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On the Cover: CWU alumnus General James Mattis (History, '71), a former US Secretary of Defense, recently visited his alma mater to meet with CWU ROTC cadets. Photograph and photo illustration: David Dick.

Left: The statue of Wellington P. Wildcat, located at the SURC, models the Wildcat Way by reminding everyone to mask up during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Like many of the Wildcats profiled in this issue of Crimson & Black, I had the privilege of serving my country. Immediately after high school, I was accepted into the US Air Force Academy, and, following graduation, served in the Air Force in California, Turkey, and Germany.

My time at the academy taught me a number of life lessons about the importance of duty, honor, leadership, and discipline. As a student-athlete, I also learned about teamwork and communication. Looking back at my nearly 40 years as an educator, I see how all of those values helped shape and guide me, providing me with the tools for success I have relied upon throughout my career.

When I view Central's historical support for student-veterans and our military science programs, I see those same values being taught and learned. The list of Wildcats who have had extraordinary success in their military careers is impressive, ranging from former US Secretary of Defense General James N. Mattis to Colonel Curt Schroeder, the US Army Forces Command Provost Marshal, who advises on security issues at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

That commitment to service is most apparent when I recall the CWU alumni who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. People like Signalman First Class Douglas Munro, who gave his life while evacuating a group of Marines under heavy fire during the US invasion at Guadalcanal in 1942, and Major San D. Francisco, who was shot down during a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam in 1968.

Service, whether for country or community, is a gift. When we serve, we gain a sense of pride and accomplishment in being able to help our fellow citizens. We learn to work toward a greater good and move beyond the narrow boundaries of self-interest. We become part of something greater, and we are richer for the experience.

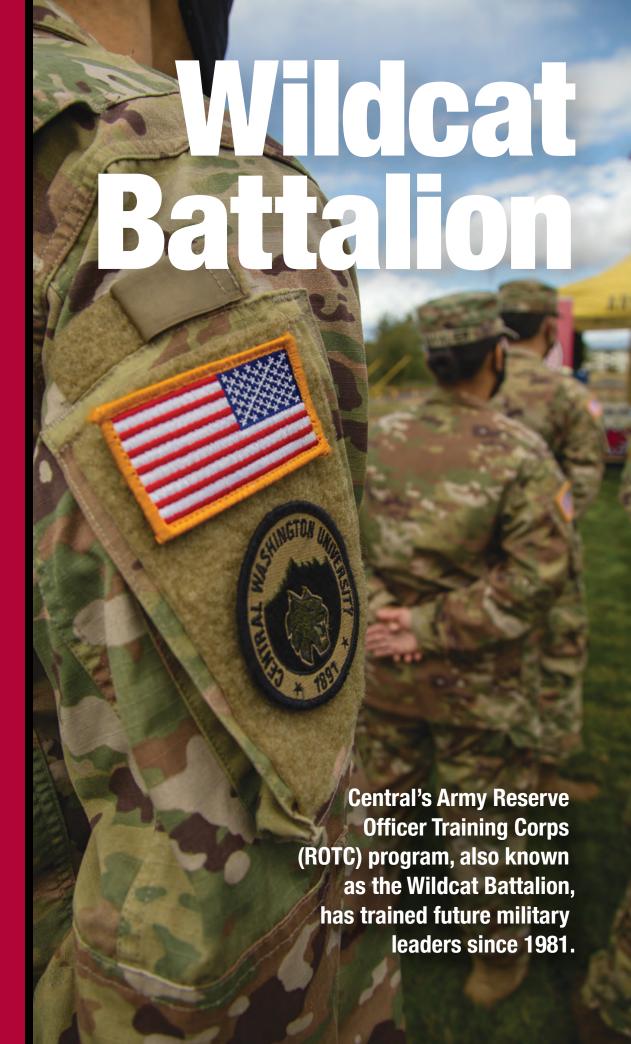
To all the Wildcats who have served, and often made sacrifices along the way, I would like to simply say: thank you.

Sincerely,

James L. Gaudino

President







CWU's Presidential Search Update

The search for President James L. Gaudino's successor began last May when the Trustee Search Advisory Committee began meetings with what would total nearly 430 employees, students, alumni, and other stakeholders.

Several strong themes emerged from these listening sessions, including the challenges of adapting to and leveraging changes brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic; developing diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the university; and creating innovative strategies to address financial challenges.

Stakeholders said the ideal candidates would demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusion, and shared governance. They also indicated that candidates should show an understanding of emerging technologies and the opportunities they offer for enriching teaching, learning, and student services.

Additionally, participants called for candidates with high emotional intelligence and broad higher education experience from budget and operations, to academics and student life.

The presidential search attracted more than 80 applications from all over the world before the September 30 deadline. In mid-October, the Search Advisory Committee interviewed the top ten candidates and recommended finalists to the Board of Trustees on October 30. The trustees will interview the finalists in November and hope to announce CWU's next president in December.



Campus Safety Remains a Priority

In response to continuing concern about the COVID-19 virus, CWU has restricted the number of students permitted to live on campus in fall 2020 to 1,600. Typically, more than 4,000 students live in campus residence halls and apartments. The restriction allows for single occupancy in residence hall rooms and no sharing of common restroom facilities.

Additionally, all individuals on university property must wear face coverings and practice physical distancing, which experts say is the most effective way to control the spread of the virus.

Fall 2020 classes are being delivered online, in-person, or using hybrid teaching methods. In addition to regularly cleaning classrooms and public spaces, the university reconfigured learning spaces so that students are safely seated at least six feet apart. Hand sanitizer dispensers have been stationed at the entrance to each classroom and signing has been installed that reinforces safety restrictions and promoting appropriate behavior such as regular hand-washing and avoiding crowded environments.

Since the situation is fluid and subject to change, the university has established a website with updated information at: cwu.edu/fallguide2020. ■



Governor Appoints New Student Trustee

Governor Jay Inslee has appointed Nathaniel McMillion to serve as the student trustee on CWU Board of Trustees for the 2020-21 academic year. McMillion, a senior majoring in public relations and minoring in Africana and Black Studies, served as CWU's Black Student Union (BSU) president last year. He has been involved in the university's Brother 2 Brother chapter and Cross Cultural Leadership Program. The native of Spanaway, who now lives in Kent, also serves on the public relations team at the Diversity and Equity Center.





Students Enlist Resources, Support at JBLM

By Dave Leder

CWU's instructional site at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM) has been helping active-duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, and their family members pursue their higher education goals since it opened in September 2016.

CWU-JBLM, located on the US Army/Air Force base south of Tacoma, is the only on-base educational facility in the state connected with a Washington four-year public university. And while there is still room for growth, the site has managed to provide hundreds of servicemen and women with the resources they need to advance their careers.

"We help students with things like tuition assistance programs, questions about the GI Bill, and the My CAA program (a financial assistance program for military spouses)," said David Mulkey, the program manager at CWU-JBLM who works alongside Regional Director Judy Colburn and professor Carlo Smith. "We try to do everything we can to make the process easier for them."

CWU-JBLM, housed in the Stone Education Center, serves about 20 students per academic quarter and offers two undergraduate degree programs—a BAS in supply chain management and a BA in business administration, specializing in supply chain management. The site also supports a Lean 6 Sigma certificate program in supply chain management.

In addition, military students and their family members can participate in all of the online-based classes offered at CWU, while the education center provides a variety of resources, such as a computer lab, and access to printers and other technology.

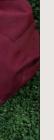
"We have a dedicated classroom and multiple listening sites, which allows us to hold virtual classes," Mulkey said. "We offer at least one course every quarter, but our students also like that they can complete many of their other CWU classes online."

Mulkey explained that most of the students at CWU-JBLM already have some higher education experience when they arrive on base. But even though many of them are self-sufficient, the military students often express how much they appreciate having someone to meet with in-person.

"When you're taking classes online, it can be a challenge to get a hold of your advisor or someone else who can help," Mulkey said. "People like that they always have someone to talk to here. It really helps to have that central point of contact."

Mulkey and Colburn expect interest in the instructional site to grow, and they are conducting a needs survey this year to determine if other programs can be offered in the future. In the meantime, they will continue to support their military students and their families in any way they can.

"We hear a lot of positive things from our students," Mulkey said. "We're just doing our best to help, and they always tell us how much we are appreciated."



GNAC Suspends Fall Sports Due to COVID Concerns

Due to health and safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC), which includes CWU, has suspended all intercollegiate athletic competitions in the fall and delayed winter sports activities. "I'm disappointed, as I know our student-athletes are—especially our seniors and all members of Wildcat Nation," said President James L. Gaudino. "But the conference is making the appropriate decision, placing a priority on the health and safety of everyone involved in our athletic programs."



VP Cleary Joins Regional Accreditation Board

CWU's vice president of inclusivity and diversity has been elected to serve as a commissioner for the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Delores "Kandee" Cleary was named one of four new NWCCU commissioners earlier this year, and she began her three-year term in late June. As a commissioner, she will help rate more than 160 higher education institutions in the region for performance, integrity, and quality.





CWU's support for the armed services dates back to World War I, when the university conducted regular bond drives and hosted "community sings," where as many as 500 people would gather to sing patriotic tunes like "Over There" and "Keep the Home Fires Burning."

Later, Central established more formal support for its student-veterans when it created a Veterans Affairs Office. The headquarters was replaced in 2009 by the Veterans Services Office, a full-resource center for those leaving active duty and entering higher education.

At the time it was created, the office was—and still is, to a degree—atypical among higher education institutions.

"Not a lot of campuses—even Tier 1 'destination schools,' as I would call them—have dedicated spaces for their studentveterans," said Ruben Cardenas, CWU Veterans Center director.

The center was established in response to interest from student-veterans who wanted a one-stop-shop to access a range of services, such as help with GI Bill paperwork to getting connected with health care—even just having a place to interact with peers.

It was relocated into its own, larger space in 2019. Cardenas considers that a milestone for the university and its studentveterans.

"There's some symbolism that the university is displaying by having a dedicated space—that we care about this student population," he said. "And our students feel a little more welcome in a space that is dedicated to them."

Among that group is Sherice Fraser, who tries to help her peers feel more welcome through her role as the student Veterans Club president. The club offers a way for members to come together, build community, and learn about available resources.

"We also host what we call the VEG (Veterans Experience Group), when those within the ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps), active military and veterans come and talk about their experiences," Fraser said. "It's also an opportunity for students to voice their opinions and make suggestions for changes, which we write down and then present [to university officials]."

The club also sponsors field trips to military sites and museums. These educational experiences are open to club members without prior military service or training, as CWU's Veterans Club is open to all university students. Last year, the club had 71 members, including student-veterans, those with no military experience, alumni, senior faculty and staff (42% are alumni).

Fraser is a veteran herself. She joined the Army and served for over six years at Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Riley, Kansas and Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), south of Tacoma. She is among the roughly one-in-three CWU student-veterans who are women.

Student-veterans like Fraser can't succeed if they can't get into the classes they need or afford them. In response, CWU has established a priority-registration process for studentmilitary members. The students and their family members also



Ruben Cardenas, CWU Veterans Center director



Each year, the CWU Veterans Center sponsors a flag display along Walnut Mall in conjunction with Veterans Day to honor the service of veterans and current military servicemen and servicewomen.



Edwin Torres served five years in the Marines and now helps CWU veterans transitioning back to civilian life.

may qualify for lower state tuition, regardless of where they call home—even Kingston, Jamaica, like Fraser.

In 2010, she and her family emigrated to Miramar, Florida, where she attended high school. She decided to enlist in the Army to help her pay for college, and her decision to attend CWU was directly tied to her time at JBLM.

"One of my friends, who was prior active duty, was going to Central and he told me all about the school," she explained. "So, I reached out to Central and the communication I had with staff was good. My paperwork was processed quickly and I was able to get in on time to start ROTC and my college classes."

Along with receiving her bachelor's degree in communications next June, Fraser will be commissioned as a U.S. Army second lieutenant and will join the National Guard.

CWU also prides itself in recognizing student-veterans for their academic accomplishments. The university's chapter of the SALUTE (Service, Academics, Leadership, Unity, Tribute, and Excellence) Veterans National Honor Society was the first one established in the Pacific Northwest in 2012. It is one of just 81 national chapters at U.S. colleges and universities.

"I had a couple of student-veterans come and tell me about the honor society, and they said they thought we should get that going here at CWU," explained Ralf Greenwald, CWU's SALUTE chapter faculty director. "It's awesome that it was a charge led by student-veterans. It's in line with Central's value of having a veterans-friendly campus. We've come leaps and bounds from where we first started."

Greenwald, a Navy veteran who served in Desert Storm, is the only faculty director the chapter has had.

"This is one of the small ways in which I feel I can give back to Central and the vet community," he added. "I would have loved to have something like this when I was a student."

To be inducted into CWU's SALUTE chapter, undergraduate student-veterans must have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.0 (3.5 for graduate students). They also must have either an honorable discharge from the armed forces, or be currently serving on active duty or in the National Guard or reserves.

"Veterans gets honored for lots of things, but generally, academics tend to fall by the wayside," said Greenwald, who is also a CWU psychology professor.

In their honor, SALUTE hosts an annual, formal recognition dinner and indoctrination ceremony for its members, their families, and friends prior to graduation. During a typical year, about a dozen students are honored, with 30 percent of them graduate students.

CWU extends its outreach efforts to student-veterans beyond campus through associations and partnerships with many outside organizations, such as the Kittitas County Veterans Coalition. The coalition also can help identify, and meet, emerging needs of student-veterans and their families.

"Easing the transition from military to student life as much as possible for our student-veterans is the goal," Cardenas said.

CWU VETERANS FACTS

A decade ago, CWU established a full-service Veterans
Center, which was one of the first such centers established on a college campus in Washington.

CWU established the first SALUTE (Service, Academics, Leadership, Unity, Tribute, and Excellence) chapter in the Pacific Northwest. SALUTE is a national academic honor society recognizing student veterans and military personnel.

CWU is one of just two public higher education institutions in Washington offering Kognito, an online training program that provides guidance for working with student veterans transitioning to civilian life.

CWU is a two-time national finalist for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Freedom Award, presented to up to 15 public and private employers annually for demonstrated support for their National Guard and reserve employees. CWU is one of just four Washington higher education institutions permitted to provide instruction directly at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the largest military installation on the West Coast.

8.2%

Percentage increase of U.S. military service members, veterans, and military families studying at CWU between 2016 and 2020.

CWU is one of just 14 educational institutions in Washington to receive a Partners for Veterans Supportive Campuses certificate from the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA).

345

Number of veterans studying at CWU.

HOTOGRAPH CWU BROOKS LIBRARY ARCHIVES. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: BRET BLEGG

GI Joe Goes to College: **Central's Vetville**

By Richard Moreno

Vetville circa 1950

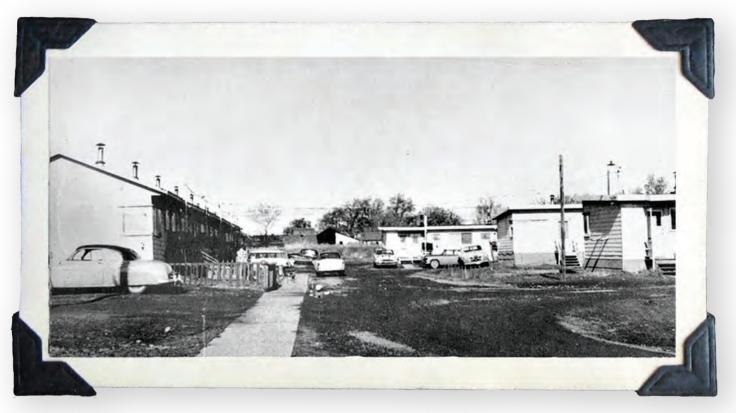
In post-World War II America, few pieces of legislation had as much impact on college campuses—including CWU (then known as Central Washington College of Education)—as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly called the "GI Bill®."

The bill provided a host of benefits to returning WWII veterans, including paying most of the expenses for a college education. Almost as soon as the war ended, veterans began matriculating back into civilian life, many taking advantage of their new educational benefits.

At Central, the number of veterans jumped from 13 in the fall of 1945 to 119 in the winter quarter. Nationally, some 7.8 million veterans took advantage of the bill and enrolled in college between 1944 and 1956 (when the original Readjustment Act expired).

To provide some context: Central's regular student enrollment number during the 1943-44 academic year was 268 students. The following year, it crept up to 303 and to 372 during the 1945-46 year. But in 1946-47, when the war finally ended and the Readjustment Act was in full swing, the school's total enrollment, including the new veterans, exploded to 918, then jumped to 1,125 in 1947-48, 1,307 in 1948-49, and 1,558 in 1949-50.

The man who had to address this sudden student boom was President Robert E. McConnell, who quickly recognized that the veterans coming to campus also had different needs than the typical Central student.



"The veteran students were quite different from the students Central had known before [the war]," noted historian Samuel R. Mohler, author of The First Seventy-Five Years, A History of Central Washington State College, published in 1967. "They were more mature in many respects and somewhat impatient with the idiosyncrasies of the recent high school graduates."

Mohler continued: "Many who had attended CWCE previously were more serious students than they had been before, and some who had been casual 'college Joes' in the careless pre-war days now turned in amazingly good work."

Another difference was that many were married and had children, which, Mohler noted, put even more pressure on the local housing market.

McConnell's solution? Acquire surplus Army barracks from the former Moses Lake Air Force Base and transport them to Ellensburg, where they could be repurposed as housing for veterans and their families. In short order, a complex of some 50 units was assembled at the north end of campus and a community known as Vetville was born.

Patrick Devlin, who retired in 2018 after working in the Facilities Management Division for more than three decades and grew up in Ellensburg, said the former barracks were on Walnut Mall (formerly Walnut Street), east of the L & L Building and north of the Ganges ditch.

He recalled that the university bought the barracks for \$1 and had them "cut up and brought here to Central" in sections, where they were reassembled for veterans' housing.

Devlin said returning veterans also sometimes lived in the original Kennedy Hall (now the International Building) and in a two-story barracks structure across Walnut Mall from North Hall. That building, demolished in the late 1980s, was previously located at Bowers Field, where it housed soldiers training at the airfield during WWII. Later, the structure became known as the Paleontology Building.

Bell Hawk, editor of Central Remembered: A Collection of Memories and Anecdotes, compiled in 1992 for the university's centennial, noted, "Commencing with the first influx of veterans, housing became critical. Pre-fabricated government surplus buildings located at the Ellensburg Airport were first utilized. Very soon, purchased units were placed on land acquired north of the college (beyond the existing Milwaukee Railroad tracks).

"These four barrack-like modules, devoid of amenities and surrounded by mud in wet weather, became temporary dormitories occupied predominately by veterans, and not infrequently, married and with young children," he continued. "Most appropriately, the area was promptly dubbed 'Vetville."



the married students living in Vetville-including three sets of twins in a 15-month period as noted in the May 27, 1960 issue of the Campus Crier-had some on campus referring to it as "Fertile Acres."

Alma McConnell, wife of President McConnell, recalled in a 1991 interview that "it was the only thing we could do for the money; we had to have them quickly."

Since Vetville's barracks were not constructed for longevity or luxury, improvements were made over the years. Responding to complaints about the draftiness of the facilities, President McConnell authorized the installation of insulating materials in February 1957.

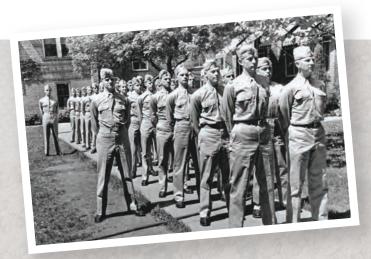
Two years later, the April 24, 1959, *Campus Crier* student newspaper described a "Fix-Up Campaign" to clean and paint the buildings. The article noted that Vetville had 62 children at that time, so there were ongoing discussions of having a fence around the complex, which was erected by the end of the year.

"Many misconceptions have arisen about Vetville in the last few years concerning its livability and desirability," the newspaper noted. "Each of the units is comfortably furnished ... the desirability of Vetville has been shown by the hundreds of requests for unit housing."

During the decade and a half that it existed, Vetville established itself as a distinct campus community. For many years, the *Crier* included a weekly "Vetville News" column containing tidbits about visitors to the complex ("Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Sweeney had as their guests last Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Litzenburg and two sons, and Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Hadley of Yakima.").

Additionally, the paper routinely listed the results of Vetville-based intramural teams and noted the births of any children to Vetville couples ("Vetville Students Beat The Odds, Disprove Statistics—With Twins!" noted a headline in the May 27, 1960, *Campus Crier*).

Vetville residents also had an elected mayor, who served as a



WWII Comes to Central

By Richard Moreno

Once America found itself deeply involved in World War II, CWU quickly mobilized to support the war effort.

By early 1942, the campus had implemented procedures for the evacuation of buildings (in case of attack) and also began trial "blackouts," with all campus lights extinguished by 11:45 p.m.

Additionally, by the fall of 1942, as more and more local men were drafted into service, the Central Washington region

experienced a labor shortage in apple orchards. Students voted to close school for three days so they could help during the harvest that year. Some 375 students and faculty (out of 540 total) volunteered to pick apples in Yakima, Wenatchee, and other parts of the region.

"Altogether, they picked nearly 36,000 boxes of apples, worth almost \$60,000, most of which otherwise would have been lost, since cold weather came early that year," noted historian Samuel R. Mohler.

Students also aided the war effort in other ways. Female students worked with the Red Cross and the United Service Organizations (U.S.O.) and spearheaded sales efforts for savings bonds. Residents of Sue Lombard Hall set aside a "Sacrifice Day," on which they donated money to the war effort that they might otherwise have spent on soda or personal items.

To stay informed on the issues of the day, the campus hosted a Wednesday night "Culture Hour," where Central faculty made presentations on topics such as "Hitler's Rise to Power" and "Social Trends in Music in the Twenties and Thirties."



liaison with university administration, as well as elected representatives to the Honor Council and the Student Government Association.

As for changes brought by the veterans themselves to the university, Sidnie Davies Mundy, emeritus professor of English at Central, wrote in Central Remembered that when she was offered a position at Central in 1946, "this new class of students was glad to be in college, something many in their ranks had never thought they would have the opportunity to do."

According to Bell Hawk, "Veterans proved to be mature, serious students of academic superiority, shunning traditional collegiate frivolities, intent on gaining their education and getting on with their lives and careers."

Mohler echoed those sentiments, adding, "in general, they were so glad to be out of the service and in college that they

made the readjustment remarkably well. Many of them had never thought of going to college before but were delighted with what they found there."

Not surprisingly, Vetville residents boasted some of the highest grade-point averages among the various student groups, according to news accounts of the time.

Vetville was never intended to be a permanent addition to the campus, however. In the early 1960s, construction of the Short-Getz Married Student Apartments and the Wahle Married Student Apartments, spelled the end of the old barracks, which were demolished in 1962.

Looking back on Vetville, Alma McConnell recalled, "They weren't fancy, but they [the students] had a good time."

They certainly did.

FLYING HIGH

In 1940, Central successfully petitioned the Federal Civil Aeronautics Authority for a Civilian Pilot training unit. Initially, the program had only 15 students, but once the war started, the quota was raised to 40. By the time the program concluded in mid-1942, a total of 263 students had completed the training, most of whom served in the Armed Services during the war.

That, however, wasn't the end of Central's partnership with the federal government for pilot training. In the fall of 1942, President Robert McConnell, upon hearing the government wanted to establish a training school for units of the Army Air Force, sent telegrams to the War Department offering the college's facilities and assistance.

The offer was accepted, and by the end of January 1943, Central was planning for the first Army Air Force cadets. On March 1, 1943, 200 men from the 314th Army Air Force Training Detachment arrived on campus.



To accommodate the influx of cadets, McConnell shuffled around some of the campus housing. Male students previously residing in Munson Hall moved into two downtown Ellensburg hotels (the Antlers Hotel and Webster Hotel), while female students living in Kamola Hall were relocated into Munson (cadets later used Munson as well). The moves opened up Kamola for the cadets.

Patrick Devlin, who worked in Central's Facilities Management Division from 1984 until 2018, said he discovered over the years a number of items dating back to the cadets' time on campus, including a "Dear John" letter behind a heating register in Kamola when it was being remodeled.

In March 1943, more than 200 soldiers, officers, and military staff members of the 314th Army Air Force arrived on campus to commence their training, which included classes in mathematics, physics, history, English, and physical training, in addition to training to serve as air crews for fighter units.

"As for the cadets themselves, they seemed to like it [Central]," Mohler wrote. "One of the visiting Army inspectors said that the singing of the students as they marched in formation from one building to another reflected 'an enthusiasm and high state of morale."

For the next 18 months, various military units passed through the training program at Central. When the program began to wind down in 1945, McConnell unsuccessfully sought to persuade the military to remain at Central. While that effort failed, Central was selected in 1951 to participate in the Air Force ROTC program, which continues to this day (CWU's Army ROTC program was established in 1981).

Developing Future Diplomat-Soldiers

By Robert Lowery

Most people assume that soldiers and diplomats perform entirely different roles in conflict situations. But in the Army, possessing both skill sets is not only advantageous; it's required.

"There's a bigger picture, a political dimension referred to as 'diplomat-soldiers," explained Lt. Col. Bonnie Kovatch, CWU's Army ROTC detachment commander. "When you're working in a multi-national, international, or joint operation—or even domestically with the work done by the National Guard or reserves—you need to place deliberate effort into harnessing the power of partner-ships and relationships."

Kovatch arrived on campus in 2018 after two years at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Belgium, where she supported counterintelligence operations within NATO. Her role involved coordinating with 29 nations through Allied Command Counterintelligence to "keep spies from spying on NATO," as she describes it. She quickly found that diplomatic skills were essential when performing those duties.

"I don't think we [the Army] could complete our mission if we weren't diplomatic in our approach," she said.

Senior Jared Cloud, of Woodland, Washington, served as the Cadet Battalion Commander last year. As the highest-ranking student in the Wildcat Battalion's command structure, he worked closely with Kovatch, including crafting the organization's first mission statement.

The Wildcat Battalion is a family that develops courageous leaders to reach their full potential, and Kovatch has been instrumental in the success of those she mentors.

"She amplifies the fact that the military is a people-oriented business," Cloud said. "No matter what you're doing, in the Army, there is always going to be a transaction between you and another individual. Her big thing is you have to be a good person first. Because, without being a good person—even if you're the best leader—you're much harder to follow as a soldier. It's how she approaches leadership."

Kovatch is the first female detachment commander in the CWU Army ROTC program's 39-year history. The Wildcat Battalion consistently ranks at the top of the 30 schools that comprise the US Army Cadet Command's 8th Brigade, which includes schools in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam.

Kovatch noted that her career path was inextricably linked to an unexpected ROTC deployment with diplomatic ramifications: the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"I watched my peer cadets, who were members of the New York Army National Guard, get activated to go to New York City and assist there," recalled Kovatch, who was a junior at Siena College in New York at the time. "That's when the gravity and reality sank in. It changed the focus of the cadre and underlined the importance of what we were doing."

Kovatch said this year's CWU cadets have had to face similar, unexpected challenges with COVID-19 and social justice protests. One-third of her cadets and two members of her staff were called up for National Guard deployment to assist with public health and protest control efforts.

"It's a different 'version,' but just as impactful a moment in their development and histories," she said, adding that this year's events further intensified the pressure on cadets trying to finish their degrees in an online environment.

Kovatch will lead a new group of soldiers next year, when she returns to SHAPE to assume command of NATO Allied Forces North Battalion. She will lead the battalion's mission to support NATO by ensuring individual soldier and family readiness through training, logistics, and human resources. She believes Central helped prepare her well for the new job.

"I learned how to adapt to a different kind of institution here," she said. "There have been many valuable lessons from the relationship- and partnership-building in which I've been involved on campus and within the community that I will definitely take forward into command at NATO."

Once again, diplomacy will be key since the battalion involves multinational partnerships throughout northern Europe. Perhaps one day, an officer from Kovatch's CWU cadet class will join her.

"I think that would be great," she said, enthusiastically. "I say 'yes' wholeheartedly because the young men and women that I've had the chance to work with are the future officers of the United States Army. Every day, I've come to work with the intention of helping develop my future officer corps—people I would want in my unit."







By Dave Leder

Photos courtesy of story participants.

Return to civilian life can be daunting, but it can also be empowering.

When you have been immersed in military culture for most of your early adult years, the transition back to civilian life isn't as easy as you might think.

People outside of the military speak and act differently. Schedules are more relaxed. Daily responsibilities don't seem as urgent. No one is barking orders — and, if you want to, you can bark back.

The biggest difference most service members experience when trying to readjust to a typical American routine is that there isn't an established "mission." It's just normal life.

But, as many CWU veterans can relate, relearning how to be independent and self-reliant feels anything but normal. In fact, the contrast can be downright disorienting.

"You tend to have a certain state of mind when you're in the military," said CWU senior Edwin Torres, who served in the Marine Corps from 2010-15. "A lot of service members don't realize they've gotten so used to doing things a certain way, and it can be hard for them to switch it off. It's definitely a learning experience getting back into the civilian world. There's no chain of command; you're just on your own."

Torres, 28, joined the Marines out of high school, working as an aviation mechanic primarily on U.S. soil. He was deployed to Afghanistan for seven months in 2013 and began pursuing his degree in 2015, spending two years in junior college before moving to Ellensburg.



He said the most difficult adjustment he had to make when becoming a full-time student was relating to classmates who were typically five years younger than him.

"I found myself searching for people who had the same experiences as I did, but I realized that wasn't always going to be possible," said Torres, a native of Moses Lake who plans to complete his geography degree at CWU this fall.

"There were sometimes gaps in maturity, and it was frustrating to see people who were talking and texting in class because the only reason I was there was to learn. But I eventually learned to interact more with my classmates. The biggest thing for me was learning to let things slide a little more. You just have to take it one day at a time and try not to be so high strung."

Higher Expectations

CWU alumna Kristin Ashley experienced many of the same challenges when she started college a few years after serving as an Army combat medic from 2004-09.

Now 35, the Ellensburg native didn't begin pursuing her dual degrees in global wine studies and tourism management until 2013, eventually graduating from CWU in 2017 after earning an associate's degree from Wenatchee Valley Community College. She discovered early on that interacting with classmates 10 years her junior was going to be a challenge.

"At first, it was hard for me to work with other people who didn't take things as seriously as I did," said Ashley, who worked in a detainee facility in southern Iraq from 2006-07. "I was hyper-focused and I was always trying to find people to help me accomplish the 'mission.' On group projects, I realized that the mission wasn't the same for everyone, so I would always take the lead so I could get the grade I wanted."

As time went on, she figured out how to adjust to the different dynamics on campus. Her leadership instincts never went away, but Ashley learned to soften her approach, allowing her to enjoy the latter part of her education even more. That shift in personal style also reminded her how the world outside the military operates.

"Toward the end of my college career, I learned to recognize other people's strengths and give them time to become part of the communication process," said Ashley, a former event coordinator whose current job involves educating the public about renewable energy. "I learned how important it is to give people time to express their ideas, rather than just assume a leadership role. That was a real growing experience for me."

Different Stages in Life

Most returning service members can relate to what Ashley and Torres endured when trying to reestablish themselves socially. Whether you end up on a college campus or working for a private company, almost everything you do feels different, at least for a period of time.

As 2018 CWU graduate Will Spencer discovered, the protocols and social norms common in the military don't always translate to civilian life.

"The main difference I saw was that the other kids on campus didn't have much experience living on their own," said Spencer, 32, who served at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana from 2009-15. "For them, it was some kind of mountain to climb. But for me, it was just another hurdle along the way. We were approaching college from two completely different points in our lives."

When Spencer started his education at Arizona State University in 2015, most of his peers were eight years younger. He said they all seemed to be searching for the independence he had already discovered while working three years in construction and six in the military. In some ways, he felt like the proverbial man among boys.

"I felt obligated to go to class and get good grades because that was my job," said Spencer, a native of Goldendale who now works in residential construction in Pensacola, Florida. "I thought everyone else would be the same way, but a lot of my classmates were still coming into their own. It was interesting to see that contrast."

Sense of Duty

For some service members-turned-college-students, having considerably more life experience than their peers can feel awkward at times. But, as CWU alum Josh Klinger discovered, there are also some advantages to being the old guy on the block.

The 2014 environmental studies graduate experienced his own re-initiation period when he came to Ellensburg in 2010. And while he went through some social challenges of his own, Klinger said he quickly learned to use his maturity to his advantage.

"I was a typical college student, but I was just a little older than the other freshmen," said Klinger, a former Navy corpsman who was on active duty from 2006-08 and in the reserves until 2010. "One of the big advantages I had from being in the military was that I could buckle down and get my work done when I needed to. I had already learned self-discipline, which helped me focus better than some of my classmates who were still figuring things out."

Like Torres, Ashley, and Spencer, Klinger felt an obligation to do well in school. He wanted to maximize his opportunities for future success, but he also wanted to live up to the commitment he made when he enlisted in the Navy during his senior year at Sedro-Woolley High School.

"I didn't have to be there; I was being paid to be there," said Klinger, 33, who was deployed to Iraq as a Navy hospital corpsman for eight months. "To me, it wasn't a free ride. I felt like I had to earn my education."

That sense of commitment ended up paying off for Klinger, who graduated from CWU with a 3.4 grade-point average despite some early struggles. He found a way to persevere, and now he's working toward a career in public safety.

"I remember tanking my first test and telling my professor, 'I don't know how to learn anymore," said Klinger, who works as a bus mechanic in his hometown of Sedro-Woolley. "But he was able to teach me how to become a student again, and it worked."

Standard of Excellence

CWU graduate student Alex Salazar said his experience in the Army not only made him a better student; it taught him to strive for excellence.

The National Guard lieutenant finished his undergraduate degree in information technology and administrative management (ITAM) in June, earning a 4.0 GPA. He's currently pursuing a master's degree in ITAM, also at CWU, and credits his military experience for helping him excel at every challenge he encounters in life.

"I would say the military helped shape me as a student because it taught me to never settle for the bare minimum," said Salazar, 26. "When you have military discipline, you do whatever you have to do to complete your assigned duties. Not doing an assignment isn't an option, and I carried that mentality with me into college."

Spending time overseas also has proven beneficial for Salazar, a native of Southern California who discovered CWU when he was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma.

During his time in the Army, he traveled to Japan and spent six months in Kuwait. Those experiences, combined with trips to visit his extended family in El Salvador, have given Salazar a valuable perspective about the world that has helped him relate to people from many cultural backgrounds.

"Going to Japan really helped me in my general studies and Asian studies classes because I felt like a knew more about the culture than what is portrayed over here," he said. "That helped me get to know my Asian classmates better and understand where they were coming from. Kuwait had a similar effect, and it helped me connect with some of our Saudi students on campus."

Lasting Appreciation

Ashley, the retired Army medic, said her time in the military also helped her better relate to people from a range of cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. She emerged from her military service with a newfound appreciation for her own life circumstances.





Kristin Ashley helped many of her fellow service members while serving as an Army combat medic.

"Coming back home from Iraq, it was interesting to me to see how insulated we are from the sacrifices others in the world make so we can have our way of life," Ashley said. "I am very grateful that I was born here and not somewhere else-especially as a woman."

Similarly, Salazar said he wouldn't be the same person today if he hadn't made the decision to enter the ROTC program out of high school in 2012. Now, he uses his experiences from the past eight years to educate and empower others.

"Starting college at 23, I had a lot more life experience than most of my peers, and that really benefitted me," he said. "But I don't use those experiences to set myself apart; I use them to encourage people. I tell them it's OK if you don't have it all figured out. I am graduating at 26 and barely starting my career, so they will have four years of work experience that I never had."

Torres, the former Marine, also leans on his military training to help other people, serving as a Vet Corps navigator for CWU. The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs program provides a support network for students with military backgrounds to help them achieve their higher education goals.

"We're there to help students and their families with the transition, and provide them with the resources they need to succeed," Torres said. "It's kind of come full circle for me because, just a few years ago, I was the one coming out of the military and having trouble adjusting. Now, I'm helping out other veterans as much as I can."



CWU senior Alex Salazar, right, said his two overseas deployments taught him a lot about himself.

TIME DOESN'T HEAL ALL WOUNDS

By Dave Leder

Going to college is hard enough without having to carry with you the emotional baggage of fighting in a war. But anyone who has ever served on the front lines knows that the psychological scars from battle take a long time to heal if they ever do.

It's been 18 years since Joshua Keyes took part in the initial surge of the Iraq War with the Marines, and he's still coping with the after-effects of his two combat deployments to Iraq. The 38-year-old CWU student, who lives with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), said he is still trying to find peace as he works to complete his computer science degree.



Joshua Keyes

"I started college in California as soon as I completed my service in the Marines Corps, and I was two years into my degree program before life situations altered my path," said Keyes, who re-enrolled at CWU in the fall of 2019. "After 16 years, there are still many challenges to overcome."

Keyes, who served from 2000-04, said his struggles related to PTSD have worsened as he has gotten older. He often has trouble summoning enough energy to get through a typical day, regularly coping with bouts of memory loss, anxiety, and insomnia. And while he tries to not let PTSD interfere with his daily routine, the effects of his experiences on the battlefield are ever-present.

"It's definitely a challenge," he said. "There have been times where I've felt like I had dementia because I can't remember what I'm doing. My mind becomes preoccupied and I become stuck in thoughts and memories—generally from events I wasn't able to process fully at the time."

Keyes said his four years of military service also created some social challenges for him when he returned to civilian life. Military culture is unrelenting at times—"more primal," as he describes it—and once you've lived in that world for an extended time. adapting to civilian life can be taxing.

"In the Marines, a leader has no option to shy away from confrontation; you must meet those challenges," Keyes said. "So, when you are around groups of younger guys who don't come from the same background, it can be difficult to maintain perspective. You have to recognize and respect the cultural differences and let things go."

Another CWU veteran, Marcus Jaffe, was never officially diagnosed with PTSD, but he knows he didn't return home the same as when he left. Things have gotten better since he came back from Iraq in 2005, although the initial reintroduction was anything but easy.

"At first, I had a hard time with loud noises and concentrated groups of people," said Jaffe, 40, a 2009 CWU alum who now teaches clinical physiology at the university. "I would wake up in the middle of the night from a loud noise and run to the door to see what was there. My wife would have to be careful waking me up because I would go from a deep sleep to being 100 percent awake. Thankfully, that got better. But it lasted for at least a couple years."



Marcus Jaffe

Jaffe was on active duty in the Army for four and a half years, which included a one-year deployment to Iraq in 2004-05. He was "as front line as it gets," driving supply vehicles from Baghdad to Fallujah. He participated in 63 convoys that year and feels fortunate to have returned home safely.

"It was the real deal," said Jaffe, a physical therapist in the Army reserves who also serves as the director of rehabilitation therapy at Kittitas Valley Healthcare. "Every few trips, we would have some sort of enemy contact. Most of the time it would be a few gun shots, but there were times where it got pretty serious. Those experiences definitely stayed with me."

Having spent a year on the front lines, Jaffe has found that he can relate better with disabled veterans in his work as a physical therapist. He may not be suffering from the same injuries as his patients, and his emotions aren't as raw as they were 15 years ago. But he understands what it's like to return home from a war zone—and he knows the road to recovery takes time.

"I work with a lot of disabled soldiers, and the hardest thing for them is adjusting to their new reality," Jaffe said. "In the military, they have an identity that they are proud of and that defines them. But it all got stripped away from them when they got injured. It feels like they've lost a piece of themselves, and that plays with their mind in a big way."

WHAT IS PTSD?

Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a psychiatric condition known to occur in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event such as a serious accident. a terrorist act, war/combat situations, or who have been threatened with death, violence or serious injury.

PTSD is most often associated with combat veterans, but it can affect anyone at any age. The disorder affects approximately 3.5 percent of U.S. adults every year, and an estimated one in 11 people will be diagnosed with PTSD in their lifetime. According to the American Psychiatric Association, women are twice as likely as men to have PTSD.

People with PTSD have intense, disturbing thoughts and feelings related to their experience that last long after the traumatic event has ended. They may relive the event through flashbacks or nightmares; they may feel sadness, fear, or anger; and they may feel detached or estranged from other people.

If you know a veteran who is experiencing symptoms of PTSD and is in need of assistance, contact the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-800-273-TALK (8255). More information about PTSD can be found at dva.wa.gov or psychiatry.org.





Now retired, CWU alumnus Terry Robling, shown here in his Marine Corps flying days, established the Lieutenant General Terry Robling Speaker Series to bring military officers to campus to meet with students.

etired Lieutenant General Terry Robling wanted to give back to the university that had helped him set out on a career path that would take him to Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and all over the US.

Robling, who served 38 years in the military, did so by creating the Lt. Gen. Terry Robling Speaker Series, which provides Central students the opportunity to hear from military officers who help them understand why the military is a good career option.

"It means a lot to me to be able to give back and possibly help those students who are looking at giving service to their country, whether they make it a career or not," he said.

Robling graduated from Central in 1976 and enlisted in the US Marine Corps with a simple plan: learn to fly jets, earn his wings, and then, in three to four years, move on to the next chapter of his life.

But, as is often the case, plans changed. Once a Leatherneck, Robling not only learned how to fly airplanes; he enjoyed being in uniform. By the time he retired as a lieutenant general in 2014, Robling's plan to serve a couple of years had stretched out to almost four decades.

"I am very proud to have given 38 years of service to my country as a US Marine," Robling said. "I was humbled at the opportunity to teach, lead, and mentor the very finest young men and women our nation has to offer."

Robling's career took him from flying F-4 Phantoms in Hawaii to several deployments in Japan, with flights throughout Asia. Over the years, he moved up through the ranks, learned to fly other aircraft, such as F/A-18 Hornets, and relocated to California, Washington D.C., and Iraq (where he was deputy commander of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing during the Iraqi Freedom mission).

Along the way, he earned a master's degree in national security strategy from the prestigious National Defense University in Washington, D.C. and was stationed at the Pentagon, where he worked in the operations department for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Three years later, he was selected for the American Political Science Fellowship at Johns Hopkins University.

During his time in Iraq in 2002 as a one-star general, he served under fellow CWU graduate General James N. Mattis, who was the two-star general in charge of the division. Robling's airwing supported Mattis' division as they marched to Baghdad.

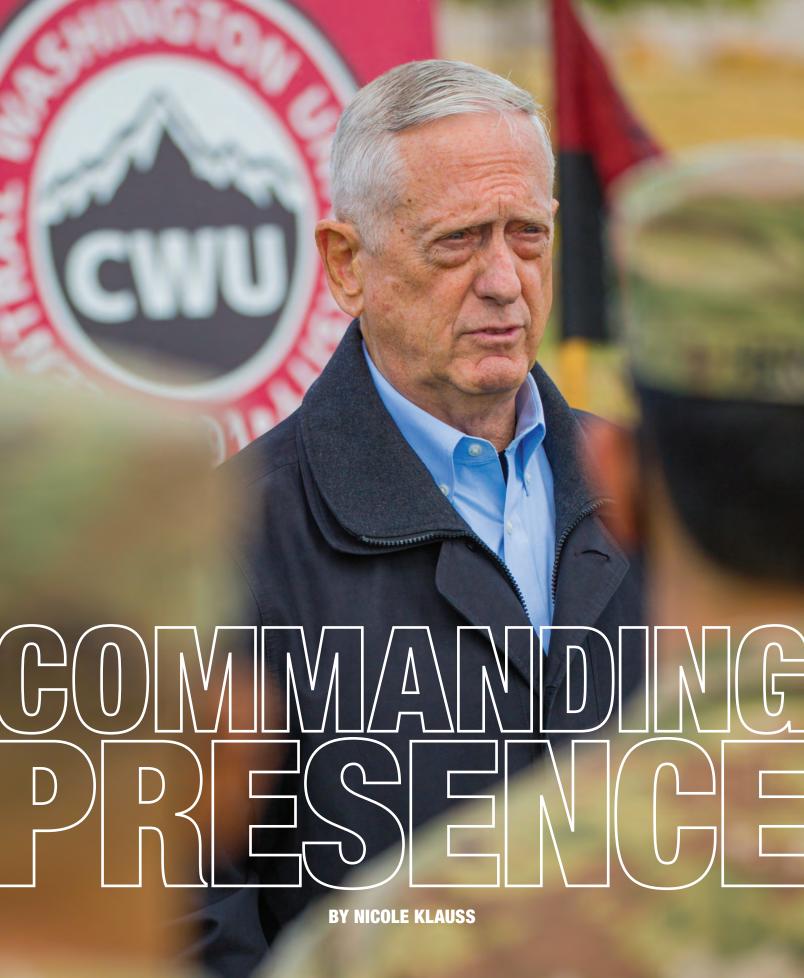
"General Mattis is one of the very finest military leaders this nation has ever produced," Robling said. "Watching him very closely during combat in Iraqi Freedom was both humbling and inspiring. Everyone he comes into contact with professionally becomes a better leader and person for having known him."

Robling continued climbing through the ranks, earning his second and third stars, while working with NATO in Italy, serving as commanding general of the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, and, eventually serving as the commanding general of the Marine Corps Forces, Pacific—the Marine Corps' largest command of about 90,000 Marines and civilians.

Over the course of many years of service, Robling received 31 Department of Defense commendations, including the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan and the Legion of Honour (Rank of Knight) from the President of France.

"Hard work and training are key indicators to whether any person will be successful completing a task," Robling said. "I always strived to do my best at whatever task I was given, large or small. The educational and social foundation afforded me by CWU—combined with my Marine Corps training—helped me immensely in every job I was given, and I was very fortunate and humbled to be recognized for each of those awards."

Robling's retirement from the military didn't relegate him to a life of golf or shuffleboard tournaments. He opened his own aerospace consulting business, which he still runs today, and became CEO of PKL Services, a leading global aerospace company. He stepped down as CEO earlier this year after five and a half years.



General James Mattis respected by CWU veterans, past and present

Veterans have always played an important role in CWU's campus culture, with many well-known alumni going on to pursue successful careers in the military after graduation.

Retired General James "Jim" Mattis, the nation's 26th Secretary of Defense, is undoubtedly the most well-known veteran with a CWU degree, but he's not the only marquee name on the list of accomplished veterans who have ties to the university. Other notable Wildcats from over the years include Douglas Munro, Cortland Carmody, Richard Iverson, and John R. Croft.

CWU Veterans Center Director Ruben Cardenas rarely misses a chance to promote these service members' connections to the institution, referencing veterans like Mattis in recruitment materials as a way of inspiring students on campus.

"He's one of the more popular service members or officers who are CWU alumni, mostly because of the status or ranks he's risen to and accomplished," Cardenas said of Mattis, a Marine Corps veteran of 44 years who served as Secretary of Defense from 2017-19.

"There have been numerous occasions where you're interacting with new students in our space (the Veterans Center) and they see a picture of General Mattis on the rack card," he continued. "Some people know who he is, and they didn't know he was a Central alum, and then they get really excited. They're following in his footsteps to a certain extent."

Mattis, a native of Richland, enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve at 18, graduating from CWU in 1971 before being commissioned as a second lieutenant. He said he had not committed to a career in the military while attending Central, but knew he would serve in some capacity.

"In 1969, the draft was on," Mattis said. "We all knew, or assumed when we came out of college, we would probably be

drafted. The options—run away to Canada or something—were not good, and so we had to go ... I'd chosen to go into the Marine Corps, rather than be drafted when I came out of school."

Mattis spent more than four decades serving the Marines at all levels, from infantry rifle platoon to a Marine Expeditionary Force. He said the people he worked with made him decide to continue his career in military service.

"I just liked the people, and that just led me into sticking around for a while," Mattis said. "I realized I'd rather have, at times, a crummy job and work with great people than have great jobs and work with anything less, and so I thought that I'd found the best people."

Throughout his career, Mattis has come across others who are proud Wildcats like he is. The difference tended to disappear once they started talking about Central's football team, he said.

"I ran into them all the time," Mattis said. "I remember one of them talking to me on the radio because he knew what unit they were supporting on the ground. When I was talking to the pilot in the air, he let me know he was a Wildcat. He was a Navy pilot coming in hot to help us out."

Mattis has made return trips to Ellensburg to visit with friends he made during his time at CWU. He has also stayed in contact with several of his former Muzzall Hall colleagues, even attending a reunion in 2016.

He said the friendships, walking the campus, and playing sports remain some of his favorite memories from his college

"Central was a wonderful place to make friends—lifelong friends," he said.



Retired General James Mattis, a CWU alum, recently offered words of encouragement to Central's ROTC students.

Alumni Connections

Mattis still plays a prominent role in the military today, and his connections to CWU continue to inspire Wildcats from the past, present, and future.

Major Joseph Siemandel, a CWU alum who now works at Camp Murray in Tacoma, met Mattis for the first time this summer while filming a public service announcement of Mattis urging people to wear masks to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"It was such an amazing day to meet a guy like that, and have that in common where we went to school," Siemandel said.

Siemandel serves as the state's public affairs officer for the Washington National Guard, and he knows many CWU graduates who have served. He graduated in 2008 with a degree in public relations and minors in journalism and military science.

"There are a ton of Central graduates and Central students that are in the National Guard," he said. "I feel like you can't go more than six people without running into a connection."

Siemandel says he tries to make the trip back to Ellensburg once a year to visit his alma mater. And he's not alone.

"Every Guardsman has that same feeling when you go to Central—it was home for four years, so you always want to go back," he said.

Another CWU grad and former Marine who had the opportunity to work on an assignment with Mattis was Dan Burke, who was in the Marines from 2006-11. Although the two alums never officially crossed paths, Burke provided security for the officers' homes at the Washington Navy Yard while he was working at the Marine barracks. One of his jobs was to guard the neighborhood where Mattis lived for a period of time.

Burke said one of the highlights from his career was working at Camp David in Maryland, where he protected the president and any visiting heads of state. While stationed there, he had the opportunity to meet Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

"When a president goes to Camp David—because he's on our base—he's our responsibility," Burke said. "We get to see the funny things behind the scenes like Bush crashing on a mountain bike. It's a little surreal, but you get desensitized when you see these people all the time."

While Mattis didn't personally know most of the Wildcats he has encountered over the years, he said their conversations often drifted to wishing they were back in Ellensburg, a calming thought when they were stationed in less-inviting places.

"It was interesting to be in the military," Mattis said. "You'd be talking about what country you're in and you'd see that America is a country that always criticized itself. It's never complacent, always finds problems, keeps working to get better. When you were overseas and saw what other people lived with, and saw how they lived in poverty or in countries that didn't have the same freedom, you realized the country didn't have to be perfect to be worth fighting for. As long as it was trying to get better, that's all that mattered."

Through the Ranks

Central boasts a large number of alumni who have had successful military careers. The roster of those who served after college includes:

• Colonel Richard "Dick" Iverson accepted a commission with the U.S. Air Force after graduation so he could complete his pilot training. During his career, he flew more than 10 different types of military aircraft, commanded the 528th Bomb Squadron, and served in various staff, executive, and command positions. Iverson, who graduated with honors from Central in 1967, died in October 2017.



• Colonel Brad Klippert is commander of the Washington State Guard and a member of the Washington House of Representatives serving the 8th District (R-Kennewick). Klippert, who earned his paramedic training certification at CWU in 1983, is a deputy sheriff with the Benton County Sheriff's Office.



• Brigadier General Myron Dobashi serves as the assistant adjutant general and commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard, where he oversees the training and readiness of the Hawaii Air National Guard. He graduated from CWU in 1965.



• Brigadier General John R. Croft is the chief of staff at the Wisconsin Air National Guard, where he oversees the Air Guard's headquarters staff. evaluates the capabilities of the Air Guard units, and advises the state's National Guard commanders. He graduated from CWU in 1972.



 Colonel Brad Readnour is a Deputy Division Chief at Headquarters US Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and **Reconnaissance and Cyber Effects** Operations, at the Pentagon. He has served over 28 years in both the Air Force and Army. Readnour graduated from CWU in 2000.



• Colonel Curtis Schroeder is US Army Forces Command (FORSCOM) Provost Marshal at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In that role, he provides guidance on law enforcement and security matters. Schroeder graduated from CWU in 1994 as a Distinguished Military Graduate.



Service Above Self

Over the years, some notable Central alumni have paid the ultimate price while serving their country. Among those who have died in combat are:

Douglas Munro, a native of South Cle Elum, briefly attended Central and
is regarded as the most famous member of the U.S. Coast Guard. Munro
was a signalman first class of the United States Coast Guard, who died
heroically on Guadalcanal on Sept. 27, 1942, after saving 500 Marines.
Munro volunteered to evacuate a detachment of Marines who were
facing annihilation by an unanticipated enemy force, and he was mortally
wounded during his rescue efforts.

"Douglas Munro is arguably more local than James Mattis because he's from Cle Elum and he was awarded the Medal of Honor, the highest honor you can receive as a service member," said Ruben Cardenas, director of the CWU Veterans Center.

Munro graduated from Cle Elum High School in 1937 and attended the Central Washington College of Education for a year before leaving in 1939 to enlist in the Coast Guard. Munro was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor and the Purple Heart Medal. Carmody-Munro Hall on the Ellensburg campus is named in his honor.

- Cortland Carmody attended Central before enlisting in the Army Air
 Corps. After completing pilot training, Carmody was assigned to a
 fighter group in France. On August 6, 1944, Carmody was flying a
 P-38J Lightning over France. Another member of his squadron, who had
 taken off late, attempted to catch up to the formation and, in his haste,
 accidentally collided with Carmody's aircraft, killing both pilots. His
 name on Carmody-Munro Hall honors his service.
- Clifton "Clif" Alford, a Central graduate who served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Alford, who flew a B-17 bomber, died on August 4, 1944, when his plane was struck by an anti-aircraft flak shell while on a bombing run over France. Alford-Montgomery Hall is named in his honor.
- Hamilton "Ham" Montgomery, a Central graduate, served as a pilot in the Army Air Corps during World War II. On December 26, 1945, Montgomery was piloting an Army transport plane on the China-India-Burma front when his plane encountered mechanical difficulties and crashed, killing everyone on board. Alford-Montgomery Hall on the Ellensburg campus also bears his name.
- San DeWayne Francisco, who graduated from Central in 1966, served as a pilot during the Vietnam War. In 1968, just six days before he was to return home, Francisco volunteered to fly a reconnaissance mission in place of another aviator who had become ill and was shot down. In spite of ongoing recovery efforts, his remains still lie in a Vietnamese jungle. To recognize his sacrifice, two "Chairs of Honor," have been placed on the CWU campus. The empty chairs, named in Francisco's honor, commemorate prisoners of war and those missing in action.
- Staff Sgt. Bryan Christopher Black, who graduated from Central in 2002, was serving as a Special Forces medical sergeant when he and three fellow Special Forces soldiers were killed in action during an ambush in southwest Niger in 2017. Black earned the Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab while in the Army.



Douglas Munro



Cortland Carmody



Clifton Alford



Hamiltion Montgomery



Sam DeWayne Francisco



Bryan Christopher Black



When you support CWU, you tell today's students that you believe education is transformational. Support Central students today and help them become the best versions of themselves.





For accommodation e-mail: DS@cwu.edu.



CWU alum Raymond Crone enjoys exploring Washington's waterways.

Army Helped Alum Rise Through Corporate Ranks

By Robin Burck

Serving in the military is in Raymond Crone's DNA. Every male member of his family had gone into the military, so as a youngster, he patiently waited until it was his turn to follow them.

Once he was old enough, Crone ('08) applied for and received the Air Force's top national scholarship. After his first year in that program at Central, however, he realized his future may not be in the Air Force. Fortunately, the Army agreed to take on his contract, allowing Crone to join the Army ROTC program—regarded as the top program in the nation at the time—for the rest of his time at Central.

"I commissioned into the Army in 2008," said Crone. "At that time, we were the number one ROTC program in the nation, and we were very proud of that accomplishment."

Immediately after graduating, Crone became a combat engineer in the Army. Over the next decade, Crone deployed three times, twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq. By the end of his service, he had risen through the ranks to become a brigade staff officer.

Once he left the military, Crone joined up with a commercial fishing vessel heading to Alaska for a year. That experience led him to purchase a tugboat so he could explore Washington's waterways.

But after a few years on the water, Crone decided to join the corporate world. He applied for three jobs at Amazon, hoping to hear back about one, and received offers for all three.

"Amazon really values veterans, and I was really impressed because I felt like my military experience was really valued by them," he said.

Crone began his career at Amazon as an operations manager for delivery operating, and recently took a position as an operations manager for the Machine Learning Analyst Team under Alexa.

"Sometimes, as a veteran, you look at your skill set and don't see how it translates to these corporate jobs," he said. "But they value leadership as a quality, and have a lot of respect for veterans."

From Boot Camp to Big Gulps

By Robin Burck

Ellensburg native Bryan Elliott ('14) says that being involved in CWU's Army ROTC program, the Douglas Honors College, and serving as ASCWU president helped prepare him for a career in the military.

"The year and a half I spent on student government was very rewarding and provided a lot of opportunities for growth," Elliott said recently. "Even today, I often draw on some lessons I learned from my time with ASCWU."

Upon graduating, Elliott earned a commission in the Army as an armor officer and moved to Fort Benning, Georgia, for training. After completing schooling, he was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

While at JBLM, he met his wife, Sierra, also a CWU alum. They moved to Alabama for a year so Elliott could teach ROTC and then returned to Washington in 2019 as he transitioned out of active duty and into the Washington Army National Guard.

But in summer of 2019, Elliott was called upon to deploy with the National Guard to Jordan for a train-and-advise mission. He returned from deployment last summer and is now reunited with his wife and their 1-year-old son, Jackson. He now works as a field consultant with the convenience store chain 7-Eleven.

"I have deployed with at least six fellow CWU alumni which has been an incredible experience," said Elliott. "It is great to see how much everyone has grown since our time at CWU."

When asked what advice he would give to current students interested in the military, Elliott said, "Figure out your 'why' and then commit to it. There are a lot of different careers in the military and each one is challenging and rewarding in its own way. No matter what you decide to do, commit to it and follow through on that commitment to the best of your ability."



Bryan Elliott shows his CWU pride by flying the Wildcat flag while he was deployed.



Bryan, his wife Sierra, and their son, Jackson, after Bryan returned home from his most recent deployment.



Math Professor is Tops in the Nation

CWU mathematics professor Brandy Wiegers recently received the 2020 Henry L. Alder Award for Distinguished Teaching from the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). The honor is presented to a college or university instructor with at least two years of experience as a full-time teacher (but not more than seven years), who excels in the classroom and beyond.



FCS Professor Earns State Educator of the Year Honor

Jodi Musser, a Career and Technical Education professor at CWU, is the 2020 Washington State Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher Educator of the Year. Musser, a CWU alumna and has taught at Central for more than six years, was recognized for her passion for teaching and commitment to preparing future CTE teachers. Prior to joining Central, Musser taught CTE in high school for 15 years.

NSF Taps Expertise of Two Central Profs

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has retained two CWU professors to lead research in geology and chemistry. Audrey Huerta, geology, became a program director of the Tectonics Program on August 3, while Anne Johansen, chemistry, began her second year overseeing the Atmospheric Chemistry Program on September 3.

In her role, Huerta oversees the funding of research aimed at understanding plate tectonics and the deformation of the Earth's outer layer. With an annual budget of more than \$9 million, "the program funds projects related to the Cascades, Rocky Mountains, and other mountain ranges, and many of the projects emphasize engaging undergraduate students in the research," Huerta explained.

Johansen initially began her work as the program officer of the Atmospheric Chemistry Program in September 2019. Its mission is to support basic atmospheric chemistry research, with an eye on societal needs in areas such as agriculture, human health, and polar and ocean sciences.

PANGA Project Gets Funding for Another Year

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently awarded \$225,908 to CWU's Pacific Northwest Geodetic Array (PANGA) laboratory for earthquake detection and characterization. The grant, which will fund the lab's work for at least another year, is the second of three annual installments.

The funding will help PANGA, which is overseen by geology professor Tim Melbourne, further develop a Global Real-Time Global Navigation Satellite System Analysis Center. The facility will enable earth scientists and U.S. earthquake and tsunami

early-warning systems to track and analyze seismic activity from around the world—and the tsunamis that often follow—using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

NEH Funds New Positions and CWU EthicsLab

Central Washington University's College of Arts and Humanities added six new faculty positions and CWU Libraries gained a historian-archivist for the upcoming academic year after receiving a \$257,000 grant from the National Endowment of Humanities (NEH).

The grant, which also will fund the development of a new CWU EthicsLab, became available this spring through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. A total of \$40.3 million dollars was distributed to roughly 300 institutions across the country, and only 14 percent of the proposals submitted were successful. Higher education institutions received just 18.6 percent of the NEH funds.

"It's such an honor to be selected, and to be selected out of the universities that applied," said Jill Hernandez, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, who co-wrote the proposal along with Rebecca Lubas, dean of CWU Libraries. "We didn't know how long it would be before we could hire the people we needed, so this grant is a huge bright spot this quarter. It's very exciting."

The joint project will advance CWU's digital humanities scholarship, archival work, and pedagogy by funding the historian-archivist position at CWU Libraries, plus six new humanities faculty positions for the 2020-21 academic year. The EthicsLab is an interdisciplinary, public humanities space that will be the first of its kind in the Northwest. The Brooks Library space will feature a digital scholarship lab that will look for innovative approaches to real-world ethical dilemmas.

Wine Studies Adds Two New Certifications

The CWU Wine Studies program has added two new certificate programs to meet the changing needs of the state's wine industry. Undergraduate students are now able to pursue 16-credit certificates in Tasting Room Management and Winery Event Design. Just last year, the program introduced its second bachelor's degree specialization in Wine Industry Management (WIM) to accompany the original four-year degree in Wine Studies.



CWU-Sammamish Offering First Undergraduate Degree Program

CWU is offering its first Bachelor of Science degree based at CWU-Sammamish during the fall quarter, allowing students to take classes that will lead to a BS in Information Technology and Management. "Outside of our Ellensburg campus, we only offer our successful—and popular-Master of Science in ITAM graduate program at CWU-Sammamish," said Robert Lupton, professor and chair of CWU's ITAM department. "We think it now makes sense for us to offer a Bachelor of Science undergraduate degree there as well."



This hand-carved, wall-length memorial on the first floor of Barge Hall, known as the Honor Roll Plaque, commemorates Central students, staff, and faculty who served in World War II.

Central's Honor Roll Plaque

During World War II, Central's students, staff, and faculty wanted to find a way to recognize students and faculty who were serving in the armed forces.

In 1945, Josephine Burley, assistant professor of art, was selected to carve a wooden Honor Roll Plaque, designed by professors Sarah Spurgeon (art) and H.J. Whitney (mathematics), listing the names of Central students and faculty in the service. Burley carved the words, "For Home: An Enriched Life, For School: An Enduring Wisdom, For Country and All Humanity, For God: A Spirit Over All, For These, We Fight."

She also carved relief images of churches, a globe, skyscrapers, people from various walks of life, an academic building, a schoolhouse, and a farm. Beneath the words and images were rows of small rectangular metal plates engraved with the names of those serving in the armed forces. The plaque is still mounted on the south wall of the first floor of Barge Hall on the CWU Ellensburg campus.

Burley taught at Central from the 1940s to the early 1950s, and was an award-winning artist. She won first place in the 1949 Northwest Arts and Crafts Fair in Bellevue and took second place in the 1949 Northwest Water Color Show in Seattle.

















David Bieloh

A Sky for Color

By Richard Moreno

When thick smoke from wildfires throughout Washington, Oregon, and California recently enveloped Ellensburg, causing residents to begin checking air quality counts daily, avoid going outdoors, and look frequently at the skies, CWU Graphics Professor David Bieloh had an idea.

As an award-winning graphic designer, he was very familiar with the annual Pantone Color of the Year series, for which the Pantone Color Institute studies color trends in order to decide on which hue will have an influence on fashion, marketing, social media, and politics in the coming year (it was classic blue for 2019).

So, he envisioned creating Pantone-like swatches using images of the smoky skies. Soon dozens of his friends, colleagues, former students, and even strangers from all over the country began sharing their images of the skies they were experiencing.

He transformed their images into faux-Pantone colors with clever or humorous names and posted on social media (like "Gender Reveal Fire Yellow" and "Gaze into the Fuchsia Abyss").

"I had kept an example of Pantone's Color of the Year in 2019 and had even used that blue on a few projects," he said. "The idea of the 'color of the year' is what I came back to here."

His social media postings caught the attention of American Prospect magazine's creative director, who suggested publishing Bieloh's colors of the inferno skies in its online news publication.

In a short article he contributed to American Prospect, which published the images in September, Bieloh said he was incorporating the colors of wildfire skies into Pantone-like images as a statement on climate change.

"As polarized as the nation is, we all share this common concern," he wrote. "This series is a collaboration of images that have come to me from friends and colleagues and even strangers from across America—all of whom have been suffering from the effects of the smoke from wildfires.

"Bringing people together through this collaborative effort, and finding beauty and humor in the chaos, has been unifying for us all."

Bieloh said from the beginning of his project, he planned to make a poster of the swatches with the idea of donating all the proceeds to the American Red Cross Society for those suffering from the western wildfires.

The result is a poster he titled, "United Colors of the Apocalypse/A Color Series for 2020," which will be on sale soon. Check out his Instagram account for details.

To view all of Bieloh's swatches:

instagram.com/davidbieloh/ • prospect.org/culture/united-colors-of-the-apocalypse-pantone-2020/





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