soon.

While a volcano may need to have magma to stay alive, there are still volcanoes that have a magma supply and can sleep for millions of years—and you thought us cats slept a lot.

Some scientists are really curious about how the landscape changes, both above the ground and below it. In fact, they ask questions that are a lot like yours, Loretta. Who knows, maybe one day you could help us investigate the lives of volcanoes.

Sincerely,

DR. UNIVERSE
As a new academic year begins, full of optimism, anticipation, and Cougar spirit, we want to thank the tens of thousands of alumni and friends whose generous gifts throughout the year help make the WSU experience rich and rewarding for all students every day.

Open doors for future Cougs with a gift to WSU today.

foundation.wsu.edu/give