It took tenacity to throw revered science into question. But it allowed an evolution in our understanding of inheritance.

Students realize their unique identities in our nationally recognized LGBTQ support networks.

Impressed by the work of the 9/11 search and rescue dogs, a large animal vet changed her career.

These disaster experts will keep bugging you to have a bug out plan.

Couldn’t make it to the Winter Olympics? Here’s virtually the next best thing.

Final score: 3–0. Our engineers step up to the plate.

The internet has become a gamble in more ways than one.
maybe some bigger fish to try IN SEASON

Water is life.

But two billion people have no access to clean water, resulting in over 1.5 million child deaths per year.

Researchers at the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health and their African partners work to block the spread of infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance globally.

It’s our mission to improve quality of life for all people.

Washington State Magazine • Summer 2018

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FIRSTwords

Express yourself. Nature or nurture? It seemed so simple a debate when I was younger and first learning biology. DNA and genes determined some of our traits, and the rest came from family, society, and other external factors.

There was certainly debate about the extent of what we could learn versus what we inherit as hard-coded genetic information. Well, that discussion is a lot more complicated now, as recent empirical research and discoveries show offspring can inherit traits developed by parents’ environment and experiences. Basically, what’s passed on to kids is not just in the genetic code.

One way that happens is through epigenetics, where heritable changes in gene expression occur without changes to the underlying DNA sequence. Washington State University biologist Michael Skinner and his students over the last 15 years pioneered and replicated experiments in this field that showed epigenetic transfers, traits changed by environment that were passed down several generations. Skinner was treated initially as a rogue for the findings, but his research has spurred new understanding of evolution and inheritance, and could lead to effective gene therapies for diseases.

Even when we inherit traits, the environment can sometimes make it hard to express oneself, as Bob Dlugosh '71 and other gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Cougs will attest. It wasn’t easy to identify as LGBT, even at WSU, but with support these alumni could finally be who they are, and use their voices to build community and resilience.

The voices of Cougs over the years have resonated with people from all over. Edward R. Murrow’s amazing broadcasts from wartime London reached millions. And who can deny that Keith Jackson ’54 expressed the very heart of college football? Jackson, who passed away in January, is remembered by new Murrow College Dean Bruce Pinkleton in this issue. Younger voices, too, can tell us great stories, such as Kara Rowe’s documentary work on women in agriculture.

One thing I’ve discovered over the years is that every member of the Cougar family has a story. Some are sad but must be told, like the untimely death by suicide of WSU student and football player Tyler Hilinski. Stories can help us heal, and hopefully reach out to others facing despair.

Other stories share the spirit of WSU life, whether it’s trout fishing in Idaho rivers or playing piano in Kimbrough. That’s why I’m asking you to express yourself with a 100-word story about your time at Washington State. The contest details are at the back of the magazine, but please note that the top stories will get a cheese-y prize.

EDITORS: Larry Clark ’94
ART DIRECTOR: John Paxson    SCIENCE WRITER: Rebecca E. Phillips ’76, ’81 DVM    STAFF WRITER: Brian Charles Clark
INTERN: Will DeMarco ’18
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Will DeMarco, Brian Hudgins, Bruce Pinkleton, Rachel Webber ’11
PHOTOGRAPHERS: Karla Aguilar, Jocelyn Augustino, Darinka Black, Mike Cassidy, Michael Gomez, Parker Gyokeres, Matt Hagen, Shelly Hanks ’81, Erik Hansen, Tom Hauk, Robert Halman, Ryan J. Rowe, Brian Smale, Eric Tupper, Patricia Thomas, Tyler Tjomsland
WSU PRESIDENT: Kirk H. Schulz
VICE PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS: Phil Weiler
ADVERTISING: Contact 509-335-2388 or wsm@wsu.edu
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His invention saves lives.

Improperly pasteurized milk can carry dangerous diseases. In developing countries, it’s a serious health risk.

Victor Charoonsophonsak ’17 invented a better pasteurization thermometer with a faculty mentor. With fellow WSU students, he created a plan for bringing it to market.

His lifesaving invention is now available in Nigeria—and soon, the rest of the world.

choose.wsu.edu
Jennifer Brown ’99 grew up thinking a team of horses would be required to pull her away from an equine veterinarian career. Although Brown thought she was not that strong in science during high school, her love of training horses and interacting with the animals propelled her to pursue a doctorate of veterinary medicine at WSU.

The heroism displayed during the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, however, introduced Brown to a new possibility. “During my residency, 9/11 happened,” Brown says. “That obviously made a big impression on many people and one of the things that impressed me was the work of the search and rescue dogs at the sites. I thought that was something I could get involved in later in my career.”

A few years after Brown had taken a faculty position at Virginia Tech, she joined the Veterinary Medical Assistance Team, right before Hurricane Katrina impacted the Gulf Coast in 2005. “That was my first deployment, and I worked with the search and rescue dogs down there,” Brown says. “When I came back home after being deployed for five weeks for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, I wanted to learn more about the dogs and how they trained and worked.”

A colleague of Brown’s on the VMAT introduced Brown to one of the local Urban Search and Rescue teams. Observing that training enabled Brown to get more involved with the search and rescue outfit as the team veterinarian who managed their canine care needs. “I said I would never be a dog handler because I just don’t have time for that,” Brown says. “Never say never, because now I have five Urban Search and Rescue dogs.” Brown got her first search and rescue dog, Phanesse, in 2009. She has FEMA-Certified Live Find dogs and a FEMA-Certified Human Remains Detection dog. Following her relocation to Florida in 2010, Brown transferred to Florida Task Force-2 where she serves...
Bug out!

BY BRIAN CHARLES CLARK

A scrawled note was stuck to the door of the clinic. “All animals left here died,” it said. “We have buried them for you. I have no way of expressing my grief.” The note was signed by the vet whose clinic was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

That note is a sad reminder that being prepared for a disaster is key to surviving storms, fires, floods, earthquakes, and whatever else might come crashing down upon us—and our animals.

That’s why Cynthia Faux says, “If I have 15 minutes to evacuate in front of a fast-moving fire, I don’t want to spend 10 of those looking for my pet carriers.” Faux, a clinical assistant professor in Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, has two cats, a dog, two birds, and a 30-inch-long fish. “During fire season, those carriers stay in my living room.”

Faux teaches a two-week-long summer intensive evacuation preparedness course for fourth-year veterinary medicine students. The course immerses students in the intricacies of disaster management, including which local, state, and federal agencies to coordinate with, how to develop plans for moving livestock, and what animal health factors to consider when rendering aid to veterinary clinics in the path of a disaster.

As Faux says, “If your veterinary practice is in the path of a flood or a fire, whether you like it or not, you have to deal with it.” The idea of the course, she adds, “is to prepare veterinarians, whether they’re going to actively participate in disaster management or they just want to know in case it happens to them.”

Emergency managers, as well as psychologists who study crisis communications and management, admit that there’s no way to get 100 percent of people to leave a disaster area. One reason for that is that many people simply refuse to leave without their pets.

And even if some try to leave with their pets, they aren’t always allowed to do so. One case, in particular, helped move American disaster planners to be more inclusive of animals.

In the wake of 2015’s Hurricane Katrina, one of the deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history, a young boy was sheltering at the Superdome. He was to be evacuated to a more permanent facility in Houston. As he was boarding a bus to Texas, his dog was taken out of his arms by a police officer. Distressed, the boy called out to his dog, “Snowball!”, and then crumpled to the ground in despair. Caught in a series of photos, the story went viral—and helped inspire a new law.

Most of Brown’s efforts have been after hurricanes, most recently in response to Hurricane Irma last September. She also deployed to North Carolina in response to Hurricane Matthew in 2016. A power plant building collapse in St. Petersburg, Florida, and an apartment fire in Temple Terrace marked local missions for Brown. “We don’t deploy frequently, which is good, because it has to be a major disaster for us to get deployed,” she says.

Equine surgery, emergency care experience, and her overall veterinary training helped Brown in disaster situations. In turn, that has helped Brown develop her canine sports medicine and rehabilitation practice.

Dogs used in sporting events make up a big part of Brown’s work—dogs who compete in field trials, agility, protection sports, and disc competitions. Brown also does rehab to assist dogs recovering from knee surgeries or other surgical procedures. Companion pets who have an injury or mobility issues are part of the practice, too.

The career has taken Brown from her hometown of Lynnwood across the country caring for both people and animals in times of need. “That is the beauty of veterinary medicine,” Brown says. “You are not confined to one thing. You might start as an equine surgeon, and you can go in a different direction and still be successful.” *
Virtually yours

How do you walk through a building in Atlanta when you’re in a classroom in Pullman?

If you can’t be there physically, virtual reality can deliver a new level of engagement, whether it’s watching Shawn White’s snowboarder whose inches from your head, or working collaboratively on construction projects with students from Georgia. Virtual reality is also a rapidly growing business. There were an estimated seven million VR headsets in 2016, which is expected to balloon to 47 million by 2020. That acceleration has pushed companies like Intel to ramp up their VR offerings, including the 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea. The VR technology there was developed by former Washington State University engineering professors Sankar and Uma Jayaram from 1993 to 2015, funded by federal agencies and companies such as PACCAR and Komatsu. They started their company 3D-4U, which was bought by Intel in 2016, to create fully immersive and interactive experiences.

First used in Martin Stadium for WSU football games, the VR system had a major push during the Olympics. The Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture hosted a viewing party of the Winter Games where students and faculty could try on VR headsets at WSU Pullman’s Spark, a new digitally-focused classroom building, and experience 360-degree views of snowboarding half-pipe, figure skating, and several other sports. Over in PyeongChang, several former students joined the Jayarams at the Intel project. Barely two years out of school, Blake Rose ’15 managed the operation. John Harrison ’07 supported coding and graphics activities. Matthew Poppe ’11 handled the design and manufacture of proprietary camera systems assisted by Aaron Haashekiel ’15. And Oklohn Kim ’07 MS, ’11 PhD created VR Olympic apps for the Oulstar Gear VR, Google Daydream, and WinMR headsets.

The headsets continue to improve, but are not at the quality of Ready Player One, the dystopian science fiction novel by Ernest Kline that takes place mostly in virtual space. That book was selected as the 2017-18 Common Reading selection read by all freshmen and integrated into coursework and lectures.

Although Ready Player One is set in the future, VR is already used in classrooms. In Anne Anderson’s construction management class, students collaborate on building projects using VR headsets and 3-D software. Anderson, an assistant professor of construction management and a virtual reality expert, says, "We really feel more team cohesive ness, as though we are in the space together."

Not only do they work together, the WSU students join construction management students at Virginia Tech and Georgia Tech for lectures and “walk around” virtual buildings, such as the historic Rilmoove Building in Atlanta, for classes. The projects aren’t just in Georgia. Strap on a headset, and you can look around inside the walls of WSU Pullman’s Haun S. Floyd Cultural Center and see how the beams create the unique “rolling” roof. It’s certainly more than a game. As Anderson says, industry is already using this technology, which helps graduating students.

Corrie Hines. Photo Robert Faiher

Hines and her fellow students worked with the disaster management team in Chelan County, in north central Washington. Winetrees is a home to a large number of horse lovers and their animals, so having a way of moving large animals to safety is important to Stan Smoke, Chelan County’s emergency management specialist.

A former fire chief, Smoke says having defendable space around your home, barn, or stable is an important part of a preparedness defensible space around your home, barn, or stable is an important part of preparedness.

Smoke covering the entire state of Washington on September 5, 2017. **Overlays: Detail of the online AIRPACT-5 Dynamic Map which forecasts air quality in the Pacific Northwest. Image courtesy NOAA and WSU Laboratory for Atmospheric Research.**

In the hazy days of summer

It’s no secret that wildfires are on the rise throughout the western United States. Come summer, the plumes of gray-brown smoke seem to arrive weeks earlier and often linger well into fall. The smoke irritates sinuses, clings to clothes, and despite your efforts, seeps into homes and cars like an ever-present smoldering campfire. On those hazy-filled days, people often wonder, “Is it safe for the kids to play outside? To hold a neighborhood BBQ? What about those with asthma or other respiratory problems?”

Engineers at the Washington State University Laboratory for Atmospheric Research (LAR) are helping provide answers through a powerful computer modeling system called AIRPACT, which predicts daily air pollution levels for the Pacific Northwest, including wildfire smoke.

In response to growing public health concerns, the AIRPACT team recently expanded their wildfire smoke forecasting capabilities and is also developing early warning alerts for those with respiratory health issues. It’s a welcome move after last summer, when the Spokane Clean Air Agency recorded the region’s worst air quality since monitoring began 20 years ago. For several days in September, much of Eastern Washington was blanketed with thick mud-yellow smoke that sent air quality readings into the very unhealthy zone—and people scrambling for N95 masks.

Though the severity of wildfire seasons varies, scientists say the number of smoky days has been trending upward for the last decade and is expected to continue. The reasons are complex, but it’s generally agreed that average temperatures are rising and staying warmer longer due to climate change. The result is often more rain than snow during winter, which spurs spring vegetation growth and allows insect pests to survive. The combination of drought, dry fuel, and pests can turn what should be a normal fire year into something extreme.

The looming question for many people, is how to adapt their daily lives to endure weeks or months of smoky air pollution while minimizing adverse health effects.

ready Player One
**Smoke signals**

Joseph Vaughan, research associate professor in civil and environmental engineering, says smoke forecasts are posted on the AIRPACT website by 7 a.m. each day and can help with decision-making and day-planning. The system models several components of wildfire smoke, with a focus on particulate matter that is 2.5 microns or less in diameter, called PM2.5. In comparison, the average hair is 10 microns wide.

These tiny smoke particles stay suspended in the air and are small enough to get deep into the lungs where they cause irritation and inflammation, says Vaughan. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, particle pollution is carcinogenic and linked to serious health problems including respiratory disease, asthma attacks, cardiovascular, heart attacks, strokes, and early death.

PM2.5 is one of six pollutants reflected in the EPA’s Air Quality Index, or AQI, and regulated by the Clean Air Act. The AQI, available to the public on AirNow.gov, shows current air pollution levels using colors and a scale running from 0 to 500. Good air quality, for example, is shown in green and runs between 0 and 50. Yellow is moderate at 52 to 100, orange is unhealthy for sensitive groups at 101 to 150, red is unhealthy for everyone at 151 to 200, purple is very unhealthy for everyone at 201 to 300, and maroon is hazardous at 301 to 500.

In Spokane last September, the AQI for PM2.5 reached 256—the highest ever recorded.

Vaughan says the AQI is based on weather monitoring and forecasts while AIRPACT uses a computer model that brings in meteorology and emissions data to simulate air pollution conditions as they evolve over time. The AIRPACT team wants to use the model to provide practical information for decision-making.

Smoke levels often change significantly throughout the day, so try to plan activities around the least smoky times to minimize exposure.

Drinking plenty of fluids to keep respiratory membranes moist.

Stay indoors and keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep windows and doors shut. Run air conditioners on recirculate and close the fresh air intake.

Reduce or avoid outdoor physical activity when smoke is in the air—especially important for children, older adults, pregnant women, and those with heart or lung disease.

CENSE can generate a specific value for asthma patients under age 15 and one for those over age 65.

“Our subscriber function will text, call, or email you with the day’s warnings for the conditions you’ve signed up for,” he says. “If you have a child with asthma, you might want an alert whenever there’s a 20 percent increase in the risk of an event. Or a 50 percent increase for a parent with COPD.”

CENSE ties in nicely with the work of WSU civil and environmental engineering professor and AIRPACT member Van Walten, who leads air quality research for the Urbanova project in Spokane’s U-District. Urbanova is a consortium of businesses and innovators who are using smart city technologies to improve services and infrastructure in Spokane.

“The smart city idea is using state-of-the-art sensors in intelligent ways to improve health and well-being of citizens,” says Walten.

Last year, he and his colleagues mounted air quality sensors on three streetlamps as part of the Avista smart streetlight project.

“This spring, we installed six more sensors—this time on rooftops in the U-District,” Walten says. “We also put in a very sophisticated suite of air quality instruments as a reference site at WSU Spokane.” Their plan is to monitor real-time air quality at the street and neighborhood level with an emphasis on winter air stagnation and wildfire smoke. As they gear up for what could be another smoky fire season, Walten says they hope to collect data that will benefit the general public.

“Smoke can have serious health effects, so we’re making measurements to better understand the exposure of Spokane’s citizens,” he says. “By providing people with more information during smoke events, we hope that they will be able to make better decisions regarding their personal health.”

Smoke gets truly gets under the skin of wine grapes.

As microscopic particles and liquid droplets ooze and eddy through the vineyard, grapes are coated with toxic chemicals. Worse, smoke from forest and sage fires manages to get into the plant itself, wreaking havoc with the plant’s internal chemistry.

“The smart city idea is using state-of-the-art sensors in intelligent ways to improve health and well-being of citizens,” says Walten.

Smoke exposure can alter the sugars from the smoke particles, which can slow down the fermentation process. And the second, he suggests, might lie in spit.

Humans interfere with the vines’ mission when we harvest grapes for wine. Making wine from smoke-tainted grapes, therefore, is a frustrating enterprise. According to the Washington State University wine science team, smoke-tainted wines are in danger of developing“ unpleasantly ‘pharmaceutical,’ ‘dirty,’ ‘salty,’ ‘medicinal,’ ‘campfire,’ or ‘burnt’ flavors and odors.”

Researchers are working on developing methods to remove smoke particles that penetrate the grape skin. The first step is to physically scrub the grape skin. But, to get the color right, red wines are made with prolonged contact with skins, so taint compounds are a permanent part of the wine.

Research-wise, it’s early days—but the pressure is on. Fires in Australia, California, and Washington state threaten a beloved industry and there is much interest in finding ways to salvage fine wines from tainted grapes.

Ten tips to cope with wildfire smoke

1. Check local air quality reports and forecasts at airpact.wsu.edu and arizon.gov.

2. Reduce or avoid outdoor physical activity when smoke is in the air—especially important for children, older adults, pregnant women, and those with heart or lung disease.

3. Smoke levels often change substantially throughout the day, so try to plan activities around the least smoky times to minimize exposure.

4. Drink plenty of fluids to keep respiratory membranes moist.

5. Stay indoors and keep indoor air as clean as possible. Keep windows and doors shut. Run air conditioners on recirculate and close the fresh air intake. Use a HEPA filter air cleaner. Don’t fry meat, spray aerosols, use candles, fireplaces, or gas stoves. Don’t vacuum.

6. If possible, create a clean room in your home. Stock enough food and medicine to last at least five days.

7. Consider leaving the area if air quality is poor and you can’t keep indoor air clean.

8. Protect yourself with respirator masks marked N95 or N100 and certified by NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health). Make sure to use both straps. Paper painter’s masks and surgical masks are ineffective.

9. Avoid driving if possible and keep windows closed if you must drive. But open vents periodically to prevent CO2 buildup, which causes sleepiness.

10. Make sure to protect pets and livestock. Call your veterinarian if animals show signs of distress.

Smoke truly gets under the skin of wine grapes.

As microscopic particles and liquid droplets ooze and eddy through the vineyard, grapes are coated with toxic chemicals. Worse, smoke from forest and sage fires manages to get into the plant itself, wreaking havoc with the plant’s internal chemistry.

In self-defense, grape vines attempt to sequester toxic smoke particles that infiltrate berries and leaves by binding smoke molecules to the offending invaders. The plant can then metabolically shuttle the sugar-trapped particles into places where the smoke won’t be as harmful to the vines’ mission: produce grapes and reproduce.

Humans interfere with the vines’ mission when we harvest grapes for wine. Making wine from smoke-tainted grapes, therefore, is a frustrating enterprise. According to the Washington State University wine science team, smoke-tainted wines are in danger of developing "unpleasantly ‘pharmaceutical,’ ‘dirty,’ ‘salty,’ ‘medicinal,’ ‘campfire,’ or ‘burnt’ flavors and odors.”

Researchers are working on developing methods to remove smoke particles that penetrate the grape skin. The first step is to physically scrub the grape skin. But, to get the color right, red wines are made with prolonged contact with skins, so taint compounds are a permanent part of the wine.

Filtering and fining techniques have been used to try to clear the juice of offending chemicals but, as Tom Collins, a wine chemist based at WSU Tri-Cities, says, the problem is much deeper. Sugar-sequestered smoke particles are very similar to other desirable compounds. Filtering techniques, such as reverse osmosis, remove both the good and the bad compounds, resulting in a wine that Collins charitably describes as “neutral.” This bland concoction could be blended with unaffected wines to produce something consumable but, even then, trouble lurks. Over time, the acidity of bottled wine clears the sugar from the particle, releasing a new wave of off-flavors and aromas.

Collins points out that not much is really known about smoke taint—except that it tastes nasty and can have a negative impact on the bottom line for both growers and winemakers.

Collins and his team are engaged in an ongoing project that seeks to answer several big questions: How much smoke exposure, and at what period in grape development, is too much? And what can be done to clean up tainted fruit to find that it can be used to make a useful product?

Collins and colleagues have constructed an in-vitro model of controlling and testing smoke exposure, with the aim of answering the first question. And the second, he suggests, might lie in spit.

Since the enzymes in our saliva can clear sugars entrapping smoke particles, perhaps a process could be developed using similar, non-carcinogenic enzymes to liberate the sugars from the smoke particles, which then might be filtered out by one means or another.

Research-wise, it’s early days—but the pressure is on. Fires in Australia, California, and Washington state threaten a beloved industry and there is much interest in finding ways to salvage fine wines from tainted grapes.

BY BRIAN CHARLES CLARK

PHOTO DREAMSTIMEFIRE NEAR UNION GAP (COURTESY KOMO NEWS)

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PHOTO DREAMSTIMEFIRE NEAR UNION GAP (COURTESY KOMO NEWS)
Physics at the bat

TODAY’S BASEBALL GAME, brought to you by Physics Unlimited, is a blockbuster contest between the famous Mathematical Physicists and Washington State University’s own Oblique Collisions.

As the Oblique Collisions take the field, Ernest Rutherford, the renowned English physicist, is first up for the Mathematical Physicists. Better known outside physics circles for his cricketing skills, Rutherford is quite the hitter, though usually of particles much smaller than baseballs.

Indeed, in describing the collision of an alpha particle—better known as the nucleus of a helium atom, two protons and two massive neutrons— with a gold atom, Rutherford had this to say: “It was as if you fired a 15”[artillery]shell at a piece of tissue paper and it came back to hit you.”

Swing and a miss! Strike one against the discoverer of some of the basic properties of particle physics.

Jeffrey Kensrud, manager of the WSU Sports Science Lab in Pullman, is on the mound winding up another pitch. Crouched behind home plate—and wearing safety gear of course—a Lloyd Smith, director of the lab. Kensrud flies, and it’s another 88 MPH fastball. Rutherford lines one over the center field fence.

Another home run for the Mathematical Physicists.

Isaac Newton is next up, adjusting his powdered wig, and taking a few practice swings. The all-star mathematician, not known for his baseball skills, is in fact an armchair authority on the bat.

Later, in a post-game interview, Smith and Kensrud talk about what just happened. “It’s not that we played poorly,” says Smith. “Rather, these guys are the masters of scatter experiments. I mean, Rutherford fired that move in the early twentieth century. We used the same principles in our efforts to understand what happens to a baseball when hit by a bat—as we recently wrote in a paper on the subject—some of the same principles that apply to subatomic collisions also apply to collisions of massive macroscopic objects.”

Kensrud nods, and adds, “And Sir Isaac de-developed the math that tells us how fast a hit object goes, based on the coefficient of restitution. Simply divide the velocity after collision by the velocity before collision.”

“That sounds simple,” says the interviewer. “So, all the energy of the swinging bat is conver-
ted into ball velocity?”

“Not quite,” explains Kensrud. “The ball is still in blind motion as it absorbs some of that energy. While some of the rest is lost to friction of bat against ball.”

“But what you really want,” interjects Smith, “is to minimize the loss of kinetic energy and to max-
imize the post-impact spin by maximizing both the normal and tangential coefficients of restitution.”

There is joy in Mudville at this insight.

FINAL SCORE: Mathematical Physicists, 3, Oblique Collisions, 0, but the Collisions score many bonus points for their innovative, skill-based virtual games. What’s more, they are demanding that the staples of contemporary gambling — slot machines, card games, craps tables—may be considered a primitive technology soon, says Lloyd Smith, an assistant professor of hospitality business management at Washington State University Everett with an expertise in the economic impacts and public policy of gambling.

As the lid is lifted on the interest in altering the gambling landscape. Traditional forms, such as scratch-off lottery tickets, are slowly being phased out in favor of more interactive, skill-based gambling. The digital realm offers a flurry of new avenues for gamblers, lawmakers grapple with the challenges posed by emerging to technology and an evolving scientific understanding of gambling addiction.

Gambling in Washington state is governed by laws largely created in the early 1970s. While older than most, “Washington state’s regulatory framework is not much different from other states, which do not take into consideration the development of new digital gambling formats.”

The unique challenges posed by online and digital gambling have led policymakers scrambling to update antiquated laws created in an era when the internet was an unknown concept. Complicating the equation further, the ambiguity of betting’s newest forms has given way to debate about whether these activities even constitute gambling in the first place, says Washington State Gambling Commission Director David Trujillo.

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FINAL SCORE: Mathematical Physicists, 3, Oblique Collisions, 0, but the Collisions score many bonus points for their high-speed photography of bat-whacked spanning balls. 
AS A KID growing up near Cleveland, sports and devoted fans surrounded Patrick Chun. He became one himself, rooting for the Cavaliers, Indians, and Browns, even when they weren’t winning. Chun’s passion led him to Ohio State University and eventually to leadership in their athletic department.

But as much as he loves sports, Chun gives credit to his parents for instilling a devotion to education and a powerful work ethic. “It all came together as he took the mantle of athletic director, first at Florida Atlantic University and now at Washington State University,” Chun’s parents came to Ohio from South Korea in 1969 in pursuit of the American dream, says Chun, and “like a lot of immigrants, their dreams manifested themselves in their children.”

They settled first in Youngstown, where his father was a Tektronix instructor at the downtown YWCA and his mother worked at a grocery store. They moved to a suburb of Cleveland when the steel industry in Youngstown declined. “Cleveland winters are character builders,” he says.

He also grew up playing baseball, basketball, and football, but didn’t play at the collegiate level as he headed to Ohio State. “I was too small to really compete,” he says. Chun’s passion led him to Ohio State, where he met his wife Natalie (also an Ohio State alum) there, his kids were born there, and family and friends lived in the area. “I went to college and never left.”

When Chun learned that sportswriting would be part of the world we’d never think about moving to, to take over a broken athletic program,” says Chun. “But I had to say I jumped off the plane, I needed to see how good it could be.”

Starting in 2012, Chun’s tenure at FAU led to success across academics, athletics, student-athlete development, and fundraising. Chun’s belief in education was manifest in FAU’s athletes’ academic growth: Entering the 2017-18 academic year, they posted a combined GPA above 3.0 for each of the past four semesters, a first in school history. The school’s athletic program won a national award for best practices in their programming for student-athletes, including a comprehensive life skills program for the football team that featured career services and a concerted effort to provide community service to the South Florida area.

Chun also oversaw significant fundraising and athletic achievements at FAU. The institution received its largest single gift, signed several partnership agreements worth millions, and built and started a number of facilities. The FAU Owls over the last few years posted impressive seasons in football, women’s volleyball, women’s soccer, beach volleyball, men’s and women’s tennis, baseball, and softball, among others.

After previous Athletic Director Bill Mosq ’73 took the same position at the University of Nebraska last fall, Chun was hired by WSU after a national search. In January, he became the first Asian-American athletic director at a Power 5 conference school, and the fourteenth person to lead Cougar Athletics.

Chun couldn’t be happier. He says there are three main reasons why he was ecstatic about coming to Washington State: First, he was drawn by the national reputation of Kirk Schulz as a university president who understands and supports athletics.

Second, WSU and the Cougar family are well-known and respected for their devotion. “I believe there are less than half a dozen schools in the country that have this kind of affinity, this kind of love and loyalty for their institutions,” says Chun. He also knew Pullman was a welcoming community, an important point as he brings his family to the town with wife Natalie; daughters, Vanna, Kennedy, and Greta; and their dog Little Brother.

The Cougar family also convinces Chun that the greatest days of WSU Athletics lie ahead. “You can change the world from WSU. It transcends athletics; just look at engineering, farming, business, the wine industry, the Murrow College. The people who come out of this place, they change history,” he says. “We have a responsibility in the athletic department to model and mirror that.”

Chun sees WSU’s competitiveness in sports tied to its educational mission. “Cougs want to win, and Cougs want to win at the highest level. We all want to win championships, and to develop young people who will get degrees and go on to do great things.”

Hearkening back to his own upbringing and the values of hard work and education, Chun makes sure to point out what’s most important to him, and what he hopes all Cougs will help achieve: impact on students.

Even in the short time he’s been here so far, Chun has made it a point to meet and listen to members of the tennis, basketball, golf, and football teams.

“Get the joy of going to the Cougar Athletic Training table with student athletes,” he says with a smile. “Like to sit down next to some of the 18- to 20-year-olds and make it as awkward as humanly possible, just start talking about their life. It’s the best part of the job.”

As the students talk about why they’re at WSU and what they want to accomplish, Chun wonders, “What can we do, as an athletic department, to help them achieve their dreams?”
One day in a drift boat along Henry’s Fork in eastern Idaho, Kyle Long ‘07 felt the lure of the trout, fly fishing for a signature fish of the West.

Henry’s Fork is just about as legendary as it gets among trout fishermen,” says Long. “I remember casting Renegades, my favorite dry fly for trout, and catching five or six rainbows in a row.

Long’s trip cemented itself in his memory and led him to a career in trout conservation with Trout Unlimited. It’s his unique experience, but it matches the stories of many anglers, stories of steelhead and brook trout, cutthroat and browns, cutthroat and rainbows. From swiftly gravelly rivers to broad lakes to dark, cold pools in forest creeks, trout live throughout the region and in the fishing imagination of all ages.

Trout are also intertwined in the week of Washington State University, where researchers help understand trout genomics and monitor health of the fish. And one shouldn’t forget that the beautiful fish tastes pretty good.

“I’ve always been captivated by the appearance of trout with the iridescent sheen,” says Long. He speaks fondly of that Henry’s Fork fishing trip as a WSU junior with some older guys, including Dwight Highbaugh ’86 M.S., his boss and director of WSU environmental health and safety. Long, an environmental studies student and leader (eventually a student regent), recalls the journey as a coming of age. Something a Pullman entrepreneur and owner of College Hill Custom Threads, grew up fishing at Cocolalla Lake near Sandpoint, Idaho, with his grandfather. His first trout came at an annual ice release in rivers, steelhead—the ocean-going rainbow trout—could often be found.

Even further back, the second oldest salmoid fish fossil was uncovered in 1980 at the site of a Miocene era lake near Clarkia, Idaho, just 66 miles from Pullman. That fish, related to a Eurasian trout called Huchen, snacked on bugs over 20 million years ago. That primeval fish is not related to the trout we find in the Northwest now. Today we have a combination of native and introduced trout species, including the steelhead, bull, Eastern brook, brown, cutthroat, and mackinaw lake trout. The Dolly Varden (named after a Charles Dickens character and a hat) is not really a trout, but it looks like one. Predominant among all trout in the region is the rainbow.

Rainbow trout, a versatile and hardy fish, are often raised in hatcheries and found in lakes, rivers, and streams just about everywhere. Millions of rainbow trout are released into Washington lakes each spring, and hundreds of thousands of people head out to catch them. Rainbows are a great resource for sport and species for Native Americans. Even when salmon was scarce in rivers, steelhead—the ocean-going rainbow trout—could often be found.

The fish themselves have an ancient history in the Northwest: Salmonids, the trout cousins of Pacific salmon, have long provided a source of food for Native Americans. Even when salmon was scarce in rivers, steelhead—the ocean-going rainbow trout—could often be found.

While fishing for trout is often catch and release in rivers, they can provide a delicious meal. They’re usually sustainable, too, getting a “best choice” rating on Seafood Watch.

Long’s favorite preparation is smoked trout. “I have a cheap smoker and some alder chips—a couple of hours doing something else around the house while the fish smokes is my favorite way to cook trout and steelhead,” he says. He likes to make pasta with a smoked trout Alfredo, a recipe he got from working at Pete’s Bar and Grill in Pullman. A smoked trout chowder can also rival clam or smoked salmon chowder.

While Long doesn’t use pan fried trout for breakfast, a favorite from his grandpa Casey, made with Johnny’s spicer mix, egg, and panko breading. Trout can be unctioned and light, and thus goes well with olive oil and lemon. Trout is simply, perhaps with thyme and dill, and trout can satisfy any fish connoisseur.

One such melody is coldwater disease, which has a probiotic treatment thanks to researchers Kenneth Carr ’97 Ph.D. of the University of Idaho and Douglas Call ’97, ’97 Ph.D. of WSU’s Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health.

On a fundamental level, WSU biologist Gary Thorgaard played his part in solving for Global Animal Health.
In a word, Michael Skinner is tenacious. Growing up on a ranch outside Pendleton, the former Eagle Scout and college wrestler learned early on that you don’t back down from a little head-butting or controversy. It’s all just part of the game.

The trait has served Skinner well over the years and enabled him to persevere through the fallout of a chance discovery in his reproductive biology lab in the 1990s. The unexpected findings threw 200 years of scientific ideology into question and initiated a paradigm shift in the understanding of inheritance and evolution. They also sparked a wave of outrage and debate that continues today.

The Washington State University Eastlick distinguished professor and founding director of the Center for Reproductive Biology was the first to clearly document a nongenetic form of inheritance that works through epigenetics. The epigenome—which means “on genetics”—is a suite of chemical molecules that attach to DNA and regulate gene function like tiny on-and-off switches.

Skinner showed that certain agricultural and manufacturing chemicals can alter the epigenome in pregnant rats and those alterations subsequently passed down for four generations without changes to the underlying DNA. These epigenetic changes were also linked to a disturbing increase in disease in the rat’s grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In effect, “environmental contaminants dramatically change gene expression in the offspring without causing mutations in the DNA,” says Skinner. “These are things that don’t fit the traditional genetic paradigm.”

The implications are huge. “What your great-grandmother was exposed to in her environment might actually influence what disease you’re going to get and might also pass onto your grandchildren,” he says.

Since the 1940s, it’s been generally accepted that the DNA sequence controls transfer of biological information from one generation to the next. To suggest that environment alone could change heritable traits upended models stretching back to the battle between Darwin and Lamarck in the 1850s.

Skinner is well aware. “We’re challenging the chief paradigm in biology—genetic determinism—which suggests that your DNA sequence determines your destiny. I believe genetics is only a small piece of a much bigger story. Environmental epigenetics is probably equally important in regards to inheritance, disease etiology, or evolution.”

The idea of nongenetic inheritance had been bandied about by academics in the past but Skinner’s breakthrough provided the first plausible mechanism by which it could occur.

His inaugural publication on the topic in 2005 ignited a scientific firestorm that thrust him into the spotlight as a leader in the new field of transgenerational epigenetics—the study of inherited changes that can’t be explained by traditional genetics. Along with it came the dawning realization that supposedly harmless chemicals, stress, or nutritional deficits could in fact impart health problems to later generations. The bad news was somewhat tempered by a silver lining—the discovery also gave medical researchers new opportunities to improve personalized medicine and the diagnosis and treatment of disease.

In 2013, Skinner was honored with a Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award, given annually to people having a revolutionary effect on their fields.

Though some still doubt his findings and even regard him as a heretic, Skinner says hundreds of similar papers involving epigenetics in plant and animal species are being published each year. “These paradigm shifts in science always take at least a generation to occur,” says Skinner. “It takes a new generation of scientists with no vested interests to get involved and carry it forward.”

A NUMBER OF THESE YOUNG SCIENTISTS cut their teeth on microscopes and dissecting trays in the classrooms of historic Abelson Hall on the WSU Pullman campus. Up five flights of stairs in the stalwart building, you’ll find the Skinner Laboratory, a quiet work space filled with hundreds of bottles arranged neatly on clean shelves, the tile floors surprisingly waxed and shiny.

In the back, the professor welcomes visitors into his office where an enormous northern pike appears to leap from the wall to greet...
them. The avid outdoorsman is casual in jeans and a gray wool shirt. His Stetson fedora rests in its spot on the bookshelf.

"The story began in the late 1990s," Skinner says as he reaches a coffee cup and leans back in his chair. "I was studying the effects of two widely-used farming chemicals on pregnant rats—the pesticide methoxychlor and a fungicide called vinclozolin," he says. "Like many agricultural chemicals, the two are known to be endocrine-disrupting chemicals that can interfere with normal development and function of the reproduction system.

In this experiment, one of Skinner’s postdoctoral fellows, Andrea Cupp, exposed the rats to methoxychlor during the time the fetal tissues were developing into ovaries and testes. They wanted to see if it would affect sex determination in the pups. Unfortunately, it was a failed experiment," Skinner says. "There was no obvious impact on sex determination.

When the pups grew up, however, they discovered that 90 percent of the males had very high levels of sperm cell death even though their parents were just fine. When their grandparents were briefly exposed. Surprised, the researchers checked the rat’s DNA and confirmed that there were no new genetic mutations. Skinner also knew that a new trait appearing with 90 percent frequency in different families could not be explained by classical genetics. The traits should decline over time.

"So, of course, I didn’t believe Andrea’s findings," he says. "What happened next is described by Skinner in excerpts from a detailed account he penned for Scientific American in 2014:

There was one sure way to find out whether the chemicals were to blame. I asked Andrea to breed a fourth and then fifth generation of exposed rats. As the great-grandchildren — and later, the great-great-grandgrandchildren — matured, the males all suffered problems like those of their ancestors. All these changes stemmed from a fleeting but very high dose of agricultural chemicals that for decades have been sprayed on fruits, vegetables, vineyards, and golf courses.

"I was shocked by these results," says Skinner. "Over several years, we repeated the experiments multiple times to confirm them and collect additional evidence. It was obvious it could not be genetics and the only mechanism known was epigenetics.

So, the next question was: How could this happen?

The most plausible explanation, we concluded, was that the exposure causes a mutation in the epigenome that interferes with gonadal development in male embryos—and this epimutation passes from sperm to the developing embryo, including its primordial germ cells, for generations.

"Putting it out there was a big deal. It advances our understanding that we’re not just inheriting our DNA sequence, we are inheriting our epigenetics. And since the environment can dramatically alter epigenetics, suddenly the environmental impact on inheritance is important. Before, it wasn’t."

**The Upshot Was Immediate.**

The first significant backlash came from his fellow academicians, the molecular biologists. Looking back, Skinner says, “I probably was routine, in a major discovery, that the institutional opposition usually develops first. Their life’s work is being challenged—I understand why they opposed it.”

The agro-chemical companies also rebelled. With their bottom line at stake, industry researchers were skeptical when they could not initially reproduce some of Skinner’s findings. The discrepancy was likely due to using different experimental methods and was later resolved, Skinner says. Government toxicologists who set FDA and EPA standards for drug and chemical use were no happier and balked at implications that their testing methods were incomplete or inaccurate.

Skinner explains that in the field of toxicology, scientists use direct exposure to assess whether a compound is harmful or not. These tests then determine how a chemical is regulated for public use.

The “problems is, many of the chemicals I tested in my lab had no direct toxic effects on the exposed rat or her pups, but there was a very dramatic increase in disease in the great-grandpups,” he says. “So, in my mind, we can’t just look at a person who is exposed; we also need to do toxicology studies for up to three generations to determine if there will be any effects.”

The controversy softened a bit after Skinner published a half dozen new papers further confirming that epigenetic changes can persist for several generations. Eventually, some of his opponents investigated for themselves and published their own findings.

“Darwin was absolutely correct that natural selection is one major driver for the process of evolution,” Skinner says. “But there is more to the story.” He refers to a lesser-known naturalist named Jean-Baptiste Lamarck who, in 1802, speculated that environment could directly alter physical traits and those acquired traits then passed on to children and grand-

components can’t be explained with genetics alone—they tried but it doesn’t fit.”

“We started getting into evolution because if epigenetics is critical, it has to be critical for everything,” he says. “A lot of evolutionary epigenetics 101

While the DNA in chromosomes (left) carries primary genetic information, it is modified by a second layer of molecules called epigenetic "marks." These marks are usually methyl, acetyl, or other chemicals which act like switches to control gene expression. "Epigenetic marks also control how tightly DNA winds around histone heads. The tighter the wrapping, the fewer genes available for activation.

Epigenetic traits can persist for generations

Skinner’s research shows that exposure to pollutants or stressors right after conception can be passed down for at least five generations along with associated health risks.

Sources: Morell, M. May 31, 2016 "Epigenetics: Unfinished Symphony," and adapted from Scientific American August 2014 "Is Epigenetics Outside the Gene?"

2ND GEN: MULTIGENERATIONAL INHERITANCE FROM GRANDMOTHER’S EXPOSURE: FEMALE DIRECT EXPOSURE TO PRACTICALLY ANY PollutANT WHICH AFFECTS FETUS DIRECTLY. FEMALE PREGNANT AT CRUCIAL POINTS. NO Epigenetic changes in the germ line will be inherited by the next generation unless the offspring is exposed to the same. Furthermore, different pollutants can affect different offspring.

Inheritance without a change to DNA sequence

Darwin was absolutely correct that natural selection is one major driver for the process of evolution,” Skinner says. “But there is more to the story.” He refers to a lesser-known naturalist named Jean-Baptiste Lamarck who, in 1802, speculated that environment could directly alter physical traits and those acquired traits then passed on to children and grand-

“Environment does have the ability to increase variation in your traits through epigenetics,” he says.

Furthermore, our studies show that epigenetic changes can increase susceptibility for all types of genetic mutations. So, genetic variation is not the only driver for environmental epigenetics.

Skinner pauses for a moment. “I want to be very clear here,” he begins. “I’m not saying anything against genetics. Genetics is absolutely essential. But there will never be a genetic-only process and there will never be an epigenetic-only process. These two things are integrated and cannot be separated.”

He first took this “unified theory of evolution” public at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, an institution known for its scholarly evolution department. Skinner says he was curious as to how they would receive him.

It didn’t take them long to find out. Three times during the presentation, seasoned faculty members stood up and loudly interrupted him.

“It’s extremely well established that genetics is the primary molecular mechanism for evolution and is supported by studies for decades, so why suggest anything else?" one shouted.

Reflecting back, Skinner says, “It was somewhat expected as science investigators spend 30-40 years studying a specific paradigm. Then some guy comes along and says it’s not this thing in the world, but we need to add other parts. So, for some well-established scientists, there’s a knee-jerk reaction against that kind of thing. It’s just human nature.”

“Today I could go there with no problems; this was their first time hearing about it and they shocked them,” he says. “But then they sit back and think about it. They look in the literature and realize that many people are starting to investigate this area. So, it’s slowly changing.”

He gives a little laugh. “I didn’t know it, but this also happened to be Darwin Week at the university. As soon as I said the word Lamarck, there was controversy.”

Since that day, Skinner and other scientists have observed transgenerational inheritance of acquired characteristics in a wide range of species, including plants, flies, worms, fish, birds, rodents, and pigs. And with that comes disease susceptibility that individuals might not otherwise have.

“Today, no one doubts that epigenetic effects play a crucial role in development, aging, and even cancer,” Skinner writes in Scientific American. “Follow-up studies at my lab have shown that the great-grandchildren of vincristine-treated rats have consistently altered patterns of methylation in their sperm, testes, and ovaries, as well as abnormal gene activity in their primordial germ cells. We also found that fourth-generation offspring are prone to weight gain and anxiety; they even select mates differently.”

Skinner says almost anything in the environment can cause these epigenetic changes, beginning with the food we eat each day.

“There are thousands of compounds in plants that we’ve adjusted to. One example is a compound in soy that decreases the risk of prostate disease and is known to be modulated by epigenetics. Starvation and high-fat diets also alter the epigenome.”

“Genome-wide association studies show that generally less than one percent of any disease has an associated genetic mutation. This suggests that the majority of diseases are not related to genetic mutations. In our studies, 95 percent of animals with a disease have epigenetic shifts. So, clearly things like the environment have been overlooked as potential causes of disease.”

“Looking toward the future, Skinner says he’ll continue to uncover the precise mechanics of the transgenerational epigenetic process. He and his team are also breaking ground in the discovery of new diagnostic tools for the medical field.

Theoretically, we should be able to do an epigenome analysis in our early twenties and determine if we have a susceptibility to various diseases,” Skinner says. “This could help us live a healthy lifestyle or diet or therapeutic change to prevent it from developing.

“So, I think preventative medicine will become a reality not because of genetics but of epigenetics. We may not be able to fix it but we will potentially be able to treat it.”
Finding Identity and Expression at WSU

Bob Dlugosh says that he and his roommate, Al, "were always chummy around Pullman together." Best friends, Bob figured Al for straight, but he liked the guy so much he didn’t let it bother him. Bob did wonder if Al knew he was gay. In 1968, "gay" felt like a brand new word. So it probably wasn’t the one used on the sign Al and Bob found tacked to their Stephenson Hall door: "Bob and Al are gay."

But that’s what Robert Dlugosh ’71 recalls decades later. The noun was probably something from the much crueler vernacular of the day. They were being called faggots, queers, fairies. Al brushed it off. Dlugosh says, and the friends roomed together until graduation. In recalling the sign of aggression, Dlugosh, too, brushes it off. Others had it much worse than him. He has “warm and fuzzy feelings” for the University. Dlugosh, an activist-through-education and Seattle architect, and his husband, Don McKee, now endow a scholarship for LGBTQ—lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer—students at Washington State University.

For Prudence Miles ’77, being outed wasn’t a homophobic attack, but an act of defiance. Although open about her orientation, she only shared that with a small group of other gay and lesbian students, staff, and faculty. But one day the editors of WSU’s student newspaper, The Evergreen, published a letter by one of that small group. Prudence’s name was on the list of signatories.

“There was little me,” she recalls, “writing breakfast to the Regent’s Hall dining room, suddenly seeing this letter with my name attached to it. Probably 99 percent of the women in the room didn’t care or didn’t know who I was—but it was a public outing that I had not expected.” She says she was already a member of the Gay People’s Alliance, one of the first activist and awareness groups at WSU, and had volunteered for its speakers bureau. She got pretty good at answering the question, “What’s it like to be a lesbian?”

Becca Prescott ’12 came out in the safety of the Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation Resource Center: GIESORC (“gee-sork”), or just the Center. She discovered she was a lesbian while in college. Friends she made at the Center on the fourth floor of the CUB, along with the staff there, shared experiences and insights about what being gay meant, and why people are that way,” she says from her parent’s home in Montana, on break from nursing school in Oakland, California. During her college years, it was precisely going home she stressed about. Her mother, especially, was having difficulty accepting her daughter’s orientation, fearing she had made some terrible error in rearing her child.

“Having that conversation at the Center made me more confident in having that conversation with my family,” she says, just before she heads out the door to go skiing with her dad.

Harvey Milk, the San Francisco city supervisor and first openly gay elected official in California, urged his “brothers and sisters” to come out “for your sake,” and for the sake of friends, family, and coworkers. “I know that it is hard and will hurt them,” he said in a 1978 speech. “Come out [and] once and for all, break down the myths. Destroy the lies and distortions.” Milk urged people to come out at least to those they knew well, because coming out is a tonic for homophobia.

Coming out is how community is created among a very diverse group of sexual minorities. But it is no guarantee; it can be, as Milk acknowledged that day, dangerous. Later in 1978, Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone were gunned down in San Francisco City Hall, murdered by Dan White.

OPENING A DOOR

Becca Prescott learned a cool new word: “queero,” queer + hero. The portmanteau, coined by comedian Cameron Esposito on her podcast, Queery, refers to activists such as Harvey Milk, Ellen DeGeneres, or Esposito herself. Much closer to home, though, there is the quotidian grind and exaltation of “the little things,” says Melynda Huskey, the first permanent director of the Center. That we can discover our orientations and identities at all in such an overwhelmingly straight, gender-binary—and frequently violently—homophobic culture is the real act of heroism. Huskey re-

By Brian Charles Clark

calls students who walked past the always-open door of the Center, time and again, sometimes slowing down, maybe peering in. But only some ever made it in.

That door, always open, is not just a metaphor for LGBTQ community; it really is one of the entrances to queer culture at WSU.

As Paul Kwon, a psychology professor at WSU Pullman, says, partaking in community—having people to talk to and allies to count on—is the most important factor in the resilience of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. Minorities have forever formed communities, when possible, trying to strike an equitable equilibrium with the dominant culture.

Matthew Jeffries, the Center’s current director, says that because Washington state—and Washington State University—have long been models of inclusion and diversity, we have a responsibility to keep staffing the fight right for all. But WSU and the state weren’t always that way. Just this year, Washington state legislators finally passed a bill that outlawed conversion therapy, a long-disproven “cure” for emergent, juvenile homosexual identity that’s still legal in 40 other states.

Dlugosh summarizes the situation in Pullman in the late ’60s, but he might be talking about just about anywhere in the United States other than a few major urban centers—such as San Francisco, New York,

Washington State University and the state have long been models of inclusion and diversity, and the Center, time and again, some-
and Seattle. He hesitates, then says, “How do I put this? I knew some other gay people—well, they seemed gay to me but we never talked about it. It was very frustrating for all of us students.” Dlugosh’s recollection is that there was no gay liberation movement, as it was only beginning to be called, during his years in Pullman.

Alumni mentioned in various Evergreen articles, and especially in the student newspaper’s letters section, are difficult to find. Dlugosh says that when he tried to kickstart an LGBT alumni group, “we found [many alumni] had a bad taste in their mouth for WSU not being very progressive back then. They did not have warm and fuzzy feelings.” It’s not surprising, the virulent homophobia in some of the letters the Evergreen published from the early 1970s until as recently as the late 1990s is sometimes horrifying. To the paper’s credit, the editorialists were mostly in favor of giving gay people that right to live—a “right” as ominous as it sounds—and have at least some civil rights (if not all the rights, such as to not be fired from a job for one’s sexual identity). Dlugosh graduated in 1971. By the time Prudence Miles got to Pullman in 1973, things were perking up. She says, “human sexuality classes always wanted gay people to come and talk.” Miles recalls, “You try to talk to people: it’s not scary and it’s not going to happen. It’s you’re in love with somebody different.”

Miles spoke up because of the toxic effect of coming out. Even more important, she says, “You never know if someone is signed up or you’re the same.” For instance, “You’re in love with somebody different.”

Miles’ name was signed regularly on the student newspaper of the Gay Alliance or Gay People’s Alliance becoming more inclusive of identities. In any case, Miles was soon part of what was then a community transitioning from “protective invisibility” to out, proud, and loud. She misses the diversity of what was then a sort of secretive social club. Secretive for self-defense, but it was nevertheless a group of people who spent their time rapping about awareness, rights, and the simple observation that coming out to people changed minds and softened hard hearts. That’s why, she says, “there were a group of us who were willing to go out and talk when asked.”

The Gay Alliance’s speakers bureau would do interviews on the campus radio station, or give talks and answer questions at residence halls and sorority and fraternity houses.

“Human sexuality classes always wanted gay people to come and talk,” Miles recalls. “You try to talk to people: it’s not scary and it’s not going to happen. It’s you’re in love with somebody different.”

“Rates of mental health disorder, including depression and anxiety, are about twice in LGB adults compared with non-LGBT adults,” Kwon says. “If someone is targeted with an insult, the intuitive thing might be to immediately push your emotions aside, to try to not feel bad about what just happened. But what we know in psychology is that kind of emotional suppression is more damaging than accepting that there are going to be some uncomfortable emotions, and that we need to process and spend time and deal with these emotions wisely.” And, he says, “rates of mental health disorders are about twice in LGB folks—I suspect it would be even higher in trans folks—compared to non-LGBT individuals.”

“Some sources of minority stress can be very blatant,” Kwon continues. “Like having laws that are discriminatory. But it’s also more subtle, just feeling that you can’t be your...
Violent crimes against sexual minorities are on the rise, according to studies by the Southern Poverty Law Center. "We knew we were becoming more visible and were being noticed in possibilities," says Miles. "And I think over the years we’ve gotten a lot of those possibilities but with it has come pain."

The pain comes in the form of a seemingly endless backlash. According to a classic definition of prejudice by psychologist Gordon Allport, backlash is due to the fact that prejudice treats persons as categories rather than as individuals. Because someone is black, female, homosexual, and so forth, the prejudiced person needs no further information on which to base his evaluations and behaviors—A summarizing, administrative spirit prevails.

Prejudice, including homophobia, has little to do with facts and everything to do with categorizing names. Instead of a life-affirming view of the world where other people and groups are the potential source of support, people who suffer from prejudice, writes Thomas J. Williams in a 2016 Psychology Today article that expands on Allport’s analysis, “preoccupy themselves with social competition. Life strategies center on victory and defeat, offense and defense. Resources are comprehended as difficult or... attainable prizes, awarded to individuals and their allies.” As Exxon says, “Part of what I teach in my diversity class is the idea of privilege, the unoffered advantage that certain people have based on their demographics. I think what we’ve seen is that people are extremely reluctant to give up their privilege. And I think that is what results in this kind of backlash. People in power feel they are losing that kind of privilege and they retaliate by reinforcing that privilege. I think we know prejudice arises when there is more competition over scarce resources.”

Matthew Jeffries concurs that education is important. One of the goals of the Center’s work is to offer workshops and trainings that educate faculty, staff, and students about the realities of being a minority. “We are here to create cognitive dissonance in students, so that the next time they think before speaking: ‘Oh, maybe I shouldn’t say that. That’s so wrong.’ We can’t unbear them behaviors for students that they’ve acquired over 20 years. But even tiny shifts in the way people go...”

As Miles remembers the excitement of discovering that the LGBTQ community was blossoming into a social movement in the early 1970s: “A woman friend called me up and said, ‘Come over, come over!’ She had this album of women’s music! Women singing about women!”

Miles and her friends would sit and listen to Lavender Jane or any number of songs that came on the radio. Sometimes they would dance, sometimes they would just sit and listen to Lavender Jane and the other voices that found their way to their vinyl via a burgeoning network of labels and festivals.

“We knew we were becoming more visible and were being noticed in possibilities,” says Miles. “And I think over the years we’ve gotten a lot of those possibilities but with it has come pain.” The pain comes in the form of a seemingly endless backlash. According to a classic definition of prejudice by psychologist Gordon Allport, backlash is due to the fact that prejudice treats persons as categories rather than as individuals. Because someone is black, female, homosexual, and so forth, the prejudiced person needs no further information on which to base his evaluations and behaviors—A summarizing, administrative spirit prevails. Instead of a life-affirming view of the world where other people and groups are the potential source of support, people who suffer from prejudice, writes Thomas J. Williams in a 2016 Psychology Today article that expands on Allport’s analysis, “preoccupy themselves with social competition. Life strategies center on victory and defeat, offense and defense. Resources are comprehended as difficult or... attainable prizes, awarded to individuals and their allies.” As Exxon says, “Part of what I teach in my diversity class is the idea of privilege, the unoffered advantage that certain people have based on their demographics. I think what we’ve seen is that people are extremely reluctant to give up their privilege. And I think that is what results in this kind of backlash. People in power feel they are losing that kind of privilege and they retaliate by reinforcing that privilege. I think we know prejudice arises when there is more competition over scarce resources.”

Matthew Jeffries concurs that education is important. One of the goals of the Center’s work is to offer workshops and trainings that educate faculty, staff, and students about the realities of being a minority. “We are here to create cognitive dissonance in students, so that the next time they think before speaking: ‘Oh, maybe I shouldn’t say that. That’s so wrong.’ We can’t unbear them behaviors for students that they’ve acquired over 20 years. But even tiny shifts in the way people go...”

As Miles remembers the excitement of discovering that the LGBTQ community was blossoming into a social movement in the early 1970s: “A woman friend called me up and said, ‘Come over, come over!’ She had this album of women’s music! Women singing about women!”

Miles and her friends would sit and listen to Lavender Jane Lives Women, Meg Christian, Ferron, and many other voices that found their way to their vinyl via a burgeoning network of labels and festivals. “We knew we were becoming more visible and were being noticed in possibilities,” says Miles. “And I think over the years we’ve gotten a lot of those possibilities but with it has come pain.”
Time for a pop quiz. Name at least one famous female farmer. If you’re coming up dry, you’re not alone—but Kara Rowe ’00 wants to change that. An executive producer at Emmy-award winning North by Northwest in Spokane, Rowe is a champion of all things agricultural—especially women farmers.

Rowe, together with NxNW partner Dave Tanner, and Audra Mulkern, a photographer, foodie, and founder of the Female Farmer Project, are raising funds for a documentary called Woman’s Work: The Untold Story of America’s Female Farmers. The producers hope to correct a longstanding problem with the history of ag in America by telling the story of the women who work so hard to grow food for their families and the world.

“We’ve met so many wonderful women who are keeping our farms going,” Rowe says. “There are women who are physically on the farm, getting their hands dirty, driving the tractors, planting the crops, herding the cows. But there is also a huge army of women working behind the scenes, in marketing, policy making, science, running ag businesses, and every other aspect of the agricultural enterprise.

Rowe is no stranger to ag. She was born and raised on a wheat and cattle farm in Wilbur, on the big bend of the Columbia River west of Spokane. She came to Washington State University to study broadcasting on, as she says, “the Glenn Johnson track” in hopes of being “the next Lesley Stahl.”

Straight out of college, she took a job as a TV reporter for KPAX in Kalispell, Montana. There, she was a one-woman band as on-air reporter, camera person, and story editor. But she quickly expanded her horizons, starting a commercial production company with Ryan Rowe, her new husband.

“We did everything from local commercials to informational videos,” Rowe says. “Then we got approached by a local family with ties to the Outdoor Channel.” The Rowes shot a hunting and fishing show for a couple seasons.
Born into a family of orchardists in Wenatchee, the “Apple Capital of the World,” Paul Atwood’s future in agriculture was practically a given from birth. As a high school senior with every intention to continue down the fruit-lined career path of his parents, Paul’s first audition for a musical was the result of a classmate’s playful dare. Despite no prior performing experience, Paul ’91 not only made the cast of the high school’s big autumn production, he landed the lead role.

With one foot planted on soil and another on stage, Paul ultimately made the switch to a performing arts degree after taking a handful of agriculture classes as a WSU freshman. Unbeknownst to him, these seemingly opposite paths would converge to form the deep connections of Paul and his future wife Kelly to north central Washington.

Another WSU student unsure about the future, Kelly Ginger ’91, also decided to study performing arts midway through freshman year after some convincing from a vocal teacher. Recalling fondly her high school theater days in Hillsboro, Oregon, Kelly was sold. “I just wanted to get involved because I know that with theater, there’s always a home for you,” she says. As luck would have it, Paul and Kelly’s courses collided when they codirected Godspell in their senior year. Less than 12 months later, the two were graduated, married, and living in Wenatchee—working both on the stage and in the orchard.

Around the same time, the couple had another trajectory-altering coincidence. Sherry Schreck ’68 was enthralled upon catching a glimpse of the Atwoods performing together on stage. “I didn’t know who it was, but there was this riotous person playing the trombone, and she was just hilarious!” Schreck says. “And that was Sherry Schreck!”

Women’s Work trailer and links to other documentaries: magazine.wsu.edu/extra/womenswork

When the editorship of Wheat Life, the magazine of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers, came open in 2010, Rowe jumped at the chance to move back home to Washington state. In 2014, she came full circle when she reconnect ed with Dave Tanner, the president of NxNW, who had been Rowe’s mentor when she was a high school senior producing a promotional video for her hometown of Wilbur.

Now a full partner in Spokane’s premiere production company, cofounded by Rich Cowan ’79, Rowe says she and Tanner have been kicking around the idea of a documentary about women in agriculture for years. When Tanner met photographer Mulkern at a conference, they realized they had the perfect partner to move the project forward.

“Women’s Work is a look back at the history of women in agriculture,” Rowe says. The story of American ag has only been “half-told,” she writes on the project’s website, with women almost never mentioned. “Native women led their communities as farmers and true homemakers,” Rowe writes, while “female settlers kept the farm fields productive and planted throughout decades of crisis and two world wars.”

The film will be a welcome revision of the history of American ag. In addition to the documentary features, “We’re also working on a history of Washington agriculture project with Historylink.org and the Washington State Historical Society. That includes essays, a curriculum, as well as short video vignettes that teachers can use.”

Rowe says she’s blessed to be working as a TV and film producer who gets to harness her passions to tell the stories of the people she so deeply cares about.
that was my first acquaintance with Kelly.” What transpired marked a fork in the road for not only Schreck and the Atwoods, but for performing arts throughout Central Washington.

Beginning as an East Wenatchee high school drama and debate teacher for 15 years, Schreck laid the foundation for performing arts in the area. Perhaps most notably was her brainchild, Short Shakespeareans, which featured Schreck’s own adaptations of Shakespeare works as told by thespians ages 4 to 15. After writing and directing the local favorite for more than 30 years, however, Schreck sought to retire. Paul and Kelly, who have performed, directed, and produced in excess of 70 local productions like Guys and Dolls and Spamalot, were natural fits to carry on Schreck’s legacy. “They are the all-around theater people,” Schreck says. “They’re dynamos.”

With the dynamic directing-producing-choreographing-set-and-costume-designing duo now at the helm, the Atwoods have carried the Short Shakespeareans banner for nearly five years. Kelly’s extensive background in vocals and design provides a fresh perspective on Schreck’s original winning formula. “She has a little bit of a different slant. The interjection of music, the glorious costumes, all of it,” Schreck says. “I think it’s very rare that a director does the costuming, too, but she’s an expert at that, so it makes for a very spectacle-like production.”

By the same token, Paul’s exuberant style brings a witty humor to the table, affording Short Shakes a style uniquely, recognizably, their own. The two have adopted the mantra of a WSU mentor they shared with Schreck, Paul Wadleigh, who continuously urged: “Louder! Faster! Funnier!” The attitude is evident in Paul and Kelly’s lively shows, which are punctuated by a vibrant humor and good-natured sarcasm. “Usually we gravitate toward the musical comedies,” Paul explains, including modern favorites like The Wedding Singer and Hairspray. “Because sometimes I think you get your point across even more when people laugh at the situation.”

Paul and Kelly share a deep appreciation for the transformative power of theater and a profound respect for the legacy one person can leave, which has committed them to continuing the work of predecessors like Sherry Schreck. Her endless affinity for theater has given Wenatcheeites decades of entertainment rivalling that of larger cities. What’s more, it provided a basis for the Atwoods to impress their signature style on the next generation.

“Not only are you helping nurture students’ love of the arts, but it’s an impact on the community as well,” Kelly says. “A community that supports their arts thrives. It definitely thrives.”

Cover photo: Courtesy The Good Life magazine, photo Mike Cassidy. Right: Sherry Schreck with young thespians. WSM archival photo.
As Cook and company traveled east, they stumbled on a place they didn’t expect, and one that would later prove fateful. The Hawaiian islands had never experienced a visit by British sailors when they landed on Kauai. That expedition traveled then modern-day Oregan and skirted the coastline up to Vancouver Island and Alaska, where they believed they would find the Northwest Passage. Instead they found disappointment, and a walk of ice through the Bering Strait.

The ships returned to Hawai’i, where yet another meeting with islanders turned sour and the fate of James Cook. He was stabbed and killed at Kealakekua Bay. Burney and Roberts witnessed and wrote about the battle.

The journals of Burney and Roberts give valuable insight into the lives of sailors, interactions with Pacific Islanders, and the hardships of eighteenth-century ocean travel. Burney’s discovery of the journals, along with his commentary, make this book essential reading for anyone interested in that era of discovery.

—Larry Clark

The Book of Caterpillars
EDITED BY DAVID G. JAMES
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS: 2017

Bound presents a lyrical memoir about growing up in the Pacific Northwest and the women whose feminine fortitude contributed to the author’s life. Taking readers into the kitchens and parlors of mid-twentieth-century America, McKeen lovingly unpacks the attire, trunks, sharing the exploits of his wife, mother, grand- mother, and great-grandmother, including Rachel Cartwright Lee, among others. At a time when ladies were expected to stay home and not make a scene, one woman swam for the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle and won a bronze medal in the 1936 Olympics. Another divorced an abusive hus- band and became a farmer. Others carried deriggings, smoked cigarettes, rode horses, bound books, and through it all, held families together.

As a boy, McKean says he took this family members for granted. In Bound, he rediscovers himself by recapturing their indi- vidual beauty and dignity.

A glimpse of his grandmother: Fifty-five years later. I remember my grandmother as a slight woman stopped at a willow, descend- ing into my parents’ kitchen from her room above the garage, a single bed made, a bedhead table where she kept a two-dollar bill, its corner torn off so the bill look would not peer out, and three silver dollars, each minted in 1921, three years after the death of her second son (for the 1918 influenza pandemic).

Beside her pretty book, a box of Kleenex that smelled like lilacs. Just now, over the fence, a robin traces the outline of a leaf. Just now, over the fence, I see a flower, a plant with a red, forked appendage. As the Red Helen caterpillar develops, it will grow a red, forked appendage. Using its own hairs, the caterpillar clasp. To see the student’s notes is to feel as though you are walking into my parents’ kitchen from my room above the garage.

—Rachel Wither

Fly on the Wall
PODCASTS BY BRAD MEISEL
SQUEAKMEISEL.COM

If you can’t come to the artist, the artist will come to you, thanks to a series of podcasts produced by Washington State University Fine Arts department chair Squeak Meisel. Called Fly-on-the-Wall, the artist is interviewed on Meisel’s podcast have shown their work at some of the biggest venues in the world, such as the Venice Biennial. They come to the Pullman campus, teach for a few days, work one-on-one with undergraduate and graduate students, and give a public lecture. But Meisel realizes that not everyone has time or ability to come to the lectures at WSU. With the podcast, “I can provide more people access to these conversations that few of us would otherwise get.” I’ve had people telling me they were driving to Seattle and listening to my latest podcast.

One of Meisel’s interviews is with Sarah Kavage, an artist, researcher, and urban planner, who literally refrares landscapes. She’ll juxtapose an enlarged historical photo with its contemporary context, creating a startling effect, as if the viewer were looking into the past through a rupture in the space-time continuum.

Another is with Canadian Laurel Terlesky, who investigates the tactile organ of skin and our desire for connection. The past, so often misremembered, leaves a residue, of skin and our desire for connection. The past, as Meisel says, is “the model for The Dude, the main character in The Big Lebowski.”

You can find the podcasts online at squeakmeisel.com/interviews.

—Brian Charles Clark

BRIEFLY NOTED
A Day in the Life of a Country Vet
FRED NEWCHWANDER
74 DVM 2018

Mostly true stories, anecdotes, and illustrations about the animals and people fom the life and career of a retired mixed animal veterinarian.
Notes in the Category of C. Reflections on Laboratory Animal Care and Use

STEVEN NIEMI ’82 DVM
ACADEMIC PRESS 2017

Niemti’s professional analysis and expertise informs ways to improve laboratory animal care and use. His book characterizes the current state of the industry and speculates on its long-term future. Niemi, director of the Office of Animal Resources at Harvard University, has spent a lot of time in the trenches and highlights new approaches to further advance the field in animal use.

Das Fischer
BEN HENDON ’08 COMM.
2017

Hendon’s first short film is a nine-minute comedy about a young German man, Otto Rubishager, and his journey to Idaho to learn the art of fly fishing and uncover the mysteries of the flycaster, legendary outdoorsman, Hildebrand Richwine. Shot in south eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, and north Idaho, it won “Best Angler Film” at the Fly fishing Film Festival last spring and is touring internationally. It can be viewed on Vimeo and Amazon Prime.

Listening to Silence
PHILIP MARKS ’77 FOREST & RANGE MGMT.
COVENANT BOOKS 2017

In Marks’ novel of love and regret, Ginny Simmons, a gifted anger is forced to reevaluate his characters, as they struggle through illness and loss. A sociologist encounters witnesses to unexplained experiences in and around Rattlesnake Mountain. The story leads to humans marries another woman. The story leads to

forgiveness and understanding for the characters, and his journey to Idaho to learn the art of fly fishing and uncover the mysteries of the flycaster, legendary outdoorsman, Hildebrand Richwine. Shot in south eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, and north Idaho, it won “Best Angler Film” at the Fly fishing Film Festival last spring and is touring internationally. It can be viewed on Vimeo and Amazon Prime.

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Reigning Champion
BEN HERNDON ’08 COMM.
2017

Herndon’s first short film is a nine-minute comedy about a young German man, Otto Rubishager, and his journey to Idaho to learn the art of fly fishing and uncover the mysteries of the flycaster, legendary outdoorsman, Hildebrand Richwine. Shot in south eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, and north Idaho, it won “Best Angler Film” at the Fly fishing Film Festival last spring and is touring internationally. It can be viewed on Vimeo and Amazon Prime.

Perfect for Graduation, a Special Occasion, or Tuesday
How often can you give a gift that puts a smile on your recipient’s face and supports your alma mater at the same time? You can do just that when you purchase a gift membership in the WSU Alumni Association.

Recently, we heard from an alumna whose father bought her a WSU Alumni Association membership as a graduation gift…in 1947. She told us she has treasured the gift and her father’s thoughtfulness throughout the 70 years since. How many gifts can do that?

With a WSUAA membership, your Coug can stay connected with WSU and fellow alumni, get awesome discounts and services, and show their Cougar Pride. You can purchase over the phone at 1.800-ALUM-WSU or online at alumni.wsu.edu/gift. We’ll send the membership packet to you or directly to your Coug. Please call us for details.

Give the gift they’ll remember. Give the gift of membership in the WSU Alumni Association.

Membership is open to all couples, including alumni, former students, spouses, friends, faculty, and staff!
CLASSNOTES

Eric Anderson announced the hiring of ERIC ANDERSON (’96 Civ. Eng.), who has more than 20 years of industry experience. Anderson will provide structural engineering and project management expertise to the Kernecki-based organization in his new position.

After 26 years as a collegiate throws coach, PAUL BARRETT (’96 Sport Mgmt.) was named Marshall University track and field assistant coach for throwing events. A three-time All-American at Spokane Falls Community College, Barrett went on to compete in the discus and javelin throws for WSU and placed 10th in the hammer throw.

JENNIFER PRIOR (’97 Real Estate, Const. Mgmt.) recently launched her company, PRI Consulting in Phoenix, Arizona. Prior to bringing more than 20 years of industry experience to the startup, which provides commercial real estate firms with project management services and financial solutions, CA State University Chico recently named MELTON LANG (’97 MA Elem. Ed., ’08 EdD Higher Ed. Admin.) as vice president of Student Affairs. Lang, who has served in a variety of capacities at University of California, Davis since 2013, vowed to support student development in his new role by addressing issues such as affordability and mental health.

After five years at the company, Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. promoted ROBERT TRUMAN (’96 Comm.) to general manager of their KATU (ABC) and KUNP (Univision) stations in Portland. He has spent nearly 20 years in the business, holding sales roles at television stations throughout the world.

GARY HILL JR. (’00 Comm.) moved into a permanent role on the Seattle Mariners’ broadcast team after seven years in a part-time position. He takes over for retired Kevin Cremin as executive producer/engineer for the radio crew. Hill has hosted Mariners pregame and postgame shows since 2010 and occasionally had play-by-play duties. Hill hosts a Mariners podcast and is a regular contributor to the Mariners Magazine.

WHITNEY HENION (’02 Arch.) joined the planning department of the Vancouver Public School District as capital projects lead. She was also recently appointed to the City of Camas’s Design Review Committee.

BRANDY KERR (’05 Bus.) recently joined Portland-based Zeko as the cannabis processing equipment company’s director of marketing. Kerr has held positions ranging from account management in advertising to marketing manager during her 12-year career. Brightside Animal Center selected ERICA PSALTS (’05 Soc. Sci.) as its new coordinator of volunteers and events. She joins the Redmond, Oregon, shelter after serving as Mt. Bachelor Memory Care’s director for four years.

The Bedfellow Inn of Bend, Oregon, appointed JEN BARCUS (’06 Fin.) to the organization’s board of directors. In her new role, Barcus will draw upon years of financial experience and nonprofit work to help provide shelter to the situationally homeless.

CHANCEY DRINON (’06, ’07 MAR Arch.) and CHAD LAWRENCE (’14 Civ. Eng.) were recently recognized as associates at Mackenzie in Vancouver. Lawrence joined the firm as an intern in the organization’s civil engineering department, while Drinon joined as an architectural designer. Throughout their respective careers, the two have aided Mackenzie in an array of civil design projects and community involvement programs across the state.

SkyCats Financial announced that IAN BACHTEL (’07 Bus.) is joining the organization in its Medford, Oregon, office. As a veteran financial advisor, Bachtel is also a member of the Rogue Community College Budget Advisory Committee and serves on the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce.

ESTHER HYUN (’10 Bus.) was recently named an associate at Bellingham law firm Carmichael Clark, PS. As a part of the company, Hyun will represent clients in cases dealing with creditor debtor law, business, and real estate.

RITA M. KEPLER (’75 PAO Comm.) was recognized in Mispaa Who’s Who for more than 45 years of involvement with organizations like the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. An educator, artist, and author, Rita has also co-written a book and exhibited her art in galleries across the world.

Freeth & Ho Architects hired CHESLEA MERRILL (’15, ’17 MAR Arch.) as an architectural designer, where she will undertake a variety of commercial and tenant improvement projects. MATT GRINNELL (’16 Bus.) also joined the Kirkland commercial architecture and interior design firm recently as permit and entitlement coordinator.

People’s Bank announced JENNIFER EVANS-THOMPSON (’16 Bus.) as senior vice president and director of mortgage lending in Bellingham. Evans-Thompson, who has been with Peoples Bank since 2015, will help manage the company’s mortgage production and operations in her new senior management role.

KAILA LAFFERTY (’16 Comm.) recently joined KATV-TV (ABC) of Little Rock, Arkansas, as the station’s newest morning reporter. Throughout her journalism career, Lafferty has produced a regional Emmy-awarded newscast while at WSU and served as a news anchor and multimedia journalist at KLEV-TV (CBS) in Lewiston, Idaho.

Skagit Valley College hired SHANE SERVOS (’16 Sport Mgmt.) as the new baseball coach for their Cardinals. Servoss was an infielder for Skagit Valley.

ALEXANDER WOLFE (’17 MAR Arch.) was recently hired as an architectural intern for ALSC Architects in Spokane. Wolfe brings design and graphics experience from working on various projects for the Central Valley and Cheney school districts.

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Want to significantly impact WSU and reduce your taxes at the same time?

A gift to the Washington State University Foundation directly from your IRA is a tax-smart way to support your favorite WSU program.

Of course, everyone is unique. We are happy to chat about any additional tax benefits or criteria that might apply to your situation.

Call the WSU Foundation Gift Planning Office at 800-448-2978 or visit foundation.wsu.edu/giftplanning to create your legacy today.
When I finally met Keith Jackson ’54 last summer, I felt like I was meeting a friend. I was a fan, enjoying not just the games, but calling the biggest games in college football, the spectacle and excitement that Keith brought to the world. I felt like I was meeting a friend.

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Welcome Cougs

CREATE A LEGACY, WELCOME EXCELLENCE

Visit and campus information • Academic displays • WSU daily parking permits

LEON, ‘91 and MERBIE KAY ALZOLA, ‘93

“Our love of WSU, the College of Pharmacy, and mentoring pharmacy students, led us to find a way to help increase the availability of pharmacy students to our community.

In addition to a scholarship endowment, the Alzola’s leadership helped make the WSU Pharmacy Alumni & Student Mentor Program a success. Find out more about how you can support this program by calling the College of Pharmacy alumni relations office today at 509-335-6673.

Alumni support the College of Pharmacy is an integral part of our ability to be a leader in advancing, promoting and protecting human health.

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A little help from a friend

When you hear about the WSU Alumni Association, you might think of fun events and crowds of spirited Cougs. For students and recent grads, the WSUAA can also be a source of help in making the transition from college into the ‘real world.’ By taking advantage of their membership in the WSUAA, students and recent grads can participate in networking events with successful alumni, seek career opportunities (after all, Cougs love to hire fellow Cougs), and connect with Association chapters around the country as they plan their next steps. We find the stories of some of our recent grads inspiring. We hope you’ll too.

For Lisa Yeadon ’13, “the WSUAA provided me with lifelong friends and a network.” As a student, she knew she wanted to move to New York City to pursue her dreams. “During my senior year, I attended a WSUAA barbeque and was introduced to the WSUAA NYC Chapter president. I had no friends or family in New York and this first connection was one of the best things that could’ve happened to me. A few months later, I went to NYC, and the Big Apple Cougars were there to welcome me. They set up a happy hour for me to meet other WSU alumni in the city. The people I met at that happy hour were my first and now closest friends in New York.”

Other recently-graduated members of the WSUAA have had similar experiences. Preston Smith ’12 says he uses his membership for fun, discounts, and networking. He said “Many of the friendships I made after I graduated were fellow Cougs I met during WSUAA football viewing parties.” Badia Murray ’12 also capitalized on networking and career opportunities. “As a student, the WSUAA gave me resources to feel connected after I left campus, like how to find my local chapter, and how to stay involved with WSU.”

Ashley Vu ’14 has the unique perspective of being both an alumni and student. A WSUAA Leadership Scholarship recipient and two-time Student Alumni Ambassadors president during her undergrad years, she is currently working on her doctoral degree in mechanical engineering under Coug extraordinaire Sumanta Bose, no less) and later plans to apply to the WSU College of Medicine. It’s safe to say that Ashley is the definition of a Cougar over-achiever. So what does the Alumni Association mean to her? “The WSUAA helps students to learn how to network and build their career with alumni, preparing them for life post-graduation. I feel like the WSUAA is working to assist the broadest cross-section of Cougs—students, alumni, and even future Cougs! That means a lot to me.”

In Lisa’s words, “I am proud to be a Cougar and grateful for the help I have received from other alumni.” To learn more about a WSUAA chapter near you and the membership programs offered by the WSUAA, go to alumni.wsu.edu.

World-Class Technology, Made in the Northwest

Every day, we invent, design, and build the systems that protect power grids around the world. SEL’s employee owners are dedicated to making electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical.

To learn more, visit www.selinc.com.
WSU in 100 words

A mini-essay contest: Every Coug has a story. That’s what we’ve discovered over the years—from memorable football games to wedding engagements to midnight donut runs, WSU alumni have got some great memories. Now we’d like to hear yours. Washington State story in 100 words or less.

Pick your favorite memory and send it to us. The top essays will receive a can of legendary Cougar Gold cheddar or a WSU hat.

Here’s an example:

On a cold October night, the four of us stroll through campus and find the door to Kimbrough unlocked. We walk the hallways and come across a dimly lit room. It’s practically empty except for a grand piano sitting in the corner. We go inside and a friend plays a few notes before breaking into Chopin’s “Raindrop.” It’s a surprise to us all. The rest of us twirl around and plié like ballerinas. My grandpa had told me that the pianos on campus are kept well-tuned. He was right. The song ends and we head back into the night.

—Rachel Weedon ’11

Send us your 100-word WSU memory by June 1, 2018, through the magazine’s website at magazine.wsu.edu/contact, email wsm@wsu.edu, or a letter.

We’ll print our favorites in the August issue and post others at the magazine’s website: magazine.wsu.edu.

Dr. Universe’s contemplations on children’s science questions can still be found at: askdruniverse.wsu.edu

Washington State University & Foundation