The dynamics of the Columbia River have changed. And we are all part of those changes.

Damien Pattenaude went back to his old school in Renton. There was a need.

Every wine has a story to tell—and their labels can say it best.

If a bird sings in a forest but no one can hear it, does it make a sound?

A pair of fearless spirits showed us how we could break free of the ground’s restraints and soar.


connecting you to WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY the STATE the WORLD
Oh, my...the annual pumpkin drop approaches...  

17.

Writing her own code.

Shrunga Malavalli built her first app, robot versus aliens—and it was a game changer.

She joined the CrimsonCode Hack-a-Thon, interned as a software engineer, and met with entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley to learn about bringing ideas to reality.

Now she mentors high school girls—encouraging them to look into computer science.

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Shrunga Malavalli, computer science major

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This publication is available online as text-only and in other accessible formats upon request: wsm@wsu.edu; 509-335-2388; 509-335-8734 (fax).
Abraham Lincoln, when nominated for president in 1860, apologized for his lack of formal education. No apology was necessary from the articulate orator and voracious reader whose desire to learn and improve himself continued into his adulthood. Even without school, Lincoln had teachers, people who influenced his education. He moved to New Salem, Illinois, in his early 20s and studied grammar and debate under the tutelage of his mentor, remarkably named Mentor Graham, who wrote about Lincoln: "No one ever surpassed him in rapidly, quickly and well acquiring the rudiments and rules of English grammar."

Gladys Cooper Jennings ’48 similarly served as a mentor for numerous nutrition students at Washington State over 50 years of teaching. The granddaughter of a former slave, her parents highly valued education and Jennings became the first African-American woman to receive a master’s degree at the University. A couple of years ago, I interviewed one of Jennings’ students who is a testament to the 92-year-old’s impact: Ethan Bergman ’86 PhD, food science and nutrition professor at Central Washington University and past president of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Mentorship starts earlier than college, too. Damien Pattenaude (’99, ’05 MA, ’16 EdD), now superintendent of Renton School District, says one reason he became an educator was due to his math teacher and basketball coach Rick Comer ’86 at Renton High School. At WSU, education professors such as alumni and faculty members Tariq Akmal and Gene Sharratt also helped guide Pattenaude to success in his home school, where — as well as the state and country — faces a pressing need for more teachers.

So many WSU students have been affected by their professors, just as Lori Hughes ’83 PhD writes in her remembrance of sociologist and pioneering gang researcher Jim Short. I often reflect on the Murrow communication professors such as Tom Heuterman ’56, ’74 PhD, and Bob Hilliard, who sadly passed away in April. Even as far back as middle school, teachers like Ken Davis stimulated my love of history, including a fascination with the river at the heart of Washington state, the mighty Columbia that has influenced so many people’s lives over centuries.

Many of you shared memories of favorite professors and other great WSU experiences in our 100-word contest. We received dozens of excellent stories, which made it really tough for our panel of judges. You can read our favorite at the back of the magazine, and all the stories are posted on magazine.wsu.edu.

TRAVELING?

Marriage, children, career move, grandchildren, retirement, travel. Our lives are full of life-changing moments that make us stop and reflect on taking care of the people and causes that mean the most to us. Wherever life leads you, consider being a part of creating a bright future for Washington State University through your estate plans.

Call the WSU Foundation Gift Planning Office at 800-448-2978 or visit foundation.wsu.edu/giftplanning to create your legacy today.

WASHINGTON STATE MAGAZINE FALL 2018
Glass mountain

I enjoy finding and connecting bits of information discovered serendipitously that bring enlightenment just as the researchers were enlightened about Broborg glass by chance conversations and discussions. “Fires Burned, Cauldrons Boiled” [Spring 2018] reminded me of a fairy tale, “Princess on a Glass Mountain.” Knowing that fairy tales and storytelling are often embellished verbal histories based on a fact (a particular time, place, person or event), I researched it. The Norwegians, Swedes, and Poles have versions: a glass mountain, princess, and golden apples growing on top. Perhaps the Swedish Vikings carried the tale to Poland as the Swedish Vikings usually traveled north and south through Poland and Germany unlike the Norwegian Vikings who sailed west. I am delighted to discover that one of the princesses may have lived on the Broborg fortress. Again serendipity connects, illuminates, and fosters new knowledge. The story appears in the Yellow Fairy Book.

LORALYN YOUNG ’64
English Education, Seattle

Women of Stimson

Dick Fry and I have been close friends since we shared an office in the WSC News Bureau. I began my freshman year at WSU in the fall of 1967 and, like Bob Dilgough, kept my emerging same-sex sexual awareness secret from those around me. I dated men occasionally to maintain my cover, all while “crushed out” on my freshman roommate and other female students throughout the time I was in Pullman. Finally, after four years of unrequited love, alcohol-infused nights, and near-failing grades, I dropped out a semester shy of graduation. It wasn’t until 1997, 30 years after I began, that I finally earned my BA from WSU. It wasn’t until 1997, 30 years after I began, that I finally earned my BA from WSU.

The picture shows Katie Gochnour sitting next to “Almena,” in the small pool that was a hallmark of the Stimson dormitory. Even Dick was surprised to know Stimson was a women’s dorm when this picture was taken. We think it had to be fall of ’45 or the spring of ’46 because as we veterans swarmed over the campus after WWII, Stimson became a male dorm by 1947. Katie would have been a freshman from Sunnyside and later my beloved wife. She graduated in ’49 after being mainly in Community Hall. After a semester or two in South House, I became a Stimson resident—and proud to have been its president my senior year. That was great, but Don Bond ’51, now a retired Bellows lawyer, was elected vice president of our senior class and two other Stimson friends were chosen student body presidents. They were and are Bill Green ’51, who lives in Honolulu, and Pullman resident Dave Nordquist ’52, also a long-time WSU faculty member. Katie died five years ago and I understand that Almena suffered destruction by vandals—but with hopes of having a replacement.

EARL OTIS ’51
Puuppalo

Hope in tragedy

Unexpected tragedy can strike at any time, as our family experienced in 2005 when our oldest son Matthew took his own life. He was an athlete, a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, and a Chelan County sheriff’s deputy. But even the training and discipline from those vocations could not save him from death by his own hand at age 27, a result of a failed relationship.

Seven years after his death I wrote a book, Matt’s Last Call: Surviving Our Protectors, sharing our family’s journey of joys and sorrows. It was a story of hope and of new beginnings and the birth of a passion to reach out to others before it is too late, and to comfort those who are survivors of a suicide. Women throughout my book are the seeds of a deep Christian faith that sustain our family, including reflections from Matt’s father. There is an obvious need for training in suicide prevention. For all first responders, training should be required and continual. Currently, it is sporadic at best or missing altogether. The stigma of suicide and the “shut-up” nature that surrounds it is the main culprit. Breaking through the stigma is essential to get the issue out on the table. If you are the survivor of someone close to you who has committed suicide, choose not to define the person by that final choice. They had a life. Remember them by talking about them to others, highlight their accomplishments, and do something special to honor them on their birthday and during the holidays. Keep a favorite picture of the person in your home. Speak of the good times you had together. Keep their memory alive. Our Couger family has experienced the loss of one of its sons, Tyler Hiltzke, last January. Let’s do all we can to not only honor and stand with Tyler and his family, but train ourselves to watch out for the obvious signs and ask the tough questions to those we sense could be struggling. Even when there are no obvious signs, by getting up close and personal we may uncover some dark corners. Become involved. Lives depend on it.

JULIE SHUTT ZIELINSKI ’75

Corrections

In the Summer 2018 article “Trout,” Kyle Smith was misidentified as Kyle Long. The advertisement on page seven listed Nigeria as the first location for a new Pasteurization thermometer developed by Victor Charnomashoum. The country is actually Tanzania.
Tha’s what motivates Jim Carey (‘78 Comm.) and Jim Craig from Doubleknot Creative in Seattle, a branding and design firm that has carved out a niche crafting the artwork that graces many Washington vintages.

The designers have seen wine labels in Washington evolve along with the varietals and the state’s wine industry as a whole. Washington wines continue to build reputation and credibility, and going against big hitters like California’s Napa Valley, “world-class wine deserves world-class packaging,” says Craig, the creative director of the firm.

Most of all, it’s vitally important for the designers to connect with winemakers, say the pair. “When you work with these people, they’re passionate about their winemaking, their wines, and their story. That’s when it’s a lot of fun from the design side, to unearth that story,” says Carey. “For winemakers, when they hand you a bottle, they’re handing you a piece of themselves.”

They didn’t always create wine labels, though. Doubleknot Creative, formed when Carey’s CKA Creative combined with Blank Slate Creative, had mostly worked with tech companies such as Microsoft and Amazon. Carey was traveling to Pullman for a WSU football game in 2005 when he decided to visit Walla Walla wineries for the first time.

Carey met with winemakers and winery owners, including Annette Bergevin (‘86 Comm.). “I told her, ‘If you ever want a new label, let me over you across the room. When they take wine to a party, it’s a calling card of who they are,” he says. Wines really need to stand out on store shelves or other settings, another reason for the label’s importance. “If there are 100 bottles, how do you get someone to pick it up and make the sale?” asks Carey. And in a restaurant, there are no pictures when you get a wine list, but a bottle on a table can jump out at you across the room.

Craig agrees: “We’re huge believers in the power of storytelling.”

The story changes for each wine. For example, Intrinsic has an urban vibe that blends the gritty work of Brooklyn street artist Zimer with textured embossing and finishes. Airfield Estates’ Aviator wine out of Prosser, on the other hand, gives a nod to history with a vintage image of a pilot.

Wine labels have evolved as consumers’ tastes change, as well. Different generations have varying expectations when looking at bottles, says Craig. Millennials in particular want a narrative and labels that speak to them emotionally. “They are buying an extension of their personality. When they take wine to a party, it’s a calling card of who they are,” he says. Wines really need to stand out on store shelves or other settings, another reason for the label’s importance. “If there are 100 bottles, how do you get someone to pick it up and make the sale?” asks Carey. And in a restaurant, there are no pictures when you get a wine list, but a bottle on a table can jump out at you across the room.

Carey and Craig say their role as label designers fits with the collective spirit of the Washington wine industry, which they note includes not just the winemakers and companies, but also WSU’s research and education.

David Merfeld (‘72 Hct.), the award-winning Northstar winemaker, last year launched his eponymous brand, Merf. Doubleknot Creative worked with him to create the label and branding. “The label is a representation of his identity and personality. It’s about him as a guy, as an individual,” says Craig.

For the labeling, the designers drew on Merf’s memory of his first car, a vintage Camaro, so the labels pick up the shape of the hood and the actual yellow and red colors from an old Camaro brochure. It makes a bold statement about Merf and his wine. “Looking at it, you would never know it came from Ste. Michelle,” says Carey.

Read more about Merfeld in “Cornfields to Vineyards,” page 37.
For decades, scientists have been intrigued by a black hummingbird that appears to be singing, its throat and jaw moving in all earnestness, and while one would only perceive it with sonic, “inaudible to humans,” said Ruschi, noticed it in 1959.

Brazil’s Atlantic Forest, first but without making any obvious jaw moving in all earnestness, and while one would only perceive it with sonic, “inaudible to humans,” said Ruschi, noticed it in 1959. For decades, scientists have been intrigued by a black hummingbird that appears...
Rescripting gender roles

By Brian Charles Clark

Sex is everywhere, researchers Stacey Hust and Kathleen Rodgers point out, but, strangely, we get very nervous talking about it—especially with our adolescent children.

That’s a concern to the two Washington State University collaborators, who just published a book, Scripting Adolescent Romance: Adolescents Talk about Romantic Relationships and Media’s Sexual Scripts, that examines the power of media, so chock full of sex and violence, to shape the gender roles of children and adolescents in ways that last a lifetime.

So powerful are the gendered “scripts” we consume in media such as TV, movies, video games, magazines, and music videos, we tend to assume they are biologically predetermined and inevitable. Hust, a health communications associate professor at the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication, who examined the portrayal of gender, says, “The media depicts fairly narrow roles for both men and women. And not only are those roles heterosexual, promoting heteronormativity above all else,” the roles are very narrow “for how men and women can act.”

“Men,” Hust continues, “are portrayed as sexually aggressive, that they are always interested in having sex, and that they need to be powerful and dominant and, conversely, women are the sexual gatekeepers. They are the ones who say yes or no. But there are consequences whether they say yes or no. They are blamed if they say yes, but they are also stigmatized for saying no.

Even as we try to empower girls to aspire to greatness, our media are disseminating restrictive ideologies about who we are and what roles we should be playing. ‘We can see the emergence of a group that reinforces our notions of what we think being a male or female is,’ Rodgers, an associate professor in the Department of Human Development, says. ‘And it’s very binary. In particular, very young adolescents are more vulnerable to those messages.’

In the course of their research, Rodgers and Hust talked to more than 100 children. Together and individually, they’ve also studied the effects of reading and looking at men’s magazines on males’ willingness to seek consent from romantic and sexual partners (it reduces), how women’s magazines empower women to refuse unwanted contact, how the intertwining of sex and violence in music videos affects young people, and adolescent risk taking.

That’s a concern to Hust, an associate professor in the Department of Human Development, who co-authored a book, Rescripting Genders: Sexuality, Gender, and Popular Culture, which examines the power of media, so chock full of sex and violence, to shape the gender roles of children and adolescents in ways that last a lifetime.

In Scripting, Hust and Rodgers point out that adolescents spend as many as seven hours a day with media. One of the things they’ve learned is that parents tend to seriously misinterpret their kids’ access to media that portrays sexual interactions and, conversely, narrow gender-role stereotypes.

The consequences for women include verbal harassment as well as dating violence or worse. ‘Even most of our youngest female participants, who were freshermen in high school, had already experienced some form of sexual harassment,” Hust says.

The consequences for men are just as bad. Starting from a very early age, boys are taught to be “sturdy oaks,” as psychologist William Pollack describes the “boy code.”

TEN TIPS FOR TALKING TO TEENS

1. Speak to your teen about sex. One of the things they’ve learned is that parents tend to seriously misinterpret their kids’ access to media that portrays sexual interactions and, conversely, narrow gender-role stereotypes.

2. Use “I” statements to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

3. Use “pimples” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

4. Use “jock” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

5. Use “nerd” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

6. Use “geek” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

7. Use “nerd” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

8. Use “pimples” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

9. Use “jock” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

10. Use “geek” to talk to your teen about sex. For example, “I feel like I’m not sure what’s okay and what’s not okay when it comes to sex.”

Ask Caroline Heldman ‘93

A leading voice on sexual harassment, Caroline Heldman ‘93 has had a busy year. She co-authored the 2018 book Sex and Gender in the 2016 Presidential Election, and the 2017 book Women, Power, and Politics: The Fight for Gender Equality in the United States. And the associate professor of politics—who specializes in the presidency, media, gender, and race at Occidental College in Los Angeles—frequently appears in documentaries and on news programs to speak about the MeToo movement and harassment, partly because of her own experience.

Heldman, who had been a regular guest of host Bill O’Reilly on The O’Reilly Factor, alleged in 2017 that O’Reilly years earlier stopped inviting her onto the Fox News talk show after she accused him of making a sexist remark to her during one of the shows. Also in 2017, she accused Fox News host Eric Bolling and former Major League Baseball player Lenny Dykstra of sexual harassment.

We asked Heldman why stories of sexual harassment have come to the fore (including as part of the MeToo movement on social media), why the allegations remained in the shadows for so many years, and what the future may hold.

WHAT LED TO THE WAVE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT REVELATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS?

I think what’s new about #MeToo is that it’s more media reach, but also we believe them more. Moderately attractive white women, who we feel like we’ve known on the screen, we feel like we know them as people. I think that really has caused people to believe survivors more.

And it’s really the power of social media that enables survivors to frame their experience, in a way that they could not reach a wider audience and also to push back against the backlash that is always at hand. Social media and technology have been crucial in this.

WHY, IN MANY CASES, DID IT TAKE YEARS FOR THE STORIES TO COME OUT?

We know that if we come forward, we’re going to probably not be believed by a lot of people—that if we come forward in a public way, then we’ll be trolled, we’ll receive death threats and everything that comes with being a public survivor. But also in the workplace, if you blow the whistle on what’s happening to you or other women around you, then you won’t work in that industry. At the end of the day, people don’t like to hire troublemakers, and that’s what we get labeled. And I think we stay quiet because sexual violence is the only crime where we put the victim on trial.

HAVE THE MORE RECENT DISCLOSURES LED TO ANY CHANGES?

I think the lasting effect won’t be necessarily legal or policy. I think the lasting effect will be an entire generation of young women growing up being believed when they report sexual harassment and sexual violence. I think that’s something that can’t be undone.

But at the end of the day, raising awareness, which is where we are right now, is simply not enough. It has to translate into new and better laws, and it has to translate into better enforcement of existing laws, and at the present time, there’s no clear movement to make that happen. So, with other social movements that raise awareness and empower the people who are not heard, the campaign to implement accountability measures, the only effect of the MeToo movement will really be the empowerment piece. It won’t actually have a lasting effect on policies.
Peonies from heaven

BY REBECCA PHILLIPS

It’s a boon to a state that struggles with agriculture, says Wayne. “Alaska used to produce 65 percent of its food locally. After the discovery of oil, many farmers left their land to work for the oil companies.”

“The governor and legislature are working hard to reverse that and we’re starting to see some progress,” he says. For their part, the Floyds are active in the Alaska Peony Growers Association where Wayne is chairman of the export committee.

“The state is looking to increase its global exports and we broke into that market last fall by shipping stems to Vietnam,” says Patti. “The couple tried to expand those sales with a whirlwind tour to find the best buyers in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. Protecting their floral investment is a vital part of the job. Peonies, especially in Alaska, are susceptible to a destructive and costly fungal disease called gray mold.

Gary Chastagner, professor of plant pathology at WSU, Pay pal Research and Extension Center, specializes in diseases of ornamental flowers and says gray mold is caused by several species of Botrytis which thrive in areas with cool wet summers. The fungus produces unsightly blisters on the buds and foliage as well as significant post-harvest decay.

“Stems can look fine during shipment, but then the flowers fall apart after three days in a vase,” he says. “Our farm trials show that 20-40 percent of buds can be affected.”

The Floyds have begun to diversify their crops as a safeguard. They recently installed two half-dome structures called high tunnels which extend the growing season and allow them to produce vegetables like beans, tomatoes, garlic, beets, and corn.

It all results in a bountiful yield that calls for a few extra pairs of hands. This summer, the tiny peony farm has blossomed to the point that the Floyds plan to hire ten or eleven community members to help bring in the harvest.

A selection of Alaskan peonies and Patti Floyd with a bouquet. Courtesy Wayne and Patti Floyd

Back in the saddles

BY REBECCA PHILLIPS

Back AT the Weber ranch, Coach Moore puts students through their paces as they jog their horses in a covered arena. She calls out encouragement in a running musical cadence. “Ties out, hands up, let’s go.”

Moore first joined the equestrian team as a freshman in 2004 and surprised herself by qualifying for regional shows and eventually taking fourth in the nation. It wasn’t long before she began coaching the team, which she continued until grad school.

In 2012, after a stint in Seattle, Moore re-joined to the Pat Weber ranch, the Weber ranch, Coach Moore

The Equestrian Club took full advantage of the facility, boasting a National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association team that attracted as many as 1,500 spectators during their annual events held from the late 1960s until the early 1990s.

The club included a drill team and large horse show team, which sponsored competitions drawing more than 600 entries.

“Shelby got information and talked to the Weber ranch, Coach Moore, Henry and Patti Floyd to help bring in the harvest.

A half-dome covered high tunnel at Cool Cache Farms.

Winding through barren April wheat fields, my 4Runnerumbles down a gravel backroad heading toward the small farming town of Colton. Rounding the corner, I spot a sign for the Pat Weber ranch and follow their lane to the barn.

Near the coral, a young woman in a riding helmet turns and waves. Michelle Gordon, Washington State University junior and president of the recently revived WSU Equestrian Team, is here along with several other students for lessons in jump riding. Our English riding coach is John Butler. “I’ve known Laura most of my life,” says Gordon as she brushes a bay gelding named Max. “We’ve both from Woodinville and grew up riding at Gold Creek Equestrian Center,”

Michelle stands next to her horse, picking out details that release the pungent smell of manure. Then she disappears into a room to grab a saddle.

Tethered to the side, a grey Arabian gelding is standing eyeing me with curiosity. Edging closer, his muzzle cautiously reaches toward my hand, gently grabbing a finger and then my hand. His coat holds a soft, unmistakable smell and I’m reminded how easy it is for humans to bond with horses. As sensitive herd animals, are attuned to human emotion and quick to establish relationships.

It’s a relationship WSU has celebrated since its founding in 1890. From the early days, when agriculture and veterinary programs were geared toward draft horses, to the more recent interest in light breeds for rodeo, shows, or racing, horses have always had a prominent place on the Pullman campus.

Nowhere are they embraced with more passion than in the WSU Equestrian Club, which was originally established after the construction of Hilltop Stables in 1946.

Much of the early history is preserved in the WSU Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections. According to “The Legacy of Equestrianism,” Hilltop Stables was adorned with a hedge, windbreakers, and a row of magnolias.

The Equine Club took full advantage of the facility, boasting a National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association team that attracted as many as 1,500 spectators during their annual events held from the late 1960s until the early 1990s.

The club also included a drill team and large horse show team, which sponsored competitions drawing more than 600 entries.

The club lost its fervor in 2004, however, when Hilltop Stables was sold to make way for the construction of apartments. Though diehard members fought to keep it going, the once-booming team languished for nearly a decade.

Establishing a university-sanctioned sports club is not a simple task, says O’Malley ‘12, ‘16 MA, equestrian team advisor and coordinator of Competitive Sports & Youth Programs at Univeristy Recreation.

Prospective members must submit a proposal to the WSU Sport Club Federation which decides whether or not to add the club to the roster. The process involves a rigorous review of potential risks, something that is especially important for off-campus clubs, he says.

Moore admits she and Westmelonbroughed through the demanding process. “After Shelby got information and talked to the administration. They were really skeptical in...
The beginning—worried about liability. It was a big step to overcome and get the team accepted. “Once we were approved, I arranged logistics and partially funded the team for the first year,” says Mackie. “I leased horses from different people and we started at Paradise Stables in Moscow with 15–20 members.” After the team demonstrated viability, the University kicked in an allocation the second year. Those funds, together with club dues and private donations, help support the program. "The club took off in 2012 and has been huge ever since," says Mackie. "There’s tons of interest—we get emails saying they want to ride again or even around horses. Most semesters we have close to 40 members depending on how big the stable is and how many horses we can lease.” Today, Moore coaches the team in an English style called hunt seat, which includes show jumping. The team also has Western style coaches, and the students, who vary in their experience from beginner to advanced, can choose to ride either style. The team travels to about ten shows each season where they compete as a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Shows Association (IHSA). Moore says she’s looking forward to upcoming competition, including their own show scheduled for late October. “Last year, it was held at the Cofax building and we hosted another university from our region of IHSA,” she says. “We usually need about 35 donated horses to make it possible. It’s always a tough job to find that many but we are so incredibly grateful for everyone who has donated!” Moore says she is confident that this year’s team has the motivation and perseverance to make it all the way to nationals. “It’s possible—we have some work to do but this is a good group of girls.”

Besides the fun, Cerruti says the project is an engaging way to help teach science—and an example of the tactics he uses to inspire students who enroll in his introductory physics courses. The key, he says, is to focus on the fascinating, gee-whiz aspects rather than just dry mathematical formulas. Cerruti achieves this through practical lessons like throwing an audible football across the room to illustrate the Doppler effect, where sound appears to change as an object approaches and then recedes. Try to do one demonstration each class period—from very simple things like dropping a ball, to something more memorable like shooting a monkey out of a tree,” he says. “In the latter experiment, a stuffed monkey is held in a tree by an electromagnet. Cerruti shoots a dart gun, which releases the magnet allowing the monkey to fall. The dart hits the monkey in midair. “It’s an example of projectile motion to show that objects pretty much fall at the same rate,” he explains. “The dart and monkey are falling at 9.8 meters per second squared, which is acceleration due to gravity.”

Galileo Galilei discovered the principle that if objects, whether big or small, fall through a vacuum, they all hit the ground at the same time. This discovery led to the “Equivalence Principle,” which says that all objects falling through a vacuum at the same rate, regardless of mass or composition. The rule became a cornerstone of modern physics including Einstein’s general theory of relativity. At the Pumpkin Drop, Galileo’s principle is put to the test when 40–45 pumpkins of all sizes and shapes take the plunge from WSU’s tallest building. Some of the pumpkins get stuck on the windowsill and some get stuck in the trees. Sometimes, they go with fairy wings or a parachute to study the effects of air resistance. A few are frozen with liquid nitrogen and steam on the way down. One was painted and ceremonially dropped as “Sir Isaac Newton.” The club also drops other autumn produce. “From the twelfth floor, it’s really fun to watch watermelons,” says Guenther. “Pumpkins break into pieces but watermelons turn into a mess.”

The event has been a campus favorite for more than a decade and says they never do that again. “It’s not going to hurt anyone and it’s fun,” says Guenther. “It’s an example of projectile motion to show that objects pretty much fall at the same rate,” he explains. “The dart and monkey are falling at 9.8 meters per second squared, which is acceleration due to gravity.”

Became a cornerstone of modern physics including Einstein’s general theory of relativity. Galileo Galilei discovered the principle that if objects, whether big or small, fall through a vacuum, they all hit the ground at the same time. This discovery led to the “Equivalence Principle,” which says that all objects falling through a vacuum at the same rate, regardless of mass or composition. The rule became a cornerstone of modern physics including Einstein’s general theory of relativity. At the Pumpkin Drop, Galileo’s principle is put to the test when 40–45 pumpkins of all sizes and shapes take the plunge from WSU’s tallest building. Some of the pumpkins get stuck on the windowsill and some get stuck in the trees. Sometimes, they go with fairy wings or a parachute to study the effects of air resistance. A few are frozen with liquid nitrogen and steam on the way down. One was painted and ceremonially dropped as “Sir Isaac Newton.” The club also drops other autumn produce. “From the twelfth floor, it’s really fun to watch watermelons,” says Guenther. “Pumpkins break into pieces but watermelons turn into a mess.”

She says one of their most memorable drops took place in 2013, the infamous year of the glitter pumpkin. “That year, student Shelby Taylor ‘13 said, ‘Let’s cover a pumpkin with glitter and make it beautiful!’ Guenther says. “She also made herself a little apron and a crown and was dubbed the Pumpkin Queen. ESPN was covering the Pac-12 football game and sent out a drone to film the drop for halftime entertainment.”

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The cleaning crew, however, was less than thrilled. “It took forever to mop up the billion sparks splattered all over the courtyard. The club unanimously voted to never do that again.”

This fall, you can see the Pumpkin Drop during Dad’s Weekend, November 2–4.
In the shadowy spaces and the sunny clearings of high Northwest forests, the huckleberry waits for an eager human or bear in the late summer. Imbued with an intense sweet-sour flavor, this coveted wild treat might peep out from its grassy leaves in a jealously-protected secret location, but it will be sought and often found.

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The huckleberry

BY LARRY CLARK

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After thousands of years of use for food, transportation, and trade, the Columbia River’s dynamics have changed, resulting in unforeseen consequences and deeply mixed emotions.

A river rolls on.

Deep in that watershed, Dennis DeHart and his son were visiting the Selway River. “My son was about three,” the Washington State University photography professor recalls, “and he scooped up a handful of gelatinous stuff. It took him a moment to register, and then, ‘I realized, ‘Oh! Those are eggs!’ And I looked down, and there was a salmon, dying, battered. That salmon came all the way back up through all the dams, all the locks, through a number of rivers, up to the Selway in Idaho, one of the wildest rivers. And that left a profound impression.’

DeHart’s story is the origin of an ongoing project called “Confluences.” Having grown up on the Columbia River, he is fascinated by the layers of history that flow through the Columbia watershed, and how we see those histories. His grandfather was a logger; DeHart counts himself an environmentalist. The development of the Columbia River watershed, he says, is full of unintended consequences. That’s something you hear a lot when you start talking to people about the river. There is a kind of pain or sadness or confusion, even among the most rationalistic economists. To live in the Pacific Northwest with even one eye open is to live with that conflict: between fish and dams, between fishers and farmers, between the wild and the tamed.

Of all the work done by the Columbia River, and all the work people do on the river—fishing, canning, recreation, transportation, power, irrigation, flood control—the work that perhaps needs doing most is emotional.

William Dietrich, the author of Northwest Passage: The Great Columbia River, uses tough, direct language to describe our situation: “The Columbia is that cruelest of all stories: a thing changed into exactly what Americans wanted, and, once changed, proving to be a disappointment of an entirely different sort.” It’s all Coyote’s fault. The trickster is a bricolage of feelings and shape-shifting beings, says scholar and writer Jay Miller: “He was greedy, selfish, stupid, and very, very wise, sometimes.” No wonder we feel ambivalent about dams, salmon, irrigation—all the wonders we have wrought have cost us something intrinsic, that cannot be valued by economists because it is priceless.

Once there were Five Sisters. Because they loved to eat salmon, the sisters kept a dam at the mouth of Big River to prevent the fish from swimming upstream. Every night they feasted on a wonderful, fat salmon. This didn’t suit Coyote, who thought that the salmon need the people and the people need the salmon. Or maybe he was jealous and wanted some of that fat salmon for himself. So Coyote tricked the sisters to get into their camp. He disguised himself as a baby and played to the Sisters’ maternal feelings. He saw they had a key that opened the dam. He stole the key, opened the dam, and freed the salmon to run upriver.

Or maybe it was Raven who brought the salmon into the Columbia River watershed. Raven heard a little girl crying. She lived in the eastern desert and he just knew she wanted fish. But she lived too far upriver and in those days the salmon stayed downstream. So he went and grabbed one! He flew all the way to the mouth of the river, snagged a fat salmon in his claws, and flew back to the little girl, who smiled. Even so, all the other salmon chased hard after that Raven, and took for a new home a massive watershed that stretched to the Rockies.
A RIVER ROLLS ON

It’s Coyote’s fault, too. That we have to do all this work, says another story the First Peoples sometimes tell. It used to be that rivers flowed both ways: downstream on one side, upstream on the other. It was easy to get around back then. But Coyote saw that and said, Nuts, make the young men work, make them push back upstream!

Pushing Upriver

The mouth of the big river, which the Chinook people call Wimahl, is often impossible to enter. It’s a cold, stormy mess where the epic outflow of the Columbia wrestles with the ever-flushing muscle of the tides. The weather is writhed with wind and rain, and 200 days of the year the river’s mouth is swallowed in fog. Waves higher than the old tall sailing ships crack and fume, tearing apart and running aground even modern steel ships.

The Coast Guard’s sister service ran the Quarantine Station a few miles upriver from Columbia Bar. Until 1912, that uniformed branch was called the Marine Hospital Service and since then, the Public Health Service.

Permits needed quarantine stations to float ships that spent weeks and months travelling long distances. Sailing around the Cape from London to Astoria is 18,000 miles. It was a trip of months, sometimes many months. You, too, might welcome a bath in carbolic soap, and having your clothes disinfected with high-pressure steam in a deodorizing retort. Bubonic plague, yellow fever, cholera, smallpox, and typhus were all dangers exacerbated by close quarters and townsmen roads.

In 1891, the old Eureka and Epicure Cannery at Knappton Cove had been closed for a few years, a victim of the commercial fishing industry. The massive, two-story complex where once skilled Chinese workers sliced and diced salmon all day, before bunking above the packing line for the night, got converted to a quarantine station. Complete with a lazaretto (a pest house), ocean-going steamers converted lazaretto: trade beads from the earliest days of contact between Native Americans and Euro-Americans, Chinese porcelain used as medical bottles, canoe paddles. Nancy’s family bought the place on the federal surplus market. They turned it into a recreational fisher’s resort, with camping and docks for canoes and boats. Young Nancy sold bait, tackle, and candy bars from the old pumphouse.

Now, the place is its own museum, the Knappton Cove Heritage Center. Layers of history are presented in the tight quarters of the old pumphouse. Nancy, an inveterate beachcomber and artifact collector. When the tide is out, he says, all manner of stuff pops up.

In 1791, Robert Gray, aboard the Columbia Rediviva, sailed north along the Washington coast, tried to investigate the mouth of the river. George Vancouver later recounted, “but from the breakers which extend across it.” Gray sailed north to a calm bay, now known as Grays Harbor.

WASHINGTON STATE MAGAZINE FALL 2018

 Celilo Falls

Sunday, March 10, 1957: As the massive floodgates on the new dam at The Dalles are closed, bumper-to-bumper traffic lines Highway 30 as the gathered spectators watch the waters rise behind the dam. Within hours, Celilo Falls is gone, replaced by a slackwater lake.

As many celebrated the new ease of navigation and the forthcoming surge of cheap power, others wept and prayed. In her book, Death of Celilo Falls, Katrine Barber ’94 MA, ’99 PhD writes that “the region’s Indians mourned the loss of fishing sites and a core way of life.” One child later recalled that “as the little islands disappeared, I could see my grandmother trembling, like something was hitting her... she just put out her hand and started to cry.”

Two and a half years later, as hydropower generation is started, U.S. Senator Richard Neuberger from Oregon tells the gathered crowd that “our Indian friends deserve from us a profound and heartfelt salute of appreciation... They contributed to its erection a great donation—surrender of the only way of life which some of them knew.”

Walla, another name for Celilo Falls, is one of the oldest continuously occupied sites in North America. For the dam builders, the economics were obvious: any value that the fisheries had was negligible compared to that of hydropower and irrigation. But as WSU archaeological anthropologist Shannon Tushingham points out, Native Americans “depended on the river not just for food but for spiritual sustenance as well.”
McCoy is a local, and remembers his father talking about the once fish-blessing river, and stopping to buy salmon at the falls. “For the dominant culture, the rivers are seen as economic resources. They move goods, the dams provide power and irrigation. Not that people didn’t see beauty in them, but that was secondary to the economic potential. There’s been a lot of economic development, but at great cost.” When the dams were being built, “we didn’t listen to native people. We’re doing a little better now.”

Kaytes leads her students on a semester-long quest to understand and speak to the situations of particular communities in the watershed. From imagining a vibrant cultural scene along a dam-free Lemon, Idaho, waterfront to wondering what could possibly be done for the residents of Northport, poisoned by the outflow of mining toxins from north of the border, she and her students make what she calls “offerings.”

Kaytes’ students are aware of the poverty that would result from the dam and the loss of the falls. “I think there are a lot of people who thought that way,” Barber says. The defenders of Wyam worked to establish new fishing sites, to compensate people for their losses, and to find “other avenues to subsistence.”

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returns on education

Dennis Dehart, Re-photographed Postcards, 2014
From Confluences: Circumnavigating the Territory (Archival Pigment Prints)

By Larry Clark
Damien Pattenaude went back to high school in Renton when there was a need. Now he wants to see even more kids return to Renton classrooms as teachers, just as he did.

It has become an even more urgent concern for Pattenaude (’95 WSU, ’16 EDD) now that he is superintendent of the growing Renton School District. Like other school administrators across Washington and the country, he faces a teacher shortage, especially in special education, math, and science. Schools also need more diversity among teachers, to better represent the state’s changing population.

Although teacher shortages are not new, the problems are accelerating and becoming more visible. Teachers striking for better pay in states such as Arizona, Oklahoma, and West Virginia have brought attention to just one disincentive to becoming or staying a teacher.

In Washington state, schools will need thousands of new teachers in the coming years due to retirement, attrition, reduced class sizes, all-day kindergarten, a booming economy, and other factors. In the 2016–17 school year, 87 percent of Washington principals could not find fully-certified teachers to fill all their teacher openings.

Schools like Pattenaude, faculty and students at Washington State University, and state education leaders are finding ways to bring young people back to their communities.

After graduating from WSU, where he was also part of a future teachers of color program, Pattenaude eventually taught history in Kent, then received his master’s degree and principal certification, followed some time later by his doctorate. He became assistant principal at Hazen High School in Renton, principal at Renton High School, and superintendent in 2017.

In a room next to the Hazen High School library, the latest members of the Renton School District Teacher Academy concentrate in silence on an exam. It’s an optional test to receive certification as a paraprofessional who can work in the school system. For those seniors who pass the test, it could provide an opportunity to work in the schools, maybe even while they get their teaching degrees.

In the hushed lobby outside, Pattenaude joins Carla Smith, a veteran teacher for 30 years in Renton and instructor of the Teacher Academy. They know each other well, since Smith taught Pattenaude in a Renton High School business law class in the 1990s. Now Pattenaude oversees her leadership of the academy. “It’s critical to have the teacher leader who’s helping to recruit the kids. How do we show them that it’s a meaningful career?” he says.

When she talks about the Teacher Academy, Smith’s voice rises. “It’s an amazing way to test drive a profession,” she says. “If we decide teaching is not for them, it’s going to be greater people, they’re going to be more informed voters. They’re going to understand and appreciate their children’s teachers and the stresses that a teacher has on the job.”

And hopefully some of them will become teachers. The stresses of being a teacher, though, certainly have contributed to the huge shortage. In Washington, one in ten teachers in the state are varied and complex. They include: full-day kindergarten, 21st-century size reduction, increased retirements of Baby Boomer educators, more students, fewer college graduates in teacher preparation programs, new teachers leaving the profession, limited reciprocity since Washington only accepts certification from three other states, and lack of availability for alternative teacher certification routes.

The reasons for a lack of teachers in the state are varied and complex. They include: full-day kindergarten, size reduction, increased retirements of Baby Boomer educators, more students, fewer college graduates in teacher preparation programs, new teachers leaving the profession, limited reciprocity since Washington only accepts certification from three other states, and lack of availability for alternative teacher certification routes.

In addition to those reasons, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal ’94 says teacher pay still remains a major barrier. A former history teacher and state representative, Reykdal was elected as a SPI in 2016.

“Compensation is always a true reality. It’s not to be denied, he says. “In states that’s booming economically like ours, especially in the Puget Sound, young people in particular have lots of opportunities to do something different with their math degree, or their other degree of any kind.”

Reykdal notes that the legislature made a significant investment this year in starting teacher salary, which increased to a minimum of $41,000. While that salary may draw in some new teachers, that’s still not enough for many young, talented college graduates when there are other more lucrative opportunities in a booming economy. Other states such as Oklahoma and West Virginia have seen large teacher strikes over pay, but even Washington doesn’t compare with other countries.

The reputation of teachers in the United States also pushes some people away. Societal ills get blamed on schools, where educators often feel the brunt.

“We are in a profession that is not only challenging but also in a world of constant change,” Reykdal says. “We are in a profession that is constantly teaching us new things every day.”

“Education has been pushed and pulled in a lot of directions and called to answer for all of society’s problems,” says Akmal. “If we are not competitive in the global marketplace, it must be the schools. If we aren’t winning at the Olympics, it must be the schools.

“They talk about the teaching profession as a teenager. ‘We had a Teacher Academy at Renton High School, where we were guaranteed that if we went through the academy and got our teacher certificate, we could come back and get an interview. So that had always been in the back of my mind,’ says Pattenaude. The Renton School District’s Teacher Academy began in the 1990s and it reflects the “grow your own” approach, one way to bring young teachers back to their communities.

Programs like WSU’s Alhadeff Future Teachers of Color can help break the diversity gap in schools, too.
Schools have become a football, kicked around by policymakers,” says Sharratt. “Money is withheld, money is thrown in.” At the school level, Pattenaude knows reputation is on the minds of students. “The status of teachers is not lost on high school students who may be eyeing the profession. I saw that play out in my conversations with students in the Teacher Academy,” says Pattenaude. “They would say, ‘So, Mr. Pattenaude, why would you go into education when people are saying that you can’t trust teachers?’ It’s just a very negative conversation that’s going on nationally.”

One person who has seen that conversation evolve is Gena Sharratt, ’72, ’83 Ph.D, now the executive director of statewide initiatives for OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) and the Washington Association of Educational Service Districts (ESDs). Sharratt has a long history as a principal, on efforts such as addressing the opportunity gaps, and focusing on the retention and recruitment of teachers. She recognizes that “just a very negative conversation that you can’t trust teachers” exists, and that it’s going on nationally.

Sharratt’s long career in education includes five years as the superintendent in Chehalis, ESD superintendent, 12 years as a WSU associate clinical professor in charge of the superintendent certification program, and then serving on Governor Jay Inslee’s cabinet as executive director of the Washington Student Achievement Council.

Drawing on his breadth of experience, Sharratt recognizes a sort of a perfect storm over the last five years: more students, more retirements, class size reductions, and the changing reputations of teachers.

“Teachers continue to get blamed for so many of the things that are going on in society. They’re just getting beat up and a lot of them are saying, ‘I don’t think I can sustain this pressure as a long-term career choice,’” says Sharratt. “They feel that the pressure from the press, and the over-zealous demands from some parents and political leaders is too much for them, particularly given the low pay and other career opportunities available in a robust economy. This is especially true for teachers of color who we need to recruit into the teaching profession to complement the ever-growing number of students of color entering our system.”

Reykdal says more teachers leaving the field also exacerbates the issue. “We’re seeing a wave of retirements now with recovery from economic crisis. So all of a sudden, you have a smaller pipeline of younger people getting in at the exact same time that we are exiting lots and lots of Baby Boomers out of the profession,” he says. Even though school administrators and education leaders feel the heat to replace those teachers who retire or leave teaching, Sharratt and the others don’t want to compromise the quality of teaching.

“I have a basic philosophy: quality teacher, quality outcome,” says Sharratt. “When we have teacher shortages, we still really need to attract the very finest of people to the profession.”

Pattenaude agrees, as he looks to fill teacher vacancies in his schools. “That teacher is going to go in there, and at the high school level, work with 150 to 200 kids a day. Would you want this person in there working with your kid? If we don’t think that person’s actually going to positively impact those kids, then filling the hole doesn’t make a whole lot of difference,” he says.

“Teachers continue to get blamed for so many of the things that are going on in society. They’re just getting beat up and a lot of them are saying, ‘I don’t think I can sustain this pressure as a long-term career choice,’” says Sharratt. “They feel that the pressure from the press, and the over-zealous demands from some parents and political leaders is too much for them, particularly given the low pay and other career opportunities available in a robust economy. This is especially true for teachers of color who we need to recruit into the teaching profession to complement the ever-growing number of students of color entering our system.”

Reykdal says more teachers leaving the field also exacerbates the issue. “We’re seeing a wave of retirements now with recovery from economic crisis. So all of a sudden, you have a smaller pipeline of younger people getting in at the exact same time that we are exiting lots and lots of Baby Boomers out of the profession,” he says. Even though school administrators and education leaders feel the heat to replace those teachers who retire or leave teaching, Sharratt and the others don’t want to compromise the quality of teaching.

“I have a basic philosophy: quality teacher, quality outcome,” says Sharratt. “When we have teacher shortages, we still really need to attract the very finest of people to the profession.”

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At WSU, Pattenaude joined what is now known as the Alhadeff Future Teachers of Color, which provides support services as well as mentoring and networking opportunities for multicultural students. It was renamed in 2014 to honor the support of Madron and Kenny Alhadeff ’70.

“Many of them are first-generation students, so even navigating the college experience can be a little difficult,” says Brenda Barrio, WSU assistant professor of special education and the AFTOC advisor.

The program, founded in 1994, has grown in the past five years from 12 percent to 25 percent of education students coming from multicultural backgrounds. Many of them are first-generation students, so even navigating the college experience can be a little difficult,” says Brenda Barrio, WSU assistant professor of special education and the AFTOC advisor.

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Their families may face obstacles. How do we serve as a support to help them persist?”

The Teacher Academy, and other “grow your own” efforts, can give them that support and show them what teaching is all about.

“Of the things that I always hear from students is that they have a new appreciation for their teachers. They’re saying, ‘God, they work hard.’ Or, ‘Man, the students don’t always listen,’” says Pattenaude. “Even for those students who don’t move forward and go on to pursue a career in education, I think it provides them a lens into education writ large, and go on to pursue a career in education, they have a new appreciation for their teachers.”

Pattenaude points to his former Renton High School student Alex Castro-Wilson, who now teaches fifth grade at Benson Hill Elementary, as an example of bringing people back as teachers. The road home for teachers can also apply to leadership positions, like Pattenaude’s journey to principal and then superintendent. That can be intentional, says Sharratt. “As a principal and superintendent I tried to identify teachers, and paraprofessionals and support staff, do on a daily basis for kids.”

In Spokane, faculty work with Spokane area schools on recruiting and developing paraprofessionals, with a conscious eye on their busy lives. “They are coming to night classes and on Saturdays. We are thinking about hybridized courses to be online and anytime, says Sharratt. “Teachers can catch a vans for just $5 per day, every morning, ride down to the district, and then ride back to their homes in Ellensburg.”

With both innovative training and AFTOC, WSU joins other universities and colleges in Washington to reverse the trends in teacher education enrollments. “We know the number of people who want to become teachers is finite in Washington,” says Akmal. “It’s challenging stuff—art and craft and science all wrapped together. You have to have an interest in kids and seeing those kids become better. Then you need a good grasp of the content and how to teach it to kids.”

After all the college classes and time in classrooms, teachers deserve more respect for their important work. Companies certainly recognize the rigor of teacher preparation.

“There was an amazing interview with the CEO of Intel a few years ago where he said, ‘I love teacher education programs. I can hire middle managers right here at half the price of an MBA. And they have all the skills they need to have. They are critical thinkers, they are creative, they handle people,’” says Akmal. Akmal, Sharratt, and the others know respect, and possibly salaries, of teachers could improve if people would take a hard look at the crucial role of teachers.

“This is the most incredibly powerful job you can have, where years later some kid comes up to you and says, ‘Thanks, you really changed my life in that moment, even though I was really intolerable. I really appreciate that you treated me with kindness at a time when I was having such difficulty in my life,’” says Akmal.

Pattenaude completely agrees. “What you don’t realize until you become a teacher, or an educator, or just an adult, is how much your words matter,” he says. As the Teacher Academy students at Hazen High School finish up their paraprofessional exams and continue to learn pedagogy from Smith and role models like Pattenaude, perhaps they too will realize the rewards of coming back to school.

Teacher diversity gap* in the 50 states

The underrepresentation of teachers of color versus the number of students of color—studies show having teachers from diverse backgrounds can improve test scores, graduation rates, and engagement—particularly in students from historically underrepresented groups.
A 9-year-old slave girl fanned her young mistress to keep the flies off her while she learned her lessons. Because she picked up enough education to be able to read and write a little, she ended up teaching other slaves and ex-slaves.

Her daughter became a schoolteacher, married to a Presbyterian minister in segregated Columbus, Ohio. The couple passed on the family mantras to their children: “You must get an education to get ahead” and “you must be a credit to our race.”

Their children, the second generation born free, took the advice to heart, attending college and becoming teachers and professionals. One of them, GLADYS COOPER KIDD JENNINGS, became the first African-American woman to earn a master’s degree from Washington State College in 1948. She returned to teach food science and nutrition in 1966, and has taught, mentored, recruited, and inspired hundreds of WSU students over the past 50 years.

Jennings’s interest in food began early as she took her turn cooking as one of seven siblings. “I looked at the food articles and pictures in ladies magazines and tried to experiment. My family would wonder, ‘What ladies magazine are we eating from today?’” she remembers. “As I grew older, I thought, what could I do with that kind of interest? I got interested in hospital dietetics; it was more exotic than home economics.”

After earning her bachelor’s degree in dietetics from Ohio State University in 1945, Jennings worked for a year and then decided to pursue a master’s degree, first committing to Cornell University. “WSC got back to me late, but they offered a teaching fellowship. That was something new, something I hadn’t done before,” she says. Also, she thought Washington was near to California, where a sister lived. “There were one or two black people on campus,” she says. “It was like being on exhibit and a spokesperson for my race all the time.” She made friends with the only African-American
family living in Pullman and joined the International Club. Everyone in her department and college was friendly and helpful as she earned her master’s degree in food and nutrition.

She says her WSU education served her well over the next 18 years of her career. In 1954 she went to London on a fullbright scholarship and worked with the Ministry of Food to research food choices during World War II. She taught at Syracuse University and North Carolina College before chairing the Home Economics Department at Spelman College in Atlanta from 1955 to 1966. During and after a short marriage, she worked as a registered dietitian working with special diets at Grant Hospital in Columbus.

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Ambitions and Intellect

Gladys Cooper Kidd Jennings

The achievements of her students—along with those of her daughter and adult granddaughters—are her greatest legacy, says the 92-year-old Jennings. She points to a former international student, Annie Mitika ’83 MS, ’95 PhD, and her family who formed Pamosa International, a nonprofit development organization working in Malawi. Another student, Ethan Bergman ’96 PhD, is associate dean and professor of Food Science and Nutrition at Central Washington University and past president of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

She was the first advisor for Diane Kolb ’34, now vice president of the WSU Alumni Association, and they’ve been friends for 40 years. “My greatest tribute is that she said I inspired her to be the best she could be,” Jennings says. Above: Display panels from the “Ambitions and Intellect: Pioneering Women at WSU” exhibition by WSU Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections on this past spring.

Cornfields to vineyards

I quit working in 1996,” says master winemaker David “Merf” Merfeld ’13. That was the year he got a job at Bert Grant’s Brewery in Yakima—one of the early craft breweries in the region.

Merf’s passion for fermentation started in his kitchen a few years earlier. He’d driven west to Seattle from the family farms in Iowa. “Thirty, thirty-one hours straight through,” he says, with maybe an “hour stop for a rain storm in South Dakota.” He was in the 79 Park Avenue his dad gave him: “a great ride, and everything I owned fit in that car.”

The first thing he and the buddy he’d come to visit did was go to the Red Door, a craft brew bar in Fremont. “I had a Redhook ESB that changed my life,” he says.

Back then, Grant’s was owned by Chateau Ste. Michelle Wine Estates. When, in the early 2000s, Ste. Michelle decided to get out of beer and focus on their core wine business, they kept Merf on as a winemaker for Northstar, an ultra-premium maker of Bordeaux style wines, especially noted for its magnificent merlots.

“I knew the Northstar winemaker at the time, Gordy Hill 80. All the winemakers would come down and pick up beer to drink, and we’d leave wine for me,” he says. “He and Hill would ‘go out’ on fermentation science.

Nestled in the Walla Walla Valley, Northstar was one of about thirty wineries when Merf moved there in 2002. “Now there’s 150,” he says with justifiable pride; he’s ridden the wave of Washington wines.

“Wine’s a marriage of art and science,” Merf says. “You’ve got to have the science, especially for troubleshooting and to replicate the things that worked.”

Encouraged by the education-prizing culture of Ste. Michelle, Merf got a glimpse from WSU Tri-Cities in viticulture and enology—Merf and his assistant winemaker, Karin (Dinges) Gasparrini ’98, are both paying it forward. Northstar wines will be featured at the Dad’s Weekend ‘18 Feast of the Arts. And they’ll be mentoring current students in the student-made winemaking program, Blended Learning.

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Architect of other worlds

BY LARRY CLARK

A green furry dragon named Smaug living in the forests of the Pacific Northwest. A twisted and pathetic creature yearning for a ring in Middle Earth. A monstrous ape, an alien jungle, a future dystopian city.

If any of these cinematic creations will capture the imaginations of moviemakers, they need the magic of visual effects created by wizards like Eric Saindon ’96. Saindon’s own imagination was stoked by animated films as a kid, which led to over two decades designing effects and leading teams of visual effects artists on some of the largest blockbusters on screen.

Much of Saindon’s career has been with Weta Digital in New Zealand, known for its special effects artists on some of the largest blockbusters of special effects. The road to Wellington doorway to moviemaking. Saindon joined a little visual effects company in Santa Barbara and after a year and a half, “I got this random phone call from a guy from New Zealand. They were going to shoot a film, couldn’t tell me what the film was, and they were interested in getting some people to come out for six months.”

The director was Peter Jackson, and the film was Lord of the Rings. Saindon took the job, “and nineteen years later, I’m still in New Zealand.”

Some of Saindon’s early work was on the creature Gollum, a motion capture project that pushed the boundaries of the form. A key character, Gollum needed to appear as real and expressive as possible, which meant extensive innovation with actor Andy Serkis. Saindon, and the visual effects team.

Saindon says they kept testing the technology, asking themselves, “How are we going to get this skin to look even more real than we’ve ever seen in the past?” The muscle system and the movement were not to the extreme we wanted, so we pushed harder on the motion capture cameras and the tracking ability. All those little things added up to get Gollum.”

With creature supervisor experience, Saindon then tackled a much, much larger beast, King Kong in Jackson’s 2005 remake. After a few other films, he joined director James Cameron on Avatar for five years, which Saindon says was unbelievably challenging. In addition to blue-skinned aliens, the planet itself took some creative thinking.

“To end up with a jungle that looks very realistic, “he says, the visual effects team ran a simulation that actually grew the extraterrestrial plants. It’s the type of problem that keeps Saindon excited about the work.

As screen resolutions improve, “audience have gotten so much better at spotting things that we have to get better every year hiding things in plain sight,” he says. It helps to have teams at Weta Digital with diverse skills, like his architecture training, says Saindon. His current project, sci-fi film Alice: Battle Angel, really taps that skill.

“I’m actually designing a city, so it’s a little more architecture. But the three-dimensional way of thinking from architecture really has helped me tremendously throughout my career. It can make a big difference in making something that you believe or don’t believe.”

Following his visual effects work on the three films of The Hobbit, including the hideous dragon Smaug, Saindon took on the 2016 Disney film Pete’s Dragon, featuring Elliot, a friendly dragon in the Northwest woods. It turned into a favorite project, with interesting approaches like macrophotography of his dog’s nose for Elliot’s feet.

Saindon also had fun with his daughter as an extra for the movie as they shot in New Zealand. It’s a great life there, he says, with his two sons, two daughters, and his wife, a USC architecture graduate who went into visual effects and worked on Gollum animation. *

from Pullman began in architecture, though. “I always wanted to get into architecture, but I was a little bit of a film buff,” says Saindon. Since he wanted to go into the movie industry, he thought “maybe the way for me is to get into set design.”

He took an animation class from Washington State University professor Kim Singers in his third year and decided that was his 38

A formula for funny

BY RACHEL WEBBER

When Kelsey Cook ’11 was a junior in college she delivered her first stand-up performance during an open-mic night at a campus dining hall.

“You’re basically intruding on everyone’s dinner,” she recalls. Even if the crowd thought something was funny they had food in their mouths so they couldn’t really hear their reaction.

Cook has since made a name for herself in comedy and last spring made her stand-up debut on The Tonight Show and earned her first credit on Comedy Central.

She was also back on the road performing stand-up, including a weekend last April at the Spokane Comedy Club where a few more familiar faces were in the crowd—friends and even favorite teachers from her hometown in nearby Cheney.

Cook’s comedy career has taken her from New York to Los Angeles to Paris, but when she first arrived at WSU in Pullman, she didn’t exactly have comedy in mind.

“I started at WSU as a math major,” she says. “I wanted to teach high school math at the high school I went to, which now sounds like a nightmare.”

While taking a public speaking course, a professor mentioned Cook’s assignments were sounding less like speeches and more like stand-up routines. She decided to take an internship in L.A. that summer and meanwhile continued to perform.

She returned to Pullman the following semester with a plan to produce a local stand-up show. Cook started Six-Pack Laughs at Stubbsfield’s Bar and Grill, which brought in local comedians each week.

After graduation, she performed stand-up in the Seattle area for a few years before moving to Los Angeles to perform full-time, along with her boyfriend and fellow comedian Kane Holloway.

Cook spent much of the last year touring and preparing for The Tonight Show, which she says has been a huge stepping stone in her career.

“It’s no nervousness,” she says. “Funny Fallon’s on your right and The Roots on your left. There’s a crowd of people and there’s her—and it’s very close to you.”

Ironie take for show, she delivered her six-minute set, which included stories about her professional football-playing family and latent allergies.

“It’s changed my life. Stand-up will always be my first love,” she says, adding that it has helped her get more work as a headline and that she hopes to turn her credits into even more work.

Cook now splits her time between L.A. and New York and has a few tips for the frequent flyer: opt for the TSA Pre-Check, pack moisturizing facemasks, and drink an obscene amount of water.

While working in L.A., she also hosts a podcast along with her friends, comedians Delanie Fischer and Taylor Tomlinson, where they explore self-improvement trends each week. It’s aptly named, “Self-Helpless.”

Cook ultimately graduated from WSU with a bachelor’s in broadcast production, but says she still loves math. She likes solving problems and she says she looks at her set kind of like a puzzle, searching for the best and funniest stories that will connect with a crowd. *
WASHINGTON STATE MAGAZINE FALL 2018

NEWmedia

Modernist Bread
NATHAN MYHRVOLD AND FRANCISCO MIGOYA
THE COOKING LAB: 2017

For millennia, bread baking has been more craft than science. Even the current trend in artisan bread rejects much of what modern science has wrought: the advances of manufactured yeast, dough conditioners, added preservatives and the overall industrialization of wheat and bread production.

“The bread zeitgeist is about being ancient, primitive, natural, and pretty much anything but modern,” writes Nathan Myhrvold in his recent 2,642-page Modernist Bread, a landmark effort to dive as deeply as possible into the science behind one of the world’s oldest crafts.

A notable exception to this trend, writes Myhrvold, is the Washington State University Bread Lab and Steve Jones, wheat breeder, lab director, and recent recipient of a $1.5 million Clif Bar & King Arthur Flour Endowed Chair in Organic Grain Breeding & Innovation. Myhrvold, former chief technology officer at Microsoft, cites the lab’s work as an example of “a Modernist undercurrent hiding beneath the seemingly retro artisanal bread movement.”

Myhrvold and his team tapped more than 200 experts for their five-volume effort. They put almost 400 bread books in a database, baked thousands of loaves and other goods, and challenged some of the craft’s personalities inherent in the woodland world.

When they turned their attention to how wheat and bread production, Myhrvold, he has become a grain innovator, “using the power of science and technology to create new varieties of wheat that not only work for the farmer and the miller but also allow the baker to make great bread. It’s a simple idea, but it took a forward thinker to put the concept into practice.”

—Eric Sorensen

Deer at Twilight—Poems from the North Cascades
PAUL J. WILLIS ’60 MA, ’85 PHD
STEPHEN P. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS: 2018

Hiking trails through the mountains can be a lonely endeavor. Missing human companionship, some turn to the subtle moods and personalities inherent in the woodland world itself.

These emotional complexities come alive in this lovely little volume written while author Paul Willis explored the North Cascades during an artist-in-residence program and a subsequent residency with the North Cascades Institute.

“His verse covers territory from huckleberry love to a welcoming pile of bear scat. There are also witty discussions with Oregon grape and belated apologies to Jack Kerouac.”

—Rebecca Phillips

Most of the poems are quite pithy with a touch of humor. Moderna, that strip tear of yours is working again, Willis writes in seven lines extolling the beauty of the tree’s peeling cinnamon-brown bark. In twelve, he delights readers with tales of the Hooper’s Fairy Bell. In nine, the Cow Parsnip, most clumsy and loathsome of boths and flowers, a stinking Melissa shouldering her way to the trough.

Within nature’s embrace, Willis inevitably weavers the somber tones of aging and death, particularly that of his mother and, someday, his own. The words linger as he contemplates the spore-like appearance of deer bones, and the creamy inflorescence of Death Camas. I know one day that I would take communion with your bitter oaks.

“This is a poetic celebration of the diversity of the Cascades. Willis has a lyrical talent and a knack for evoking the complex rhythms of nature. The poems flow like a river, carrying readers along for a journey to the heart of the Northwest.”

—Eric Sorensen

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BOLD, YES. COUGS ACHIEVE.*

*Well, Cougs overachieve, but you get what we’re saying.
WASHINGTON STATE MAGAZINE FALL 2018

The Edward R. Murrow College of Communication recognized KRISTA (BOBBIE) ULRICH ('83 Poli. Sci., '84 PhD) as the Yearly Award for Journalism. With an affinity for "cowboy culture" plus decades of graphic design and illustration experience, Willer's award-winning Western art has appeared on posters, magazine covers, postage stamps, and more. BILL BRUBAKER ('61 Comm.) was recognized by the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication in its Hall of Achievement for a career in journalism spanning more than three decades. Brubaker has worked as a broadcast journalist for outlets like KXL-Y in Spokane and KOMO in Seattle, served two terms on the Snohomish County Council, and served as principal consultant for Humantech Inc., where he has helped lead a wide range of industrial hygiene, occupational safety, and environmental health projects for more than three decades. JOHN KIEFFER ('79 MS Entom.) released his sixth photography book, Bedside Colorado: A Photographic Pictorial, a hardcover book, with 120 pages and 160 captioned, color photos. Produce industry veteran STEVE LUTH ('79 Comm.), based in Wenatchee, is the Produce Marketing Association’s new regional vice-president for the United States and Canada West. STEVE SCHMIELE ('70 Cm. Sci.) was promoted to Hawaii district manager for boating and coarse recreation in December 2017. His agency is responsible for all commercial and recreational boating on the island of Hawaii. He spent 10 years as an employee of the state of Hawaii and previously worked in law enforcement positions in Washington and Nevada. Biocatalytic Systems Inc., a pharmaceutical development company providing contract research services and monitoring instruments, welcomed MICHAEL BAIN ('82 MS, '84 PhD Chem.) as vice president of biocatalytic operations. RON E. CLAUDON ('82 Bus.) of Valley Back GMC in Auburn received the Robert P. Mahon Dealer of the Year award at the Washington State Auto Dealers Association. Natakiya Minerals Inc. selected JAY LAYMAN ('82 Bus., Mech. Eng.) as an independent non-executive director. He joined the travertine-based company in the firm’s endeavor to deliver the world’s first deep sea mining, bringing decades of experience in the mineral exploration industry to his new role. Summit Pacific Medical Center in Omak has a new chief financial officer, JAMES HANSEN ('83 Acc.). Hansen has more than 20 years of health care financial experience. JAMES L. BARNHART ('84 Elec. Eng.) was named the senior vice president of operations at Hamilton Health Group, a provider of advanced process control solution in California. James has more than 10 years of experience in the semiconductor manufacturing industry and previously served as an engineering division officer in the U.S. Navy. MICHAEL GURLEY ('84 Poli. Sci.) has been bestowed the title of Kentucky Colonel, the highest honor awarded by the state of Kentucky, by Governor Matt Bevin. The Eastern Idaho Engineering Council recently honored STEVEN SHOPIHERE ('84, '88 MS, '91 PhD Phys.) with the STEM Professional of the Year Award for his contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. A physics professor at Idaho State University for more than 20 years, he has reached thousands of students across the country through a variety of science education outreach programs. Representative JT WILCOX ('85 History) was recently elected as the new leader of the Republican Caucus in the Washington State House of Representatives. He currently runs a consulting firm with his wife in addition to representing Washington’s 2nd Legislative District, has served as floor leader, and sat on the House Appropriations, Finance and Rules committees since taking office in 2010. GREG GOODNIGHT ('86 Gen. St., Ed.) was named as the next superintendent of the Pateros School District in central Washington. Chadli, the largest commercial insurer in the United States, appointed MIKE WILLIAMS ('86 Fin.) as executive vice president and manufacturing industry practice leader. M. Holod Community College selected LISA SKARI ('87 Apparel Design) as the college’s 10th president. Current serving as the vice president for institutional advancement at Kishwaukee Community College in DeKalb, Ill, she has more than 26 years of higher education experience. The Oregon Bicycle Racing Association appointed CRICK KENLII ('88 Kines.) as the organization’s new executive director formerly the Mt. Bachelor Sports Education Foundation director, Chuck’s an avid race promoter, officiator, competitor, and racing cycling advocate. He succeeds Hall of Achievement inductee at the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication recognized LORNE DANKS ('90 Comm.) for her work in the public affairs and media relations industries. Currently the public affairs manager for the Transportation Security Administration, she has also worked at the U.S. Senate and served as a spokeswoman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Underminer Automotive in Billings, Montana, recently selected BETH SWANSON ('90 Kines.) as the company’s new marketing director. She was a dedicated volunteer in the Walls Walla area for more than 14 years in marketing and public relations positions. Diamond Keeses, an Apple product trade-in partner for schools and enterprises, announced the hiring of experienced educational technology professional PETE VASplug ('90 Biol., Ed.) as vice president of business development for the Northwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. Digital Risk LLC selected SADIE J. GURLEY ('91 Econ.) as head of diligence services, to ensure compliance, quality, and confidence in cybersecurity market, mortgage consumer lending, and financial services companies. Gurley is a former Goldman Sachs vice president with more than 20 years of experience in mortgage banking and real estate. ERINN DEIMINGER ('93 Soc. Sci., Ed.) is the new vice president of development at The Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute. He previously oversaw development at Claremont Graduate University. Former WSU quarterback DREW BLEDSOE ('93 B.S. Bus.) and his company, Black Oak Bottles, which sells stainless steel insulated bottles, teamed up to help raise money for Hillside’s Hope, a foundation created by the parents of Tyler Hnilicki, Mark and Kym Hnilicki, to educate, advocate, and remove the stigma associated with mental illness for student athletes. CRISTOFER L. LIPPMAN ('99

Secure Your Bottle of Cougar V

Join the Wine-By-Cougars Wine Club.
Recently I briefly visited Pakistan, one reason being to deliver a keynote address at the Global Forum on Islamic Economics in February—sponsored by the University of Management and Technology in Lahore—on “Economic Thought of Early Management and Economics in February.”

During the visit, on February 25, 2018, some friends arranged a luncheon rendezvous with several Pakistani Cougars (and a couple of Vandal)....
James F. Short Jr. 1924–2018

By Lorine A. Hughes ’03 PhD

I am privileged to have known Jim Short and to have worked with and learned from him. Jim was a leader in the field of research and education in the area of policing and law enforcement for more than 50 years. He was an inspiring figure who demonstrated a commitment to excellence and a dedication to serving others.

Jim was born on September 1, 1924, in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1945 with a degree in Philosophy. Jim then went on to receive his PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago in 1951.

Jim’s career in research and education began at the University of Chicago where he worked as a research assistant and later as an assistant professor. He was a member of the YSP (Youth Study Project) team, which was led by J. Michael Short. The YSP was a landmark study that aimed to understand the factors that lead to delinquency and violence among young people in Chicago.

In 1957, Jim joined the faculty of the University of Washington in Seattle as an assistant professor. He later became a full professor and served as the department chair from 1968 to 1972. During his time at UW, Jim was instrumental in establishing the Program in Law and Social Science, which focused on the study of social problems and their solutions.

Jim’s contributions to the field of criminology were significant. He authored numerous books and articles, and was a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars around the world. He was a leader in the development of research methodologies in criminology and was known for his commitment to rigorous data collection and analysis.

Jim was a mentor to many students and colleagues, and he leaves behind a legacy of intellectual achievement and dedication to the betterment of society. His contributions to the field of criminology and his influence on generations of researchers and educators will be remembered for years to come.

Jim passed away on April 11, 2018, in Seattle, Washington. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his daughter, Ann; and his son, David. His legacy continues to inspire and guide those who follow in his footsteps.
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A high five for Cougar V

This fall, the WSU Alumni Association will release Cougar V—the fifth offering in the Cougar Collectors Series that celebrates Cougar wineries and the role WSU alumni play as leaders in the wine industry. The Cougar V red blend was created by a team of outstanding Cougs at Mercer Estates Winery, including Rob Mercer ’91, Brenda Mercer ’90, Paul Mercer ’92, and winemaker Jeremy Santo ’03.

The only guaranteed way to get your bottle of Cougar V is to join the Wine-By-Cougars Wine Club. WBC carefully selects world-class Coug wines and delivers them to your door four times a year, with four different club levels from which to choose. Cougar V will be included in the fall shipment with the opportunity to purchase additional bottles.

We hope you join us at the Cougar V Release Party on Sunday, August 19, from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Mercer’s Seattle tasting room location. Cougs will be able to taste Cougar V for the very first time, as well as enjoy all-you-can-eat tacos for $10, live music, and other fantastic Mercer wines.

You can RSVP and learn more at alumni.wsu.edu/cougarvreleaseparty.

The Cougar Collectors Series sells out quickly, and being a Wine-By-Cougars Wine Club member is the only way to guarantee your bottle if you sign up before August 15. By becoming a WBC member and purchasing Cougar V, you support scholarships for the next generation of WSU wine leaders and other important WSUAA initiatives.

To sign up, go to winebycougars.com or call 800-258-6978.

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.
Nothing is certain except death, taxes, and Pullman Transit. One winter morning, I was waiting alone at the bus stop near Cougar Crest Apartments. Heavy snowfall the night before.

A thick mist in the air like limp gauze. I observed a tall figure plodding along. It was a moose. It walked up to me, now inches away, the two of us separated by a flimsy sheet of plexiglass. Its antlers like wings off a cracked archangel. Life before my eyes. A bus rumbled up Merman Drive and frightened the moose away. The bus screeched to a halt. Right on time.

—Andy Orr ’08 MA English

If you would like to send an In Memoriam note, please visit magazine.wsu.edu/contact.

IN memoriam

“Donors are the reason so many of us, myself included, can attend Washington State University.”

“Scholarships enable bright young minds to plant the seeds of their futures. Help cultivate the next legacy with a gift today.”

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