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Cover: A sun pillar rises high in the sky at sunset over the silhouettes of the Olympic Mountains (Photo Dan Lewis) Left: A reflective sunrise on the Columbia River south of the Tri-Cities campus (Photo Joshua Snyder)
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Washington State Magazine is published quarterly by Washington State University. Editorial office: IT Building 2013, E70 NE Wilson Road, Pullman, Washington. 509-335-2388

Washington State Magazine is distributed free to alumni, friends, faculty, and staff. Others can subscribe or gift the magazine for $25 yearly (magazine.wsu.edu/subscribe).

Change of address: Biographical and Records Team, PO Box 641927, Pullman, WA 99164-1927; address.updates@wsu.edu; 800-448-2978.

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Rethink

The pandemic was already tough, but the surge in bigotry against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders made it worse. Nonprofit Stop AAPI Hate started tracking incidents last year and reported significant increases even from this past spring. From the spa murders in Atlanta to hateful rhetoric in Seattle, the verbal and physical attacks are inexcusable.

Tragically, we’ve seen this behavior before. Chinese immigrants have lived and worked in the Pacific Northwest for well over 175 years and experienced outbreaks of racist violence and discrimination. As we reflect on the stories about Chinese residents of the Inland Northwest in this issue’s feature, we should acknowledge and embrace their lasting contributions to the region. The pandemic brought out ugliness toward Asian Americans, and it forces us to consider again how we treat each other.

COVID-19 pushed people to rethink many things and at WSU that meant academics, research, student life, public health, and most aspects of campus life. Sometimes there were silver linings in the dark clouds of the last year, from creation of art by online students to innovative research and successful vaccination efforts.

Even before we dealt with the pandemic, WSU had been finding better ways to open possibilities for first-generation and low-income students through TRIO programs. With support and guidance from dedicated staff, hundreds of students navigate the unfamiliar terrain of college and become accomplished Cougar alumni.

The WSU spirit of creativity shows up in research, too. As people age or sustain sports-related injuries, there’s a growing need for joint replacements. WSU engineering researchers use 3D printing to make longer-lasting hip and knee replacements that fit better. Other scientists are even working on 3D-printed cartilage for knees, which could have significant impact on treatment of osteoarthritis.

We don’t need to be researchers to reconsider the world. It can be what we eat—we should look again at the humble cabbage—or it can be how we’ve entertained. WSU Vancouver professor John Barber and Dan Wyatt ’36 (Comm.) have embraced the new and old with reimagined radio dramas and audiobooks.

We all benefit from taking a puzzle, turning it around, and looking at it from different angles. Whether we are making communities more just by stopping hatred and racism, or we’re finding new ways to teach, research, and create music or art, I would encourage all of us to reimagine the world.

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Advertising guide is online at magazine.wsu.edu/advertising

Washington State Magazine is pleased to acknowledge the generous support of alumni and friends of WSU, including a major gift from Philip M. and June Lightly.

Committed to sustainability, Washington State Magazine is printed at a facility (FSC® COC05571 [Forest Stewardship Council®]) and on paper that is FSC® certified using vegetable-based inks.
Realizing the adventure
The Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC) bonded a lot of folks with the love of the natural world and provided a great place to grow. I think some of my favorite trips were the intro to backpacking ones where folks were trying things out for the first time. It’s amazing to see someone tackle something new and realize that adventure is accessible to them. Thank you to the ORC family and all the best for the next 50 years!

DANIELLA “DONNA” RUTH (DRADER) LORINCZ VINGELEN
(‘09 MS NAT. RES. SCI.)

It must have been summer of 1999 or 2000… A few of us (ORC) staff members decided we were going to do the outdoor adventure surfing trip to Cannon Beach, Oregon. There are a few things I won’t forget from this trip—the van ride, the freezing temps of the Pacific Ocean, and the feeling I got riding a wave… I don’t think any of us realized how cold the water would be, or the fact we would have to have head-to-toe wetsuits covering us. It took a lot of convincing to actually get in once we realized it wasn’t going to be pleasant. The water temperature was in the 50s, and we could only stay in about 30 minutes at a time. The thing about surfing is there is nothing like riding your first wave. I was hooked.

JEN GUDAZ (‘01 REC. & LEIS. STU.)

Favorite structure
Washington State Magazine recently asked readers to reflect on—in 200 words or fewer—their favorite structure at any WSU campus for a chance to win a gift card to Ferdinand’s Ice Cream Shoppe. Here’s the winning entry.

My favorite WSU structure would have to be Stevens Hall. I lived there all four years during college and was very involved in hall government. I love that historical building and fought to keep it safe and sound so other women could enjoy living there for years to come. It is so grand and full of the best history. It’s also full of friendships, laughter, hard work, and pride of home. Every time I see photos of Stevens Hall, I light up. I show people, “See! That’s where I lived! Isn’t it lovely? I became ME in that building.” It isn’t just part of WSU’s history; it’s part of my history.

ANNA BURCH (‘96 COMM.)

Read more memories of Stevens Hall at magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Stevens-Hall-latters

Read more about Washington’s significant structures at magazine.wsu.edu/WA-strucures

As Washington’s land-grant university with a 131-year history dedicated to serving the public good, we have embraced the power of possibilities time and time again throughout the decades. Possibilities to create new opportunities. Possibilities to improve lives. Possibilities to reshape the world for a more just and equitable future for all. Unlocking possibilities is what we do best.

“Go Cougs!” certainly is the well-loved rallying cry for the University’s athletic teams, but it’s a phrase that transcends sports. “Go Cougs!” at its heart is about believing in the power of possibilities, identifying possibilities, and turning possibilities into reality.

Our unwavering belief in possibilities is why nearly a third of our students are the first in their families to attend college. It’s why our researchers collaborate with partners across the globe to explore ways to halt deadly diseases and improve the food supply. And why we are reshaping the face of health care in Washington by expanding medical services to underserved communities.

After listening to and engaging with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other stakeholders for the last couple of years, we concluded that our brand should also reflect the concept of possibilities. The Cougar head logo is the University’s most powerful symbol—beloved by generations of WSU supporters—and rated as one of the best college logos nationally. The Cougar head represents possibilities. It represents that special down to earth, resilient, spirited mindset Cougs bring to the table for any challenge. It says, “Go Cougs!”

Over the next few months, you will see an evolution in our brand. You’ll see the Cougar head play a more prominent role in the visual identification of the University than at any time in our institutional history. We will feature the Cougar head in WSU’s familiar crimson and gray colors, accompanied by a modernized, sleeker typeface, across print, web, and digital spaces.

You’ll hear us talking more and more about WSU’s possibilities in the coming months. We are continuing to expand our service to the state because of pandemic-related challenges of the past 18 months. And we won’t rest—watch for exciting new ideas that will enhance our public service mission. There’s no doubt our students, communities, state, and region need a powerful WSU.

Go Cougs!

KIRK SCHULZ
President, Washington State University
Dynamic TRIO
She never expected to work on a bioreactor.

Yet, Zakora Moore, a Washington State University student, is now working on a bioreactor as part of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, which helps prepare first-generation, low-income, and underrepresented students for future doctoral studies.

“McNair is an introduction to bigger and better things that are possible for higher education,” she says.

Moore joins thousands of students and alumni who have successfully navigated college with the assistance of not only McNair, but other TRIO programs serving low-income and first-generation college students.

McNair was the first TRIO program to serve low-income and first-generation students.

McNair has a major impact on many students and the number of first-generation students has increased since the program began.

McCormick, director of FirstWSU (first-generation initiatives), was a single mom who finished her community college degree with TRIO support before coming to WSU.

“Those are robust and meaningful programs,” McCormick says. “We set high expectations for our students, and we provide individualized support and guidance in order for them to succeed.”

She notes, “It’s not just about the adversity they have had to overcome. It’s about utilizing their strengths and honing the small successes along the way.”

Staff members need to know financial aid, academic advising, and a lot about WSU. Just as importantly, they listen and adapt to student needs, such as food insecurity.

“We found some of that secret sauce to make students successful, but it’s also recognizing that students have different needs,” Herrera says, noting that TRIO students “have grit and a lot of lived experiences that make them resourceful, resilient, and relentless.”

Their success echoes across families and communities. “That ripple effect is as important because it changes lives. It changes the trajectory of an entire family,” Herrera says.

Moore has a chance to attend a four-year university, so earning her doctorate will be especially meaningful. She is considering dermatology. “There are dermatological practices especially for minorities and people of darker skin tone, but I feel like there’s not enough research on that,” she says.

Herrera and other TRIO staff will be applauding her journey. “You can call it a pipeline, bridge, or pathway,” he says, “but it definitely changes lives.”

Re-imagined Radio and CooperCon
Wherefore art thou, D.B. Cooper?

Fifty years ago this November, an audacious act took place in southwest Washington, a crime that remains one of the nation’s most compelling unsolved mysteries.

It began the day before Thanksgiving, 1971, when a man board

ed Northwest Orient Airlines flight 305 in Portland. About age 40, dressed in a black suit and tie, he looked like any other business traveler on his way home for the holiday.

Midair, however, he opened his briefcase revealing the red wires of a homemade bomb, and quietly told flight attendant Tina Mulcklid that he would detonate the device unless his requests were granted—$200,000 and four parachutes in exchange for setting the passengers free in Seattle. His name, he said, was “Dan Cooper.”

This folk-fans and shills will gather in Vancouver to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the night D.B. Cooper skyjacked the Boeing 727 and later jumped from the plane at 8,000 feet south from Sea-Tac Airport. A bundle of $200 bills was eventually found buried along the Columbia River. But Cooper’s cliff-hanger has not been heard or seen since.

Long the stuff of lore and conspiracy theories, it’s believed Cooper landed somewhere near Vancouver. The details will be debated and analyzed at CooperCon to be held November 20–21. The event is sponsored by Antimonian Eric Ulis and will be hosted by Dan Wyatt (’96 Comm) owner of Vancouver’s historic Kiggins Theatre.

On November 14, the theatre will offer a look at the absurd and speculative cultural phenomenon surrounding Cooper’s daring act of stealing ahorizontal radio drama written by Wyatt and produced by John Barber, a sound artist and professor in the creative media and digital culture program at Washington State University Vancouver.

Barber is the creator of Re-Imagined Radio, a sound-based storytelling medium that produces a wide variety of old-time radio programs as well as contemporary works.

“Re-Imagined Radio originally began with a stage performance in Kiggins Theatre,” Barber says. “It was thought of as a community arts and culture endeavor. With COVID, I was forced to move to radio broadcasts and ‘The Skyjacker,’ an earlier script by Wyatt, was the first episode of Re-Imagined Radio that we recorded remotely.”

Barber also adapts radio shows from the 1930s or 1950s to reflect a local flavor.

“We try to do Oregon Wells’ ‘War of the Worlds’ every year to celebrate World Audio Drama Day,” he says. “I’ve adjusted the script to center the action right here in Vancouver instead of Grover Mill, New Jersey, as in the original.”

The characters all come from Vancouver and there are many references to area landmarks.

It was just north of Vancouver where the original Martian capsule apparently landed, so I changed the name of that place to Battle Ground, the present name of the town.”

Barber and his community partners produce monthly broadcasts for two radio stations in the Portland-Vancouver area. The show is syndicated regionally and is also broadcast across Canada.

For CooperCon21, Wyatt has updated Kiggins Theatre with all the necessary COVID-19 precautions and looks forward to once again welcoming the public to live radio drama performances.

“I’ve heard about D.B. Cooper all my life,” Wyatt says. “My mom was actually at Sea-Tac Airport the night of the skyjacking waiting to fly to Texas to see my soon-to-be father, her fiance at the time. Her flight was grounded while Cooper waited for his ransom money, so it held up her plans a bit. I like to say Cooper almost prevented my existence.

“I’m a little bit of a local folk hero here in Vancouver. Someone stuck it to the man and didn’t really hurt anybody. But he did commit a criminal act; he hijacked an airplane and stole a lot of money.”

Wyatt says Ulis, who appeared in a History Channel documentary about Cooper, invites serious investigators, theorists, and people involved in the skyjacking to speak at CooperCon.

“This year, in the age of podcasts and bizarre conspiracy theories, we’re planning to take the radio drama in a wacko route, with a little bit lighter touch,” says Wyatt.

“My personal take is I don’t want the case solved. I think it’s fun as a mystery, like UFOs and CooperCon. There’s no solid suspect. That’s part of the lore of this mystery—nobody really knows.”
As we age, our lifestyle and history of injuries can catch up to us. Each year, more than a million Americans receive total knee or hip replacement surgery, according to the Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, and with it, chronic pain.

"It’s not really rocket science anymore to take a number of cells and turn it into something larger," Gozen says. "You can make living blocks. But making them work with the human body requires quite a bit of engineering, effort, and science."

While implants are classically made of metals, plastics, or ceramics, these inorganic materials alone don’t bond well with surrounding bone and tissues. This can potentially cause loosening of the implant over time, and eventually bring about the same pain and discomfort that the original surgery was supposed to alleviate.

Most implants last for about 10 to 15 years, though some can fail as soon as 7 years. During a replacement surgery, a new implant is inserted, and the surrounding bone may also need to be stabilized, with calcium phosphate coating, a bone-like material to improve implant biocompatibility. To tackle this, Bose and her team developed a bone-like material made mostly of chemistry-modified calcium phosphate, with additives and natural medicinal compounds, that act as a scaffold for new tissue to grow within 3D printed structures. In small injuries, the material can be absorbed by the body, allowing it to repair itself.

"With chemistry-modified calcium phosphate coating surrounding the metal, the bone tissue can grab it better and stabilize the implant further," Bose says. This makes it less likely for patients to need revision surgery.

Meanwhile, Arda Gozen, George and Joan Berry associate professor in the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, and his team are working toward something a bit more difficult: printing articular cartilage for knee joints.

"Cartilage is such a finicky tissue. When it fails, it fails bad," Gozen says. "Realistically, we are still a ways away. But, along with some other critical tissues, this research would have a huge impact on quality of life."

Articular cartilage is what allows joints to glide smoothly. It wears down over time, causing osteoarthritis—the most common arthritis disorder, which affects millions of people throughout the world—and with it, chronic pain.

"This makes it less likely for patients to need revision surgery," Bose says. "You can make living blocks. But making them work with the human body requires quite a bit of engineering, effort, and science."

"Because today’s population is more active and there are more sports-related injuries, younger and younger people need these replacement surgeries," Susmita Bose, professor in the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering at Washington State University, says. "But if you get your first surgery in your 40s or 50s, and then after one revision surgery, the second revision surgery may not be possible since the bone is compromised, and the patient may be wheelchair-bound."

For over a decade, Bose, along with Amit Bandopadhyay, has been researching ways to use 3D printers to make joint replacements heal better, and last longer.

Free, open source, and available as a mobile app, Mukurtu, a content management system created and maintained by the Center for Digital Scholarship and Curation (CDSC) at Washington State University, intends to be that platform.

"It’s not really rocket science anymore to take a number of cells and turn it into something larger," Gozen says. "You can make living blocks. But making them work with the human body requires quite a bit of engineering, effort, and science."

"From the Warumungu language of Indigenous northern Australians, mukurtu (pronounced moo-koo-too) means “dilly bag.” Traditionally made from woven plant materials, dilly bags serve as a “safe-keeping place” for sacred items. Mukurtu is a safe place where tribal communities worldwide can engage with, manage, and create digital content according to their own protocols."

It’s a bit of a historical rewrite, as much of the content about Indigenous communities originated outside those communities through journals, maps, legal documents, and especially photographs of people, places, things, and events. That alone creates potential issues, from incomplete metadata to ethnocentric misinterpretations. Unrestricted access to culturally sensitive content is another concern.

And while many venerable institutions such as the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and the National Anthropological Archives include convention metadata—it’s provenance and timeline—but also extend cultural narratives from two Nera People community members, Joseph Blackeagle Pinkham and Nakia Williams-Cloud, who also serves as the tribe’s cultural resources program director.

"Indigenous communities also use Mukurtu to provide access to new content, such as oral histories and videos that help document language, dance, songs, and other aspects of their cultures.

"These songs are very important because, as Plateau people, Yakamas, Nez Perce, Unpullals, and Warm Springs still perform and sing," says Jolena Tillequots, who works for the Yakama Nation Library and located her maternal great-grandmother and her belongings in the national archives as part of her work with the web portal.

Related initiatives run by the CDSC, such as the Sustainable Heritage Network, and Tribal Digital Stewardship Cohort Program, further facilitate involvement from Indigenous communities to create and manage content, navigate policymaking, and write grants.

And what you don’t see is just as important. Mukurtu allows access to community members whose lives and culture are being represented in bits and bytes, safe-keeping the sacredness of such things as material culture.

Mukurtu in general and the Plateau Peoples’ Web Portal specifically represent WSU’s link to its past and its future. In 1917, WSU acknowledged benefits from an 1862 Congressional act that essentially converted more than 90,000 acres of historically tribal lands “often taken by coercive and violent acts, and the disregard of treaties” into public land for the University.

Following that, WSU created the Office of Tribal Relations and Native American Advisory Board, which recommended the establishment of a Plateau Center for American Indian Studies. The first Plateau Conference was held in 2000, the same year Christen arrived at WSU from Australia, where she had worked with the Warumungu for more than a decade.

Those relationships helped form the foundation for Mukurtu, which is less about technology than about making connections. "My work is about collaborations and partnerships driven by the needs, goals, and desires of the communities with whom I form long-term relationships," Christen says. The first Plateau Conference was held in 2000, the same year Christen arrived at WSU from Australia, where she had worked with the Warumungu for more than a decade.

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Surprising positives in a tough year

The pandemic profoundly affected Washington State University campuses, students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Virtual classes, COVID-19 outbreaks, shifts in research priorities and methods, canceled sports, COVID testing, masks, vaccinations, and too-quiet paths and hallways around Pullman, Vancouver, Tri-Cities, Everett, and Spokane—the pandemic's effects reached every corner of WSU.

Despite the jarring adjustments and efforts to contain a deadly disease, there were some bright spots and lessons learned in this time of rapid transformation.

As WSU gradually returns to the buzz and excitement of campus life this fall, we reflect on a few of the silver linings in the dark clouds of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instructors in all departments discovered ways to deliver knowledge to students wherever they were, building on the strengths and expertise of WSU Global Campus.

Researchers dug into many aspects of the pandemic, such as how it affected people who are incarcerated, the communities around them, and prisons themselves. That was just one area of last year's changes that can lead to a better WSU.

Though Notability, which he learned about from a colleague, Buckley can download a PDF of notes he writes in class and post the document on Blackboard. "It's very attractive," he says. "Basically, you have an iPad with a stylus, and it's just like using a whiteboard. I can give class just like I would in The Pit. I talk. I write notes. I import pictures from my photo gallery and embed them into the lecture." By spring 2021, he was planning to incorporate the digital platform into his classes when they return to in-person, projecting the app onto the big screen.

All WSU campuses move to distance learning and remote work as COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across the globe. (Instructor Autumn Closs, with teaching and support from WSU Global Campus. WSU Pullman students not to return to the Pullman campus following spring break.) Faculty and researchers across campus are working in teams to develop tools to promote an informed society.

As COVID-19 swept the nation in March 2020, Washington State University was forced to shut down all research activities except essentials like feeding animals and maintaining equipment. Faculty with ongoing studies were required to put them on hold or pivot to make the research relevant in the time of crisis.

"It was totally stressful. It was definitely jumping into the deep end without knowing how deep it was," says Buckley, who initially pre-recorded lectures, then posted them on Blackboard. He tried PowerPoint slides with voiceovers and—while that format might work well for some professors—Buckley was "not a fan. It felt a little awkward," he says.

He was one of nearly a thousand faculty members who participated in system-wide training on using Zoom technology to host drop-in office hours and deliver live and pre-recorded lectures. WSU started training during spring break 2020 and continued throughout the remainder of the semester.

"It was an all hands approach, and staff really stepped up. They were working evenings, early mornings, and weekends," says David Cillay, vice president for academic outreach and innovation, and chancellor of WSU Global Campus. "Was it without bumps? No. But I think what we had was as smooth as anyone would have imagined with that rapid of a pivot."

His staff surveyed faculty early on to better understand their challenges, from easily engaging students to making pre-presentations and executing online assessments. Virtual proctoring services were also offered. While online teaching and learning were new to most faculty and students, Cillay notes, "WSU has almost three decades of experience in distance and online education. We have infrastructure in place. We have quality standards in place. And we were able to leverage a lot of that history to respond to the pandemic."

He praised faculty members for rising to the occasion. "If the faculty didn't engage, we wouldn't have been effective," Cillay says. "It's been an experience with the willingness of the faculty to take on things that we would have never normally been asked to take on, not just as a dot on the timeline but throughout the pandemic."

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Through Notability, which he learned about from a colleague, Buckley can download a PDF of notes he writes in class and post the document on Blackboard. "It's very attractive," he says. "Basically, you have an iPad with a stylus, and it's just like using a whiteboard. I can give class just like I would in The Pit. I talk. I write notes. I import pictures from my photo gallery and embed them into the lecture." By spring 2021, he was planning to incorporate the digital platform into his classes when they return to in-person, projecting the app onto the big screen.

All WSU campuses move to distance learning and remote work as COVID-19 pandemic sweeps across the globe. (Instructor Autumn Closs, with teaching and support from WSU Global Campus. WSU Pullman students not to return to the Pullman campus following spring break.) Faculty and researchers across campus are working in teams to develop tools to promote an informed society.

As COVID-19 swept the nation in March 2020, Washington State University was forced to shut down all research activities except essentials like feeding animals and maintaining equipment. Faculty with ongoing studies were required to put them on hold or pivot to make the research relevant in the time of crisis.

"It was totally stressful. It was definitely jumping into the deep end without knowing how deep it was," says Buckley, who initially pre-recorded lectures, then posted them on Blackboard. He tried PowerPoint slides with voiceovers and—while that format might work well for some professors—Buckley was "not a fan. It felt a little awkward," he says.

He was one of nearly a thousand faculty members who participated in system-wide training on using Zoom technology to host drop-in office hours and deliver live and pre-recorded lectures. WSU started training during spring break 2020 and continued throughout the remainder of the semester.

"It was an all hands approach, and staff really stepped up. They were working evenings, early mornings, and weekends," says David Cillay, vice president for academic outreach and innovation, and chancellor of WSU Global Campus. "Was it without bumps? No. But I think what we had was as smooth as anyone would have imagined with that rapid of a pivot."

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Pandemic Fallout

Intervention

The Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL), College of Veterinary Medicine, is conducting limited COVID-19 testing in animals.

MOMS VIRTUALLY AND ANNOUNCES “MOM OF THE YEAR” AWARDEE REBECCA KALLMAN, PRESENTED BY BECU

To the Pandemic

April 2020

COURTESY WSU NEWS

In COVID-19 cases

WSU Pullman sees a rapid increase

Washington State University senior swimmer, says.

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A shot in the arm

BY LARRY CLARK

People aren’t usually excited to get their shots, often cringing at the sight of the needle or putting off appointments. The COVID-19 pandemic flipped that familiar trope, with many enthusiastically rolling up their sleeves for the vaccine and chance to return to a more normal life. Pharmacy and nursing students and faculty at Washington State University shared in that enthusiasm, delivering tens of thousands of vaccinations.

“Younger people, they weren’t always prepared to answer.”

“Every person had a story, and every person had an experience that was unique within this COVID pandemic. I heard those stories, and I felt those emotions,” says SHANNON PATTERSON, a fourth-year pharmacy student now working at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. “I felt it was a very emotional connection to every single person in every vaccination that was given.”

As Operation Immunization chair for the student chapter of the American Pharmacists Association at the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Patterson led flu and pediatric vaccination outreach before the pandemic. Operation Immunization, which has been around since 1997, helps nursing and pharmacy students get required experience in inoculation techniques.

But the pandemic accelerated community work for everyone at WSU Health Sciences Spokane. “We partnered with local vendors like Spokane Regional Health District, other health districts, and the CHAS clinics on vaccinations,” Patterson says. And by late March, WSU nursing students and faculty had already administered more than 15,000 vaccine doses.

Early on, most patients were health care providers. “We had providers who were literally in tears because they were so happy that there was finally a vaccination,” says RAY OLSON (‘07, ‘10 MN Nursing), associate teaching professor at the College of Nursing who teaches community health. “They were hopeful that there was an end in sight, because they had seen the hope, not only themselves, but of patients that they were trying to take care of.”

Olsom coordinates COVID-19 vaccination programs for Coug nurses. Many volunteered on their days off, evenings, and weekends to deliver shots at homeless shelters, community centers, schools, nursing homes, and other places.

“The way student pharmacists and our colleagues in nursing stepped up to make this happen was really remarkable,” says JENNIFER ROBINSON (‘05 PharmD), associate dean for professional education at the doctor of pharmacy program. “Our outreach extended beyond Spokane to Vancouver, Tri-Cities, and Yakima.”

“Tens of thousands of vaccinations.”

“They were there when we were going about 200 shots a clinic,” says Isabel Esquivel, a fourth-year student pharmacist who began assisting with vaccinations around March in Yakima and Wapato. Since she’s bilingual, Esquivel was able to answer questions from Spanish speakers. “In the lower Yakima Valley, there are a lot of people who speak Spanish. They appreciate it when I can explain what shots they are getting, and (that) they should be back in about four weeks if you’re getting the Moderna or the Pfizer,” she says. Esquivel says COVID-19 taught students more than inoculation techniques. “In the midst of this tragedy and pandemonium, there have been some bright spots. The students have really learned what population health is all about, and how something like this can affect people, even if they don’t get sick,” she says.

Robinson notes that students, under the supervision of professional pharmacist preceptors, also learned clinical skills, communication, and organizational skills. “Patients are asking these really great questions, and then the students have to go to the literature and find out answers,” she says. “If the first round of people vaccinated were health care providers and so the questions that students were getting, they weren’t always prepared to answer.”

Students needed to adapt quickly. Large vaccination events, like those at the Spokane Arena, usually “take three to six months to plan,” Robinson says. “And we had groups that were pulling it together within two weeks. Our students were placed in situations that were continually evolving and changing.”

Olsom says students gained practical assessment and communication skills, too. “We had to do assessments with every single patient that came in to get the Pfizer,” she says, adding that hesitancy and misinformation also presented challenges.

WSU joined more than 350 colleges and universities across 46 states in the COVID-19 College Vaccination Challenge, to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated before returning to college campuses for the fall.

CONTAINING A PANDEMIC

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread last year, WSU launched a concerted effort to prevent the virus on campuses. In addition to required masking and distancing, extensive testing and eventually vaccination were critical.

Here are some of WSU’s efforts to contain the pandemic:

At the request of the Washington State Department of Health in July 2020, WSU’s Washington Arterial Disease Diagnostic Laboratory partnered with Priority Health to rapidly test for SARS-CoV-2.

Testing at WSU campuses launched in August 2020, with help from the Washington National Guard, as cases surged in Pullman (see page 18).

WSU Pullman was tapped to store Whitman County’s first shipment of COVID-19 vaccine in mid-December in ultra-cold freezers, which are capable of maintaining the -80 degree Celsius temperature required for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine prior to being diluted and administered for use.

Wastewater testing for the disease began in spring 2021, semester at WSU Pullman. The targeted screenings at 11 residence halls were designed to quickly identify and contain potential infections before they became outbreaks.

Cougar Health Services at WSU Pullman was authorized to begin vaccinating eligible students at the end of March 2021. The university has since offered vaccines to several thousand students before the end of spring semester. Campuses at Tri-Cities, Vancouver, and Everett also organized vaccination efforts for students and employees, often in partnership with local pharmacies and other providers.

WSU announced in May 2021 that students, employees, and visitors traveling to a university location will need to be vaccinated or be granted an exemption.

WSU joined more than 350 colleges and universities across 46 states in the COVID-19 College Vaccination Challenge, to encourage as many people as possible to get vaccinated before returning to college campuses for the fall.

COVID vaccines questions answered: www.csbs.wsu.edu/covid-vaccine
Always ready, always there

BY ADRIANA JANOVICH AND R. WOLCOTT

They didn’t wait to be called.

The Washington National Guard reached out to Washington State University, offering to help the WSU Pullman campus face the unprecedented challenges of the persistent COVID-19 pandemic.

Conducted more than 4,700 COVID-19 tests. Not only did they volunteer, they extended their stay, leaving their own families, friends, and homes to care for the Cougar community. Members of the Washington National Guard were originally slated to leave Pullman on November 20 but they extended their stay, ultimately serving through mid-January.

In a special video message to the Guard, Mary Jo Gonzales (’95 MA Comm., ’01 PhD Higher Ed. Admin.), vice president of student affairs, said, “We’re so appreciative of your sacrifice, work ethic, willingness to help, and ongoing efforts to serve our students, faculty, and staff.”

WSU President Kirk Schulz thanked the Guard for its “invaluable service to August 24, though, it was an all-volunteer effort.

Guard members, including WSU alumni, set up mobile testing sites around campus and the city of Pullman, including on basketball courts and in the “Apartment Land” neighborhood near campus. That’s where they saw an increased number of test requests, with landlords giving incentives like rent reductions and gift cards for their residents to get tested. They also saw an increase in tests when they were made available to WSU faculty and staff on September 23.

On a typical day, the outfit was set up by 9:00 a.m. and administered anywhere from 30 to 90 tests. Swabs were counted and stored for collection by Inyte Labs, which tested samples in coordination with WSU’s One Health Diagnostic Laboratory.

The site’s officer in command, Lieutenant Darcy Ailles (’19 Arch.) had lived in Pullman for six years. So, he says, “I wanted to come back and help those who helped me.”

US Air Force Technical Sergeant Angela Brown (’18 Nursing) called the experience “extremely rewarding.” While still on campus helping with testing, she told WSU News, “You can see the appreciation and thankfulness in the faces of those who come for testing and hear it when they say thank you.”

Despite transitioning to mostly distance learning for the 2020–2021 academic year, an unprecedented number of students returned to Pullman in the fall, and the campus experienced an outbreak.

The Guard ramped up WSU’s response to help porkCanoicor/CVID from September 8, 2020, to January 13, 2021. Guard members

COVID reveals jail “cracks”

BY REBECCA PHILLIPS

Jails are linked to their communities by a thousand intimate threads.

Unlike prisons, jails are staffed by local clerks, corrections officers, doctors, and other employees. The inmates themselves are typically released back to their home neighborhoods within days of an arrest.

It’s a risky recipe that turned crowded jails into infectious hot zones during the COVID-19 pandemic and helped fuel widespread community outbreaks.

Washington and other states reacted to the situation by ordering a flurry of criminal justice changes—excluding arrest deferral and early release from jail—that will likely influence policy decisions going forward.

Washington State University epidemiologist ERIC LOGFREN took part in a 2020 collaborative study that modeled those changes in the Allegheny County Jail system in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He says jails are clearly an important part of the super-spreader equation.

“Given the unique COVID-19 challenges for incarcerated populations due to limited social distancing, limited access to hygiene and cleaning products, and a higher rate of existing health issues, we developed a model to reveal how certain interventions can decrease that spread and save lives,” says the assistant professor in the Paul G. Allen School for Global Health.

Jails are not really built to rehabilitate people,” says Schwartz. “They don’t offer the therapeutic interventions that might decrease that spread and save lives.”

“One of those things was the impact of being held in quarantine during COVID. These are people who were arrested and sent to solitary confinement for up to 14 days, and not even proven guilty,” she says. “Some in Cutterwors were OK with it but for others, it was very difficult and exacerbated already fragile mental health and left them very unstable when they were released.”

“We feel that community health can be improved by improving the lives of all its members.”

“Jails are linked to their communities by a thousand intimate threads,” says Sherman. “There is a lot of anxiety about what will happen if we don’t catch criminals. But there’s not much data to show a rise in crime.”

Moving beyond COVID, the sociologists are forming coalitions to address rural jail issues at the policy and local level—issues that are not easily solved by methods used in large urban areas.

“Rural communities have a small tax base and can’t implement things that work well in better-funded regions,” says Sherman. “So, there is often a lack of resources, infrastructure, medical services, mental health, and addiction services.”

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“The research that practices like arrest deferral combined with early release of prisoners resulted in a 4.7 percent reduction of COVID-19 cases in the community and numerous lives saved within the jail system itself. “We looked at those practices over a broad swath of categories, things like bail-eligible prisoners resulted in a 15.4 percent reduction of COVID-19 cases in the community and numerous lives saved within the jail system itself. “We looked at those practices over a broad swath of categories, things like bail-eligible
And an easy commute

BY LARRY CLARK

Manufacturing jobs have declined across the United States, but the picture isn’t bleak in some rural Washington towns.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, manufacturing is more important to rural economies than to urban economies and provides more jobs and higher earnings than other sectors in rural areas.

That’s certainly true for Colmac Coil in Colville, a city of about 4,800 in rural northeast Washington. The company builds heating and cooling solutions for industrial custom-engineers, such as custom-engineered refrigeration units for national food processors and, this year, for vaccine storage during the pandemic.

“Little did I know that a senior design project was going to lead me to becoming president of the company,” Fazzari says.

Small town life was definitely a draw. “I love to visit big cities and travel all the time, but I don’t like traffic,” he laughs.

While it is sometimes difficult to recruit new professionals to Colville, there are distinct advantages to the location. Eleven WSU alumni work for Colmac Coil, including Joseph Schweitzer (‘19 Mgmt. Info. Sys.) in marketing. They like the lower cost of living, easy pace, and proximity to nature.

Schweitzer’s home is only a five-minute walk from work. He loves skiing, which is really close to Colville. He also says, as a small company, he knows his work is crucial for the Colville company.

Fazzari worked with Colmac as a student in WSU mechanical engineering professor Charles Pranzak’s design class. After graduation, he eventually returned to the Colville company.

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Cabbage rarely receives the attention it deserves

Often overlooked in favor of its trendier cousins, kale and Brussels sprouts, this humble cool-weather crop really does warrant praise. It’s tasty and healthful, abundant and affordable, and very, very versatile. Just ask James Beard.

“Lovely though it may seem, cabbage has no rival in versatility except the potato,” the famed chef and cookbook author wrote in his classic The James Beard Cookbook. “It is available year round; it can be eaten raw or cooked in almost any manner—boiled, steamed, braised, sautéed, baked; and a list of recipes calling for cabbage would fill a book.”

Fresh cabbage packs a satisfyingly crisp crunch, super for salads and slaws or topping tacos. Cooked, cabbage leaves are pliable, perfect for stuffing with rice and ground beef, then going for a nice long bath in tomato sauce at 350 degrees.

“Cooking cabbage quickly in butter, oil, or other fats helps alleviate its distinctive odor, which intensifies the longer it stews. According to Harold McGee’s 1984 On Food and Cooking, the sulfur smell emanates between the fifth and seventh minutes on the stove. Adding lemon juice or vinegar helps neutralize the odor. It also keeps red cabbage from turning an unappetizing gray-blue.”

“Cabbage is so underrated because it has been abused,” says Jamie Callison, executive chef at Washington State University’s School of Hospitality Business Management at Carson College. “By abused, he means overcooked, boiled too long, turned to mush.”

“It is the application that has staled along the stigma. I think people are looking for new and innovative ways to cook it.”

Callison pairs cabbage with mango and ginger in the sweet-and-tangy slaw in his 2013 cookbook The Crimson Spoon. He specifically praised the cruciferous vegetable for preventing hangovers. “If you wish to drink deep at a banquet,” he recommended eating “as many raw cabbage as you wish, seasoned with vinigar, before dinner, and likewise after dinner eat some half a dozen leaves.”

In the Pacific Northwest, cabbage is among the first vegetables to be harvested in the fall. "The cool maritime environment of western Washington is ideal for overwintering because of our cold production," Lindsey J. du Toit, vegetable seed and plant pathologist at WSU Mount Vernon Northwest Horticulture Research and Extension Center, noted in her Crop Profile for Cabbage and Broccoli in Washington. "Winters are generally not cold enough to freeze the crop, yet are cold enough to vernalize the plants properly. Summer weather is moderate, providing optimum conditions for plant and seed development.”

One acre produces 2,000 pounds of seed, which plants 10,000 acres and produces up to 50 million pounds of cabbage.

There are more than 400 varieties. Green—cheapest and mid— is most popular in America. Savoy, with its frilly leaves and delicate flavor, is easier but still hard-working. Red cabbage looks stunning in slads and stews.

Recent research suggests that cabbage and broccoli may be similar in their cancer-fighting properties, especially in the South. The lowest, in the West. Maybe Washingtonians could help change that if, this winter and beyond, they give the vegetable the respect it deserves.

Due in part to its small size, cabbage, which comes from the old French “cabochon,” or “head,” began garnering a reputation as an indifferent ingredient as early as the Middle Ages. It was commonly regarded as peasant fare.

By contrast, ancient Romans prized it. “It is the cabbage which surpasses all other vegetables,” Marcus Porcius Cato, or Cato the Elder, wrote in De Agri Cultura, the oldest surviving work of Latin prose. He specifically praised the cruciferous vegetable for preventing hangovers.

“Winters are generally not cold enough to freeze the crop, yet are cold enough to vernalize the plants properly. ... Summer weather is moderate, providing optimum conditions for plant and seed development.”

“Cabbage is the vegetable of the gods,” wrote Julius Caesar. “It is eaten raw or cooked with becoming the HPD Endurance during his 1700 voyage to the South Pacific. In the Pacific Northwest, cabbage is among the first vegetables planted each year—as early as the beginning of March in western Washington, the top producer of cabbage seed. Skagit, Skamania, Island, and Clallam Counties supply three-quarters of the country’s and one-quarter of the world’s production.”

Washington State magazine March 2021
celebrating 50 years

Don’t just do it
BY ADRIANA JANOVICH

THEY HAD JUST REACHED the site where the snowfield meets the rocks when they heard the sound. Looking up, they spotted one climber on the rock face where, just moments before, there had been two. “We looked at each other and realized we had to figure out what to do,” recalls Elise Larson, ‘14 Const. Mgmt., operations coordinator for the Outdoor Recreation Center (ORC) at Washington State University, the pair knew how to respond. “The ORC would run through what to do if we needed to do something,” she says.

Larson helped establish a fixed line to the injured alpinist — a technique commonly used in rescue scenarios involving fixed lines, such as in rope access work. “Elise was able to recall her training and help the person,” recalls Lotus Colt Fetters, ‘14 Rec., a former climbing wall supervisor, who worked for the center for the three years she was a student.

The morning the climber fell, she and Larson helped establish a fixed line to the injured climber — bleeding and drifting in and out of consciousness — then warmed him with an emergency blanket, kept him from dehydration, and monitored his vital signs for four hours before rescue arrived via helicopter. "Bugsy" credits the ORC’s regular skills reviews and audits as instrumental in her ability to recall her training and help the hurt mountaineer. A year after the accident, she says, “We’re thankful he’s OK.”

The ORC has been introducing Cougars and community members to the wild since 1971. While trips are among its most popular offerings, it’s not all camping and kayaking. Participants can learn lifesaving skills, from wilderness first aid to backcountry bear safety. For adventure facilitators, like Bugge, training and skills checks are required.

Jonathan Stahl, director of the ORC and assistant director of adventure programs and experiential learning for University Recreation, wasn’t surprised to learn Bugge and Larson, a former climbing wall supervisor, helped save a life in Washington’s wilderness. He experienced Bugge’s skills firsthand when he tore knee ligaments during a backcountry ski trip in Oregon’s Wallowa Mountains two years ago. Since its inception five decades ago, the ORC has grown considerably, developed a loyal following, and, hopefully, Stahl says, created thousands of lifelong outdoor enthusiasts and stewards of the environment. “Students find community and different ways to move and explore beyond Pullman, and feel comfortable in their bodies,” he says. “It does change people’s lives.”

Colt Fetters had been planning a construction career. “I wouldn’t be where I am now if it wasn’t for the ORC,” she says. Fetters (414 Const. Mgmt.), operations coordinator for outdoor pursuits at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, Stahl and the ORC, part of University Recreation, “helped me understand that there are careers in outdoor education. It opened doors for me and helped me see the possibilities.”

Fetters worked for the ORC for four years at the climbing wall, in the rental shop, and as an adventure facilitator, guiding several trips to Nevada’s Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and numerous excursions closer to campus, such as kayaking on the Snake River. “There were a lot of afternoon trips and weekend trips — too many to count. Sometimes, I was leading trips once a week throughout the semester.”

The ORC started out as the Outdoor Activities Program (OAP), a service organization of the Associated Students of WSU, sharing a roughly 10-by-10-foot office with gym supervisors in the Physical Education Building. “The rental shop was a metal cabinet in the corner, and staff was a .25 full-time-equivalent graduate assistant and, from time to time, teaching classes and organizing trips,” Chris Tapfer (’73 Rec.) told the Daily Evergreen in 2001. The OAP’s earliest volunteer, Tapfer ended up running the center for nearly three decades, retiring from WSU in 2011 as the University’s emergency management coordinator. “I’m proud that I was involved right from the beginning,” he says. “The Outdoor Activities Program started out as an experimental program at WSU to both provide recreation and education for the WSU community. It was and is a success due to the hundreds of students who have worked for the program and the many, many thousands of students, faculty, staff, and community members who have taken part in using its resources and participating in its activities and programs.”

Today, the rental shop is stocked with more than $250,000 worth of equipment, and the ORC typically employs five professional staff, two graduate assistants, and 30 to 40 students. There are two participation levels: members of the Chinook and Student Recreation Center, who receive subsidized rates, and nonmembers. Most participants are students. A longtime advocate of Leave No Trace principles and practices, the ORC participates in Earth Day activities as well as regular trail and other cleanups at Illa Dunes, Granite Point, and more. Every year for the past ten years, it has delivered about 175 Leave No Trace certifications. It also hosts several annual events, including the Pullman Palldown Bouldering Competition, Outdoor Photography Contest, and Pullman Outdoor Festival. Its noncredit classes and clinics cover everything from basic backpacking, beginning bouldering, and building primitive shelters to women’s wilderness hygiene and route setting. And its resource center is stocked with guidebooks and maps to help adventurers plan their own outings.

Or, they can go with ORC leaders. Backpacking in the Selkirk, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing in Montana’s Lolo National Forest. Whitewater rafting on Idaho’s Salmon River, Kayaking on Lake Powell and Glen Canyon in Utah and Arizona. Trail running on campus. “We’re even camping in the WSU Arboretum,” says Stahl, noting participation has stayed strong throughout the pandemic via virtual activities and physically distanced activities. “We’re not providing transport, but we’ve been meeting people at Moscou Mountain or Kamiak Butte on the Snake River. Every weekend, we have multiple trips going and most are full.”

Two years postgraduation, Bugge remains grateful the ORC hired her at the start of her sophomore year. “Coming to WSU, I really had no idea what I wanted to do,” she says. “The ORC helped me find what I love—as a hobby as well as a career as an environmental scientist. I would definitely not be the same person without the ORC.”

Until last August’s emergency in the North Cascades, she had mostly helped treat trekkers’ blisters on the trail. “That’s a good thing,” she says. “You never want to have to actually use those emergency skills.”

Bugge and Larson have both been back out climbing. Forbidden Peak, one of the “Fifty Classic Climbs of North America,” remains “on the to-do list,” she says. “We’re definitely planning to try it again at some point in the near future.”
The missing lynx

Canada lynx aren’t known for dumpster diving in the suburbs or poaching cattle off the range. They have yet to be filmed chasing a biker down a trail. Instead, lynx tend to give wide berth to humans, preferring isolated forested areas filled with snow and their favorite prey, snowshoe hare.

Although they avoid people, lynx cannot escape our impact. In Washington state, they are beset by wildfire and snow melt, hemmed in by a boundary line with human predators on one side and shrinking habitat on the other. Canada lynx could be a poster child for human and climate change impacts—if it would only pose for the picture.

Since lynx won’t come to us, a research team led by Washington State University wildlife biologist Dan Thornton has been bringing cameras to them. Last year, the researchers published results of a massive project to place camera traps across more than 2,300 square miles of northeastern Washington. They found lynx present on only about 20 percent of their potential habitat.

Their disappearance is indicative of impacts to Washington’s wilderness, and the researchers are working on a long-term monitoring project to track Canada lynx to aid conservation efforts.

“Because lynx are so endangered in the state, they are impacted by changes that are happening everywhere,” Thornton says. “If we have a monitoring program in place, we can look at the effects of any management practices we might implement. This is really important for a species that’s on the edge. It’s such a dynamic landscape with both fire and changes to snowpack. We want this type of continuous data, so we can examine those changes.”

In addition to their namesake country, Canada lynx are found in Alaska, Maine, Minnesota, Montana, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington. The 2020 study provided much needed data on the lynx range in Washington—and raised concerns about the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s push to delist lynx as a threatened species, showing they were losing ground in at least one state.

The population in Washington is one of the most threatened. Thornton says, which is why WSU and its partners are setting up the long-term monitoring project.

One of WSU’s collaborators on the project is raising a stink: Seattle-based Woodland Park Zoo helps track lynx with a novel scent-dispensing device it co-developed with Microsoft Research and an Idaho Fish and Game biologist to monitor wolverines.

While scent lures are not new, the zoo’s slow drip dispenser has greater staying power. With a pungent mix of smells including skunk and anise, the devices have been drawing everything from cougars to deer and even squirrels. The scent, however, when paired with a remote camera, is intended to help survey carnivores like wolverines, which are rare and travel long distances.

“Carnivores are at the top of the food chain,” says Robert Long, one of the zoo’s senior conservation scientists. “They require large, healthy landscapes that are fairly well intact and protected from a lot of human disturbance, so by monitoring carnivores, we can get a good sense of whether our ecosystems are intact. Also, if you lose carnivores, there will often be cascading effects down the food chain.”

Doctoral student Travis King (‘15 Zool., ‘19 MS Nat. Res. Sci.), first author on the 2020 lynx study, saw at first of those ecosystems firsthand, placing about half of the study’s 600 cameras. Camera traps are less intrusive than physically trapping and radio-collaring animals. Some cameras can be placed on accessible roads or trails, but others require overnight hikes deep into the wilderness.

“This project gave me a huge appreciation of the beauty of Washington,” King says. “When you live and travel to these really remote corners, you begin to see the huge diversity in wildlife, like black bears or moose that would scare me down, the howling of wolves at night, and seeing cougar tracks and your tracks together.”

King also saw the aftermath of wildfires, which is one of the main pressures on Canada lynx. After a devastating fire, it can take decades for the landscape to recover to the point the animals can return.

“We’ve been having so many catastrophic, large-scale wildfires that we’ve probably lost about half of the best lynx habitat in the state,” says Scott Fisher, a Washington Department of Natural Resources biologist. “Habitat is key, so if half the habitat is gone about half the lynx are gone. We’re probably down to a very small population left here in Washington.”

The lynx also need snow to thrive, and Fisher helped place many camera traps in the snowy extremes. Big-pawed lynx have a predatory advantage in deep snow. Cougar and bobcats simply sink in it.

Yet that snowpack is shrinking because of warming temperatures from climate change. While lynx can follow the snow to the north, they risk being caught in fur traps in Canada, where they can be legally hunted.

Even for a predatory cat that does its best to avoid humans, the future of the Canada lynx—and the landscapes it relies on—depend on what humans decide to do.

“Youder the worse models, if we don’t do anything, they are pretty well extirpated from the state,” says King. “But if we do take some level of climate action, we can at least reduce that chance.”

How Chinese pioneers helped build the Pacific Northwest

BY REBECCA PHILLIPS

Chinese laborers working on the Northern Pacific Railroad traveled along the Columbia River George (Eastern University of Washington Libraries)
HOW CHINESE PIONEERS

The memorial stands in a patch of brush near the Snake River as it winds through Hells Canyon in rugged northeast Oregon. When the light is just right, the rocky cliffs above the isolated nook resemble ancient faces silently watching.

The site is called Chinese Massacre Cove in memory of the day in May 1887 when a gang of seven white miners, including schoolboys, shot and killed more than 30 unarmed Chinese men who had been placer mining on the river. The miners’ bodies were thrown in the water and their gold, estimated to be worth about $4,000 to $5,000, was stolen.

Though the murderers were identified and accused of the crime, no one was ever punished. Over the years, the incident was slowly forgotten.

Today, a slab of white granite, installed in 2012, recognizes the event as one of the worst atrocities leveled against the nearly 300,000 Chinese immigrants who entered the United States during the nineteenth century, many looking for work in the railroad and mining industries.

Though often surprising to people today, Chinese immigrants once had a thriving population in the Inland Pacific Northwest, which embraces parts of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The 1870 census, for example, shows that Chinese comprised nearly 30 percent of the Idaho population. From their earliest days searching for gold to their later work constructing the Northern Pacific Railway, the Chinese endured discrimination and, in many cases, extreme brutality.

Yet, with hard work and a frugal lifestyle, many Chinese Americans also successfully established dry goods stores, restaurants, laundries, and vegetable gardens. Over time, they built homes, brought their families to the United States, and enriched their communities with a heritage that remains vital today.

Despite their role in the development of the Inland Northwest, however, the history and contributions of the Chinese have largely faded, relegated mostly to small museum exhibits and library special collections. There, in neatly framed black and white photos, their smiles and stoic, whisper from the past.

THE STORY BEGINS IN THE EARLY 1800S IN THE SOUTH CHINA AREA OF TOISHAN, OR CANTON, IN THE GUANGDONG PROVINCE. AFTER YEARS OF GREAT PROSPERITY AND POPULATION GROWTH, THE IMPERIAL NATION WAS NOW FACING A DEVASTATING SEASON OF DROUGHTS, FLOODS, FAMINE, AND POLITICAL UNREST.

During this time, China would accept only silver from the British in trade for their valuable silks and spices. Preferring to keep their silver, the British offered to trade opium instead, and threatened the Chinese with gun boats if they refused. The conflict led to the Opium War in the 1840s, which opened China to a turbulent narcotics trade that ultimately devastated household industries and farming. The crisis was amplified by the Taiping Rebellion from 1850 to 1864, leaving many peasants in poverty and struggling to survive.

When word came that gold had been discovered in central California in 1849, many Chinese, mostly men from the Guangdong area, jumped on boats headed to San Francisco or “Land of the Gold Mountains” hoping to strike it rich. What began as a trickle of immigrants soon became thousands of Chinese traveling to the United States, many with plans to make money and then return to their families in China.

“Chinese merchants in San Francisco organized into a group called the Six Companies, or Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Associations,” says Phil Gruen, architectural historian and associate professor in the Washington State University School of Design and Construction.

The companies was based in Chinatown and became the most powerful umbrella organization in the country for looking after the Chinese who immigrated to the U.S. They helped with fares, food, lodging, finding employment, as well as return passage to China.

Guided by Six Companies agents, the newcomers quickly established mining claims in California. Most of these sites had been previously scoured and abandoned by White miners. The Chinese, however, were diligent and managed to work the tailings for a profit. As the gold supply ran out, they moved up the coast in the 1860s to Portland and Seattle and the early Washington Territory.
From there, many traveled further inland along the Columbia, Snake, and Clearwater Rivers in pursuit of gold fields in the mountains. Vibrant Chinatowns sprung up along the way in cities like Lewiston, which at that time was the region’s mining supply center.

**Set Serenely on a Windswept Hill in Rural Cottonwood, Idaho, St. Gertrude’s Monastery is the Keeper of a Comprehensive Little Museum That Includes Details of the Mining Heyday and the Story of Polly Bemis.**

Under glass and soft amber lights, a sepia photo is captioned, “At the time of the 1870 census, Chinese made up a remarkable 28 percent of Idaho’s population, including most of its miners.”

In 1872, Lalu Nathoy was among those immigrants traveling by ship and then pack train into the rugged and remote Idaho wilderness. She was a nineteen-year-old Chinese girl who had been sold into slavery by her destitute parents and smuggled into the United States. By most accounts, she was probably intended to be a sex worker or concubine, and was one of the few Chinese women who came to the Inland Northwest at that time.

“It had to be a long and arduous trek,” says Gruen. “From the rivers, most miners headed up by horseback to Pierce, Florence, and Elk City. The trek to the Clearwater Mountains or Salmon River to reach the gold fields was a major effort."

For Lalu, her destination was a boomtown called Warren where placer gold had been discovered in 1862. As the White miners moved to hard-rock underground mining, they sold their claims to the Chinese who carefully washed the tailings in pans or wooden rockers that allowed the heavier particles of gold to settle out at the bottom. For most of the nineteenth century, Chinese outnumbered Whites in the town.

When Lalu arrived in Warren, the story goes, someone called her “Polly,” and the name stuck. She was indebted to work for a wealthy old Chinese saloon owner but by 1880, she had won her freedom and was living with a kind-hearted White man named Charlie Bemis. They later married and built a log cabin on a remote Salmon River ranch where they grew and sold fruits and vegetables.

Polly Bemis was hard-working, fun-loving, and had a great sense of humor. She knew the names of everyone in town and often carried candy in her apron pocket for the children. She readily shared her story and the townspeople respected her.

Polly remained by the Salmon River until her death in 1933 and her cabin has since been restored as a pioneer museum. Polly’s life is chronicled in a book and a 1991 motion picture entitled *Thousand Pieces of Gold*.

Gruen says many other stories, often less celebrated and far more brutal, played out in small towns throughout the Northwest, including the Hoodoo Mountains on the eastern edge of the Palouse.

“There were several small gold strikes on the North Fork of the Palouse River out beyond Potlatch,” he says. “Like Lewiston to the south, the town of Palouse was a mining center for the region supplying prospectors with clothes, food, and equipment.

“It was on the North Fork of the Palouse in the Hoodoo Mountains that the area’s most heinous case of violence toward the Chinese occurred on what is now called Strychnine Creek,” Gruen says.

According to a book by Eddy Ng (’76 Asian Stu., ’79 MA History), *From Sojourner to Citizen: Chinese of the Inland Empire*, the incident occurred around 1889 near what is now Laird Park. White miners had abandoned a small gulch after extracting gold there proved difficult and unprofitable. The Chinese miners, as they often did, came in behind them to work the tailings. They dug ditches to carry enough water for the sluicing—or sand washing—operation and were rewarded with a rich take. They also used this water for washing and cooking.

Watching in dismay, the White miners grew angry and devised a plot to take back the site. To avoid bloodshed, they decided to poison the Chinese by putting strychnine in the ditch. Their plan was successful, and an unrecorded number of Chinese suffered an excruciating death. The White miners then destroyed their camp and stole the gold.
This kind of discrimination and violence against the Chinese began in San Francisco but it has been repeated time after time all across the region and nation,” says Cron. According to a 1982 article in Bancroftian Historian, author William Wilber says the first Chinese to arrive in Washington Territory were generally admired and well tolerated by Whites. But the peaceful immigrants were soon taken advantage of.

If the Chinese managed to find gold, they were often short-changed when cashing it in. Special poll taxes were imposed on Chinese workers and their gold fields—but not on White miners. Landlords, too, leased land and shanties to Chinese at exorbitant rates. Early on, the Chinese were also denied certain voting rights and forbidden from testifying against White people in court. Acts of violence committed against them were rarely punished. A few years later, the territory reversed its stand and allowed Chinese to provide evidence in legal cases.

In many ways, Wilbert writes, the Chinese were punished by the dominating White class simply because of their diligent work ethic. Whites often grumbled that the Chinese worked for day-laborer wages that no person of European descent could survive on. By the 1880s, as competition for unskilled labor grew fierce, White workers began forcing the Chinese out with cries of, “The Chinese must go!”

As a result, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882, which prohibited unskilled Chinese laborers from entering the United States and denied citizenship to all Chinese already in the country. It has been repeated time after time all across the region and nation,” says Cron. According to a 1982 article in Bancroftian Historian, author William Wilber says the first Chinese to arrive in Washington Territory were generally admired and well tolerated by Whites. But the peaceful immigrants were soon taken advantage of.

Rory Ong, third-generation Chinese American and WSU associate professor of comparative ethnic studies, says this kind of discrimination can be traced back to the 1892 Naturalization Act, which limited citizenship in the United States to White immigrants only.

“Basically, we decided it was only going to be free White men who were going to be citizens of the US,” says Ong. “That meant they were landowners or had some other wealth, came from western or northern Europe, and were male. This set up centuries-long conditions to bring in the ‘right’ people for the democracy.”

“Then, when Chinese immigrants started coming in for work, they didn’t fit the bill. Neither dad the wife or those from southern Europe our women,” he says. “At first, they tried to assimilate Native Americans but when that didn’t work out well, they pushed them to the reservations.

“Mexicans, at the time, were categorized as White due to the 1848 Treaty of Hidalgo but it didn’t last long for the US to start taking land away from them. And we started seeing the stereotypical image of Mexicans emerge that is still seen today.”

Ong says those stereotypes were also applied to Chinese who were often dismissively referred to as “The Heathen Chinese” or “Some of Confusion.”

“When the Chinese came to work in the mines and railroads, and even though they were hard working, the issue became about them not being White and therefore, not fit to participate in the democracy,” Ong says. “That they didn’t have the moral or intellectual capacity to participate in the democratic system.”

In addition, Chinese immigrants who planned to save money and return to their homes in China tended to keep to themselves, retaining their simple blue tunics, queue pigtails, and traditional religions. This apparent lack of interest in the majority culture aroused suspicion and fear in more than a few White Americans.

Businessmen in the United States, however, saw the Chinese as an opportunity to cut labor costs and make more money. The railroad barons, in particular, hired workers directly in China tended to keep to themselves, retaining their simple blue tunics, queue pigtails, and traditional religions. This apparent lack of interest in the majority culture aroused suspicion and fear in more than a few White Americans.

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career including Hud and Funny Lady. He won two Academy Awards and was nominated for several others.

Howe continually faced discrimination, however, and wasn’t allowed to become a US citizen until the 1950s after the repeal of the Exclusion Act. He was also prohibited from marrying a Chinese American woman until after World War II.

American immigration politics has always been more difficult and divisive in moments of economic downturn, when resource competition was most intense. Says Wang: “Those attacks are a consequence of the long-term exploitation of resources and labor, and the exploitation of resources is what we refer to in causing economic distress among blue-collar workers and intensified labor disputes.”

But the larger cultural backdrop of this behavior has been the slow process in which America learns to find elements in Chinese and Asian cultures that are compatible, acceptable, and valuable,” he says.

“I wouldn’t have made a good pioneer,” says Eddy Ng over a cup of green tea at his Colfax restaurant. “I’d say, ‘The hell with it and leave!’ Can you imagine when it’s cold and you have to build the railroad doing really difficult tasks like setting off dynamite? Many Chinese died while building branches of the Palouse railroads. It was a tough life.”

Ng, owner of Eddy’s Chinese and American Restaurant in fourth-generation Chinese American, although he didn’t come to the United States until his teens.

“We are from the Tashina area of South China,” he says. “I grew up in Hong Kong due to complex political reasons; my family was scattered all over the world.”

Over the years, many of his family members reunited in the Inland Northwest.

“My great-grandfather, Gin Sing Ng, was born in San Francisco and traveled to Seattle by train,” says Ng. “From there he moved to the Lewiston Chinatown where he worked at a 24-hour operation called the Majestic Café. At the time, men had to return to China to wed and couldn’t bring their wives to the US until after World War II.”

Ng’s grandfather, Owen Ng, eventually joined great-grandfather Gin Sing in Lewiston.

“My grandfather was Americanized and loved Cadillacs and beautiful women,” Ng says. “But we were not allowed to marry other races. Well, you can’t stop human interactions—I just found out a couple years ago that he had an affair with a Caucasian lady, and they had offspring. Now, I have more relatives.”

It was Ng’s great-grandmother who managed to take young Ng out of the People’s Republic of China after the government imposed a lockdown and shut the Bamboo Curtain in 1949. Her husband, Gin Sing, had passed away in America, so she was eligible to move to Hong Kong, which had a US consulate.

“She asked if she could take a companion and they said, ‘OK, you can take your little grandson,’” says Ng.

Later, as a teen, she asked me to take her to America so she could be buried next to her husband. I wrote to my folks who were legal immigrants and asked them to apply for us to come to the US. And that’s how I came to Colfax where my dad and mom worked for the Colfax Coffee Shop.

“In the beginning, I wasn’t used to the small-town life and I was surprised to learn there had been Chinese in Colfax in the early years,” he says. “They mainly did laundry and there was a Chinese vegetable garden. Then, they disappeared. The old men went back to die in China.”

Ng says that, overall, Chinese in the Inland Northwest were generally welcome, although they certainly faced discrimination and injustice.

“Personally, if we were not treated too bad except for the horrible Snake River massacre and some other incidents,” he says. “It was an ugly chapter drawn by good.”

Today, the Ng family feels at home in the little town of Colfax, where people are supportive and have made them feel part of the community.

“I’m so proud—we are here and diversified and able to help kids understand other ethnic groups,” Ng says.

“I believe we’re a positive influence and when the kids grow up, they realize there’s nothing to be afraid of. Their minds are open to learning about different cultures and ideas and it’s good for them. I think education is key.”

A H A P P Y  N O V E M B E R D A Y, M Y F A M I L Y !
Talk the walk

He was working on another podcast when he got the idea for a new one.

Enrique Cerna, semi-retired and cohosting Life on the Margins about Seattle’s historically marginalized groups, shared tidbits about those segments with a former colleague and longtime friend from their early days at KING TV. Cerna (’75 Comm.) and Matt Chan, creator of the A&E show Hoarders, had been Zooming once a week during the pandemic. In one of those virtual visits, he said, “You and I should do something.”

That something became Chino y Chicano.

The two friends—“He’s Chinese American, I’m Mexican American,” Cerna explains—wanted to explore issues of race following the police killing of George Floyd, global protests supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, and increasing national polarization. Or, as Cerna wrote in the description: “the good, bad, and ridiculousness of life for people of color in America.”

They recorded a test episode last December. “I think we did it in one take,” says Cerna, noting that the two combined have more than 80 years of experience in the television business. “Our goal really was to bring the experience we had as two people of color—two men of color—and focus on communities and issues that are often overlooked, to share a perspective that a lot of people don’t seem to hear. We’re going through this racial reckoning now. But we still have a long way to go to deal with racism in this country. We want to have a conversation about that with different people. This is very important.”

One of Seattle’s most respected broadcast journalists, Cerna is known for his specials on social issues as well as political analysis and fair and balanced moderation of mayoral, gubernatorial, and
national debates. He retired from KCTV public television in 2018 after 22 years. Overall, his broadcast career in Seattle spanned nearly 45 years, including stints at both KOMO Radio and TV as well as KTVG. TV. He has won two regional Emmy Awards and was inducted into the Silver Circle of the Northwest chapter of the National Academy of Televisions Arts and Sciences in 2012.

Compassion comes naturally

By JOSH BARCOCK

It was a sickly stray cat that brought Min “Maddie” Liu (21 DVM) to tears on her first day at Bonnie L. Hays Animal Shelter in Hillsboro, Oregon. She didn’t know its owner or its story. But she cared and wept for the cat when veterinarian Nicole Putney (“11 DVM) determined euthanasia was the most humane option.

“I just remember crying and Dr. Putney said, ‘This cat is lucky there is a person that cares so much for him,” Liu recalls. “I will always remember that day.”

Liu could have decided she didn’t have what it takes to be a veterinarian, but Putney provided reassurance, and they formed a bond. Putney because Liu’s mentor and ultimately hired her as a veterinary assistant in 2013.

“We became very close,” Liu says. “She was the one who told me to try and apply to vet school.”

In her late 30s, Liu walked away from an established, 14-year career in human resources and enrolled at Portland State University to earn the credits needed to apply to veterinary school. She previously worked for Motorola Asia and IBM Asia in China before moving to the United States for a position at Tektronix, and then Asia and IBM Asia in China before moving to the United States for a position at Tektronix, and then

Putney took her own life on May 29, 2015. She was 32.

Suicide is an increasing problem in the veterinary profession, to the point that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is providing special resources directed at suicide prevention. According to the AVMA, 11,620 veterinarians took their own lives from 1979 through 2015.

Sometimes, on her toughest days, Liu will sit down and write to Putney, knowing her friend will never read the words. “I write my feelings of that day, how I feel about school, if I feel the right move, happy thoughts, sad thoughts. We were really close,” Liu says. “Dr. Putney is my mentor, and she’s always there for me.”

Tragedy struck again in 2020 when Liu’s father, Goatun Liu, the last member of her family in China, died at the height of the COVID pandemic due to heart complications and an inability to receive prompt care at Wuhan’s packed hospitals. “I couldn’t go back, and I didn’t even say goodbye. It hit me hard,” Liu says. “Honestly, coming back to school and having my classmates there helped me settle down.”

Liu found where her biological family would have stopped, her Crow family did.

“I had so many people ask me, ‘Do you have a hug?’ and offering it, ” Liu says. “That’s what’s different about WSU, that sense of family doesn’t go away; it’s not a first impression.”

While it’s been years since that sickly cat brought her to tears and much has changed since then, her sincere care and love of animals hasn’t wavered. “Liu says, “The happiest moment for me is seeing an animal wagging their tail out of the hospital.”

Imagine a world where you could play an instrument, drive a remote-controlled car, or move a wheelchair with your eyes. That’s the world Jon Campbell (03 Comp. Sci. & Comp. Eng., GSMP Master Sci.) and his team at Microsoft have made a reality, as they develop technologies people can use to communicate and connect.

A senior research software development engineer on the Microsoft Research Enable Team, Campbell works directly with people who have been diagnosed with neurogenerative diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, a disease that ultimately results in loss of movement, including speech.

“We’ve had some really beautiful interactions because they have such a great perspective on the world and their place in it,” Campbell says. “At the same time, there’s also the other side of the coin, which can be tragic.”

While there isn’t yet a cure for ALS, eye-tracking technologies can help improve the quality of life for people with ALS and strengthen connections between their caregivers, friends, and families.

Today, five years ago, Campbell didn’t know much about eye-tracking technology or ALS. After a meeting at work one day, he happened to browse through a list of Microsoft projects. One of the project goals that stood out to him was the need for a wheelchair user could move with an eye tracker.

The idea of steering a wheelchair with eye control was one he and his team had been exploring for some time. “We’ve had some really beautiful interactions because they have such a great perspective on the world and their place in it,” Campbell says. “At the same time, there’s also the other side of the coin, which can be tragic.”
which is often expensive and not widely available.

We are asking, what are the things that we can do to make it so that if you get a diagnosis, you can get an eye tracker really easily right away,” he says.

The other challenge is standardizing how eye trackers talk to computers and ensuring the trackers respond to differences in a user’s specific traits, such as skin color, eye color, or posture.

Before he graduated from WSU last year, Leif Harfst (‘20 Mech. Eng.) had the chance to work on a team of mechanical engineering students and help address some of those challenges. The student team engineered a rig that has anatomically correct eyes and can ultimately be customized to fit a user profile and test different eye trackers. In the coming years, WSU engineering students will build on the new ideas and work to advance the technology.

It’s an ongoing student collaboration with Campbell as their mentor in partner-ship with WSU’s Gleason Institute, named for Steve Gleason, which aims to improve the lives of patients with neurodegenerative challenges. The student team is engineering a rig that has anatomically correct eyes and can ultimately be customized to fit a user profile and test different eye trackers. In the coming years, WSU engineering students will build on the new ideas and work to advance the technology.

“It was not supposed to live,” Campbell says of McIver. “I want to continue to serve my community,” he says, “and that’s what I’m going to do.”

“Look at how the cards were stacked against me,” Pearce says. “But I love my job and wanted to make it back.”

After seven months of recovery and diligent rehabilitation, Pearce returned to full-time duty with the Fort Worth PD in October 2016. Thirteen months later, he resumed full-time work with the tactical medic team, a group of officers cross-trained in emergency medical services. His role today is to provide immediate care to others facing life-threatening conditions on the street.

“Look at how the cards were stacked against me,” Pearce says. “To win that battle and not come back to work would have meant that the bad guy won, and I wasn’t going to let that happen.”

Patterson credits his professors in the WSU Department of Fine Arts for giving him a grounding in all the visual arts, including photographer Frances Ho, world-renowned painter Gary Hanan, department head Keith Monaghan, illustrator Richard Thornton, modern art and expressionist painter Robert Sterling, longtime WSU professor and all-around artist Andrew Holmester (‘47 MFA), and landscape and sports figure painter Robert Frearly.

“Don’t be discouraged by failure,” Patterson says. “The other problem is that I’ve been really busy.”

Patterson’s degree emphasized photography and graphic design before computers, but he found it difficult to find a job in that field. He ended up working for a sporting goods company before beginning a 20-year career as a methods analyst at Boeing. “I worked with blueprints and interactions with the shop—very analytical,” he says.

In 2004, a decade before his retirement, he got back into art and photography “in a big way.” He mastered high dynamic range photography, in which the camera takes multiple images of the same scene using

“Never say never”

Matt Pearce (’02 Crim. Jus.) was not supposed to live. But he refused to die.

On March 15, 2016, Pearce, then in his seventh year as a patrol officer with the Fort Worth Police Department in Texas, joined the pursuit of a fugitive suspect wanted on felony charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

When the outlaw, Ed McVier, reached a rural area on Fort Worth’s western edge, he ditched his silver Ford Escape and ran into a thickly wooded area. His teenage son, meanwhile, bolted in the other direction carrying a rifle and handgun.

In chasing the elder McVier, Pearce landed on the ground after climbing over a brushy wire fence. At that moment, McVier emerged from the high brush and began shooting Pearce.

“He wasn’t but seven yards away,” Pearce says of McVier.

Two bullets entered Pearce’s shoulder. Another shattered his femur, while another broke his jaw. Bullets plunged into his lung and liver.

While McVier fled, wounded by Pearce’s return fire and soon after fatally shot by a Fort Worth Police sergeant, colleagues railed around a vulnerable Pearce to provide immediate aid and plot an evacuation plan. Pearce was transported via helicopter to John Peter Smith Hospital, the area’s Level I trauma center. Doctors pegged his prospects for survival below 10 percent.

Following surgery, four weeks in the intensive care unit, and another month in in-patient therapy, Pearce improved well enough to leave the hospital—wearing a white WSU Cougars hat, no less. Still, doctors prepared the married father of two young girls for a limited future.

“We heard a lot of ‘You’ll never be able to,’” says Pearce, a Yakima, Washington, native who would not walk until four months after the shooting. “I was motivated to prove people wrong.”

And that included resuming his law enforcement career.

“I could have medically retired and no one would have said a word,” Pearce says. “But I love my job and wanted to make it back.”

“My mother was a huge influence on all of us,” Patterson remembers. There were always art materials around the house. “All of us durable in the arts,” he adds, especially his brother Michael, an archi-tect and sculptor, and Sarah (Patterson) Hamilton, a painter living in Pullman who took a few art classes at WSU. His par-ents gave him a camera for high school graduation, sparking his lifelong love of photography.

“My inspirations do not just come from many of the great masters, but from the artists I have studied under during my education,” Patterson says. Chief among them was Victor Moore (’70 MFA), his mid-dle and high school art teacher in Pullman. Moore is best known for his carved wooden whirligigs and for the “Junk Castle,” a fantas-tical edifice of recycled metal he erected on his property off of Highway 195 near Pullman as his master’s thesis.

“I want to continue to serve my community,” he says, “and that’s what I’m going to do.”

“Officer Down: The Matt Pearce Story” magazine.wsu.edu/video

“My inspirations do not just come from many of the great masters, but from the artists I have studied under during my education,” he says. “It’s that kind of exposure that inspired the work of prolific photographer and painter David Patterson (’76 Fine Arts).”

His inspiration began with his mother Marjorie (Wicks) Patterson (’46 Fine Arts). She specialized in oil paintings and watercolors and was represented by a Pullman gallery.

She was still sketching into her late 90s, and was represented by a Pullman gallery. His inspiration began with his mother Marjorie (Wicks) Patterson (’46 Fine Arts). She specialized in oil paintings and watercolors and was represented by a Pullman gallery.

Her passion for art inspired him, as did the married father of two young girls for a WSU alumni relations from 1952 to 1976, Patterson’s drawings of Pullman and Washington State University artists to inspire the work of prolific photographer and painter David Patterson (’76 Fine Arts).

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His inspiration began with his mother Marjorie (Wicks) Patterson (’46 Fine Arts). She specialized in oil paintings and watercolors and was represented by a Pullman gallery.
different exposures then combines them into a single image. He makes luminous landscape photos and photos of farms and buildings, emphasizing the play of light on clouds and water and mist. Some of his favorites are in black and white.

He also developed his second passion, pastels, which he had not studied in college. He took a dozen workshops and participated in online forums to develop a style of “realism, conveying an image of calmness and wonder.” He leans toward Impressionism, using what he calls “implied detail,” for example, putting in a line to suggest a window. Although he says he is still learning and gaining in confidence, he was pleased to receive signature status in the Northwest Pastel Society last year.

For about eight years, he rented space at a glass-blowing studio and created solid glass sculptures, most of which have been sold. After a three-year sojourn in Old Forge, New York, Patterson moved back to Pullman in 2017 to be near his mother and some of his siblings. He turned to the Palouse hills in 2017 to be near his mother and some of his siblings. He turned to the Palouse hills and farms and the WSU campus as subjects for his photography and pastels. As he has come full circle back to Pullman in his artistic endeavors, he has also managed to get into academic pursuits, his original college major, in the digital age. Through the website Fine Art America, his art is imprinted on items for his photography and pastels. As he has come full circle back to Pullman in his artistic endeavors, he has also managed to get into academic pursuits, his original college major, in the digital age. Through the website Fine Art America, his art is imprinted on items for his photography and pastels. As he has come full circle back to Pullman in his artistic endeavors, he has also managed to get into academic pursuits, his original college major, in the digital age. Through the website Fine Art America, his art is imprinted on items for his photography and pastels.

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ATHLETICS
Dallas Hobbs (’21 Digi. Tech. & Cult.) was creative director, executive board member, and cofounder of the Black Student-Athlete Association. The WSU defensive lineman also served as a representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Chantia Taylor (’22 Hosp. Bus. Mgmt.) has her eyes on the Olympics. She was a board member and team representative on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and treasurer of the Black Student-Athlete Association. Taylor holds the WSU women’s record for triple jump and 60-meter hurdles.

CAMPUS INVOLVEMENT
Mikayla Beckley (’21 Biol.) served as vice president of the Disabled Students and Allies Club and represented the Access Center on WSU’s Transit Advisory Group. She plans to take a gap year before graduate school to work as a post-baccalaureate fellow at Seattle Children’s Hospital. Alcina Campus Macias (’21 Eco. Eng.) served as a senator and secretary for ASWSU Everett, where she was also involved with the WSU student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, and more.

COMMUNITY SERVICE
Crystal Campbell (‘21 Acc.) served as president of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistant Club, which she founded at WSU Vancouver, and coordinated a holiday card campaign for residents of a retirement home. As coordinator for the WSU Center for Civic Engagement Palouse Fresh Food project, Ariel Medrano (‘21 EcoL, Psych.) helped divert 15,769 pounds of food from the landfill so it could be shared with local families.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
Brandi Fisher (‘21 Musi.) performed with WSU Jazz Big Band, Small Band, Saxophone Quartet, and Latin Ensemble, and served as vice president of the WSU Jazz Society. Kylie Kapta (‘21 Digi. Tech. & Cult.) helped organize the WSU Tri-Cities Undergraduate Research Symposium and Art Exhibition at the end of each semester.
The literary aspects of Lewis and Clark’s journals are unique to a broad audience, the iconic explorer of the time, and to the Scandinavian MacKenzie, who crossed North America a decade before the Corps of Discovery. Lewis, in particular, emulated MacKenzie in his literary pursuits, such as descriptions of waterfalls and insistence that words were inadequate to capture subtlety.

Lewis & Clark Reframed goes beyond the literary analysis and probes other questions about the Corps and expedition. It describes how Lewis often sought full and first credit for important discoveries. Nicandri also speculates on missing journals from the corps. The book examines Lewis’s homesickness during the journey and his friendship with future US Senator and New Jersey Governor Maldon Dickerson, providing insight into Lewis’s inability to complete his book about the expedition, mental decline, and eventual decline.

Nicandri, former director of the Washington State Historical Society, also wrote River of Promise: Lewis and Clark on the Columbia. As a prominent historian and writer about Lewis and Clark, he shows new light on how the famous expedition was influenced by other Enlightenment-era explorers who visited the Pacific Northwest before the American captains. Each essay is written clearly, rich with details that deliver insights into the explorers within their global context.

—Larry Clark

Teaching Native Pride:  
Upward Bound and the Legacy of Isabel Bond
TONY TEKARAANIK EVANS
WSU PRESS: 2020

Beginning in the 1706, Native high school students traveled in the summer to the University of Idaho (UI), often in a repurposed bus or a minibus. “The Great Bug,” for life-changing experiences led by Isabel Bond.

Pulling from interviews with students and staff, Teaching Native Pride tells the story of the federally sponsored Upward Bound program that offers Native and other at-risk and low-income students academic support and a unique curriculum at the Moscow, Idaho, university.

Bond became director in 1972, after Upward Bound started in 1968, and remained in that position at UI for more than three decades. A non-Native from north Idaho, Bond educated herself about the Nimiipuu (Nez Percé) and Native issues, while bringing Native students into academic life as they never had before. Experimental initiative Upward Bound, as part of Lyndon B. Johnson’s War on Poverty, required participants to be the first in their family to pursue a college degree. The students, who historically were denied these opportunities, received six weeks of intensive instruction in mathematics, laboratory sciences, composition, literature, foreign language, and study skills. Since the UI program participants had to live within 200 miles of the university, many of them were members of the Nimiipuu and Coeur d’Alene Tribes.

A good number of the Upward Bound students went on to become leaders in Indian Country. Chris Meyer was part of Upward Bound’s inaugural group at UI and the first Coeur d’Alene tribal member to receive a doctorate. She now oversees the tribe’s Department of Education.

“Upward Bound had a profound effect on my life,” Meyer told author Tony Tekaraanik Evans. “It planted a seed. Back then, there were no counselors meeting with us to discuss college...” Only Upward Bound could provide us with these possibilities. Evans, an award-winning reporter and columnist in Ketchum, Idaho, is an enrolled member of the Nimiipuu and Coeur d’Alene tribes. He brings to life an inspiring story of how one dedicated person made a difference. He centered many Native students to celebrate their heritage, break cycles of poverty, and teach non-Natives about Indigenous cultures.

—Larry Clark

Warrior Generation, 1865–1885: Militarism and British Bureaucracy in the Columbia River Basin
RICHARD FULTON
75 PHD ENGLISH
BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC: 2020

“For lower-class young men,” in Victorian Britain, Richard Fulton writes, “life was pretty much black and white. There were survivors and those who were lost. Life was a struggle with sickness, the weather, other boys, parents, teachers, police, men, bosses, and simply getting something to eat. Tough guys prevailed. And, Fulton notes, they were admired. “They grew up in a culture that accepted physical force as the proper and inevitable method for reaching a desirable conclusion, which is a roundabout way of saying that one of their common experiences was being beaten by their parents to make them behave, being beaten by their schoolmasters to make them learn, being beaten by the establishment to keep them in place, being beaten by older boys and outsiders just for the hell of it. That didn’t make them soldiers. And, it turns out, neither did the establishment’s attempts at intoxication.

In this narrowly defined but deeply researched study, Fulton explores the activities that shaped the lives and attitudes of lower-class boys in late Victorian Britain. He shows that pervasive messaging in education, entertainment, and popular media contributed to a growing culture of masculinity and adventure, but generally failed to militarize a generation. His richly nuanced analysis reveals insights into boys’ work and family lives, schooling, leisure time, reading materials, and more, including petty crime. Among the most interesting observations are those that come directly from the boys themselves via memoirs and autobiographies.

While focusing on a particular period, age group, and issue, Fulton offers a portal to Victorian culture as a whole. Readers learn how these boys viewed warfare, masculinity, fighting, recreation, and work. Their employment options were extremely limited, joining the military was one choice. Despite national discourse, propaganda, and the prevalence of militarized war heroes in the press and fiction, most working-class males preferred to stay local, taking jobs as laborers rather than enlist.”

—Adriana Janovich

YAZZ Band: New Normal
GREG YASINSKY
ORIGIN RECORDS: 2021

Listen to a review and tracks from the new YAZZ Band: New Normal, recorded during the pandemic lockdown, most working-class males preferred to stay local, taking jobs as laborers rather than enlist.

—Adriana Janovich
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HARRY EDGAR GOLDSWORTHY

DAVID A. LONGANECKER ('68 Socio.) authored The Late Truck Driver: Following the Dream, which details how he became a truck driver after retiring from a career in higher education, including six years as assistant secretary of education for higher education under President Bill Clinton.

DEREK BROWN ('76 Elec. Eng.) retired after 44 years with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, where he was a senior consulting engineer. He is a member and working group chair for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Hydro Power Subcommittee and provides engineering consulting services.

ALAN GROSS ('76 MS, '79 PhD Psych.) is a Distinguished Professor at the University of Mississippi, where he has served as a faculty member for more than 50 years. His research has been presented at nearly 150 workshops, conferences, and addresses, and he has coauthored five books and 140 peer-reviewed articles. He has also directed 49 theses and 73 dissertations as a mentor. FRANK ANDREWS ('79 Bach., ’81 Vet. Med.) heads the Veterinary Clinical Sciences Department at the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. He joined the LSU faculty in 2008 as director of equine health studies and his research focuses on gastric ulcer disease in horses.

KEN COLLINS ('84 History), a longtime coach, teacher, principal, and administrator for the Lake Stevens School District, is the new superintendent. SUSAN CARY PAGANELLI ('85 Ed.) was appointed to the Pierce County Council Citizens’ Advisory Board. She is co-owner of V&I Unlimited, a consulting company.

PETER MAYER ('91 Rec. & Leis. Stu.) is the new director of Washington State Parks and Recreation, where he oversees 124 state parks and approximately 1,000 employees. He had previously served as deputy executive director of Metro Parks Tacoma. CHUCK ARNOLD ('94 Rec. Stu.) is president of the Seattle Seahawks. The team extended his contract through 2027 as he enters his fourth season as president.

COURTESY US AIR FORCE

Goldsworthy returned stateside after World War II and, in 1948, became commander of the 17th Bombardment Group at Cawlwell Air Force Base in Texas. A year later, he was transferred to the Pentagon. He returned to the Pentagon in two more roles—as director of production and programming for the Air Force’s deputy chief of staff of systems and logistics in 1963, and as the deputy chief of staff for systems and logistics in 1969.

Before his second stint in Washington, DC, he was transferred to the Ballistic Missiles Center of the Air Material Command, commanding the Site Activation Task Force for the first Minuteman Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Wing. After retiring from the US Air Force in 1973, he consulted for Boeing. He celebrated his 107th birthday in Riverside, California, with a motorcycle ride, military tribute, special certificate, and sheet cake.

“All my Air Force buddies are long gone. That’s one of the penalties to living to be 107,” Goldsworthy told military.com, noting he’s humbled knowing he’s among the oldest living former military commanders in the world. “I didn’t aspire to be the oldest.”

BY ADRIANA JANOVICH
Micaela Shilton Banach (’00 Bus.) in 2001, Super Lawyers, a law magazine and a list published by Super Lawyer Magazine. She is a partner of Nunnal Law Firm, based in San Diego, California. She was listed in the San Diego County Bar Foundation.

Troy Braga (’94 MBA) is the resident director of the Merrill Lynch office in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. A wealth management adviser and senior vice president with the Baldwin-Braga Group, he has worked for Merrill Lynch for six years and is a certified financial planner and a certified financial planning advisor. 

Kevin Mote of Adair Architects, the new director of Gray’s Harbor County Public Health and Social Services. He is responsible for the county’s COVID-19 response as well as homelessness and opioid addiction response.

Kristie Van Boket, OW ’83, is a market designer at Congruence Architecture in Portland, Oregon, a sustainable apparel company in Pullman. Smith previously served as vice president and sales manager.

Becca De Kline (’11 Hort.) has been re-elected for another three-year term as a board member of the Washington Winegrowers Association. She is director of enology at Four Feathers Wine Estates in Prosser and president of the Washington Wine Technical Group. 

Marcia Latham (’12 Bus.) is a contestant on the 2021 season of The Bachelor. She is a real estate broker and operations manager at Abbeville Property Management in Portland, Oregon. 

Emily Uphol (’14 Bus.) is an account manager at Ladd Agrotation, a landmark farming cooperative in Uxbridge, Massachusetts. 

Delphine Peterson (’40 Ag.) has been a professor emerita at Washington State University. She was 93.


Robert E. Sanders (’21 Int. Des.) is an associate of Adams Leclair, a litigation think tank in Portland, Oregon. 

Bryce Ritter (’00 Bus.) is a software engineer at Amazon in Seattle. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

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Artistic distancing

Students crafted sculptural pieces and unleashed their artistic visions from the comfort of their homes this summer.

IO PALMER, associate professor in Fine Arts at Washington State University, created and taught the online course for WSU Global Campus. It was made possible through the use of air-drying clay, eliminating the need for a specialized kiln for firing ceramics. As a result, students could learn the skills required for making ceramics through creating and painting their own unique works of art at home.

“As a department, we are trained to be resourceful and creative in our thinking,” says Palmer. “Creating new and innovative courses like this is really a test for us as creative academics.”

Palmer says she got the idea to develop the online ceramics course from observing the popularity of ceramic tutorial videos on platforms like YouTube.

“There is definitely a demand to learn skills like this from home, and I wanted to be able to provide a quality learning experience for online WSU students in Washington state and around the world,” she says.

Palmer also says that her passion for elevating underrepresented voices drove her to develop the course.

“In observing the online tutorial videos involving ceramics and 3D art, I saw a lot of room for more diverse and underrepresented voices. It made me want to add my own voice to the conversation, especially from my perspective as a woman of color,” she says. “I also want to be an example to my students, encouraging them to fully embrace and express their own unique backgrounds and perspectives.”

∞

Io Palmer’s large-scale sculpture currently at the PDX (airport) Rotating Art Program (Courtesy Port of Portland)

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