Washington State Magazine

SPRING 2026

WSU PHYSICIANS AT LARGE: CATCHING UP WITH THE FIRST MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES

LA EXPERIENCIA LATINA: RECORDING ORAL HISTORIES IN THE TRI-CITIES

AQUIFER UPDATES: FINDING WATER FOR WASHINGTON FARMS

THE COUG CONNECTION TO SPOKANE'S HOOPFEST

GUY PALMER '84 PHD: ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH LEADER

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WASHINGTON *spotlight*

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PHOTO ZACH MAZUR

Washington State Magazine

In this issue

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ON THE COVER:
Literacy Looking Forward (detail)
Staff Illustration

24

FEATURE SERIES

Literacy: More Than Words

A fundamental understanding of the world—scientific, health, financial, media, and reading literacy—is crucial for daily lives and decisions. WSU faculty and alumni deliver insights for college students and lifelong learning.

LITERACY FOR LIFE

Everyone appreciates a good investment. Benjamin Franklin offered this wise option: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Literacy–what we need to know–gives us tools that improve our lives, from better health to scientific understanding and financial wellbeing.

This issue's stories dive into how Washington State University prepares students and increases literacy in media, reading, finances, health, and science.

As WSU President Betsy Cantwell notes in her letter this issue, a primary value of a WSU, or any college, education is a "literacy of learning" so students can navigate change and evolving knowledge beyond graduation.

"It's the ability to evaluate information critically, manage your time and resources, communicate clearly, and take initiative without waiting for direction," she writes.

The president's insights hold true even for those of us who graduated many years ago. WSU taught me and generations of Cougs how to read well, write clearly, understand science and philosophy, and build skills to use throughout our lives.

The learning doesn't just end. It's crucial that we continue to sharpen our many literacy skills to grasp an ever more complex world.

YOU LIKELY NOTICED THAT THE MAGAZINE has a new look and feel. Thank you to the readers who responded to the survey from last issue. We took many of your ideas and implemented changes to the print magazine, which is now mailed three times a year in January, May, and August.

Those aren't the only changes around *Washington State Magazine*, though. The magazine's stories are now digital-first, appearing online before the print magazine publishes. You can enjoy even more WSU stories, profiles, podcasts, and videos via **magazine.wsu.edu**.

Larry Clark
Editor

Cougs around the world

COURTESY LAMB WESTON

Esteban Mena-Salgado ('16 Mech. Eng., *left in photo*) and Anthony Bonilla ('19 Chem. Eng.) are part of a Lamb Weston project management team that built a new French fry plant near Mar del Plata, Argentina.

Across the state

The **Cougulance** appeared on billboards, made it onto ESPN's *GameDay,* and drew crowds wherever it went. But I heard of it only a few months ago—and contacted Cougar superfan and former WSU student **Paul Twibell** to learn more.

A decade or so ago, Paul was a registered nurse with American Medical Response, an ambulance service in the Seattle area, which was selling one of its older ambulances. Paul bought it and had it decorated with several Cougar logos.

Its first trip to Pullman was almost its last. As the Cougulance crossed Snoqualmie Pass, a troubling sound began to emanate from its innards. The source was the alternator belt. This necessitated a tow back to Ellensburg, where Paul replaced the alternator. But the closest belt was in Yakima. Fortuitously, some friends were in town and loaned Paul their car for the trip. Finally, the Cougulance was repaired and on its way again.

Just outside Colfax, the Cougulance's transmission went out. None of the forward gears functioned, but Paul was able to shift into reverse. Bound and determined to reach WSU, he turned on the flashing lights, pulled around, and headed for Pullman, driving backward at 10 miles per hour. This caught the eye of law enforcement, and soon the Cougulance was towed for the second time that day.

The Cougulance has since made many tailgating trips to WSU. Now, it sits for sale at Paul's home overlooking Puget Sound. Maybe you'd like to be the next one to jump behind the wheel, turn on the lights and siren, and head for Pullman?

— Ken Fielder '77 Poli Sci.

Maybe more history

The article about the Whitmans [Fall 2025] seemed unfinished. It failed to give any depth to the Whitmans' involvement. Many of us who took Washington state history as high school freshmen remember a version involving the death of the Whitman's young daughter, emetics in watermelons, and rampant diseases that deeply affected the lives of the Indigenous peoples who were served by the Whitmans.

History is written by the winners, according to the old saying, but this article gives us too little information about what really happened to provoke one of the most horrific occurrences in Washington state history. A good follow-up article with more background would really be appreciated!

— Eileen Glaholt '65 Soc. Stu.

What's on your mind, Cougs? Let us know at:

magazine.wsu.edu/contact

Around the blocks

Kayla Rhodes D'Asaro ('18 Comp. Sci.) was a runner-up in the magazine's Summer 2025 "Block By Block" contest. She originally built a version of Orton Hall in LEGO Digital Designer, and then built it with real LEGO bricks. It was displayed at BrickCon in Bellevue on September 6–7, 2025.

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What's the value of a college degree both today and tomorrow?

by Betsy Cantwell

The question of what a college degree is worth comes up often and it's a fair one.

We know the financial return is real: over a lifetime, people with a four-year degree **earn significantly more than those without one**. But at Washington State University, we believe the full value of a college education goes far beyond economics. It's about **personal growth, lasting friendships**, **expanded worldviews**, and **unforgettable experiences**.

It's also about something even more essential: **learning how to learn**.

Your time at WSU is about mastering your major but it's also about gaining the skills to navigate change over a lifetime. We call this the literacy of learning. It's the ability to evaluate information critically, manage your time and resources, communicate clearly, and take initiative without waiting for direction. It's the capacity to collaborate and to lead.

Those capabilities matter now more than ever. As artificial intelligence transforms nearly every profession, from medicine to agriculture, the ability to adapt, ask the right questions, and keep learning will define success. A decade ago, most of us hadn't heard of AI. Today, knowing how to work with it is quickly becoming a baseline skill.

So the real question isn't just what a degree is worth today **but how it prepares you for the next 40 or 50 years**.

At WSU, we're asking the same kinds of questions. How do we ensure our students are prepared not just for their first job, but for careers that don't yet exist? How do we evolve as a modern land-grant university to meet the needs of a fast-changing world?

That's **the focus of our new strategic framework**: to guide how we teach, research, and serve our communities with more agility, innovation, and impact. We're reimagining everything from how we deliver education, to how our scientists solve urgent challenges, to how we show up for Washington's communities.

It's not always easy. But this moment of transformation, uncertainty, and possibility is exactly what WSU was built for. And I'm confident we will rise to meet it.

Go Cougs!

PHOTO ROBERT HUBNER

Christie Kirkpatrick Schmutz at Kirkpatrick Clinic in Longview with brother Scott Kirkpatrick and father Richard Kirkpatrick, who are also internists.

THE COUG EXPERIENCE

Healing the call

by Becky Kramer

The renovated Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine building was dedicated August 2023 in Spokane. COURTESY HENNEBERY EDDY ARCHITECTS

TEN YEARS AGO, Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine opened its doors with a bold mission: Provide more doctors for rural and underserved communities.

Now, members of that **first graduating class** in 2021 are establishing their careers. Several alumni recently reflected on their experiences at the College of Medicine, including the paths they traveled to becoming physicians.

Their experiences match the vision of the late WSU President Floyd of educating doctors who reflect the diversity of the communities they serve.

CHRISTIE KIRKPATRICK SCHMUTZ ('21 MD), INTERNIST

Christie Kirkpatrick Schmutz's family has been caring for patients in southwest Washington since the 1940s, but she wasn't initially sure she wanted to be a doctor.

That changed the summer she worked as her dad's medical scribe at Kirkpatrick Clinic in Longview and watched him interact with patients.

"It was inspiring. He was more than a doctor, he was a life coach," she says. "Oftentimes, we look at a small mill town and see a lot of poverty and interpersonal challenges among families. My dad helped patients work through those things. It wasn't just, 'Your blood pressure is fine. See you next year.' It was 'How's work and how's your family? Did your daughter get into college?'"

In 2024, Kirkpatrick Schmutz joined her dad and brother at Kirkpatrick Clinic, where patients call them Dr. Richard, Dr. Scotty, and Dr. Christie. Being part of the clinic established by her grandfather aligns with her deep affection for her hometown and the WSU College of Medicine's focus on the community medicine exemplified by her dad.

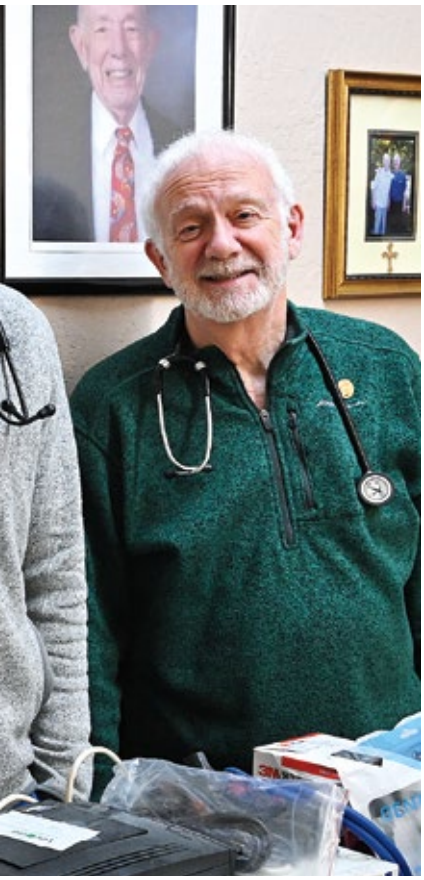
As an internist, Kirkpatrick Schmutz sees a wide variety of patients, but about half of her practice is obesity medicine.

"Like anywhere in America, I see a lot of obesity, which is the root of so many other medical conditions," she says. "Being in the medical school's first class and being a trailblazer gave me the confidence to pursue an emerging field during residency."

At Kirkpatrick Schmutz's residency at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle, a primary care internist introduced her to prescription medications showing promise for weight loss. She followed up with an obesity medicine rotation and took a deep dive into new weight loss medications.

"I'm the local expert on Ozempic and Mounjaro medications," says Kirkpatrick Schmutz, whose undergraduate studies were in nutrition and exercise science. "I was excited to learn that I could offer treatment to patients for a very frustrating disease. I was counseling patients on eating healthy and being active. For many, that wasn't enough."

Besides Longview and Kelso, the clinic's patients come from the surrounding rural areas. Chronic pain from job-related injuries is also common



among patients, and so are anxiety and depression.

"I always knew that I wanted to come home to Longview to practice," Kirkpatrick Schmutz says. "I like that I'm bringing a big city education and quality of care to a small town, my hometown."

COURTESY DAVID CHOI

DAVID CHOI ('21 MD), PSYCHIATRIST

Becoming a doctor wasn't something David Choi pictured for himself in high school. Even attending college seemed like a stretch.

"My family had had some struggles, including losing my brother to suicide," says Choi, now a psychiatrist at Salem Hospital in Oregon. "It was a rocky time. My objective was to get a job and help support my family."

Scholarships made higher education possible for Choi, a first-generation college student from Washougal. At WSU Vancouver, he became the student body president. He took electrical engineering classes before evaluating health care careers. Outside of class, Choi started a medical transcription service used by psychiatrists at Columbia River Mental Health Services.

He also met then-WSU President Floyd and lobbied for the new WSU medical school in his student government role.

"It was a wild ride," Choi says. "The traditional path to medical school is to get good grades, focus on undergraduate research, and do one volunteer activity. Instead, I used what was important to me and the community around me to guide my decisions. I'm glad I had the chance to explore in college, because I had no idea what I wanted to do."

In medical school, Choi continued to use his leadership skills. The American Association of Medical Colleges has a student branch, and Choi chaired the western region, which represented 21 medical schools. "The leadership experience made me really confident for my residency," he says.

At Salem Hospital, Choi sees patients from a wide geographic area of Oregon. He also works at an addiction treatment center.

"I come from a low socioeconomic background, but I had a lot of support," he says of becoming a psychiatrist. "I had a loving family and a family away from home through WSU. And I was encouraged to get involved in leadership."

Choi says he's grateful for Floyd's vision. "The medical school's stance for caring for people comes from Elson Floyd's heart. I genuinely believe he was the reason I had such a positive experience."

COURTESY DAVID RIESBERG

DAVID RIESBERG ('21 MD), INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGIST

After 10 years in the military, David Riesberg was looking for his next career. In a bit of serendipity, he and his wife settled in Spokane just as WSU announced plans to open the new medical school.

His wife, Jaycie ('12 DVM), was starting a residency in veterinary ophthalmology. Riesberg enjoyed listening to her "medical talk" with her colleagues, and he'd previously taken the MCAT exam.

"I decided to toss my hat in the ring," he says. "Since my wife is a WSU graduate, I was familiar with what the new medical school was trying to accomplish. I liked the focus on rural and underserved communities."

Riesberg was older than his classmates, but the sense of camaraderie and leadership among the inaugural class felt familiar to the former Green Beret. His military career gave him a flexible mindset that served him well in the classroom, and his life experiences helped shape his medical path.

During a stint as a volunteer EMT with the Deer Park ambulance service, Riesberg was exposed to interventional radiology after transporting an elderly stroke patient to Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center in Spokane.

"The patient's stroke was amenable to a thrombectomy," Riesberg says. "From the vasculature in her groin, an interventional radiologist was able to go in and remove the clot, essentially saving her brain. I was blown away by the procedure."

Riesberg is currently doing his residency in radiology at the University of Utah, with additional training at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. When he completes the work, he will be board certified in both diagnostic and interventional radiology. Eventually, he and his wife would like to practice in a smaller town in the West.

That desire was influenced by Riesberg's short internship with an orthopedic surgeon in Omak during medical school, where he got a first-hand look at the challenges and rewards of rural medicine.

"It's like being in the military," he says. "You're in a resource constrained environment, and you have limited assets available. How are you going to complete your mission?"

***Top*: David Riesberg is completing his residency in radiology. *Below*: Psychiatrist David Choi with family**

Rescue MISSION

by Shawn Vestal

Groundwater from complex aquifers feeds irrigated crops worth billions, and it's drying up. Washington State University researchers contribute to understanding and solving those water needs.

On a bleached-blue July morning, with the temperature approaching 100, Sasha McLarty pilots a van through the arid fields of eastern Washington.

She and her crew of graduate students are shuttling between stops on a tour of a new irrigation system. They drive to the banks of a fresh stretch of canal. They tour a pumphouse. They listen as farmers sing the praises of the new system.

"Woo-hoo!" McLarty exclaims after one stop. "It's so exciting!"

These canals represent the fulfillment of a century-old plan to dam and divert water for irrigation from the Columbia River. The water has come a long way, and taken a long time to arrive, to say nothing of millions upon millions of dollars and years of effort from scores of public agencies.

"I don't know of any project globally," McLarty tells the tour group, "that is as cool as this one."

McLarty's excitement has a lot to do with water that no one on the tour can see: the groundwater that flows and pools deep underground, in the Columbia Plateau Regional Aquifer System. That water is vital to the Northwest, but it's being used up at an unsustainable pace. Bringing surface water from the dam project is "a rescue mission to save the aquifer," in the words of Jon Erickson, development coordinator for the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District.

Monitoring, protecting, and understanding the aquifer system has been McLarty's mission as a researcher and associate professor in Washington State University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Using data from wells across the region, she has produced new measures of aquifer sustainability and identified "hot spots" where the urgency is greatest.

The Othello Subarea Aquifer is the hottest of the hot. Farmers in this part of eastern Washington grow more than 100 crops, with an annual value in the billions, but they have been water-hungry for decades, drawing heavily on groundwater wells until they go dry.

Enter the coolest project in the world. The Odessa Groundwater Replacement Project, or OGWRP, offers farmers the chance to voluntarily switch from groundwater to surface water from the dam system. Thousands of acres have been moved off deep-water wells in recent years, with future expansion to come.

If the project is a rescue mission for the aquifer, it's also crucial for keeping the crops green and farmers in business.

"I get calls in my office every day: 'We've just lost another well, we've just lost another well,'" Erickson says. "I've had grown men come into my office and cry. Literally cry. 'I need this water or I'm going to lose my farm.'"

PHOTO ZACH MAZUR

Researcher Sasha McLarty envisions developing a regional network to study groundwater cycles so people in the future have the water they need. COURTESY SASHA MCLARTY/LINKEDIN

A COMPLICATED LAYER CAKE

When you think of an aquifer, you might imagine an underground lake in a dark cavern. In reality, an aquifer system is more like an interconnected series of pockets and layers, with distinct geological tiers of different thicknesses at different depths.

The Columbia Plateau aquifers are literally woven into the land, flowing and pooling among layers of basalt and sediment beneath the surface. These layers reflect the region's tumultuous geographic history, a tale of fire and flood and tectonic eruptions. They also give shape to an aquifer system of thorny complexity.

The layers overlap in some places, and not in others. The system includes both confined aquifers—those buried and disconnected from the land surface—and unconfined aquifers, where water seeps and flows more freely. Water moves around thick layers of basalt that were formed during periods of volcanic activity, then folded and cracked in unusual ways.

"This is a really interesting aquifer, and by interesting I mean really hard and complex," McLarty says. "It's really a double whammy of complexity."

Her research seeks to untangle that complexity, to identify the sustainability of groundwater in specific locations, and to implement a new method of measuring the accessibility of groundwater—based not on the amount of water available, but how much is available given current well depths.

"What I care about most is, will people and ecosystems have groundwater in the future to the extent that they need it?" she says. "I hope these data can be used to help prioritize investments in improving water security, by showing where that effort is needed."

Dennis Swinger Jr.'s great-great-grandfather applied for dam water rights for their Lind-area farm in the 1920s.

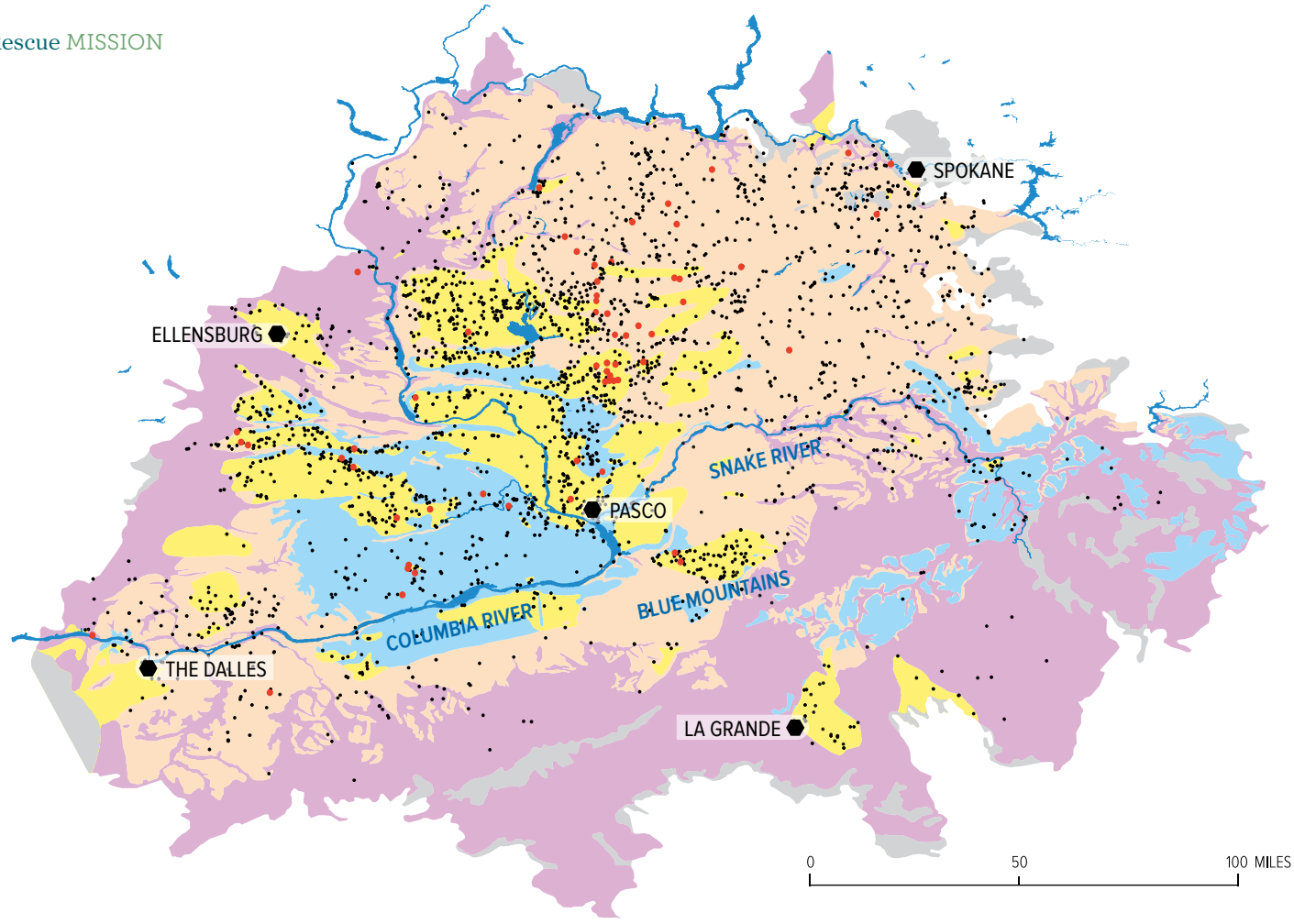
COURTESY COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

The Columbia system underlies parts of Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, an area that is primarily semi-arid with average annual precipitation between 7 and 15 inches a year. Much of that is cropland, supporting a multibillion-dollar agricultural industry that produces wheat, corn, potatoes, apples, grapes, and other crops. Groundwater is the primary source of municipal and drinking water supplies and supports much of the irrigation for that land.

The system is made up of four primary units: the youngest layer, the Overburden unit, is comprised of unconsolidated to semi-consolidated sedimentary deposits dating back millions of years. Three other units arrayed below the Overburden layer—the Saddle Mountains, Wanapum, and Grande Ronde formations—are basalt layers formed during the volcanic past of the region millions of years ago. Each layer ranges from several hundred to nearly 4,000 feet thick or more.

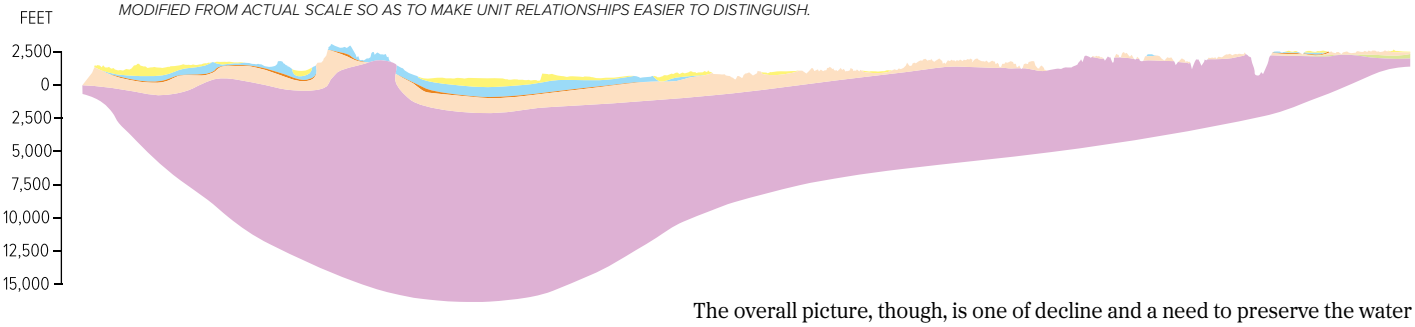
McLarty describes the aquifer as akin to a layer cake: the basalt and sedimentary layers are the cake, and the water is the frosting. However, the aquifer's layers are nowhere near as uniform as a cake. At any given point on the map, people are drawing from different layers and depths.

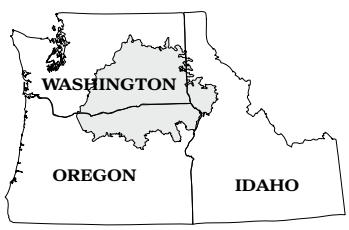
McLarty's research builds on past studies showing that the Columbia aquifer system is declining in most spots. There are bright spots such as the Spokane area, where conservation efforts have helped preserve groundwater levels.



The **Columbia Plateau Regional Aquifer System** is a complex made up of the **Overburden**, **Saddle Mountains**, **Wanapum**, **Grande Ronde**, and **Older Bedrock** hydrogeologic units—which are progressively older in geologic time and therefore found at relatively different depths (below). **Black** dots represent wells pulling from the aquifer system with **red** dots indicating wells that have had to be deepened. There are varying levels of interplay between the aquifers regarding exchange and recharge.

THESE ILLUSTRATIONS ARE BASED ON MODIFICATIONS TO USGS MAPS AND OTHER DIGITAL DATA BY KAHLE ET AL. IN 2009. *ASPECTS AND DEPTHS HAVE BEEN MODIFIED FROM ACTUAL SCALE SO AS TO MAKE UNIT RELATIONSHIPS EASIER TO DISTINGUISH.*





The overall picture, though, is one of decline and a need to preserve the water for the future. That's especially true in the Odessa area, where water levels are dropping by more than 10 feet per year in some parts.

A LONG WAIT

Before concrete was laid for the Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River, farmers signed up to draw upon the water from the dam to grow their crops.

For many of them, it's been a long wait.

Dennis Swinger Jr.'s great-great-grandfather applied for water rights from the dam in the 1920s—just a few years after arriving from South Dakota and establishing the Lind-area farm that's still producing crops. During the dam's construction in the 1930s, he would take visitors out to watch the work proceed.

Swinger's great-aunt told him: "Daddy was so proud of this you'd have thought it was his own project."

Below: Craig Simpson ('90) is secretary-manager of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District. COURTESY COLUMBIA BASIN DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

The dam was completed in 1942. One goal of the subsequent Columbia Basin Project was to provide irrigation for 1.1 million acres of farmland. Less than two-thirds of that irrigation materialized, though, as wars and other priorities continually pushed back funding of the rest. While farmers in the Odessa area waited, the state granted them groundwater rights.

They sunk wells to keep the crops growing.

Then, as the years went on, they sunk them deeper.

"There's nothing more permanent than a temporary fix," says Swinger ('90 Ag.), one of several Cougs in his family.

The temporary fix has been less than ideal for farmers. Even when they could drill deeper, they encountered water that is so high in sodium and other minerals that it alters soil chemistry. And the uncertainty of just how long that water would last has hung over farmers year over year.

The OGWRP water changes things entirely. The new surface water supply is ample and reliable The water quality is good. And farmers can grow more high-value crops—such as potatoes—that were more difficult when they were inching by on groundwater.

"There's zero constraint, comparatively, on the amount of water available to them," says Craig Simpson ('90 Civ. Eng.), secretary-manager of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District. "On top of that, there's the water quality. When they're pumping water from a well that goes 2,000 feet down, the water's nasty."

For two decades, Simpson and many others have been working to bring irrigation to farmers from the dam project. Built on funding and collaboration among state and federal agencies, agricultural organizations, and irrigation companies, OGWRP first began extending irrigation canals, pumphouses, and other infrastructure into the farmlands around Othello with a small pilot project in 2005. It's been adding acreage in phases ever since.

The goal is to move 87,000 acres from groundwater to surface water irrigation, and take the wells drawing on the aquifer offline. So far, the project is delivering water to about 16,000 acres, with another 19,000 under contract for future delivery. A phase now under construction will bring water to another 13,000 acres.

The project has cost tens of millions of dollars, with primary funding coming from the state of Washington, the federal Bureau of Reclamation, the East Columbia Irrigation District, and landowners. Scores of stakeholders have moved the project forward, including agricultural and conservation organizations, as well as WSU.

Switching to the canal project comes with costs for farmers. Depending on the point in the system where their land is, they need to build the connection system to bring it to their fields. For some, it's a major investment. Paul Wollman of the Warden Hutterite Colony likened it to "buying my farm all over again." But it significantly benefits Wollman, who has been doing everything he can to conserve water, including till methods that help reduce erosion and improve moisture retention.

"We're making use of every drop of water out here," Wollman says. "In the last four years, we had four wells go dry on us."

Swinger joined the OGWRP in 2020, taking two of his five wells offline. Those wells started out at depths of 350.

"As the aquifer has declined, now we're at 1,200 feet," he says.

Swinger, a sixth-generation farmer, is grateful for what the water means to his family's land and agricultural prospects. But he sees the OGWRP as a crucial tool for society at large—keeping crucial agricultural land in production at a time when the demand for food is rising, the climate is changing, and the amount of farmland isn't growing.

"This is a food security issue," Swinger says. "Washington grows some 300 different crops.

"We can grow just about anything. Let's build this project before people start going hungry."

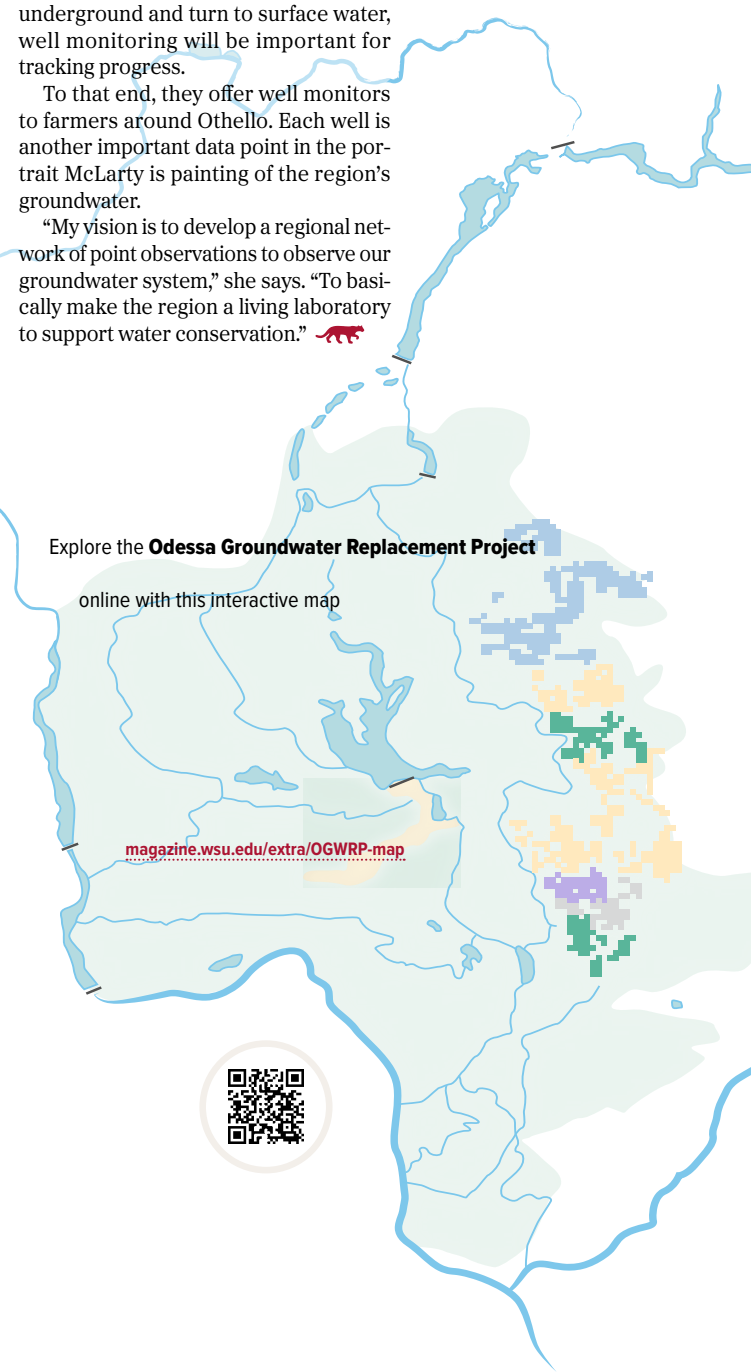
MAPPING THE WATERS

Back in the van, McLarty and her students enthuse about the irrigation project, discuss the pleasures of seeing how their scientific work takes hold in eastern Washington fields, and discuss the finer points of well monitoring.

Such monitoring is crucial to her work. In her most recent research publication, McLarty built a picture of the Columbia Plateau Regional Aquifer System using data from more than 400 wells. And now, as more landowners stop pumping from underground and turn to surface water, well monitoring will be important for tracking progress.

To that end, they offer well monitors to farmers around Othello. Each well is another important data point in the portrait McLarty is painting of the region's groundwater.

"My vision is to develop a regional network of point observations to observe our groundwater system," she says. "To basically make the region a living laboratory to support water conservation."



Recent highlights

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Addiction Treatment

Washington State University researchers may be closer to understanding *how to prevent alcohol withdrawal symptoms* that push many people back to drinking.

In mice experiencing withdrawal, scientists were able to ease the physical and emotional symptoms by altering brain function in the cerebellum using genetic tools and a specialized compound.

"By targeting the cerebellum, we were able to ease both the physical motor discoordination and the emotional distress of withdrawal—the symptoms that so often drive people back to drinking," says Nadia McLean, a researcher in the Department of Integrative Physiology.

Alcohol use disorder affects an estimated 29 million Americans. Fewer than one in five people with the disorder maintain long-term sobriety, despite a range of available treatments.

The cerebellum has traditionally been associated with movement and coordination. However, it also plays a role in addiction, emotional regulation, and even social engagement, says David Rossi, associate professor in the Department of Integrative Physiology.

In mice, chronic alcohol exposure disrupts the cerebellum's normal signaling, essentially rewiring it to function in the presence of alcohol. Once alcohol is removed, though, the brain enters a hyperactive state, which leads to withdrawal symptoms.

Researchers first used a genetic approach, inserting special receptors into the mice's cerebellar neurons. When activated, the receptors calmed overactive cerebellar activity during withdrawal and improved motor coordination in mice. While the method shows promise, genetic modification isn't currently a realistic option for people.

A second strategy points to a more practical path forward for treating people. The team tested a synthetic compound developed by chemists in Austria that targets a receptor found only in the cerebellum. When given to mice in withdrawal, the drug eased emotional distress without affecting the rest of the brain.

"If we can take away the worst part of withdrawal, even temporarily, people may be better able to succeed with counseling or other long-term treatments," Rossi says.

by Devin Rokyta

WSU neuroscientist David Rossi and neuroscience doctoral student Nadia McLean

Pollinator Ecology

Scientists have unveiled *a new food source* designed to sustain honey bee colonies without natural pollen.

The food source resembles human "Power Bars." They are placed directly into honey bee colonies, where young bees process and distribute the essential nutrients to larvae and adult bees.

The innovation is expected to become a potent strategy for combating the escalating rates of colony collapse and safeguarding global food supplies reliant on bee pollination.

"Changes in land use, urban expansion, and extreme weather all negatively impact nutrition for honey bees and other pollinators," says Brandon Hopkins, P.F. Thurber Endowed Distinguished Professor of Pollinator Ecology at WSU. "Honey bees are generalists and do not get all their nutrition from a single source. They need variety in their diet to survive but find it increasingly difficult to find the continuous supply of pollen they need to sustain the colony."

WSU collaborated with California beekeepers and APIX Biosciences NV in Belgium, who tested thousands of combinations of ingredients on honey bees over more than 10 years to create the feed. The WSU team provided honey bee and field expertise, and the involvement of California beekeepers made large-scale field testing possible.

A critical discovery within the research is the role of isofucosterol, a molecule found naturally in pollen that acts as a vital nutrient for honey bees. Colonies fed with isofucosterol-enriched food survived an entire season without pollen access, while those without it experienced severe declines, including reduced larval production, adult paralysis, and colony collapse.

"We are working with WSU and the beekeeping community across the USA to develop the best way to make use of this new tool in agricultural settings," says Patrick Pilkington, chief executive officer of APIX Biosciences US.

by Scott Weybright

The bee nutrient bars could increase survival for the pollinators.

Sleep Medicine

What causes us to sleep? The answer may lie not only in our brains, but in their complex interplay with the micro-organisms spawned in our intestines.

WSU research suggests that a substance in the mesh-like walls of bacteria, known as peptidoglycan, is naturally present in the brains of mice and closely aligned with the sleep cycle.

The findings update a broader hypothesis in development at WSU for years—that sleep arises from communication between the body's sleep regulatory systems and the multitude of microbes living inside us.

Erika English, a doctoral candidate at WSU, is the lead author on two recently published scientific papers introducing the findings, with WSU sleep researcher and Regents Professor James Krueger.

A growing body of evidence suggests that our gut microbiomes play an important role in cognition, appetite, sex drive and other activity—a view that turns traditional brain-centric models of cognition upside-down and has implications for future treatments for sleep disorders.

The research about peptidoglycan, or PG, lend weight to that hypothesis and point to a possible regulatory role for bacterial cell wall products in sleep. PG is known to promote sleep when injected in animals, but until recently, the conventional view held that it did not naturally migrate to the brain.

English found that PG and its receptor molecules involved in PG signaling and communication, were present in different locations within the brain, at levels that changed with the time of day and sleep deprivation.

The research suggests that sleep results from the interplay between the body and its resident micro-organisms—two autonomous systems that interact and overlap.

"It's not one or the other, it's both. They have to work together," English says. "Sleep really is a process. It happens at many different speeds for different levels of cellular and tissue organization, and it comes about because of extensive coordination."

by Shawn Vestal

WSU doctoral student Erika English tests the effect of microbes on sleep.

Veterinary Medicine

A new test developed at Washington State University will help identify drugs that may trigger severe side effects in some cats.

Even in healthy cats, many commonly prescribed drugs can cause dangerous reactions in specific combinations or when given to felines born with a MDR1 gene mutation. The mutation disrupts a protein called P-glycoprotein, which normally helps remove harmful substances from the body, putting affected cats at risk for serious drug reactions.

WSU veterinary pharmacologist Katrina Mealey and laboratory supervisor Neal Burke developed the test that determines if a drug relies on P-glycoprotein to be safely processed. Using the test, Mealey and Burke identified 10 additional drugs that pose a risk to affected cats in certain combinations.

"This test allows us to screen both existing medications and new drug candidates, giving veterinarians, drug makers and regulators the information they need to make safer prescribing decisions," Mealey says. "We hope it will eventually lead to warning labels, so veterinarians and pet owners have the guidance they need to keep cats safe."

The feline MDR1 mutation, discovered by Mealey in 2015, is estimated to be present in up to 6 percent of Maine coon cats and roughly one percent of non-pedigreed cats in the United States and Europe.

Even cats without the mutation can develop acquired P-glycoprotein deficiency, which can occur when drugs that are processed by P-glycoprotein are given together.

"It's not only cats with the mutation you have to worry about," Mealey says. "If some of these drugs are given in combination to any animal, you can see side effects because of drug interactions. This new test will help us to identify those drugs that could cause these reactions."

The test works by adding a fluorescent compound—normally cleared from cells by P-glycoprotein— along with a test drug to a feline cell culture. If the drug also depends on P-glycoprotein, the compound builds up and glows inside the cells, signaling a potential risk for cats.

by Devin Rokyta

PHOTO CREDITS FROM TOP: TED S. WARREN/WSUCVM (DETAIL); COURTESY APIX BIOSCIENCES; ERIKA ENGLISH BY CORI KOGAN/WSUS; ISTOCK

"Give it all you've got"

by Addy Hatch

CATHERINE ROBERTS FRASIER, the first woman graduate of Washington State's College of Veterinary Medicine, wasn't one to mince words.

Frasier called her first husband "a fool" and the second husband "a jerk." She said one university administrator was "a real old battle-ax," and confessed that she "was never enchanted" with the practice of veterinary medicine, though she did like treating large animals.

Though Frasier died in 1985, we know these opinions—and many others—thanks to another WSU College of Veterinary Medicine graduate, Lorain (Miller) Abel ('87 DVM), who is still practicing in Grants Pass, Oregon. Frasier sent Miller a 10-page, typewritten biography in 1977, which the younger woman used as the basis for a prize-winning high school essay.

Frasier, who was known as Catherine E. Roberts at the time, graduated in 1933 from Washington State College. She had to earn her way through, which she did by tutoring other students and taking notes during lectures that she typed up and sold to "the boys."

She loved her experience in Pullman, saying the faculty "seemed to be quite pleased to have a girl in the classes." Other women were part of the program by the time she graduated.

"We were a small class, only 13 in number, and we worked closely together for four years," she wrote. "Times had been tough, the Depression had gone into full swing, and it was unbelievable how little some of the boys got along on, like $25 a month. I missed those guys for months after we parted."

She returned to California, becoming the first woman granted a veterinary license in that state. Frasier built a thriving practice, helped by her third husband, Lew Frasier. But shoulder pain and the advent of World War II put an end to her veterinary career. Eventually she became a licensed vocational nurse, which she said she enjoyed.

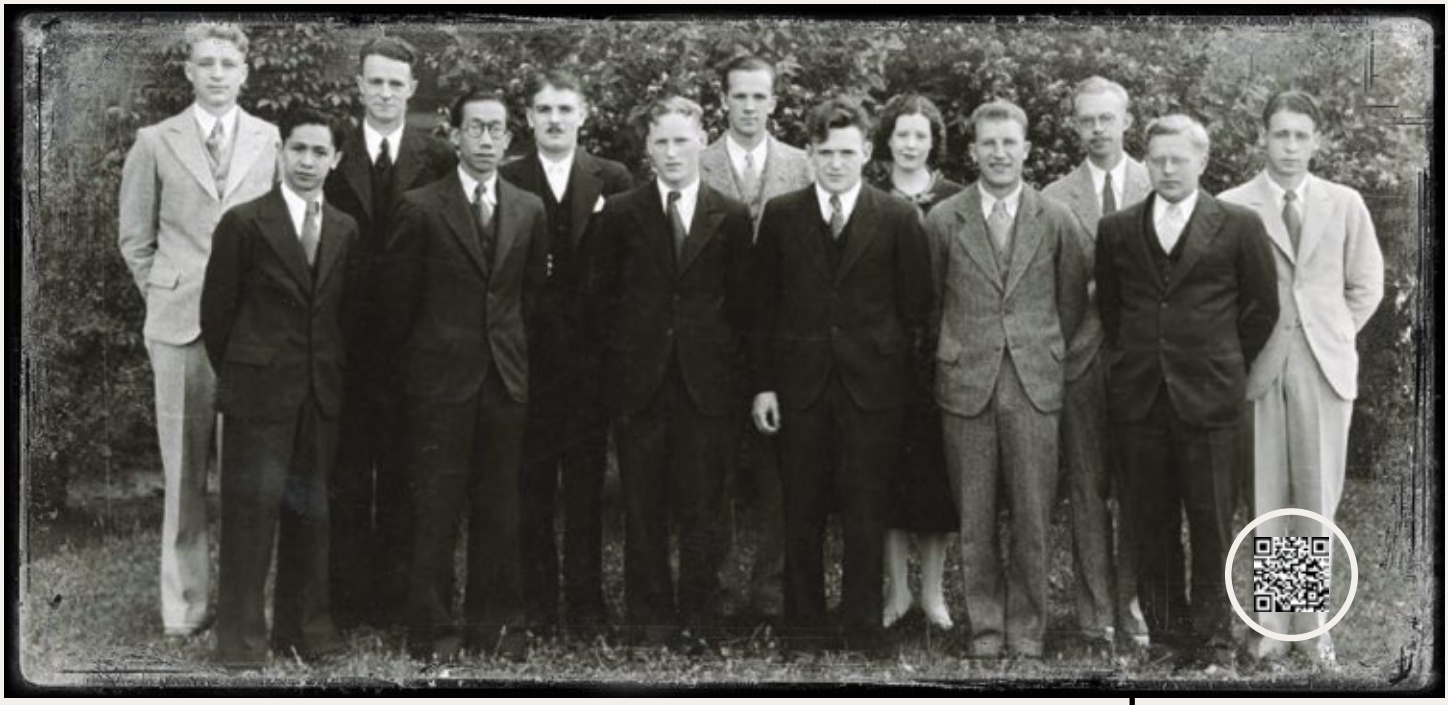
She never experienced discrimination because of her gender, she wrote in 1977. "There was no question as to my acceptance anywhere, professionally or socially." Yet, she struggled with gendered expectations.

"No matter what a woman's profession or how much money she makes, she some way gets stuck with washing, ironing, dish-washing and other housekeeping chores, all of which I hate," Frasier wrote.

She also cautioned Miller, the student who wrote to her, to think about why she wanted to become a veterinarian.

"One of my pet peeves," Frasier wrote, "is people who gush, 'Oh, I always wanted to be a veterinarian because I just love animals.' There is so much more to it than that. The brains to learn all you should know in order to do the best for the animals. The compassion and empathy with the animals in order to feel how they are feeling when they can't say 'I have a headache.' The stamina to stay with the job until it is done even if it takes seven hours of back-breaking labor in heat or mud or rain...

"Examine your motives for desiring to be a veterinarian, then if you are sure that is what you want, give it all you've got."



COURTESY WSU COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Catherine Elizabeth Roberts became the first woman to graduate from WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine with a DVM degree in 1933.

View a slideshow at her life at magazine.wsu.edu/extra/doc-roberts-life

COURTESY WSU NEWS

GUY PALMER

His quest for better animal and human health

by Adriana Janovich

Guy Palmer started working in veterinary medicine as a freshman at Kansas State University, where he landed a part-time job in a rabies research lab in 1973. His role: grunt work for which many students might not have had the stomach.

Palmer picked up packages containing animal heads—dogs, cats, cows, horses, skunks—at the local bus station, then sawed them open back at the lab. He removed and sliced into the brains, placing matter onto slides which he prepped for doctors to diagnose.

"I was only 17, so I didn't know a lot about infectious disease or anything else, but I was interested in rabies and how it was transferred from animals to humans," Palmer says. "That was the a-ha moment that took me from being a pretty vague biology student to wanting to do something very specific in terms of a career."

Five decades later, Palmer, now a world-renowned researcher with a deep dedication to improving human and animal health—particularly in low-income countries—reflects on his long career. Fighting rabies in east Africa. Founding a school for global health. Crafting strategies for combatting the COVID-19 pandemic in Whitman County and at Washington State University.

Palmer retired at the end of November 2025 after more than 40 years at WSU—first as a resident, doctoral student, and post-doctoral fellow, then as a professor and program leader. He credits supportive colleagues and administrators throughout his career for giving him time and space to collaborate, create, and explore.

"They were really open to letting you take risks and try new things," says Palmer ('84 PhD Vet. Microbiol. & Pathology), the founding director of the Paul G. Allen School for Global Health and a Regents Professor Emeritus of pathology and infectious disease. "That's a continual thread through my career at WSU. I've been the recipient of the support from really great leaders and a culture of yes. If you think you can do it, they let you take the risk."

In early October, Palmer was honored at the College of Veterinary Medicine Celebration of Excellence in Seattle. In addition, the new Dr. Guy Palmer Fund in Global Health, created by WSU Regent Howard Wright III ('77 For. Lang. and Lit.) and wife Katherine Janeway, Palmer's longtime friends, will support the work of WSU field scientists in Guatemala, one of ten countries in which the Allen School for Global Health has a presence.

Guy Palmer (opposite) explains COVID-19 vaccines in a pandemic-era video. Palmer in Tanzania (right) for the Rabies Free Africa Program

COURTESY WSU CVM

Friends and colleagues reflect on Guy Palmer and his career.
magazine.wsu.edu/extra/GuyPalmer

At retirement, Palmer was WSU's senior director of global health, chair of WSU Global Health-Kenya, and president of Global Animal Health-Tanzania. His interest in rabies from his teen years continues as Palmer serves as executive director of Rabies Free Africa, a WSU program committed to ending human deaths due to rabies.

Rabies vaccinations have been mandated in the United States since the 1950s. However, up to 159,000 people die from rabies around the world each year, mostly in Africa and Asia, Palmer says. And 99 percent of those deaths are caused by dogs.

"There's no reason for people to die of rabies," Palmer says. "That a child dies of rabies anywhere in the world is not only tragic but just ridiculous. There's a very effective vaccine."

PALMER WORKED IN THE RABIES LAB at Kansas State for two years, then moved into microbiology testing. He graduated with a biology degree in 1977 and veterinary degree in 1980. Then, he moved across the country for his first stint at WSU, where he completed a residency in pathology and laboratory medicine, studied tick-borne conditions and illnesses, earned his doctoral degree in infectious diseases, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship.

Palmer credits James B. "Jim" Henson ('64 PhD Vet. Microbiol. & Pathology), chair of veterinary pathology and the first director of the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases in Nairobi, Kenya, and Travis McGuire ('68 PhD Vet. Sci.), one of Palmer's most influential doctoral professors, with creating a connection with east Africa. Palmer made his first trip to Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985.

"It was the first time I could really see this direct link between animal health and human poverty and malnutrition," he says. "People live so close to animals there. I saw this real interaction between people and the animals they depend on for their family's well-being (such as) the need to sell them to pay for their kids' school. This lightbulb went on: This is what I want to do."

Palmer's first full-time faculty job took him to the University of Florida, where he taught in the Department of Comparative and Experimental Pathology, and he jumped at the chance to conduct research in Zimbabwe. "It was a great entry-level position for me." But, Palmer says, "I wanted to come back to the West."

He returned to Pullman in 1988 to run a research lab and teach microbiology and immunology. From 1995 to 1996, he was a senior research fellow at the Institute of Pathology at the University of Bern, Switzerland, where he discovered that an infectious agent can infect a cell and control its master regulator, creating a more hospitable environment for the infectious organisms to grow in. For this and other accomplishments, he was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the University of Bern in 2011.

After a research stint at Spain's University of Zaragoza from 2004 to 2005, Palmer returned to WSU and, with his colleague Terry McElwain ('86 PhD Vet. Sci.), Regents Professor Emeritus and former dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, began to conceive of a program that would expand WSU's global health reach and improve the lives of animals and humans worldwide. Late WSU President Elson S. Floyd championed what would eventually become the Paul G. Allen School for Global Health. More than 300 donors pitched in, including the Gates Foundation, which pledged $25 million.

But more money was needed to make the vision a reality. In 2010, Palmer recalls, "I was on my way to Ethiopia, and I got a call from Elson. He said, (Microsoft cofounder) 'Paul Allen has agreed to meet with us, so can you come back to Seattle?' I had just arrived in Bern. I had a pretty sleepless night. I turned around and flew back to Seattle. I get to Seattle, and the meeting's canceled. I fly back to Pullman, and the meeting's back on for the next day."

Allen (x'74) gave $26 million for the school, which now employs 23 scientists on four continents. Their research focuses on infectious disease surveillance, antimicrobial resistance, and viral emergence. The largest programs are in Tanzania and Kenya, where the Nairobi office has a staff of about 150 and the school has partnered with the University of Nairobi to offer a joint doctoral program.

Palmer has lost count of how many times he's traveled to Africa in the last 40 years. But it's there the work "really resonated with me. I could bring together two things I was very passionate about: rigorous research and improving people's lives."

Rabies Free Africa grew out of a concentrated effort called the Afya Serengeti Project, which started in 1996. The name change reflects the more expansive goal of the WSU-led effort, says Palmer, who became director in 2016. To date, more than 3 million rabies vaccines have been administered in Kenya and Tanzania through the program. The goal: eliminate rabies in dogs worldwide by 2030.

IN 2020, with the onslaught of the pandemic, WSU relied on Palmer's expertise, designating him chief science advisor for the university's COVID-19 response. He and his team helped turn the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory into a COVID-19 testing lab for WSU students and Palouse residents—about 100,000 people in all.

"It was scientifically fascinating to learn in real time, not out of a textbook," Palmer says. "There was no textbook on this. … I'd be up at four in the morning, reading the latest papers and the latest data on transmissions, then have meetings by seven with our medical community, trying to come up with the best possible plan."

Palmer coordinated COVID-19 testing on campus, wastewater testing at campus housing and Pullman schools, transmission and other research, and vaccine storage for Eastern Washington. He also starred in a video series explaining how vaccines work and encouraging people to get vaccinated.

"If you had told me that people would transmit a respiratory virus before they ever showed symptoms, like coughing and sneezing, I would have said, 'That's not really likely.' It was a very unusual situation," Palmer says. "WSU did a good job of stepping up and serving as a regional public health resource. I'm really proud of how we responded and to have played a significant role in that."

He is succeeded as Allen School for Global Health director by Viveka Vadyvaloo, the school's first faculty member, and Tom Kawula, former school director, as WSU's senior director of global health.

Palmer and wife Dianne (Ritchie) Palmer ('81 MS Phys. Ed.), assistant coach for women's gymnastics from 1979 to 1986, plan to stay in Pullman and keep a full calendar: skiing, traveling, mountain climbing, kayaking, and consulting.

"I'm very appreciative of the opportunities I had at WSU and the people I worked with and the confidence that the efforts I'm most proud of are going to continue," Palmer says. "It feels good knowing the things I care about will be cared for by really great people."

A recognized scholar and leader

Accolades for Guy Palmer and his work are too numerous to mention. Here are a few of his honors and appointments.

2006 Founding member and former president of the Washington State Academy of Sciences

2006 Elected to the National Academy of Medicine

2008 Elected as a medical sciences fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

2008 Sahlin Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research, WSU

2013 Sahlin Eminent Faculty Award, WSU

2016 Honorary doctoral degree, Kansas State University

2019 American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges Excellence in Research Award

2020 Honorary Diplomate, American Veterinary Epidemiology Society

2021 V. Lane Rawlins Distinguished Lifetime Service Award, WSU

Appointments:

Board member, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Council

International advisory board, Udayana University in Bali, Indonesia

Research professor at the Institute for Tropical Infectious Diseases at the University of Nairobi, Kenya

Visiting professor and international advisory board at the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, Tanzania

Universidad del Valle de Guatemala

National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine

Recording Latino HISTORY in the Tri-Cities

by Becky Kramer

RUBEN LEMOS AND HIS WIFE KNOCKED ON THE DOOR of an apartment building with a "for rent" sign when they were looking for a place in Pasco. The landlady turned the young couple away.

"She said, 'I don't rent to Hispanics. They are all drunks and drug dealers,'" says Lemos, recalling the incident from the late 1960s.

Her response didn't sit well with Lemos, a Vietnam veteran, educator, and community volunteer who grew up in a migrant farmworker family from Texas. He filed a complaint with the city of Pasco, but says it was never resolved.

Lemos's story is part of a collection of Latino oral histories gathered by Washington State University Tri-Cities history faculty Robert Bauman and Robert Franklin. Latino settlement in the Tri-Cities is a part of Northwest history that hasn't been well recorded, Bauman says. The stories capture the experiences of the fast-growing demographic in one of Washington's rapidly expanding urban areas.

Crossing borders, finding work, becoming US citizens, and striving for better lives through education are common themes in the oral histories. Lemos helped found the Hispanic Academic Achievers Program in 1990, which recognizes students in the Tri-Cities area and awards college scholarships.

Humanities Washington provided the initial grant for the oral histories, which were recorded at Northwest Public Broadcasting's WSU Tri-Cities studio. Besides giving community presentations, Bauman and Franklin use the stories in their classes on immigration and peoples of United States.

It can be hard for first-generation Latino college students to see their families' experiences as part of a larger historical narrative, Franklin ('14 MA History) says. "These oral histories provide valuable representation. They see that their stories, and stories just like theirs, are important."

Irrigated agriculture expanded across central Washington after World War II, increasing demand for workers in fields, orchards, and processing plants. Latinos have largely filled those roles, whether they were migrant laborers from Texas or the Southwest or more recently, Latin American immigrants.

Many Latinos settled in Pasco neighborhoods that were once segregated housing for Black and Asian American workers at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. About 57 percent of Pasco residents describe themselves as Hispanic or Latino, according to 2024 Census figures.

Sharlett Mena, a Washington state legislator from Tacoma, grew up in Richland and Pasco. The daughter of Mexican immigrants, she recalled stark differences between her school experiences in the two communities.

During her Richland elementary school years, "I was the only kid on the basketball team who lived in an apartment," Mena ('11 Comm., Phil.) says in her oral history. "I was the only kid whose parents had accents. My dad was a mechanic. He would come (to our games) in jeans. Other dads were in ties." When her family

WSU Tri-Cities history faculty Robert Bauman and Robert Franklin have started a collection of Latino oral histories in the locale.

COURTESY WSU TRI-CITIES

Several of the participants sharing Latino oral histories include (clockwise from upper left) Ruben Lemos, Sharlett Mena, Jerry Martinez, and Ruben Peralta. IMAGES FROM PROJECT

moved to Pasco, her school was predominantly Latino. But because of her time in Richland, Mena was placed in a mostly White classroom with a more advanced curriculum.

"My social peers were in a totally different wing of the school," Mena says. "It felt like a difference you could see and feel throughout the Tri-Cities, especially between Pasco and Richland."

Jerry Martinez described the Tri-Cities as place of opportunity for his family. His father fled El Salvador's civil war and was working in California's Central Valley when he heard about jobs in the Tri-Cities.

"He found this beautiful area," says Martinez ('20 Finance). "You could work year-round, save up money, and get yourself a nice little trailer or home."

Martinez's dad saved to bring his wife to the United States and later helped other family members immigrate. "The house I grew up in was at one point everyone's home," Martinez says. "Everyone who came from El Salvador spent some time in our family home in East Kennewick."

Martinez, who works in philanthropy, credits his parents' emphasis on education in his decision to go to college. A neighbor also played an influential role in their lives.

"An Army veteran who lived across the street was my parents' biggest supporter. He took them to get their citizenship test," Martinez says. "We call him grandpa. He has passed now, but he was a great man in our family."

Bauman and Franklin hope to expand the collection of 15 oral histories. Additional funding has come from WSU's David G. Pollart Center for Arts and Humanities and other sources.

"I think the Tri-Cities is a good place for immigrants," says Ruben Peralta, who immigrated from Mexico as a teenager.

With limited English skills, Peralta ('92 Ed.) struggled to finish high school while working at Oakdell Egg Farms to help support his family. Attending Columbia Basin College helped him catch up, and he later earned a teaching degree at WSU.

"Give people some time," says Peralta, now a nonprofit administrator. "For the first 10 years, we're working at the egg farm or in the fields, in the heat and the cold. But we move along, or our children do. When I run into my former students, they are business owners or real estate agents or school principals. I think we are thriving."

Latinos at Hanford in World War II

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Latino-Hanford

Detail of recent mural painted on the Café con Arte coffee shop near Peanuts Park in Pasco by Chicano artist Mario DeLeon. The Tri-Cities Community Connections was a partner for the project.

PHOTO (DETAIL) BY KYLE KOPTA

WSU alum Terry Kelly cofounded Spokane's Hoopfest in 1990. The annual event is the largest 3-on-3 outdoor basketball tournament in the world, with around 25,000 participants each year.

PHOTO KHQ

Hooping it up

by Nicholas K. Geranios

Terry Kelly played basketball for the Cougs 1977–80 under Coach George Raveling.

PHOTO (DETAIL) JESSE TINSLEY/ *SPOKESMAN-REVIEW*

MANY PEOPLE COULD CLAIM the title of Mr. Basketball in Spokane, Washington.

John Stockton is surely the greatest player the city has ever produced, but no one has a more complete basketball résumé than Terry Kelly.

Kelly ('81 Accounting) was a superb high school player at Gonzaga Prep, starred at nearby Washington State University, and later was a founder of Hoopfest, which claims to be the largest 3-on-3 outdoor basketball tournament in the world.

Kelly is a member of the Inland Northwest sports hall of fame and remains general counsel for the WSU Foundation.

Basketball is in the blood of the 68-year-old Spokane resident, and always has been.

The 6-foot-1 guard led the state in scoring at 26 points per game during his senior year at Gonzaga Prep. The all-state player was recruited heavily by numerous college programs. But his goal was to play at WSU for legendary coach George Raveling.

"Everybody loved him," says Kelly, who had attended Cougar Cage Camps as a youth and followed WSU sports teams closely.

"The games were fascinating to me," he says from his fourth-floor office on WSU's Spokane campus. "You could feel the energy."

When the time came to pick a college, Kelly says it wasn't a hard choice. He wanted to play in what was then the Pac-8 Conference and face teams like the legendary UCLA Bruins, who were just past the John Wooden era but still a formidable force.

"I was a small-town guy from Spokane. But I was playing against UCLA. There was no more big time than that," he says.

"I felt like I could play there," Kelly says, on why he spurned the University of Washington, Gonzaga, and other programs. He also declined an offer from Michigan State, which won a national title under Jud Heathcote while Kelly was in college.

"I would have been on a national championship team," he muses.

But playing for Raveling, who died last year, was magical.

"He was not like anyone I had been around," Kelly says. "His passion and commitment; he was all in. He was going to take you to the promised land. Everybody knew that he was special. You were proud to be part of the program."

In a 2024 interview with the *Spokesman-Review*, Raveling recalled how Kelly was instrumental in luring college basketball recruiters to Spokane.

"Terry opened things up in Spokane," Raveling said. "Terry was the validation that, yes, there are kids in Spokane who can play in the big time.

"Terry was the essence of the student-athlete. I've coached a lot of athletes, but I've only coached one or two who

PHOTO SOURCES: 247SPORTS (BELOW, LEFT) , CHRIS JOHNS/*SEATTLE TIMES* (DETAIL—BELOW RIGHT)

embodied all the characteristics of a student-athlete, which encompasses the classroom, the community, the games, their behavior. He might be my favorite student-athlete ever."

Washington State never finished with a losing record while Kelly was on the team.

IT ALL CAME TOGETHER IN THE 1980 SEASON, when the Cougars managed to beat every other team in the conference, breaking a 27-game losing streak to UCLA in the process. Kelly was captain of the 1980 team, the first WSU squad to make it to the NCAA Tournament in 39 years.

With Donald Collins as the 1980 conference Player of the Year, Raveling's Cougars earned their first national ranking since 1950 and went 22–6 during the regular season.

The Cougars were rewarded with a No. 5 NCAA seed and faced 10th-seeded Penn. They held a 10-point lead in the second half, but Collins fouled out late and the Quakers rallied for the upset.

Kelly finished his college career with an average of 10.6 points per game over 101 appearances.

"Three years ago I had an opportunity to be general counsel full-time for the WSU Foundation," he says. "I feel like I'm back!"

The foundation manages about $800 million in an endowment fund and brings in more than $150 million a year in donations and grants, Kelly says.

The income is especially important because the government continues to scale back its support for higher education, he says, while "our private support only gets higher."

Kelly has no plans to leave the foundation job. "I'm committed to the vision of WSU and want to be a part of that."

KELLY HAS AT LEAST ONE OTHER BASKETBALL CLAIM TO FAME. He was a cofounder of Spokane's annual Hoopfest, which brings thousands of players to Spokane for a weekend of streetball every summer.

At first he was skeptical that a city the modest size of Spokane could support an outdoor tournament that has grown to attract some 6,000 teams per year.

"I didn't think there was that much interest in Spokane for basketball," he says, and doubted the event could rival the city's annual Bloomsday road race, which has drawn more than 50,000 runners per year at times.

But he agreed to become a member of the founding board and served on the panel for 26 years.

"It's been an incredible ride," he says of Hoopfest. "It's turned into a massive tournament ... a signature event for the community."

Kelly wasn't just a founder of Hoopfest. He played in numerous tournaments, winning his bracket several times.

Kelly has remained close to changes in the college game. He became friendly with coaches Dick and Tony Bennett when they rebuilt the WSU program earlier this century. The Bennetts emphasized defense and Kelly said it was a pleasure to watch their teams dismantle more physically gifted opponents.

"They made (other teams) look silly," Kelly says. "I loved (Derrick) Low, (Robbie) Cowgill, and (Kyle) Weaver and those guys. It was a clinic."

He is unhappy with the rampant changes in college sports that have resulted in many players jumping teams after nearly every season, unlike the kind of commitment when he played.

"I started 80 straight games," Kelly says. "I had a strong connection with the fans. Palouse fans are incredible."

When not on the court, Kelly studied business administration with an emphasis on accounting. "My professors told me to take accounting. They convinced me accounting was a better major than marketing."

After graduation, he attended the New York University School of Law and then landed a job at a prestigious Spokane firm. He specialized in finance and taxation and was in private practice for 36 years.

During that time he started representing the WSU Foundation.

"I developed a niche in corporate governance for nonprofits," Kelly says.

More stories about Coach Raveling, including memories from former Coug players

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Raveling-remembered

Remembering Raveling

by Adriana Janovich

THE CROWD KNEW WHAT TO DO.

When Coach George Raveling would wave both arms up, Cougar basketball fans responded with an eruption of shouts and cheers. When he waved his arms down, Beasley Coliseum became silent.

The legendary Washington State University head men's basketball coach who commanded the crowd and propelled the program to national prominence died September 1, 2025, at 88.

"George Raveling was an iconic figure not just at Washington State, but throughout the world of athletics," says former WSU Director of Athletics Anne McCoy. "George is a Hall-of-Famer in every sense, and his positive impact on the athletics history at Washington State will continue to resonate through those he came in contact with, including student-athletes, staff, fans, and alumni."

The first Black head basketball coach at WSU and in what was then the Pac-8 Conference, Raveling came to Pullman in 1972. He stayed 11 years, the longest stint in his coaching career. "And I loved every second of it," he told *Washington State Magazine* in 2021.

Raveling was twice named the Pac-8/10 Conference Coach of the Year and twice took the Cougs to the NCAA tournament. The team's 1980 appearance marked the first for WSU since placing second in 1941.

Raveling coached at the University of Southern California and the University of Iowa, and served as assistant coach for the 1984 and 1988 US Olympic men's basketball teams. He was inducted into the WSU Athletic Hall of Fame, National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, and Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, winning its prestigious John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award.

On August 28, 1963, Raveling famously crossed paths with Martin Luther King Jr. during the March on Washington while working security for the famed civil rights leader on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. After King's *I Have a Dream* speech, Raveling spontaneously asked him for his copy of the address, and King handed it to him. In 2021, Raveling donated the typewritten pages with King's handwritten notes to his alma mater, which then lent them to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Raveling returned to WSU in early 2020 to watch his name raised to the rafters of Beasley Coliseum. He reflected, "It was one of those extraordinary moments in my life when I could walk back and see some of the faces from early in my career and feel their warmth and have nothing but good memories."

by Adriana Janovich

ADOBE STOCK

Venison

A THICK AND HEARTY BELLY-WARMING STEW. Tenderloin with a rich and creamy mushroom sauce. Savory summer, German, and breakfast sausage. Homemade jerky.

These are just some of the flavorful preparations of the wild game—elk and deer, in particular—Rob Phillips hunts each fall.

High in protein, rich in minerals, and lower in fat than many other kinds of red meat, elk, deer, and, if you're really lucky, moose are versatile alternatives to beef. Chest freezers are replenished with recently procured wild game by late November. With careful planning, caches can last well into the next hunting season.

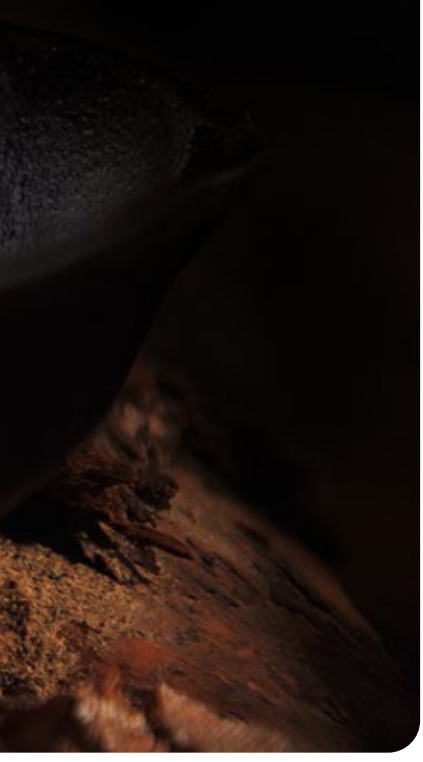
"If you get a deer or an elk, you can eat on it all year long. They're big animals," says Phillips ('78 Comm.), an avid angler and hunter whose weekly outdoors column has run in the *Yakima Herald-Republic* since 1991. "I got an elk in Montana a year and a half ago, and I'm still enjoying some of that meat."

Elk season starts in mid-September and goes through mid-November for most hunters in eastern Washington; it lasts just a couple of weeks for hunters in western Washington. Buck hunting in a few higher elevations starts in mid-September, and general seasons for deer last until late November. Moose season is open October through November in northeast Washington. A limited number of once-in-a-lifetime moose permits are issued each year on a drawing basis.

Typically, hunters are allowed one deer or elk per season. Phillips got his first deer in 1977 while still a student at Washington State University. He's hunted most years since, killing approximately 30 deer and a couple of elk in five decades.

COURTESY ROB PHILLIPS OUTDOORS

Yakima Herald-Republic outdoors columnist Rob Phillips enjoys the pursuit—and praises the flavors—of wild game, especially venison.



In an effort to keep elk out of crops, some ranchers and other private landowners open their acreage to hunters through a special program run by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. "You take an elk or two out of a herd, and they'll move on pretty quickly," Phillips says.

One of his favorite places to hunt white-tailed deer is Whitman County. "On the Palouse, they're mostly grain-fed due to the surrounding wheatfields, and they're some of the best-tasting deer in the world, if you ask me."

Elk and deer taste best when trimmed and deboned in the field, Phillips says. Leaving meat on the bone lends a "gamey" flavor that many eschew. Otherwise, elk enjoys a mild flavor. Deer venison's flavor is slightly stronger and more distinctive.

"Elk and venison taste differently because they eat different things," Phillips explains. "Elk are more like cattle; they graze on grass. Deer are browsers; they eat leaves and flowers," as well as grass, fruit, and nuts.

"There's probably no healthier red meat than deer and elk," Phillips says. "They haven't been shot up with growth hormones or whatever else might go into meat these days. Wild game meat is low in calories and cholesterol, and there's very little fat."

There's 7 grams of fat in a 3-ounce serving of ground deer venison compared to 13 grams in lean ground beef. Elk is similar, with 7.4 grams. Because both elk and deer contain so little fat, they easily dry out, becoming tough if cooked too long. So Phillips errs on the side of medium rare, with temperatures of 130 to 135 degrees.

Venison has been consumed since ancient times, particularly in northern Europe. During the Roman period in Great Britain, game was roasted or boiled and paired with sweet, fruity sauces made from dates or prunes.

In North America, deer and elk were important First Foods for Indigenous peoples. While there's no definitive record of turkey being on the table at the first Thanksgiving, venison was a centerpiece. Records show Wampanoag hunters brought five deer to the feast.

These days, chronic wasting disease is a concern. It's a fatal spongiform encephalopathy disease caused by abnormal proteins called prions. CWD affects deer, elk, and moose, and spreads when infected animals shed prions through bodily fluids, picked up by other animals through direct contact. Signs—emaciation, erratic behavior—typically show in late stages, when CWD attacks the nervous system.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, CWD has been documented in wild or captive cervids in 36 states—including Washington, California, Idaho, and Montana—as of April 2025. It can only be definitively diagnosed through laboratory testing of lymph nodes or brain tissue.

The Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, part of WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, confirmed the state's first case of chronic wasting disease in July 2024. WADDL is the primary CWD testing laboratory for Washington, California, and some tribal organizations.

"WADDL is on the front line of detection and monitoring for the spread of this deadly wildlife disease," says executive director Kevin Snekvik ('91 Zool., '94 DVM, '02 PhD Vet. Sci.). "Heading into the fall 2025 hunting season WADDL's surveillance testing for CWD, in partnership with WDFW, was expanded to test over 9,000 animals, including deer, elk, and moose. WADDL prioritized these samples and hired multiple additional technicians to ensure this critical testing is completed in a timely manner."

Health officials advise against eating meat from infected animals, though the disease is not known to affect humans or domestic animals. Tests are required in certain hunting regions. Phillips has never had an animal test positive.

Many hunters use modern rifles. Phillips uses a more primitive muzzleloader. "It's more challenging to take an animal with a bow or muzzleloader," he says. "You've got to get closer. It takes more skill. (Deer and elk) have an incredible sense of smell and hearing, and a large field of vision. You've got to be really good to get close."

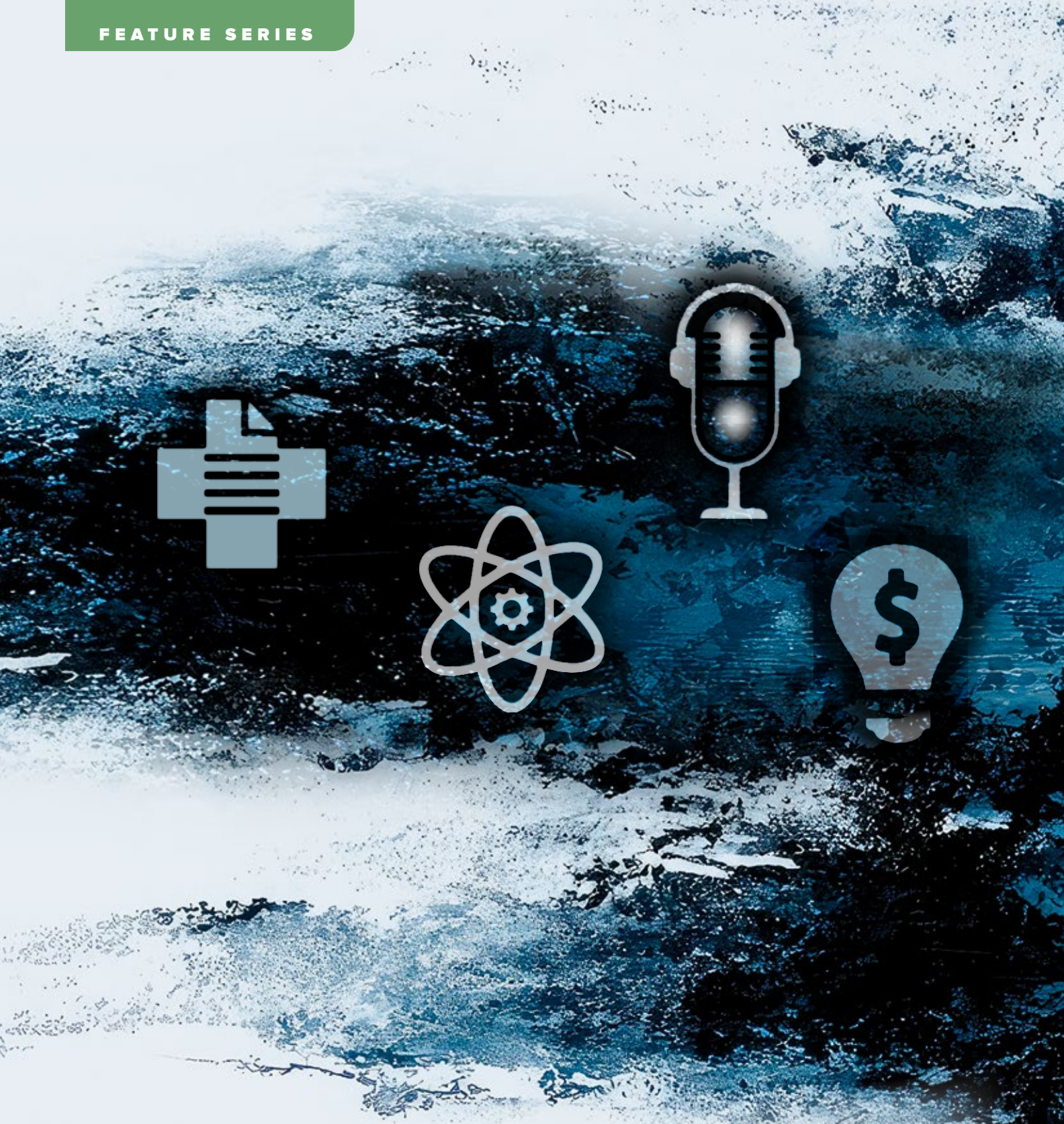
Competition can be tough during the general hunting season, especially in central Washington where Phillips lives in Gleed, just northwest of Yakima. Particularly for elk season, "the hills are alive with hunters," Phillips says. "Some families have had the same elk campsite for generations. They've been coming up here since the '50s, and they set up some pretty amazing camps—with generators, lights, TVs. One camp even had a hot tub heated with a wood fire. It's a whole deal. You'll see $450,000 motor homes parked up in the woods for two weeks."

At the same time, he says, "You'll also see a guy sleeping in the back of a Subaru."

Phillips tries to avoid the masses. And, because of how close he lives to the foothills of the Cascade Range, he's often home in time to sleep in his own bed. "I can be at the foot of Cleman Mountain in probably 20 minutes," he says. "It's just up the road. I can be hunting in no time."

VENISON RECIPES

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/venison



THE FOUNDATION OF HOW WE INTERACT with a rapidly changing world is literacy. Beyond reading and writing, we need scientific, financial, health, and media literacy to think critically, make decisions, and communicate effectively. In this series, Washington State University faculty and alumni experts weigh in on trends, teaching, and techniques for WSU students, and all of us as lifelong learners, to obtain and leverage core knowledge that can improve our lives.

STAFF ILLUSTRATION


So what *is*
our state
of **literacy**?

The CASE for scientific literacy

by Becky Kramer

Johanna Brown's daughter just turned two, **BUT THE TODDLER IS ALREADY LEARNING** to look for birds on family walks and count them.

Brown ('13 MEd) encourages her daughter's curiosity and observation skills—traits she hopes will lead to a lifelong interest in science and the natural world. Through her work at the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Brown has the same goals for Washington's K-12 students.

"I want every student to have that deep feeling that their questions and wonderings about the world are valuable and should be pursued," says Brown, OSPI's associate director of secondary science education.

Many decisions in life require a basic grasp of science and related math concepts. Should you get a vaccine booster shot? What are the risks of building in a floodplain? How will a vehicle's mileage-per-gallon affect its operational costs over time?

Yet studies show that fourth graders' interest in science drops off by the time they reach eighth grade and continues to decline through high school. Only 40 percent of Americans achieved high scores on a short test of basic science concepts, according to a 2019 Pew survey.

And while Americans generally view science favorably, the National Science Foundation reports, relatively few take part in any kind of scientific activity, including helping their kids with science projects.

For Brown, who leads grades 6-12 science education at OSPI, those kinds of statistics represent missed opportunities for individuals and society. Deficits in scientific literacy have repercussions for the US economy, innovation, and government policy.

"Scientific literacy is at the heart of so many decisions we make—individually for our families, but also for our community, the nation, and the planet," Brown says.

Ironically, the lackluster interest in science comes at a time of unprecedented access to information, says Robert Danielson, associate professor of educational psychology at Washington State University Spokane.

People can follow well-known scientists on social media and ask them questions. Many scientific journals now offer free access to their articles. And if you're wondering what causes thunderstorms, how some birds navigate by the stars, or what nuclear fusion is, smartphones provide instant answers.

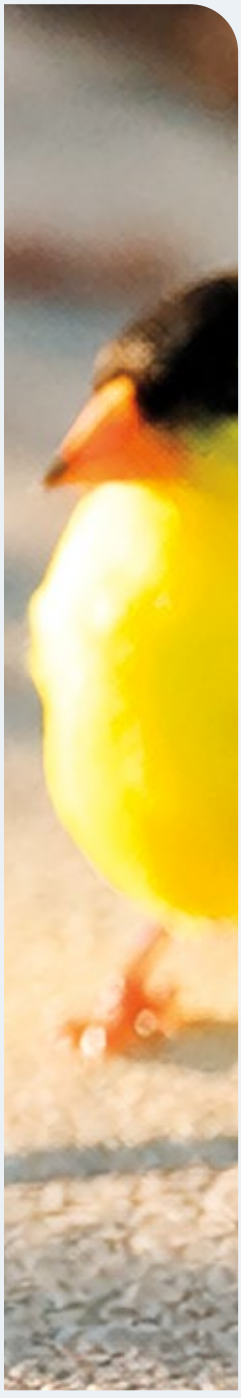
Danielson didn't have those options as a kid. "If I wanted to learn something science-related on a weekend, I could ask my parents. I could look it up in an encyclopedia or go to the library. Or I could wait to ask my teacher on Monday."

BEFORE SHE JOINED OSPI, BROWN was a nationally recognized Pullman High School science teacher and a recipient of the 2021 Presidential Award for Excellence for Math and Science Teaching.

"I shed some tears when I left teaching," she says. But her work at OSPI aligns with her goals of helping other teachers convey science in relevant ways.

During her classroom days, Brown's chemistry classes took field trips to the WSU creamery and dairy farm, where they got a first-hand look at chemistry's role in ice cream's structure and freezing point and how cow manure composts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Brown's students used their kitchen microwaves and chocolate bars to measure electromagnetic waves at home.

Scientific literacy involves more than memorizing facts for a test, she says. Developing that deeper understanding of scientific principles better serves students in the long run, Brown says.



ADOBE STOCK

COURTESY JOHANNA BROWN

"I LOVE THE IDEA OF A SCIENTIFIC CONSPIRACY, where a bunch of scientists get together and all agree to doctor the books," Danielson says with a chuckle. "But that's not how science works."

The spread of conspiracies like "climate change is a hoax" require a target audience unfamiliar with the process of scientific discovery, says Danielson, who studies the public understanding of science and related policy implications.

Results from studies are reported in scientific journals. Before publication, the paper is peer reviewed by other scientists. After the findings are publicly released, other scientists seek to replicate the research results.

> *"Scientific literacy is at the heart of so many decisions we make—individually for our families, but also for our community, the nation, and the planet."*

"A single finding does not make a breakthrough," Danielson says. "We see this with climate change. More than 99.9 percent of scientific studies and 97 percent of scientists agree that burning fossil fuels causes the earth to warm. One or two studies might dispute that, but they are not based on science."

Danielson says increased scientific literacy would help quell misinformation. "If people questioned some of these claims, they would fizzle out instead of going viral on social media channels."

Parents' interest in science sets a positive example for their kids, Danielson adds.

In graduate school, he was part of project with fourth graders and the Mattel Children's Foundation. It used Hot Wheels to teach kids about potential and kinetic energy—or stored energy and energy in motion.

Parents liked helping their kids with the experiments. The students measured how far Hot Wheels traveled after being released down ramps of various lengths and steepness. When Hot Wheels collided, they graphed the transfer

of energy from moving to stationary objects.

"We realized that many parents didn't have the vocabulary to describe the physics concepts demonstrated in the experiments," Danielson says. To correct that oversight, the parents received definitions of terms like force, motion, mass, and velocity.

Raising the parents' scientific literacy rubbed off on the kids. "Seeing your parents playing with Hot Wheels and using a science vocabulary makes you want to adopt that terminology, too," he says. "Now everyone's having fun and learning science."

FOR ADULTS, HOBBIES CAN ALSO REKINDLE an interest in science.

"Some of my friends say they didn't like science in high school," Brown says. "But they love foraging for mushrooms. Or they're nerdy about their garden. Or they're interested in understanding how electricity works in their house."

Brown encourages people to use their hobbies to ponder how fungi reproduces, why some plants require acidic soils to thrive, or what happens when they plug in a vacuum cleaner.

Parents often ask Brown how to get their children interested in science. She encourages them to spend time with their kids wondering "why" and coming up with hypotheses.

"When you have questions about the world around you, don't immediately look up the answer," she says. "First, try to figure it out yourself, then compare your ideas with the answer."

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Ask Dr. Universe fields questions from kids about the world around them, inspiring curiosity and a love of science. Find out more about the WSU program and podcast at **askdruniverse.wsu.edu**.

by Addy Hatch

Good information leads to BETTER HEALTH

HEALTH LITERACY MEANS KNOWING where to find good information about health, then using that information to make decisions.

In theory, it should be easier than ever when almost everyone has a computer in their pocket. But no smartphone is a match for human nature.

People look to their friends and family for information, for example. Or they seek information online and on social media, even if those sources aren't evidence-based. They resist new technologies like online scheduling and health records.

And too often, they nod "yes, I understand" to a nurse, pharmacist, or doctor when nothing could be further from the truth.

"If you don't understand what your provider's telling you, or you don't understand how to gather information, you're often making poorly informed decisions," says Stacey Hust, a professor and health communication expert at Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow College of Communication.

> *"We want to create an environment that is without shame, because patients and families should never feel like they're asking a dumb question."*

Some people struggle with health literacy due to limited English skills, or low literacy in general. But even highly educated people are challenged. "In the health field, it almost sounds like we're talking in a different language," says Angela Brittain, an assistant professor in the College of Nursing.

Radha Nandagopal, a pediatrician and associate dean at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, agrees: "The language of medicine and health care can be so inaccessible."

Government and professional organizations recommend health care providers gear their written materials to grade-school reading levels. Most aren't hitting that goal.

WSU Health Sciences colleges recognize the issue. Medical students and medical residents, for example, learn how to use plain language when talking to patients or producing written materials for them. They use a "teach back" communication technique to confirm a patient understands the information they've been given.

"We work with them on emphasizing the most important points and not getting lost in the weeds, overwhelming people," Nandagopal says. "We want to create an environment that is without shame, because patients and families should never feel like they're asking a dumb question."

Another challenge to health literacy: the Internet and social media are awash with health information, much of it low quality, false, or even dangerous.

Radha Nandagopal (below middle), a pediatrician and WSU associate dean, helps train medical students. COURTESY ELSON S. FLOYD COLLEGE OF MEDICINE | ***Left, from top:*** Stacey Hust (at left) is a professor and associate dean in the Murrow College of Communication. PHOTO RAIGAN SNELL/MURROW COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION | Angela Brittain is an assistant professor in the College of Nursing. FROM VIDEO COURTESY ANGELA C. BRITTAIN / X | Megan Undeberg is a professor and director of the CPPS rural health program. COURTESY COLLEGE PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

"That part of it is getting to be the hardest thing for us now," says Megan Undeberg, professor and director of the rural health program at the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. "I tell my patients... if they don't know something and type it into Dr. Google, you can get a million answers, none of which is correct." Artificial intelligence turbocharges that issue.

And while too much information may be one hurdle, health literacy is also endangered by the lack of it. Especially for older patients, the information they need to make decisions about their health is trapped in electronic health records that they struggle to access.

"We have more tools than we've ever had. We may have power in these tools, but how do we use them so we get what we need to support our care? It's a work in progress," says Undeberg.

All of the WSU experts say it's important to find authoritative sources of information online. Brittain suggests, for example, relying on a local public health department's website for information and links, or the renowned Mayo Clinic. Websites with an address ending in .edu (education) or .gov (government) are most likely to have an evidence-based foundation, she says.

Then use that information as the basis for discussions with health care providers, Hust says.

"Part of it is reading trusted and reliable sources of information. The other piece is asking lots of questions and not being afraid to ask those questions," she says. "The provider can be good at communicating but if a patient doesn't know what to ask, they still might not be able to get all the answers that are important to their daily life."

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/health-literacy

by Becky Kramer

Money matters for COUGS

Shortly after she arrived at Washington State University, Scarlett Gavelovskaya realized she **NEEDED A FINANCIAL GAME PLAN**.

A slew of money decisions awaited the first-year student in Pullman. How much should she and her roommates spend to decorate their dorm suite? Could she accept a last-minute invitation to Silverwood Theme Park and still cover her monthly expenses? Was it time to get a credit card?

"Me being a fresh adult and new to finances, I knew I needed some kind of guidance," says Gavelovskaya, now a sophomore. "I could see that some of my peers were handling their money responsibly, and others weren't."

Cougar Money Matters came to her aid. The non-credit program teaches WSU students about personal finance through online training, workshops, and peer mentoring. The practical guidance covers everything from creating a budget, understanding a financial aid package, and managing college costs to saving for big-ticket expenses after graduation, including a home and retirement.

According to the World Economic Forum, just half of US adults are financially literate. That means having the knowledge to make sound decisions about their finances, including saving and investing, understanding risk, and managing debt.

For many students, college is the first time they're managing their own money, says Maja Gillespie, director of College Affordability Programs at WSU's Office of Academic Engagement. It's the ideal time to learn about finances and avoid common pitfalls, she says.

Some students have parents who modeled good budgeting habits. Others took a high school personal finance class. But others are fuzzy about how interest rates affect credit card balances and the consequences of missed payments.

"I want to help students avoid learning the hard way," Gillespie says. "Improving your credit score is like losing weight. It's easy to damage your credit and it takes a lot of work and dedication to get it back."

More than 7,000 WSU students across all campuses have taken part in Cougar Money Matters programs WSU has offered the program since 2018, with support from BECU.

LEARN HOW TO EVALUATE SEARCH RESULTS AND FILTER SEARCH ENGINES AT THESE SITES:

MedlinePlus: A website from the NIH National Library of Medicine that has dependable consumer health information, with a tutorial on how to evaluate health information online.

National Institute on Aging: How to Find Reliable Health Information Online

American Medical Association: Finding Reliable Health Information Online

*USE **QR CODE** OR **LINK** OPPOSITE FOR URL LIST*

STAFF ILLUSTRATION FROM ADOBE STOCK

From top: Maja Gillespie, director of College Affordability Programs, talks to WSU students about money management; Mariana Lombera; Alex Roaf COURTESY COUGAR MONEY MATTERS, MARIANA LOMBERA, AND ALEX ROAF, RESPECTIVELY.

Mariana Lombera heard about Cougar Money Matters during WSU orientation. "I wanted to learn how to manage my money, but I didn't know where to start," says Lombera, now a junior. "Money can be kind of a scary topic. If you make mistakes, they can shadow your future."

Through the self-paced lessons, Lombera learned how to track her spending, evaluate credit card offers, and establish a credit history. Having a better grasp of her student loan's payback terms reduced her anxiety about the debt.

Senior Alex Roaf meets with about 40 students each semester as a peer financial advisor for Cougar Money Matters. As their ability to manage money grows, he sees fellow students' worries decrease. Roaf can relate. "I come from a low-income background, and I didn't grow up talking too much about money with my family."

With his graduation coming up in spring, Roaf is starting to ponder job opportunities, where he'll live, and whether it makes sense to buy a car or lease one.

Gillespie is planning a series of workshops aimed at helping students transition from college to their first professional job.

They'll cover things like comparing the cost-of-living in different cities, understanding health insurance benefits, and getting started on student loan repayments. The sessions will complement last year's popular workshop on eating well on any budget.

"We want to give students the tools that will help them successfully manage their money over a lifetime," Gillespie says. "We want them to have a strong financial future."

> *"We want to give students the tools that will help them successfully manage their money over a lifetime."*

COUGAR MONEY MATTERS
PRESENTED BY BECU

Test your financial literacy and learn more about **Cougar Money Matters**.

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/coug-money

A HEALTHY media diet

by Adriana Janovich

Media algorithms are designed to feed consumers information they predict they'll like the most, with a goal of maximizing time on a site. That happens even if the news is fake or problematic.

ONE ANTIDOTE IS MEDIA LITERACY, which builds critical thinking skills in evaluating whether a piece of mass media is attempting to inform, persuade, or simply entertain. It enables consumers to identify the creator's point of view and not to merely accept messages at face value.

"A lot of it is about self-reflection," says Jordan Foley, an assistant professor of journalism and media production in the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University. "It's a process of self-discovery."

Complicating that process is misinformation, or false or inaccurate information, and disinformation, or false information that's deliberately intended to mislead.

Foley says disinformation "implies much more intentionality. It often relates to state-sponsored information," such as propaganda for the purpose of promoting a political cause or point of view.

A lack of media literacy makes you less of an independent thinker, Foley says. "You're more likely to glom onto and repeat the quip or phrase or soundbite from whatever news organization or personality that is most familiar to you.

"If you don't have a framework for thinking about the information you consume, you're at the whim of someone or an organization, and it affects your choices–who you vote for, what you advocate for. It can create this self-reinforcing bubble around yourself; it is easier to simply double-down and reject an idea than it is to admit one has been duped or deceived."

At the right, Foley offers expert advice on becoming a savvy consumer of information.

COURTESY KREM

Make time

"You have to make time to be media literate," Foley says. "A quick step-by-step guide is the wrong approach. You have to create reflexive habits. You're embedded in algorithms everywhere. You're not always conscious of what you're looking at." For example, is the news item written or presented in such a way as to purposely evoke outrage and other strong emotions? Be skeptical, Foley advises, noting, "It's less about making sure you know the correct answer and more about having a framework for navigating this disorganized stew of news and information without coming away disillusioned."

Combat confirmation bias

People tend to seek news or information that confirms their existing beliefs, even if they're unaware they're doing so. Search terms, even ones that seem objective, reflect inherent biases. Choose carefully the keywords or phrases used to frame a search, and try searching with several different terms. Similarly, seek out a variety of sources. "You don't have to read every news story from every news outlet," Foley says. "But it's not as simple as just reading CNN and Fox News and looking at 'both sides' of a single issue. Try to read or at least skim five or six articles on the same topic and reflect on how they differ." And be careful: "Fake news websites use similar page layouts (as credible news outlets), which can make it harder to distinguish them."

Look for a byline

Authorship is important, Foley says. "Ask yourself: Who's writing this? Who's creating this content?" Was it a public relations specialist representing a corporation or institution, a political pundit favoring a particular party, an activist fighting for a specific cause, an influencer trying to get free stuff or favors, or a journalist on staff at a news outlet? Be wary of news items without bylines or simply reference a disembodied "staff."

Watch what you eat

Foley likens media literacy to cooking a healthful meal or adhering to a healthful diet. “Are you going to go to Jack in the Box every day or are you planning grocery trips and meals to make sure you have fresh fruit and vegetables?” he asks. When you’re consuming information, you should be in a similar mindset for a media diet, he suggests.

Decide what you need

“Ask yourself: What information would I personally need to believe this claim? What evidence do I need to accept this information and what type of evidence would change my mind? Expertise is there for a reason. We can’t give up on expertise and evidence,” Foley says.

Check sources

How many sources are included? Does the story contain sources with varying and opposing views? What perspectives are missing? “Be able to distinguish between primary and secondary sources,” Foley advises. “Find primary sources. Are they referencing policy documents or court documents? Access the actual memo, complaint, and decision. Go to the original source. It makes it so much easier to see the bias or misinformation or disinformation in whatever news outlet you’re reading.”

Don’t share

Don’t forward or post information without independently verifying it. “The people who are spreading disinformation are very aware of how easy it is limit our ability to be skeptical about the things that matter,” Foley says. “They sow so much doubt that people can’t tell what’s true anymore and eventually give up trying to figure it out.

“Media literacy gives us tools to resist that kind of paralysis. If we stop trying, that’s them winning. It’s giving up trying to find the truth.”

Reading in the age of AI

by Larry Clark

IT’S NEVER BEEN EASY FOR STUDENTS, at either the college level or younger, to read and analyze challenging texts. In the past, many students sought a summary from Wikipedia, CliffsNotes, or an encyclopedia.

The rise of artificial intelligence and large language models (LLMs) introduces a new wrinkle in the search for understanding what we read, with lightning-fast AI-produced summaries, outlines, or deeper analysis.

At the same time, people are reading less and less. Nearly half of Americans read zero books in 2023, according to a YouGov survey. The steep decline is particularly evident among college graduates.

Children also exhibit a decline in literacy proficiency. National Assessment of Educational Progress data shows 41 percent of fourth graders and 34 percent of eighth graders are below basic reading levels as of 2024.

People read much less for pleasure too, notes Margaret Vaughn, a literacy expert and professor in the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences at Washington State University. “Among eighth grade students, 83 percent report that they do not frequently read for enjoyment,” she says.


literacy expert Margaret Vaughn

While not all the literacy struggles are due to increased AI use, it contributes to how colleges and schools adapt ways of teaching how to read. It also leads to speculation about a “post-literate culture” in which media are consumed through screens rather than denser texts.

THE AI ERA CAUSES CONCERN, and shows some promise, for WSU faculty who teach reading. “We’re seeing a really radical shift in this moment. If I’m a student and that text is too complicated, there’s an easy route now that wasn’t there just two or three years ago,” says Kate Watts, a professor in the WSU Department of English.

COURTESY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, SPORT, AND HUMAN SCIENCES

English professor Kate Watts

The risk with LLMs is that students may not develop critical thought, Watts says. She explains that AI-generated essays often lack true analysis and synthesis, and typically produce an amalgamation rather than novel thinking.

Rachel Sanchez ('09 MA English), a professor of English and WSU's director of composition, agrees. "I don't want them to offload their critical thinking skills to something else they're not in control of," she says.

The use of AI and LLM gets complicated by external factors that are often overlooked. When Sanchez assigned an article lamenting the lack of student reading, her class offered a key insight. "Students explained they were busy, balancing jobs, managing family obligations, and struggling to find the time to commit to complex material," she says.

Practical pedagogical changes and adaptive strategies, however, can meet students where they are, Sanchez says.

director of composition Rachel Sanchez

"I'm not sure as educators that we're adequately explaining why it's important to grapple with a complex text," Watts says. "The magic actually happens in reflection. It happens in asking them to think about that experience, and what does that mean for the next time?"

To ensure students develop genuine critical skills, WSU instructors in English advocate for teaching reading in a strategic way. Watts advises instructors to teach intentional reading methods, such as fast-forwarding to a text's conclusion and working backward to analyze necessary data points.

Learning how to use AI effectively also requires opportunities for failure and reflection. Watts describes a task in which students use an AI tool to summarize an article and then reflect on the result, comparing it with their neighbor's summary. Students determine the source of any discrepancy.

"Was it a flaw in the AI, an issue with their prompt, or a gap in their own comprehension? This moves students past a simplistic 'good or bad' understanding of AI to recognizing that the technology is complicated and requires informed critical engagement," Watts says.

TEACHERS AT THE K-12 LEVEL also need to shift their methods in reading instruction, and they need more support for adaptation, so their students engage more with reading, Vaughn says.

Vaughn, who also hosts a literacy podcast called *Getting Smarter*, advocates for teachers to be allowed more flexibility to develop a love of reading in students.

"It's much easier to follow a script than to be flexible and adaptive in the moment," she says. "But we have to shift our view about teachers. Teachers are skilled professionals. They didn't go into the profession to read a script."

Vaughn shares an example of an elementary teacher reading about volcanoes. "When the teacher noticed students passionately sharing their personal experiences hiking and exploring mountains like Mount St. Helens, she stopped her planned lesson," Vaughn says. The teacher pivoted, and the students' spontaneous excitement led to two and a half weeks of extensive, authentic research driven by student questions.

Vaughn also recommends a "tackle" approach to get kids connected to reading. Parents and teachers can follow a few simple principles: time to read; access to high interest, authentic, and culturally responsive text; choice in reading material; and having students engage with books and with each other.

AI can support adaptive strategies, Vaughn says, such as providing assistance for students who struggle or have disabilities. It can also generate content that students then analyze and edit for errors.

The goal is not to eliminate technologies like AI and LLMs, but to manage them critically. Whether it's for K–12 or an English 101 class at WSU, students can gain confidence in reading and analysis, even when powerful tools promise to do the thinking for them.

WSU computer science prepares for AI

AI is radically changing computer science education with its coding and analytical efficiency. Washington State University's School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science isn't waiting for the tool to overwhelm the discipline. Associate Professor John Schneider has watched tools evolve throughout his career. The 1,000-page mathematical handbook he relied on in grad school is now "a doorstop. AI is a whole other level, but it is a tool."

While AI offers huge productivity boosts, WSU educators are wary of the risk that students skip the deep problem-solving necessary for true innovation. To combat this, the program is revamping its curriculum, ensuring students learn core fundamentals before using generative AI as an assistant, while incorporating AI technology into courses at all levels. Ananth Kalyanaraman, computer science professor and the school's director notes, "That will make the field a lot more impactful, and AI obviously becomes a tool but certainly not the end."

Read more at
magazine.wsu.edu/extra/AI-compsci

COURTESY WSU NEWS | COURTESY WSU DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

COURTESY JOSE ALFREDO LLANOS

> "I'm kind of living the life of a professional baseball player without playing baseball."

Una voz para los Seattle Mariners

by Adriana Janovich

JOSE ALFREDO "FREDDY" LLANOS travels with the team.

He goes to all home and away games–162 in all during the regular season–often putting in 10- or 12-hour workdays. Find him on the field or in the dugout, assisting players such as Dominican pitcher Luis Castillo and Mexican pitcher Andrés Muñoz.

A senior communications coordinator for the Seattle Mariners, Llanos ('17 Comm.) serves as a translator for the team's Spanish-speaking athletes, aiding with interviews as well as day-to-day interpreting needs.

In his fourth season with the Ms, Llanos is typically the first person who Spanish-speaking players turn to for help talking with English-speaking journalists, and for explaining nuances in language and American culture in their daily lives as professional athletes in the United States.

"Normally, every road trip, (the Mariners organization) will tell us what to wear. For example: Wear a polo with a jacket optional. Or, flying home to Seattle, you can wear your sweats. This time it was: Wear a sport coat. I walked in and found them all arguing: What's a sport coat? The term meant four different things to four different players," recalls Llanos, who was able to explain the term as well as find a photo online to illustrate it.

Major League Baseball has required teams to have at least one full-time Spanish-language interpreter since 2016.

Llanos grew up speaking Spanish at home and learning English in school, sometimes missing class to translate for his parents at government and other offices. His parents, immigrants from Mexico who met in America, were farmworkers. Llanos credits them with his work ethic. "I've always seen my parents as hard-working people," he says. "I'm very grateful to them."

Ever since he can remember, Llanos wanted to become a sideline reporter for soccer. When he first studied broadcast journalism, "I really struggled with the format. It was a whole new way of writing."

Also new: being in front of a camera. "Growing up, I was very shy and quiet. On TV, you have to express your personality. That was a big challenge."

His first job–outside of picking apples and cherries alongside his mom during summer–was as a general news reporter at KNDU, the NBC affiliate in the Tri-Cities, where he grew up. "It was all in English," Llanos says. "My parents loved watching me on TV, but my mom made the comment, 'I can't understand what you're saying.'"

He jumped when a bilingual position opened at Telemundo in Tri-Cities, then later became the sports director for Telemundo in Oklahoma City.

The Mariners called in spring 2022, and Llanos switched from news to public relations, including translating for players

COURTESY KING 5

"maybe once a month." The Ms acquired Castillo that summer and, says Llanos, "that guy flipped my whole career. I was needed every day to help translate."

He had never translated live on-air, let alone national TV, and sought advice from Japanese-language translator Allen Turner, who interpreted for Ichiro Suzuki. Focus on the overall meaning, not the exact words, Turner encouraged.

Players hail from Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Venezuela. One of the most difficult parts of the job: "I had to get used to their slang."

Game-days, Llanos helps prepare quick facts and seasonal context for print, radio, and broadcast sports journalists. Once players and members of the media arrive, he switches to scheduling interviews and translating.

"There are about seven players who will need me at some point, whether it's for translating or moral support," Llanos says, noting, "I'm kind of living the life of a professional baseball player without playing baseball. I'm in the stadium. I'm in the dugout. I'm in the clubhouse. I'm with the team all the time. I'm just happy to be here."

Watch videos about Llanos and the Mariners from Seattle's King 5 and Fox 13 news.

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Llanos

Llanos with pitcher Luis Castillo COURTESY KING 5

Tireless worker *for young people*

by Adriana Janovich

Tricia McGinnis came to campus as a college freshman believing she would major in business.

"I naively registered for calculus without having any pre-calculus in high school," she says.

"I remember that awful feeling in class of being lost, and I seriously questioned whether I was cut out for college. It was disheartening for me, wondering if I really belonged on campus."

Her doubt disappeared at Washington State University after a chance meeting with associate professor Ed Bannister, who ran one of the country's top advertising internship programs. "He inspired me to explore my potential and gave me confidence to take risks and change majors," Raikes says. "I left his office excited and clear about what I wanted to do."

Two and a half decades later, after a successful advertising career, **TRICIA (MCGINNIS) RAIKES** ('78 Comm.), together with her husband Jeff, cofounded the Seattle-based Raikes Foundation, which is committed to helping youth have the voice, choice, and power to shape the decisions that affect their lives.

"Access to a quality public education is a fundamental right, and there are a lot of barriers right now for many of our young people," Raikes says. "Furthermore, it's hard to be productive and succeed in school without safe and stable housing."

For her contributions toward advancing education and laying the groundwork for long-term change, Raikes is the recipient of the 2025 Regents' Distinguished Alumna Award, the highest honor WSU bestows upon alumni. The award was presented during a special reception November 4 in Seattle.

"Tricia embodies so many of WSU's core values—improving the human

COURTESY TRICIA RAIKES

> "WSU gave me the opportunity to learn and grow, dream big, challenge myself, and really think about what was possible."

condition, achieving a just society, and enriching the region we call home," former WSU President Kirk Schulz wrote in his nomination letter. "Her commitment to educating herself about systemic challenges and her willingness to dedicate considerable resources and energy to helping solve them is an exceptional demonstration of the Cougar spirit."

Her brother Brian McGinnis ('77 Hosp. Busi. Mgmt.) is also a Coug as are a number of her extended family members.

"I understand how lucky I was to have a quality education that was accessible," she says. "WSU gave me the opportunity to learn and grow, dream big, challenge myself, and really think about what was possible."

After working in advertising in Seattle and New York City, Raikes joined Microsoft in 1981 to develop a creative services department. That was the same year Jeff joined Microsoft. He became president of the business division, then served as the CEO of Gates Foundation from 2008 to 2014.

She left Microsoft in 1987 as director of creative services to focus on family and business interests, and to start the foundation. The Raikeses are part of the Seattle Mariners ownership group and have a farm in Nebraska for row crops, cattle, and online sales of American wagyu. They also own and operate Alderbrook Resort and Spa on Hood Canal.

They launched Raikes Foundation in 2002 and have supported many organizations in Washington state and across the country that work to improve the systems that serve young people. "We're committed to returning the majority of our wealth back to society," Raikes says. "And we believe in putting our resources to work now. We're a giving-in-time philanthropy. It gives us and our team a greater sense of urgency and focus."

In 2017, the couple cofounded Giving Compass to connect prospective donors with nonprofit organizations in the United States.

"Our hope is that we will be able to look back at redesigned systems and see improved, inclusive pathways for young people, particularly young people who have been the furthest from opportunity, so they can reach their full potential," Raikes says.

In her nomination letter for the Regents' Distinguished Alumna Award, Victoria Miles ('93 Comm.), associate vice president of principal giving for the WSU Foundation, wrote, "Tricia approaches her philanthropy with humility, understanding that serving the underserved requires empathy, compassion and team building. She tirelessly works toward a just and inclusive society where all young people have the support they need."

Raikes is humbled by this recognition. "It's deeply meaningful to be honored by the university that helped shape who I am," she says. "I see this as a reflection of the many people who invested in me and opened doors along the way, and I'm so grateful. I think about the student I once was—curious, eager to learn, and finding her place in the world—and I hope it reminds other students, especially women and first-generation students, that they already have what it takes to thrive and that it is their curiosity and drive that will take them farther than they can imagine."

Medical Mythbuster

by Elizabeth Chambers

JOEL BERVELL ('25 MD) made the inaugural TIME100 Creators list, which recognized the medical doctor as one of the most influential digital voices of the year.

Known to his 1.3 million followers as the "medical mythbuster," Bervell uses platforms like TikTok and Instagram to challenge health disparities, debunk medical misinformation, and empower patients to advocate for themselves. He also hosts *The Dose* podcast with the Commonwealth Fund to discuss fresh ideas about the future of health care.

Bervell's inclusion on the TIME100 list is the latest in a series of national accolades. He was recently named to the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list and garnered a Peabody Award for his innovative use of digital storytelling to illuminate the real-world impact of bias in medicine. His work has been featured on *Today*, TED, and other national forums.

The recognition is "a powerful reminder of how unconventional platforms like

Read more and watch some of Bervell's TikTok videos

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Bervell

Now with a medical degree in hand, Bervell plans to stay in Washington to complete his training through an internal medicine residency. The specialty aligns with his passion for connecting with patients and solving complex puzzles, he notes.

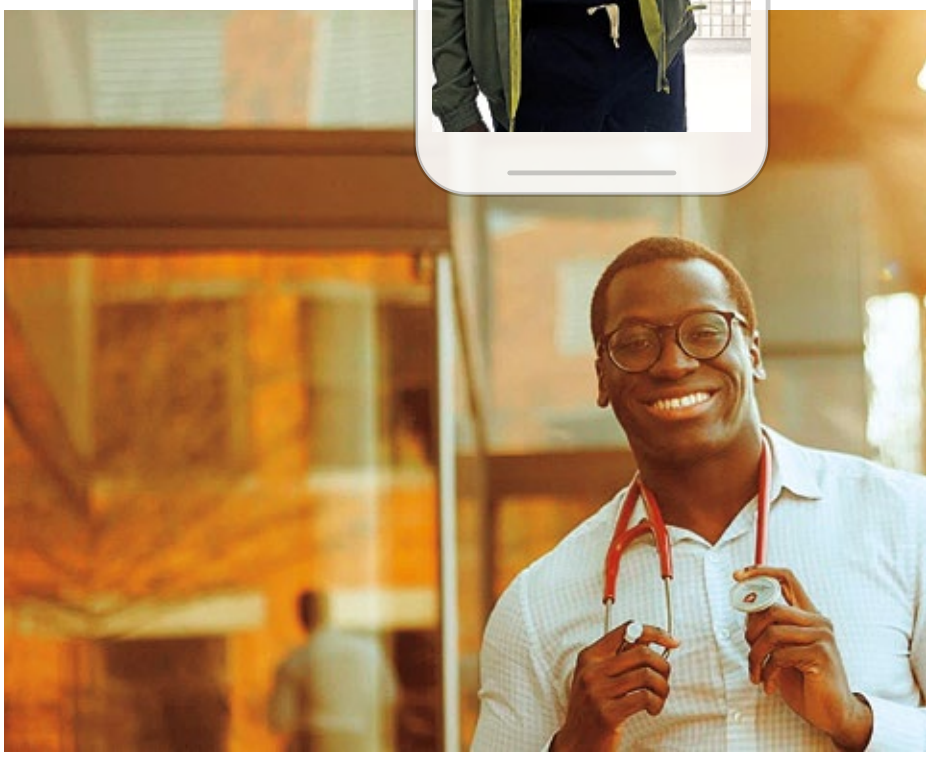
"My journey to choosing a specialty has been shaped by a deep commitment to health equity, patient advocacy, and a desire to bridge gaps in care—whether through direct patient interactions or systemic change," Bervell says.

From the airwaves to the exam room, Bervell remains committed to using every tool at his disposal to build a better health care system for all.

social media can meet patients where they are, reshape medicine, and spark change," Bervell says.

A Ghanaian-American, Bervell has long been driven by a mission to make medicine more accessible for students who are underrepresented in the field. His animated YouTube series, *The Doctor Is In*, aims to inspire young students to pursue careers in STEM.

At WSU's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, Bervell founded the Coug Health Academic Mentoring Program (CHAMP), a student-led initiative that connects medical students with high school students across Washington. He also served as president of WSU's Medical Student Council and chapter of the Student National Medical Association.



Committed to public service

by Adriana Janovich

As soon as he transferred to Washington State University, **KEVIN SCHILLING** knew he wanted to get involved with public service.

He ran for and won a senate seat representing the College of Arts and Sciences in Associated Students of WSU for 2016–2017. He was also a 2017 Top Ten Senior, earning the prestigious recognition for community service, including his ASWSU role.

"In the office, we challenge each other to think deeper and harder, constantly pushing one another toward greater accomplishments," he said back then.

After nine years, a couple of graduate degrees, and two terms on the Burien City Council—including a stint as mayor and another as deputy mayor—Schilling ('17 History), a self-described "feather-ruffler," says the sentiment still holds true.

"I'm one who constantly pushes people to go beyond ideological considerations," he says. "I've always been skeptical of extremes. I favor common sense and reasonable approaches to determining what's best for the city."

Incorporated in 1993, Burien—population just over 50,000 people—sits southwest of Seattle on Puget Sound. Schilling grew up in this suburban King County enclave, attending church and school at St. Francis of Assisi.

"I had a pretty run-of-the-mill, working-class, old-school Catholic upbringing," he says. "We went to Mass every Sunday and soccer games on Saturday."

After graduating from Raisbeck Aviation High School in nearby Tukwila, he took a gap year, backpacking in India and teaching English in western Nepal, before enrolling in community college and transferring to WSU with the goal of teaching history and getting involved.

He interned at the Thomas S. Foley Institute of Public Policy and Public Service at WSU, tutored Cougar football players, volunteered with Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse, served on the advisory board of Grassroots Education Nepal, and hosted a show on KZUU student radio. One of his proudest moments was collaborating with fellow ASWSU senator Josue Zuniga ('18 Poli. Sci.) on a resolution calling for the student body and administration to protect undocumented students on campus. "That day," he wrote in 2017, "we made a difference."

PHOTOS COURTESY (FROM TOP): JOEL BERVELL / INSTAGRAM, JOEL BERVELL / FACEBOOK, WSU NEWS

Professors who made a difference to him include Jennifer Thigpen, in the history department, and Michael Delahoyde, in English. Schilling credits Thigpen with teaching him how to write "clearly and logically, and weave narrative into history." He credits Delahoyde with showing him "how to get different perspectives in your writing and always question motives." Similarly, Cornell Clayton and Richard Elgar, director and assistant director of the Foley Institute, respectively, "showed me real-world situations and real-world implications in the realm of political science."

But, Schilling says, "I never thought I would go into elected office."

After WSU, Schilling went straight to graduate school, completing two master's degrees in international history, one at Columbia University and another at the London School of Economics. When he returned home in 2019, he ran for city council, taking office in early 2020.

"I pretty much haven't taken a break since," says Schilling, who was 25 at the time he added his name to the ballot. "I wasn't seeing a lot of young people getting involved. And I wanted to see if I could put what I had learned into practice."

One of his biggest challenges—and accomplishments—was handling "a serious political issue around homelessness that was not of our own making but that we needed to respond to." In early 2024, the city passed a law banning camping and storing property in public spaces. The ordinance, which Schilling supported, requires people to accept services or relocate. The King County Sheriff's Office, which polices Burien, initially refused to enforce the ban, suing the city over the law. The case was dismissed in federal court.

"Every day is a new challenge. Every week is a new problem," says Schilling, who came out as a member of the LGBTQ community halfway through his first term, in late 2021.

In his second term, which runs through 2027, he's focusing on economic development, housing, regional partnerships with the Port of Seattle, access and accountability for mental health and addiction services, and services for unhoused people.

Schilling ran for state representative in 2025 and intends to continue in Washington state politics. Long term, he wants to effect change in Washington, D.C.

He encourages others to get involved, too.

"A lot of people are scared to just try. Am I scared to run for office? Totally," Schilling says. "It's hard to put yourself out there and get criticized by everybody. But you can never get anything done if you don't ever try to do anything."

Check out WSU's current Top Ten Seniors

wsu.edu/toptenseniors

"...you can never get anything done if you don't ever try to do anything."

***At left*:** After WSU, Schilling earned master's degrees in International and World History in a joint Columbia University/London School of Economics program COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ***Below, from left*:** As a Top Ten Seniors awardee at WSU PHOTO ROBERT HUBNER | Showing some Cougar pride in Times Square COURTESY GARRETT KALT / FACEBOOK | Campaigning in Burien COURTESY ELECTKEVINSCHILLING / FACEBOOK

Sun shines *at home*

by Adriana Janovich

COURTESY KOMO

Growing up in Silverdale, she was the girl with the camera.

"I always had a camera in my hand," says **STELLA SUN** ('18 Comm.), who knew by middle school that she wanted to pursue broadcast journalism.

When it came time for college, "WSU was the only school I applied to." The Edward R. Murrow College of Communication at Washington State University "was a natural fit."

So was her chosen field. Sun moved quickly through TV stations in Missoula, Montana, then Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Phoenix, Arizona, finally landing her dream job before turning 30 at her top destination: home.

"It's awesome working for the station I watched as a kid," says Sun, who returned to the Seattle area just over a year ago as a meteorologist and reporter for the KOMO *Morning News* team.

Since September 2024, she's been covering weekend weather, plus general assignment news Monday through Wednesday. The 2024 holiday season marked her first Thanksgiving and Christmas home in seven years.

"I always wanted to come back and be with my family," says Sun, the middle of three sisters. Their parents–immigrants from South Korea–now live in the South Sound. "My sisters send me photos of my parents watching me on TV, and it's awesome. This is my dream, to work in the market that I grew up in and that my parents live in."

Sun took her first broadcast classes at Central Kitsap High School, where she anchored a student news program and worked on the student newspaper. She also served as historian for the associated student body and presented weekly announcements.

"I'm very extroverted," says Sun, who joined an improv club as an outlet for her outgoing personality. "I enjoyed acting and thinking on my feet. I love meeting people. I love talking to people."

At WSU, she was a member of Chi Omega sorority and worked as a Cougar Connector, leading campus tours for prospective students. She also interned at KHQ in Spokane and got involved with Cable 8 in myriad roles–from promotions director to sports reporter and as an actress on a show.

Advanced Television News, taught by Marvin Marcelo and former WSU professor Trent Boulter, was a favorite class. "We produced our own shows, made our own packages, and went out and conducted interviews and found stories," Sun says. "It just solidified that I wanted to go into journalism."

> "The Edward R. Murrow College of Communication... was a natural fit."

Learn more about the **Broadcast Snapshot Project** from the Asian American Journalists Association.

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/aaja

She landed a job straight out of Murrow as a reporter at KTMF in Missoula, which "needed fill-ins for everything and threw me into weather. I realized I wanted to learn the science to better explain what was going on."

A year later, Sun enrolled in an online meteorology program at Mississippi State University while working full time. "I basically focused on work and school and didn't have a personal life," says Sun, who finished the certificate in late 2023.

By then, she had completed two years as a reporter and weekend morning forecaster at KOAT, where *Albuquerque Journal* readers voted her "Best Reporter" in 2022. In 2023, while working as a traffic anchor, reporter, and meteorologist at KPNX in Phoenix, she was part of a team that won a Rocky Mountain Southwest Emmy Award for "Best Morning Newscast."

Working in the Southwest fulfilled her ambition to be in a Top 50 market. Albuquerque-Santa Fe ranks 48. Phoenix is 11. "I was 27 when I made it to Phoenix, which is very young. But it's the age my mom was when she was moving to a different country and learning a new language."

Today, her mom sells Korean skincare products, and her dad manages property. "They've always supported me," Sun says. "It feels amazing to me that, as their kid, I'm reporting the news and talking about the weather to an American audience."

Asian journalists—female Asian journalists, in particular—are underrepresented in TV newsrooms around the country. A 2024 study by the Asian American Journalists Association found that more than 70 percent of TV stations don't have enough on-air staff to be representative of Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in their market and that one in four have no Asian American women on air.

Luckily, Sun had a role model in the Seattle-Tacoma market. She was inspired watching former KOMO reporter and longtime KING anchor Lori Matsukawa, a now-retired Japanese American journalist. Now, Sun hopes other extroverted girls—girls who maybe also like to carry around cameras and ask a lot of questions—might see her on TV and aspire to launching their own broadcast careers.

"It was a fast climb," Sun says. "And I'm very grateful for it. Chasing a career was great but it was also lonely. I missed my family. My dream is home."

PHOTOS AUBRIE LEGAULT

Bubbles aren't *just for the holidays*

by Adriana Janovich

SPARKLING ROSÉ complements roast turkey on Thanksgiving. A crisp *blanc de blanc* or *blanc de noir* cuts through the fat of a rich and hearty prime rib at Christmas dinner. Of course, bubbles also make for a perfect welcome drink at a holiday party. They really sparkle at a midnight toast on New Year's Eve or during a romantic dinner on Valentine's Day.

But, says winemaker Kenny McMahon, bubbles "don't always have to be pegged for a celebration. They can be on the dinner table for the main event at the holidays—or on a random Tuesday night, just because."

Thanks, in part, to **KENNY** ('16 PhD Food Sci.) and **ALLISON** ('15 PhD Food Sci.) **MCMAHON**, Oregon's Eola-Amity Hills are really starting to sparkle.

The Eola-Amity Hills American Viticultural Area, or AVA, established in 2006, is primarily known for Pinot Noir, which accounts for nearly 80 percent of

the grapes grown there. The McMahons also want the region southwest of Portland to be known for their specialty: sparkling wines made in the traditional method with modern-day science.

The husband-and-wife team make bottle-fermented sparkling wines using Pinot Noir, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Meunier, and Chardonnay grapes from Eola-Amity Hills and the nearby Willamette Valley and Columbia Gorge AVAs. There's only a handful of wineries doing what they're doing in the region. And, they argue, their education at Washington State University helps sets them apart on their quest to elevate Oregon's sparkling wine industry.

"Since graduating, we've put both the technical and people skills we built at WSU to work—taking on winemaking in a way that really reflects how much our time there shaped us. That hands-on, innovative spirit we experienced at WSU still drives us today," says Allison. She also notes enjoyment of sparkling wines is on the rise.

The number of people in the United States who drink sparkling wine on at least a monthly basis jumped from 56 to 72 percent between 2019 and 2022, according to a report by IWSR Drinks Market Analysis. During the same period, the total number of Americans drinking sparkling wine increased 30 percent.

"We like to say, 'Good things happen when things go pop,' especially at a holiday party or a friendsgiving gathering," Kenny says. But, he also notes, "Sparkling wine pairs with a lot of things."

Consider oysters, sushi, a simple roast chicken, Gruyère gougères, and almond-flavored madeleine cookies.

"The quality of the wine starts with the grapes," says Allison, who grew up in the Seattle area and arrived at WSU Pullman in January 2012. Kenny, originally from Kentucky, came to campus eight months later, in August 2012. "I was one of his tour guides," she says.

While Allison focused on Syrah, Kenny specialized in sparkling, working with Ste. Michelle Wine Estates for his dissertation and, later, Two Vintners, and Erica Orr at Orr Wines and Orr Wine Lab.

Jobs took her to Michigan, him to Kentucky, and both to Minneapolis and New Jersey, where, they say, they were using their sensory and food science knowledge but felt removed from the wine element of what they studied in school. So, in 2017, they wrote a business plan for their own winery, which, Kenny says, "was always our goal."

So was seeking out grapes cultivated with organic and biodynamic practices for their winery, Arabilis Wines, in Amity, Oregon. The name, in Latin, means that which can be farmed or able to be plowed. (Think: arable.) "It evokes a sense of place and legacy," Kenny says. They feel the moniker embodies their close partnerships with local farmers as well as their goal of someday owning their own vineyard.

After years of preparation and a move to Oregon, they launched their business in late 2021 with still wines from three varietals: Pinot Noir, Rosé, and Chardonnay. But, Allison says, "We always knew we would hang our hat on sparkling. Oregon's cool climate, the soil, and the types of grapes are all very well suited for sparkling."

Last year, they produced 1,600 cases, expanding to about 2,000 cases this year. Sparkling wines now make up about 95 percent of their production, and their wines—both still and sparkling—have received acclaim from *Wine Enthusiast*, *Wine Spectator*, and *International Wine Report*.

"It's a marathon, not a sprint, with sparkling wine," Kenny says. "There are so many steps to it, and it takes so much time. Not many people have the heart or the wherewithal."

If others share their passion for bottle-fermented bubbly, the McMahons want to help. After purchasing specialized equipment for sparkling wine production, they began helping other wineries go "pop" through their service-focused business, The Oregon Sparkling Wine Company. Since 2023, Allison says, "We've made sparkling wine for other brands and helped other brands finish their products."

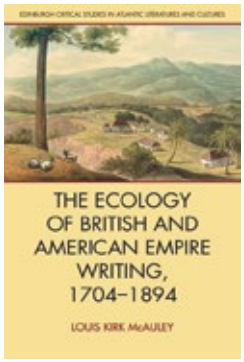
There's increasing need for support for small- and medium-sized wineries that make sparkling wine using traditional methods, she says. In the niche but growing industry, facilities are few, and most require a certain volume from clients.

"The craft element is really important to us," Kenny says. "We're intentional in everything we do. We seek precision, focus, freshness, and elegance. Sparkling wine is not an inexpensive product to produce, but we don't want it to be a luxury product marketed only for the elite. It's a special product, and it has a lot of heart and soul behind it.

"It's not only for holidays and special occasions. It's also for weeknights and whatever you want it to be for."

Learn more about Arabilis Wines.

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Arabilis



THE ECOLOGY OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN EMPIRE WRITING, 1704–1894

Louis Kirk McAuley
Edinburgh University Press: 2024

This scholarly but approachable text opens familiar books to environmental awareness and industrial expansion. By analyzing works such as Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* and Robert Louis Stevenson's Samoan writings, Louis Kirk McAuley shows how "empire writing" served as both a chronicle and a catalyst of ecological change. Not only that, but he addresses the continuing relevance of historical literature to contemporary environmental problems.

To build his theoretical frame-work, McAuley, chair of the English department at Washington State University, draws partly on Jason Moore's idea that capitalism is a political project as well as a process contingent on biology and geology. Using this and other sources, McAuley offers a lens through which to view the interconnected histories of human and non-human natures. Specifically, he draws attention to the British Empire as co-produced by humans, other animals, and plants.

His theoretical foundation also provides a tool to challenge traditional readings of British and American literature, revealing how these early texts acknowledge the environmental disruption of the expanding empire.

Take McAuley's interpretation of Robinson Crusoe's discovery of English barley on the "desert" island. What has traditionally been seen as divine providence becomes, in McAuley's analysis, a window to a larger story of how European expansion reshaped global environments. This important moment signals Crusoe's shift toward ecological awareness. Crusoe changes from seeing his surroundings in purely religious terms to understanding how humans can cause environmental change.

Equally compelling is McAuley's treatment of Caribbean sugar cultivation. Here, he turns to 18th-century Scottish physician and poet James Grainger, who wrote the 1764 poem "The Sugar Cane." McAuley argues it reveals how empire writing celebrated as well as exposed the environmental costs of monoculture agriculture.

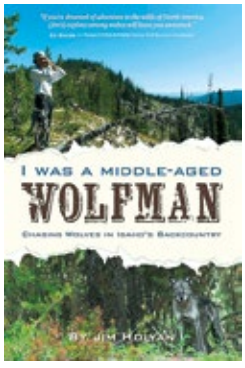
His discussion of Stevenson's encounters with invasive species in Samoa challenges readers to see the description of the sensitive plant *Mimosa pudica* as an example of the "horror of creeping things," itself a commentary on rampant ecological change.

"Entropical" transformation—McAuley's concept combines "entropy" and the "tropics"—helps readers understand how colonial agriculture wrote irreversible changes throughout the empire. This innovation partly explains how island dynamics, once disrupted by European commerce, suffered damages that affect them to this day.

McAuley's interdisciplinary approach draws on environmental history, economic theory, and literary analysis. The result is a robust and highly readable book that speaks to the past while providing vital insight to contemporary issues. In fact, McAuley's own experience in Kingston, Jamaica, while researching this book, narrated in the afterword, adds to his analysis. His observation of hurricane damage to historical archives and the contrast between tourist resort and urban poverty shows how "unruly natures" continue to shape both environmental and cultural memory.

Part of the Edinburgh Critical Studies in Atlantic Literatures and Cultures series of Edinburgh University Press, the book was shortlisted for the 2025 ASLE-UKI book prize in ecocriticism. It's a reminder that the best literary criticism can make us see old books and the natural world with new eyes.

— DJ Lee



I WAS A MIDDLE-AGED WOLFMAN: CHASING WOLVES IN IDAHO'S BACKCOUNTRY

Jim Holyan '86 Wildlife Biol.
Caxton Press: 2025

The hauntingly beautiful howl of a lone wolf leaves an air of mystery lingering in the nightscape at the start of the prologue of Jim Holyan's new memoir. He hears the call after about a half hour in his tent and listens as two other animals answer while he drifts off to sleep.

"I find it one of nature's most enchanting and thrilling sounds, right up there with the call of a loon, the hoot of a spotted owl, or the clicking of the hooves (tendons actually) of thousands of caribou moving over the tundra," he writes in chapter six, contemplating the cry of the animals he tracks for 18 seasons.

The wildlife biologist details his adventure-filled career of looking for and monitoring lupine packs in central Idaho, the frontlines of the reintroduction of wolves in the West. His collection of stories covers surveying, radio tracking, assisting law enforcement, and providing information, education, and outreach. First-hand accounts include highlights of wolf recovery efforts, like identifying new pups, and lowlights, such as discovering the remains of wolves killed by poachers' bullets or poison.

Holyan began working with the Nez Perce Tribe's Wolf Recovery Project in 1997, two years after the Idaho legislature rejected the Wolf Recovery and Management Plan, developed by the Legislative Wolf Oversight Committee, and 70 years after the US government drove the wolf population to near extinction in the Rocky Mountains.

When the state of Idaho stepped back, the tribe stepped in, partnering with the US government to aid in one of its most controversial wildlife programs: capturing wild wolves in Canada to reintroduce them to the Idaho wilderness and Yellowstone National Park.

Management transferred to Idaho in 2006. Within a year, the state planned its first regulated wolf hunt since reintroduction in 1995.

In 2011, wolves in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming were removed from the Endangered Species list. Today they remain protected in the other contiguous 48 states, listed as threatened in Minnesota and endangered in the others.

Holyan kept tabs on the elusive North American Gray Wolf from 1997 to 2014: how many there were, where they were, and how fast they were reproducing.

The post was "the highlight of my wildlife career," he writes. "Nothing else came close. It had been a dream to work with wolves…Wolf biologist was the best job I will ever have…I am proud of my part in wolf recovery."

—Adriana Janovich

BRIEFLY NOTED

AN ENGLISH PASTORAL

Eric McElroy '13 Music, piano;
Chu-Yu Yang, violin
SOMM Recordings: 2025

McElroy and Yang perform early twentieth-century British music from composers Ivor Gurney, Arthur Bliss, and Gerald Finzi, as well as music by Ian Venables, one of Britain's most accomplished living composers. McElroy, described by *Musical Opinion* as "one of the leading composer-pianists of his generation," joins award-winning Taiwanese violinist Joe Chu-Yu Yang in showcasing transformations in English pastoral music with modernist elements.

COME ON IN, DON'T GET LONESOME

Lauri Cruver Cherian '86 Ed.
BookBaby: 2025

In this historical novel, set in 1910 and inspired by the author's own ancestry, each new boarder at Tacoma's Old Alpha is greeted with the line from which the book title stems. Cherian's great-grandparents ran the boarding house, and their six-year-old—Cherian's grandmother—is the darling of the residence that housed immigrants who poured into the boomtown for railroad jobs and work in fishing, shipping, milling, and boat building.

THE ENIGMA OF GRIEF AND THE SUBLIME

Robert Arnold Johnson '64 Zool., Susan Eileen Pickett and Mark G. Brown | 2025

The authors explore the relationship between grief and the sublime, purporting that grief is sublime sadness—and widely misunderstood. They offer works of literary, musical, and visual art to encourage feeling the sublime within sadness of loss. Johnson practiced medicine in Walla Walla for nearly two decades before switching careers and opening his own private psychiatry practice. He retired in 2018.

ANIMATE(D) ARCHITECTURE: A SPATIAL INVESTIGATION OF THE MOVING IMAGE

Edited by Vahid Vahdat
Liverpool University Press: 2024

This volume, edited by Vahid Vahdat, assistant professor of architecture and interior design at WSU's School of Design and Construction, explores the imagined architecture of animation. The interdisciplinary approach surveys the role of space in animation and an analytical frame to reconceptualize space. It was a finalist for best anthology of 2025 in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards.

NATURAL PROTEIN-BASED STRATEGIES FOR BATTERIES

Chenxu Wang '23 PhD Mech. Eng. and Weihong Zhong
World Scientific Publishing: 2025

This book explores how natural proteins can be engineered into key components for electrochemical energy storage, and an overview of recent advances, advantages, challenges, and future perspectives for developing high-performance, environmentally friendly, and cost-effective EES technologies. Zhong is a professor at the WSU School of Mechnical and Materials Engineering. Wang was her student.

'60

JOSEPH E. WORSHAM ('69 English, Ed.) was inducted into the Washington State Football Coaches Association's Hall of Fame.

'70

TERRY VAN ALLEN ('76 Phys. Ed.) received the Knowledge and Understanding Deliver Optimum Service award and was named one of the top federal employees in the nation by the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service.

DAN CASTLES ('78 Fin.) received the WSU Alumni Achievement Award. In 1998, Castles founded the digital media company Telestream, which pioneered video content software.

'80

TOM BESSER ('86 PhD Vet. Microbiol.), a professor emeritus in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology at WSU, received the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award from the Wildlife Disease Association.

BOB LEDFORD ('86 Busi.) was appointed to the board of directors for Orion Group Holdings, Inc., a specialty construction company in Houston. Ledford is president and CEO of Prime Electric, an electrical construction contractor in Bellevue.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu appointed **DAVID NAGAHIRO** ('86 Arch.), president of Boston design firm CBT, to the city's Civic Design Commission..

DOUG CALL ('87 Wildland Rec., '97 PhD Zool.), a senior vice provost and Regents' Professor in the Paul G. Allen School for Global Health at WSU, is president of the Washington State Academy of Sciences.

DEBBIE GRACIO ('88, '95 MS Elec. Eng.) is the director of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland.

JILL VALLEY ('88 Comm.) was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Silver Circle Honor Society for the northwest region. Valley was a reporter for WOWL-TV in Florence, Alabama, and an anchor for KECI-TV and KPAX-TV in Missoula, Montana.

KHURSHEED MAMA ('86 Vet. Sci., '89 DVM) heads the Department of Clinical Sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University.

'90

J. D. BASER ('94 Ag. Ed., '05 MED Higher Ed. Admin.), an associate professor in the crop and soil sciences department at WSU, was awarded an honorary American FFA degree.

TIFFANY BARBRE ('96 Accounting) is the senior vice president, corporate controller, and principal accounting officer for Costco.

SEAN WELLS ('96 Civ. Eng.) is Pullman's city administrator. He had been the city's public works director since 2023.

JERRY GLOVER ('97 Soils Sci., '98 Phil., '01 PhD Soils Sci.) is chief of staff for the International Rice Research Institute.

ARRICK JACKSON ('97 MA Crim. Jus., '01 PhD Poli. Sci.) is chancellor of Indiana University Northwest.

CHRISTINE HOYT ('98 Hum.) retired as vice president for the Office of Strategy, Planning, and Analysis at WSU.

KIM JORGENSEN ('99 Nursing) is the chief nursing officer for Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

COURTNEY MEEHAN ('99 MA Anthro., '05 PhD Anthro.) is the dean of the WSU College of Arts and Sciences.

'00

The New Orleans Saints honored **STEVE GLEASON** ('00 Bus.) with its inaugural Courage Award. Gleason joined the Saints' 2025 Hall of Fame class.

PHUNG QUANG HUNG ('02 MBA) is CEO of One Mount Group, one of Vietnam's largest technological companies.

JEFF PIERCE ('03 Busi.) is president of Johnson Wealth Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson Financial Group.

Idaho Governor Brad Little appointed **AMANDA ULRICH** ('03 Poli. Sci.) as district judge to the Seventh Judicial District.

COLIN WHITE ('03 Busi.) has opened Spokane Valley Montessori, a nonprofit preschool.

LUCIA STRADER ('04 PhD Molec. Plant Sci.) is a professor and the holder of the Howard H. and Maryam R. Newman Chair in Plant Biology at Salk Institute for Biological Studies in San Diego.

'10

VICTOR FUENTES ('12 Elec. Eng.) is CEO and general manager of the Franklin Public Utility District.

PHUNG LE ('14 Accounting) is senior vice president and controller at Riverview Bancorp, Inc. in Vancouver.

ALLYSSA SHEPPARD ('15 Hosp. Busi. Mgmt., Psych.), executive chef of catering services at WSU, was the chief chili curator for Pullman's 2025 National Lentil Festival.

KADIE SVRCEK ('15 Soc. Sci.) received the Chancellor's

SPOTLIGHT

First stop: Ferdinand's.

"Has to be," says **JAYMEE SIRE** ('02 Comm.), heading out the front doors of Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport in the first episode of the limited web-based series *Back Home with Jaymee Sire*.

Sire, host of Food Network's weekly podcast *Food Network Obsessed*, guides viewers through Pullman in the three-part show posted on YouTube in late 2024. Watch as she eats her way through her "beloved college town," visits with a few Pullman VIPs, and more.

She introduces herself as "a TV host with an appetite for adventure and good food." The former ESPN *SportsCenter* anchor has appeared on several Food Network shows, including *Beat Bobby Flay*, *Food Network Star*, and *Iron Chef Showdown*.

Back Home with Jaymee Sire is produced by Dryland Media in collaboration with CougsFirst! and Visit Pullman. Dryland Media is owned by Tony Thompson ('09 Soc. Sci.) and former WSU videographer Josue Schneegans ('13 Dig. Tech. & Cult.)

In the first episode, Sire, now based in North Fork, Long Island, enjoys a Cougar Gold cheese-making tour followed by a huckleberry "ice cream for breakfast" cone before heading to her next stop: Crybaby Café in Adams Mall, where she tries a strawberry-red apple canned cocktail from Paddock Spirits Co. Both Crybaby and Paddock are co-owned by Blake (Loos) Preston ('14 Wine Busi. Mgmt.). Sire notes she lived in the Kappa Delta sorority across the street from Adams Mall during her WSU days.

After an electric scooter ride around campus and a visit to the Edward R. Murrow College of Communication, she stops at The Coug, which she calls "a must-visit," to hang with owner Bob Cady (x'00 Hosp. Busi. Mgmt.) and Tony Poston ('08 Poli. Sci., '11 Crim. Just.), former CougsFirst! executive director and Paddock co-owner.

In episode two, Sire visits with Grant Schoenlein ('16 Finance), co-owner of Kamiak Coffee Company and Knead Café and Pâtisserie. She eats Cougar Gold mac and cheese at South Fork, co-owned by Jim Harbour ('99 Hosp. Busi. Mgmt.), then dines with Jack "The Throwin' Samoan" Thompson ('84 Busi.) and former WSU head football coach Jake Dickert.

In episode three, she samples Miss Huddy's Barbecue, owned by Molly ('05 Comm., '08 Sport Mgmt.) and Tim Schotzko ('14 Math.), with her mentor, retired WSU broadcast professor and former Pullman mayor Glenn "The Voice of the Cougs" Johnson. Sire then tries the pottery wheel at Terra Cotta, owned by Candace Baltz ('02 Comm.). The pair served as teacher's assistants together for Johnson's class.

After more fun stops, it's time for dinner at James Beard Award semifinalist Black Cypress with then-owner Nikiforos "Nick" Pitsilionis (x'07), Poston, Johnson, and a few others.

Says Sire, "Pullman will forever hold a special place in my heart."

Find all three episodes on the Visit Pullman YouTube channel at youtube.com/@VisitPullman.

COURTESY FOOD NETWORK

SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY KING COUNTY

BEN SANTOS ('95 Comm.) is the first Filipino American man to serve as a judge on King County Superior Court in Washington.

Governor Bob Ferguson appointed Santos in last March, attributing his choice to Santos' lifelong commitment to justice and more than two decades of legal experience.

"Today, I stand on the shoulders of many who paved the way," Santos said in a statement released by the governor's office. "I'm deeply honored to be appointed by the governor and to serve the people of King County and the state of Washington in this new chapter of public service."

Santos, a first-generation Filipino American, credited his parents for shaping his sense of justice and commitment to public service. In the 1970s, Santos' parents fought for Filipino cannery workers' rights and opposed the dictatorship of President Ferdinand Marcos, who used martial law to take authoritarian control of the Philippines from 1972 to 1981.

Prior to pursuing his law degree, Santos coordinated with local government, stadium developers, and stakeholders to advocate for marginalized residents and support community development in Seattle's Chinatown-International District.

He then attended law school at American University in Washington, D.C., where he interned with the Civil Rights Division in the Department of Justice and with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia. He also worked as a consultant for the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development.

Santos then clerked for Washington Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu when she served on King County Superior Court. He spent 20 years with the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, where he worked to reduce juvenile recidivism rates and address Washington's statewide backlog of untested rape kits. He was assistant chief deputy of the office's juvenile division, led the special assault and district court units, and served as vice chair of the domestic violence unit.

While earning his bachelor's degree at WSU, Santos cofounded the Filipino American Student Association and one of the first Filipino American fraternities in the country.

JADON HAWKINS ('24 Busi.) is the program coordinator for veteran and military-affiliated students at WSU's Global Campus.

MADISYN HOLLAND ('24 Digi. Tech. & Cult.) is a marketing coordinator for GeoEngineers Inc. in Spokane.

HANNAH PETERS ('25 Int. Des.) is an interior designer for DS Studio in Spokane.

Send us your class notes:

magazine.wsu.edu/send-a-class-note

Cornerstone Award from Texas State Technical College. Svrcek is the statewide senior director for college pathways and enrichment at TSTC.

JACQUI GORDÓN NÚÑEZ ('16 MS Hort. Sci.) is vice president of the Washington State Tree Fruit Association.

TREVOR BOND ('17 PhD History) is dean of WSU Libraries.

NICOLE JONES ('17 Psych.) is a certified nurse-midwife in the obstetrics and gynecology clinic at TriState Health in Clarkston.

ANA ROBLES ('18 Nursing) is an advanced nurse practitioner on the cardiology team at Prosser Memorial Health.

ANDREIA TODD ('18 Mktg.) is vice president of global brand marketing at Zefr, a brand suitability and contextual advertising platform.

'20

ANNIE ALLEY ('22 Degree), co-owner of Firmani + Associates in Seattle, received the 2025 Public Relations Professional of the Year award from the Public Relations Society of America's Puget Sound chapter.

CEDAR CUNNINGHAM ('22 Finance) competed with Team USA in the World Rowing Championships in Shanghai. The men's eight earned a bronze medal, and the team finished fourth in the men's quadruple sculls, the best result for the US since 1998.

YANG LEE ('23 Soc. Sci.) is an assistant coach for the women's tennis program at Harvard University. Lee was WSU tennis team captain.

COURTESY WSUV

Paying It Forward: Gay Selby

by WSM staff

Gay Selby ('80 EdD Higher Ed. Admin.), a pioneering education leader in Washington state and at Washington State University Vancouver, died July 7, 2025, at age 83.

Over 150 faculty and former students joined her family for the memorial at a WSU Vancouver lecture hall below Selby Tower, named in her honor.

"Dr. Gay Selby was a proud and unapologetically loyal Coug, a trailblazer in leadership, and a fierce advocate for K-12 and higher education," says education leader Gene Sharratt ('72, '83 PhD Ed.).

As an early female high school principal in Washington state, Selby led Pullman High School from 1974 to 1977. She entered WSU's Educational Leadership program in 1974 and was mentored by her WSU doctoral adviser, education professor George Brain, from 1977–1980. In 1980, she became the first female superintendent of a larger school district, in Kelso.

A dedicated and influential member of the Washington Association of School Administrators for 45 years, Selby made history in 1978 as the first woman and first non-superintendent to run for president-elect.

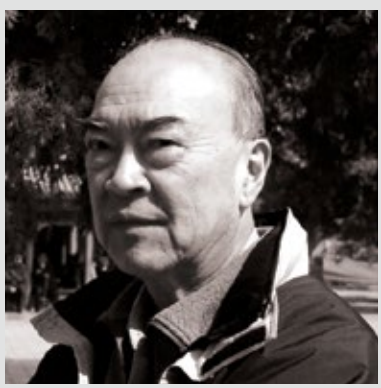
After retiring from K–12 education, Selby became a clinical professor in the College of Education at WSU Vancouver, where she mentored and inspired a new generation of leaders. Her contributions to WSU Vancouver were monumental: Site Selection Committee member, chair of the Advisory Council, and leader of the search for the campus's second chancellor.

Selby was a proud and devoted WSU football fan. She braved all kinds of weather to cheer on her beloved Cougs. Her commitment to WSU extended beyond the stands. She supported the university through philanthropy and countless volunteer hours.

Selby's leadership was defined by compassion, clarity, and an unwavering belief in the transformative power of public education. For her, public education was not merely a career—it was a calling. "I firmly believe that public education is the foundation of our democracy," she once said. "I have always felt a responsibility to be an advocate for public education and for public school educators."

Remembering Alex Kuo

by Adriana Janovich



COURTESY LEGACY.COM

Friends and former students remember poet, novelist, and WSU professor Alex Kuo.

magazine.wsu.edu/extra/Kuo

It's an unconventional narrative, flipping back and forth between Tibet and Idaho's St. Joe National Forest and the perspectives of a homing pigeon and a typewriter. Not just any typewriter, but a Smith Corona Silent, the same kind he brought with him when he worked for the US Forest Service.

"There's a lot of play in the work. Alex loved play—and a challenge," says Joan Burbick, wife of writer and longtime Washington State University professor **Alex Kuo**.

The distinguished Chinese-American poet and novelist, whose heritage figured prominently in many of his works, died in Anacortes on June 11, 2025. He was 86.

His sixteenth book, *Clearcut: A Tale of Forests*—featuring the pigeon and typewriter—is slated for posthumous publication by Redbat Books in spring 2026.

"He was absolutely determined to finish his last book. No matter how badly he felt, he kept writing," says Burbick, also a WSU professor and distinguished nonfiction writer. "Alex loved to write. He enjoyed the process. Some people just need to write. He was like that. It's a cliché but for him it was a way to figure out what he was thinking."

Kuo resided in Spokane the last three years of his life and loved the outdoors. "The woods and mountains of Washington, Colorado, and New Mexico were not only an inspiration for his writing, but also a sanctuary, away from the troubled past of war and political violence that he had experienced," Burbick writes in Kuo's obituary.

Burbick arrived at WSU in 1978, a year before Kuo. They married in 2000 after twenty years together. Her latest work, *Erased* (2024, Redbat Books), a fictional memoir, is based on his life.

Kuo was born in Boston, where his parents were working on research fellowships. At nine months old, he traveled to his parents' native China, surviving World War II in Chongqing and Shanghai. At 17, he returned to the United States, where he finished high school and college, and earned a master of fine arts at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop.

He held positions in Colorado, Illinois, Wisconsin, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and at Central Washington University before coming to WSU, where he taught for 33 years. Kuo chaired the new Department of Comparative American Cultures, now American studies, and, in 2001, served as the university's first writer-in-residence. In 2002, he won the American Book Award for *Lipstick and Other Stories* (2002, Soho Press).

He also received three National Endowment for the Arts grants, a Senior Fulbright Fellowship, United Nations research award, Lingnan Foundation American Studies professorship, and Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center residency.

"These global encounters gave him an opportunity to learn from young people and writers of all ages who were often marginalized and silenced," Burbick writes in Kuo's obituary. "Alex was a dedicated teacher who worked tirelessly to inspire his students, giving them the means to become artists, writers, and independent thinkers."

Among them: award-winning writer Sherman Alexie ('94 Amer. Stu.). Kuo was Alexie's first writing professor. In early 1988, during Alexie's first class with Kuo, the professor pulled him aside and encouraged him to write.

Alexie writes in an August 2025 post titled "My Writing Professor" on Substack that the last time they dined together, it had been years since they last talked. "I wish I would have said, 'Everything that I am as a writer is because of you, Alex. I'm a poet because you said I was going to become a poet.' I wish I would have said, 'And for everything that my writing life has been, I say, "thank you" ... for believing in me from the first word that I wrote.'"

Kuo's publications include more than 350 poems, stories, essays, and photographs in magazines, newspapers, and anthologies.

When *Clearcut* is published, Burbick is planning a simultaneous book launch and memorial for Kuo.

1940s

Shirley R. Larsen ('47 Ani. Sci.), 92, August 14, 2018, Sunland, California.
Edwin Francis Tallyn ('47, '49 MS Chem.), 99, March 6, 2023, Lafayette, California.
Edworth L. Ray ('48 Civ. Eng.), 98, August 29, 2025, Pasco.
Lloyd "Gabe" Miller Gabriel ('49 Socio., '66 EdD), 103, September 19, 2025, Yakima.
Janice L. MacKenzie ('49 Home Econ.), 97, May 13, 2025, Kingston.
Blanche Mae Smith ('49 Nursing), 99, May 27, 2025, San Carlos, California.

1950s

Shirley B. Fogelquist ('50 Nursing), 97, October 23, 2024, Olympia.
Betty Lou Wagner ('50 Journalism), 97, November 8, 2025, Seattle.
Eunice May Blubaugh ('51 Music), 95, November 21, 2024, Vancouver.
Frederic P. Emery ('51 Elec. Eng., Tau Beta Phi), 90, January 4, 2018, Tucson, Arizona.
Robert H. Williams ('51 Ed., '65 EdD Higher Ed. Admin.), 94, February 14, 2024, Clarkston.
Carmen Louise Bossenbrock ('52 Phys. Ed.), 94, July 31, 2022, Dryden.
Gerald Irwin Eyrich ('52 Elec. Eng.), 95, September 20, 2025, Claremont, California.
Gerald H. Hagquist ('52 Chem. Eng.), 95, August 23, 2025, West Berlin, New Jersey.
Phillip Lee Jacobson ('52 Arch.), 96, May 17, 2025, Issaquah.
Duward R. Massie ('52 Agro.), 96, February 25, 2025, Pullman.
Rita Y. Wiklund ('52 Psych.), 93, April 1, 2024, Edmonds.
William H. "Buz" Whiteley Jr. ('52 Gen. Stu., Arch.), 97, February 24, 2025, Poulsbo.
John E. "Bud" Bartanen ('53 Busi., Theta Chi), 89, September 26, 2020, Everett.
Eugene James Dobson ('53 Soc. Stu.), 95, July 28, 2024, Everett.
Al Swanson ('53 Gen. Stu.), 98, January 14, 2023, La Conner.
Melvin L. Hamre ('54 Ag., '61 MEd), 92, May 31, 2025, Sumner.
Ann W. Walquist ('54 Home Econ.), 91, December 1, 2023, Rancho Palos Verdes, California.
Charlene M. Boyd ('55 Nursing), 91, December 8, 2024, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
William T. Campbell ('55 Gen. Stu.), 91, September 11, 2023, Poway, California.
JoAnne Marie (Hinrichs) Hungate ('56 Gen. Stu., Gamma Phi Beta), 91, July 6, 2025, Tucson, Arizona.
Joan Rose McGee ('56 Socio.), 90, October 16, 2025, Springfield, Oregon.
Patricia Ann Morton ('56 Bacterio.), 91, July 30, 2025, Spokane.
Joanne L. Newman ('56 Ed.), 89, December 27, 2023, Yakima.
Phillip D. Phythian Sr. ('56 Mech. Eng.), 91, June 22, 2025, Mill Valley, California.
Margaret Jean Smith ('56 English), 90, August 6, 2025, Issaquah.
Janet A. Stewart (x'56 Lib. Arts), 91, July 3, 2025, Plymouth, Minnesota.
Vincent Cleve Trapp ('56 Gen. Stu., Sigma Alpha Epsilon), 90, October 11, 2025, Spokane Valley.
Miriam Joan Williams ('56 Bacterio.), 90, June 7, 2025, Everett.
Robert B. Crum ('57 Busi.), 90, February 14, 2025, Medford, Oregon.
Pauline M. Goodwin ('57 MAT Home Econ.), 100, May 7, 2025, Portland, Oregon.
Ralph H. Quaas ('57 Hort.), 91, October 10, 2025, Everett.
Marie Louise Cline ('58 Nursing), 89, October 1, 2024, Santa Barbara, California.
Carol Ann Hostetter ('58 Nursing, Gamma Phi Beta), 89, June 22, 2025, Bremerton.
Robert B. Prescott ('58 Ani. Sci., Theta Chi), 93, July 14, 2025, Anacortes.
Mary Jane Seitz ('58 Ed., Delta Gamma), 88, September 27, 2025, Pasco.
Lynn M. Fleming ('59, '66 MS Mech. Eng.), 80, May 3, 2025, Seattle.
Mike Richard Johnston ('59 Poli. Sci.), 88, September 25, 2025, Pasco.
June Marie Konz ('59 DVM), 91, June 7, 2025, Republic.
Kerman Lewis Love ('59 Ag. Ed., Beta Theta Pi), 88, September 30, 2025, Spokane.
Mary E. Perry ('59 Gen. Stu.), 87, June 30, 2025, Los Angeles, California.
Virgil Le Roy Rayton ('59 Gen. Stu.), 87, February 4, 2024, Lynnwood.
Hilding Earl "Tex" Ronning ('59 MS Phys. Ed.), 89, May 20, 2025, Santa Cruz, California.
James Clifford Ross ('59 Soc. Stu., Tau Kappa Epsilon), 88, November 3, 2025, Overland Park, Kansas.
M. Ray Seitz ('59 Gen. Stu., '63 MAT Ed., '73 EdD), 90, November 17, 2024, Pasco.
Garey C. Strand ('59 Mech. Eng.), 92, September 28, 2024, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

1960s

Judith Kay Battin ('60 Home Econ.), 86, September 11, 2024, Seattle.
Marilyn Jayne Bolt ('60 Soc. Stu.), 86, June 23, 2025, Prosser.
James N. Fletcher Jr. ('60 Ed.), 89, October 23, 2025, Auburn.
Leigh Joseph Huseby ('60 Math.), 80, February 4, 2019, Federal Way.
Ernest Travis Littledike ('60 DVM), 88, November 22, 2023, North Logan, Utah.
Howard G. Nelson ('60, '63 MS Mat. Sci. & Eng.), 87, September 7, 2025, Saratoga, California.
Carol W. Rider ('60 History, Kappa Kappa Gamma), 81, March 14, 2020, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Richard Eugene Ackerman ('61 Busi.), 91, July 26, 2025, Richland.
David P. Anderson ('61 DVM), 90, May 24, 2025, Winterville, Georgia.
James Earl Brickell ('61 Forest & Range Mgmt.), 80, November 17, 2025, Addy.
Helen Elaine Brink ('61 Gen. Stu.), 86, September 28, 2025, Port Townsend.
Kenneth Dean Brink ('61 History), 85, June 2, 2025, Port Townsend.
Thomas Bruguier ('61, '66 MS Elec. Eng.), 86, January 19, 2022, Dublin, California.
Bonnie Lou Doan ('61 Elem. Ed.), 87, October 5, 2025, Sedro–Woolley.
Paul N. Laufman ('61 Mech. Eng.), 86, September 29, 2025, Longview.
Janet (Schuster) Pagnotta ('61 Ed., Kappa Alpha Theta), 85, June 28, 2025, Redmond.
Richard G. Picatti ('61 Busi., Sigma Chi), 88, July 20, 2025, Yakima.
D. Roger Reed ('61 Poli. Sci.), 86, August 2, 2025, Spokane.
Ronald J. Streeter ('61 DVM), 91, August 29, 2025, Tucson, Arizona.
Thomas Charles Davis ('62 Busi.), 88, June 12, 2025, Spokane.
C. Azeez Haque ('62 PhD Physics), 92, November 8, 2025, Dublin, Ohio.
Charles F. Keltch ('62 Civ. Eng., Delta Chi), 84, September 20, 2022, Pasco.
Richard M. Peekema ('62 PhD Chem.), 95, June 24, 2025, San Jose, California.
Mary Kay Testa ('62 Home Econ.), 85, October 12, 2025, Clifton Park, New York.
Francis E. Jensen ('63 Ag. Eng.), 92, July 22, 2025, Soap Lake.
Richard Arthur Kaden ('63 Civ. Eng.), 85, April 24, 2025, Edmonds.
James Matt Kellar ('63 Music), 85, October 2, 2024, Woodland.
W. Marvin Mackie ('63 DVM), 88, September 23, 2025, San Pedro, California.
Delbert Frank Muse ('63 MAT Math.), 97, July 30, 2025, Seattle.
Jeanne Lauf Walpole ('63 Spanish), 84, May 19, 2025, Reno, Nevada.
Kenneth Edward Aadsen ('64 DVM), 84, December 10, 2024, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
Judith Rae Carr ('64 Poli. Sci.), 84, May 27, 2025, San Francisco, California.
Lawrence J. "Joe" Gannon ('64 MA Math.), 87, October 26, 2020, Great Falls, Montana.
Leland Ogden Sheets ('64 DVM), 91, August 1, 2025, Washington, Utah.
Marilyn L. Simpson ('64 Busi., Ed.), 83, August 14, 2024, Spokane Valley.
Larry E. Tadlock ('64 Ag. Ed., '78 PhD Ed.), 84, July 14, 2025, Yakima.
Paul Robert Boehner ('65 MAT Gen. Stu.), 94, February 28, 2020, Cottage Grove, Oregon.
Marietta C. (Rowe) Hobbs ('65 Elem. Ed., Kappa Kappa Gamma), 83, November 14, 2025, Naches.
Judy Mae Kuntz ('65 Clothing & Textiles), 82, May 3, 2025, Independence, Missouri.
Josette S. Maddison ('65 MS Chem.), 83, April 13, 2025, Idaho Falls, Idaho.
Dee Thomas McKern ('65 Ani. Sci.), 83, October 4, 2025, Rice.
Walter David Wruble ('65 Agro.), 74, November 1, 2017, Spokane.
John Edward Benson ('66 Math.), 81, May 25, 2025, Spokane.
Jay A. Cedergreen ('66 Busi.), 80, February 26, 2025, Snohomish.
Jeffery Ernst ('66 Forest & Range Mgmt.), 80, March 31, 2025, Wilsonville, Oregon.
Martha "Marti" Evans ('66 Ed.), 81, June 30, 2025, Long Beach, California.
Wayne Norman Gleason ('66 Ag. Econ.), 80, April 4, 2025, Chehalis.
Gerald G. Hawley ('66 Busi.), 81, April 19, 2025, Tucson, Arizona.
Robert Richard Dahmen ('67 Busi.), 80, July 5, 2025, Detroit, Michigan.
Glenn Earl Fredericks ('67 Socio.), 81, November 6, 2025, Spokane.
Alan Ray Gerling ('67 Hort.), 80, April 30, 2025, Floresville, Texas.
Janet Reed Huntley ('67 Elem. Ed., Chi Omega), 78, July 26, 2024, Olympia.
Patricia Ann Illias ('67 Socio.), 80, September 2, 2025, Bellingham.
Berne L. Jones ('67 PhD Chem.), 84, August 18, 2025, Kooskia, Idaho.
Alvin W. Jorgensen ('67 Busi.), 80, April 26, 2025, Bonney Lake.
Darrel Lee Peoples ('67 History), 69, September 25, 2025, Deer Lodge, Montana.
Donna Martine Pierce ('67 Phys. Ed.), 81, September 7, 2025, Turlock, California.
David Gordon Rice ('67 MA, '72 PhD Anthro.), 80, October 7, 2023, Richland.
James Lauren Corliss ('68 Busi., Kappa Sigma), 80, October 1, 2025, Tigard, Oregon.
John William Hoeft ('68 Bacterio.), 80, September 7, 2025, Santa Rosa, California.
Jerry Neale Klossner ('68 Gen. Stu.), 83, August 13, 2025, Spokane.
John Louis Nebel ('68 English), 79, October 15, 2025, Seattle.
Richard Paul Prine ('68 Arch.), 81, July 4, 2025, Poulsbo.
Ted W. Shenenberg ('68 Psych.), 79, November 17, 2025, Bremerton.
Daniel Melvin Blake ('69 PhD Chem.), 81, July 21, 2025, Golden, Colorado.
Richard Albert Cooper ('69 Gen. Stu.), 80, November 1, 2025, Scottsdale, Arizona.
Doris Ellen Nierman ('69 Busi.), 78, October 31, 2025, Dryden.
Linda Carol Petersen ('69 Ed.), 77, December 28, 2024, Puyallup.
Keith Merlin Pfeifer ('69 Agro.), 82, March 20, 2024, Yakima.
Franklin M. Stratton III ('69 Building Practice), 74, October 9, 2020, Boise, Idaho.

1970s

Burnell "Bunny" K. Clevenger ('70 Elem. Ed.), 77, September 7, 2025, Vancouver.
Mary Lee Bonwell Johnson ('70 Home Econ., '91 MS Voc. Tech. Ed.), 76, November 7, 2023, Seattle.
John C. Rutherford ('70 MEd. Ed.), 86, February 3, 2025, Lacey.
Thomas Jay Vincent ('70 Gen. Stu.), 78, October 19, 2025, Post Falls, Idaho.
Michael "Mike" James Adams ('71 Zool., '74 Bacterio.), 76, September 18, 2025, Pullman.
James Daniel Cronrath ('71, '73 MS Ani. Sci.), 76, June 18, 2025, Cashmere.

Martin Pershall Dana ('71 PhD Math.), 79, April 17, 2023, Brea, California.
John W. Francis Jr. ('71 MS Phys. Ed.), 79, April 12, 2025, Boring, Oregon.
Janice Lynn Peth ('71 Police Sci.), 75, September 14, 2025, Mount Vernon.
Harold E. "Buddy" Boyd ('72 Zool.), 74, February 3, 2025, Gig Harbor.
Jerry William Calvert ('72 PhD Poli. Sci.), 80, July 17, 2023, Bozeman, Montana.
Kathleen L. "Kathi" Brown ('73 Home Econ.), 74, July 18, 2025, Mount Vernon.
Thomas R. Fitts ('73 Math.), 73, May 16, 2025, Snohomish.
Janice Elaine Merriman ('73 Hort.), 74, May 25, 2025, Orondo.
Robert Stewart Orr Jr. ('73 PhD Higher Ed. Admin.), 87, February 21, 2025, Vancouver.
Charles "Corkey" Francis Perry ('73 Forest & Range Mgmt.), 82, September 1, 2025, Hoquiam.
Alan Lee Rogers ('73 Gen. Stu.), 72, August 5, 2021, Oroville.
Pamela Ellen (Olson) Van Selus ('73 Ed.), 73, August 16, 2025, Mount Vernon.
Randy Dean Brown ('74 Ag.), 74, September 8, 2025, Mount Vernon.
Mark Randall Call ('74 Gen. Stu.), 75, July 20, 2025, Quincy.
Robert Lloyd Gregg ('74 Vet. Sci., '75 DVM), 80, October 2, 2025, Plains, Montana.
Francis "Frank" Patrick Mulvey ('74 PhD Econ.), 81, October 18, 2025, Bethesda, Maryland.
Laurie Sheehan ('74 Anthro.), 68, October 20, 2020, Reno, Nevada.
Duane "Doc" Wolverton ('74 Vet. Sci., '77 DVM), 74, July 16, 2025, Orofino, Idaho.
Deborah I. Davis ('75 Ag. Econ.), 71, June 8, 2025, Olympia.
Ethan Michael Moseng ('75 Civ. Eng., '77 MS Env. Eng.), 72, March 26, 2025, Renton.
Michael Charles Poch ('75 Pharm.), 73, September 3, 2025, Pullman.
Carla Jean Teitzel ('75 Pharm.), 68, August 29, 2020, Portland, Oregon.
Pat Boyes ('76 Ani. Sci., '78 MCE Adult Ed.), 72, May 12, 2025, Puyallup.
Douglas James Hoff ('76 Elem. Ed., Tau Kappa Epsilon), 71, October 19, 2025, Shelton.
Laurence Lewis Lang ('76 MS Comp. Sci.), 74, March 22, 2025, Clearlake, California.
Dennis L. Pedersen ('76 Pharm.), 71, May 16, 2025, Kennewick.
C. Donald Smith III ('76 MBA), 77, August 16, 2025, Puyallup.
Paul Leslie Tompkins ('76 Asian Stu.), 72, February 28, 2025, Richland.
Dino DiCianno ('77 MA Econ.), 72, August 16, 2025, Carson City, Nevada.
David Bruce Garay ('77 Busi.), 71, November 2, 2025, Olympia.
Randy J. Boudrieau ('78 DVM), 72, November 29, 2023, Sherborn, Massachusetts.
John Nelson Chiasson ('78 MS Elec. Eng.), 72, February 26, 2025, Boise, Idaho.
Gregory Lee Finch ('78 Hotel & Rest. Admin.), 63, June 18, 2019, Walla Walla.
Daniel "Dan" Thomas Maher ('78 English), 72, May 19, 2025, Pullman.
Grant Douglas Marr ('78 Mech. Eng.), 78, August 11, 2025, Kennewick.
John Edward Pennucci ('78 Mech. Eng., '83 Hort.), 69, May 20, 2025, Colchester, Vermont.
Stephen Fairchild ('79 DVM), 75, November 10, 2024, Pocatello, Idaho.
Edward Ray Beck ('79 Poli. Sci.), 71, April 9, 2025, Oak Harbor.
Andrew M. Norstadt ('79 Comm.), 68, June 22, 2025, Wahiawa, Hawaii.
Dana Barnes Petersen ('79 Wildland Rec.), 72, August 18, 2025, Mead.
Alice F. Wilcox ('79 Ed., '88 MFA, MEd), 77, June 9, 2024, Colton.

1980s

Robert Stuart Heacock ('80 Ag. Econ.), 67, July 5, 2025, Spokane Valley.
John P. Holup Jr. ('80 PhD Ed.), 85, December 14, 2020, Moscow, Idaho.
Thomas H. Latimer Jr. ('80 MA Elem. Ed.), 93, September 6, 2024, Eltopia.
Joanne G. McElfresh ('80 MS Forest & Range Mgmt.), 90, October 10, 2024, Stevensville, Montana.
Juanita Schwyhart ('80 MA Ed.), 98, September 5, 2025, Vancouver.
Gay V. Selby ('80 EdD Higher Ed. Admin.), 83, July 7, 2025, Kelso.
Patrick Stephen Stare ('80 Const. Mgmt., Delta Upsilon), 67, August 6, 2025, Edisto Island, South Carolina.
Ann E. Gillum ('81 Nursing), 64, November 15, 2022, Spokane.
Kyle D. Kettel ('81 Civ. Eng.), 66, June 23, 2025, Poulsbo.
Tena Krin Hoke ('83 Comp. Sci.), 66, August 11, 2025, Portland, Oregon.
Audrian Eleanor Huff ('83 PhD Ed.), 84, July 2, 2025, Moses Lake.
Joan L. Humen ('83 Nursing), 66, September 7, 2025, Bellingham.
Michelle "Mickie" Renee Marvel ('83 Ed.), 64, July 1, 2025, Rathdrum, Idaho.
Ottiwell "Ott" Wood Jones III ('84 Phys. Ed.), 91, May 23, 2024, Bozeman, Montana.
Donley Dale Kubasch ('85 DVM), 89, July 17, 2025, Moscow, Idaho.
Albert John Clement ('86 Busi.), 60, March 6, 2025, Seattle.
Andrew D. Madsen ('86 Elec. Eng.), 57, August 16, 2019, Seattle.
Gregory S. Lee ('87 Geol. Eng.), 61, October 23, 2025, Richland.
Mark Robert Pressprich ('88 MS, '90 PhD Chem.), 65, October 10, 2024, Pleasant Springs, Wisconsin.
Randolf Nephi Webster ('88 DVM), 68, July 13, 2025, Grants Pass, Oregon.
Thomas H. Wimpy ('88 PhD Ani. Sci.), 71, September 3, 2025, Spokane.
Keith Douglas Wright ('88 Theatre Arts), 59, October 13, 2025, Easton.

1990s

Susan Lynne Stasik ('90 Gen. Stu.), 57, June 26, 2025, Seattle.
Howard Raymond Bingham ('91 DVM), 62, June 12, 2025, Providence, Utah.
Kevin F. Kershaw ('92 Busi., Sigma Nu), 55, July 3, 2025, Yakima.
Lynne Annette (Usack) Larson ('92 Hotel & Rest. Admin.),79, May 12, 2025, San Jose, California.
Christopher McDougall ('92 Econ.), 55, November 22, 2025, Seattle.
Kean Edward Wilcox ('93 MFA Fine Arts), 77, April 17, 2025, Pullman.
Trent Jason Lougheed ('94, '95 MS Civ. Eng.), 53, January 9, 2025, Littlerock.
Tami Lynn Leonard ('95 Range Mgmt.), 60, October 10, 2023, Beverly Hills, Florida.
Anne Remaley ('95 PhD Higher Ed. Admin., '06 MEd Couns.), 79, June 21, 2025, Pullman.
Kelly Ann Butterfield ('96 Gen. Stu.), 65, June 21, 2025, Vancouver.
Carolyn Sheryl Pingel ('96 MN Nursing), 75, October 20, 2025, Benton City.
Sean David Clements ('98 Comm.), 50, August 19, 2025, Las Vegas, Nevada.
Patricia Gayle Young ('98 Soc. Sci.), 78, March 24, 2023, Bayview.
Kyle Ramsay Moore ('99 MEd Elem. & Second. Ed.), 54, October 6, 2025, Spokane.

2000s

Kelly Lee Tarp ('00 Mech. Eng.), 48, November 18, 2025, Issaquah.
Barbara West Truex ('03 DVM), 71, May 10, 2025, Tucson, Arizona.
Robert A. Burden Jr. ('01 Intl. Busi.), 46, August 11, 2025, Kennewick.
Kirsten Ruth Bachant ('08 Biol.), 54, July 17, 2025, Vashon.
Susan Jane Hall ('08 MA Int. Des.), 65, February 3, 2024, Spokane.
Terry Lee Cosentino ('09 Ed.), 74, January 28, 2024, Tacoma.

2010s

Rebecca J. DeWald ('13 Nursing), 60, August 15, 2025, Spokane.
Andrew Donald Haverluk ('14 Const. Mgmt.), 34, January 3, 2025, Edgewood.
Krystal Repp ('14 Mgmt. Info. Systems), 44, September 27, 2025, Spokane Valley.
Blake William Paul Brooks ('19 Landscape Arch.), 32,June 2, 2025, Seattle.
Abby Mae Reid ('19 Mktg., Alpha Phi), 27, July 31, 2024, Ferndale.

2020s

Kenneth Edward Bolick ('20 MBA), 46, May 10, 2025, Portland, Oregon.
Aaron Matthew Fandel ('20 Poli. Sci., Crim. Jus., Sigma Pi), 27, October 7, 2025, Seattle.

Faculty and Staff

Robert E. Ackerman, 97, Anthropology, 1961–2007, June 30, 2025, Pullman.
Michael "Mike" James Adams, 76, Plant Pathology, September 18, 2025, Pullman.
Eugene Stanley Bauer, 96, Engineering Research, 1976–1994, June 28, 2025, Spokane.
Richard Bishop, 80, WSU Wenatchee, 1993–2008, June 15, 2025, Wenatchee.
Karen Bloomfield, 82, Office of the Registrar, 1972–1997, August 4, 2025, Pullman.
Lynn Cannon, 82, Information Technology Services, 1972–2005, July 16, 2025, Bozeman, Montana.
Tommy Christian, 61, Facilities Services, 2023–2025, November 3, 2025, Moscow, Idaho.
Erin Cox, 64, Murrow College of Communication, 2013–2025, August 2, 2025, Lewiston, Idaho.
Gerald Edwards, 82, Biological Sciences, 1981–2012, July 27, 2025, Beaverton, Oregon.
Donald "Ja Link Ka" Fountain, 88, Housing Services, 1957–1982, May 4, 2025, Pullman.
Gordon Gourley, 90, Facilities Services, 1972–1992, May 20, 2025, Moscow, Idaho.
Betty Ann Hatley, 90, Education, 1987–2006, May 6, 2025, Pullman.
Debra Haupt, 65, Dining Services, 2001–2025, June 19, 2025, Steptoe.
William Lipe, 89, Anthropology, 1976–2001, April 9, 2025, Moscow, Idaho.
Dan Maher, 72, Student Involvement and Leadership, 1980–2019, May 19, 2025, Pullman.
Timothy Marsh, 77, University Relations, 1985–2011, June 21, 2025, McMinnville, Oregon.
Evelyn Martson, 87, Athletics, 1972–1992, May 4, 2025, Moscow, Idaho.
Jennie McGregor, 74, Student Financial Services, 1982–2013, February 21, 2025, Moscow, Idaho.
Kirk McMichael, 89, Chemistry, 1962–1999, July 12, 2025, Pullman.
Marcus Owens, School of Design and Construction, 2023–2025, August 25, 2025, Moscow, Idaho.
Michael Poch, 73, Cougar Health Services, 2002–2016, September 3, 2025, Pullman.
Anne Remaley, 79, Education Leadership & Counseling Psychology, 2000–2007, June 21, 2025, Pullman.
Krystal Repp, 44, IT Enterprise Systems, 2011–2025, September 27, 2025, Spokane Valley.
Robert Sitton, 92, Civil & Environmental Engineering, 1959–1982, May 21, 2025, Clarkston.
Judith Sorem, 96, English, 1978–1983, 1984–1994, July 6, 2025, Pullman.
James Thummel, 85, Information Technology Services, 1964–2002, May 25, 2025, Pullman.
Charlene Tolonie, 63, University Advancement, 1986–2021, August 4, 2025, Pullman.
Jonathan "Jay" Wisor, 55, Translational Medicine and Physiology, 2008–2025, June 16, 2025, Spokane.
Willis "Jerry" Worthy, 92, Facilities Services, 1956–1982, April 9, 2025, Pullman.
Gary Zentzis, 81, Facilities Services, 1985–2011, June 16, 2025, Greenacres.

The world's oldest synthetic pigment is visible on this ancient wooden falcon artifact.

Recreating ancient Egyptian blues

by Tina Hilding

The world's oldest synthetic pigment, Egyptian blue, had been lost to time.

That was the case until 2025, when researchers led by Washington State University successfully recreated the pigment used in ancient Egypt nearly 5,000 years ago.

The researchers used a variety of raw materials and heating times to develop 12 recipes for the pigments, providing useful information for archaeologists and conservation scientists who study the ancient Egyptian materials. The work was done in collaboration with Carnegie Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute.

"We hope this will be a good case study in what science can bring to the study of our human past," says John McCloy, lead researcher and director of WSU's School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering. "The work is meant to highlight how modern science reveals hidden stories in ancient Egyptian objects."

While Egyptian blue pigment was valued in ancient times, there is limited archaeological evidence of how it was made. It was used as a substitute for expensive minerals like turquoise or lapis lazuli and was used in painting wood, stone, and a papier-mâché-type material called cartonnage. Depending on its ingredients and processing time, its color ranges from deep blue to dull gray or green.

After the Egyptians, the pigment was used by Romans, but by the Renaissance period, the knowledge of how it was made was largely forgotten.

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of interest in the pigment because it has interesting optical, magnetic, and biological properties with potential new technological applications, McCloy says. The pigment emits light in the near-infrared part of the electromagnetic spectrum that people can't see, which means it could be used for things like fingerprinting and counterfeit-proof inks. It also has a similar chemistry to high-temperature superconductors.

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