

CRIMSON & BLACK

Central
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University
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LOST Central's Surplus 'Museum' TREASURES

By Richard Moreno

It looks more like a piece of elegant, fine furniture than something so functional. Three-foot high glass oak doors frame a large, shiny clock face, rows of electronic switches, some type of metal cylinder, four smaller clock faces wrapped in brass, and other mechanisms.

A small, white sign describes the fabulous contraption as "Master Clock," and notes that it once "rang all bells and controlled all clocks in Barge Hall. As late as 1950 it was used to control all clocks on campus."

It's just one of the nearly 2,000 artifacts collected and preserved at the CWU Surplus Warehouse. The facility is overseen by Jason Bakeman, who could be called the caretaker of CWU's legacy. For the past 18 years, Bakeman has worked in the university's surplus warehouse, determining which items no longer needed by the school can be sold as surplus. He also tries to save one of nearly every item acquired by the warehouse.

"My former co-worker, David Moffat, started this in 1988 or 1989," Bakeman explained. "He was kind of a historian himself and he liked to get one of everything. So, there's one gravy boat from dining from Sue Lombard [Hall], one plate, one of each style of chair, which you can see hanging."

Moffat, who recently retired, worked with Bakeman to assemble what is now a sort of unofficial museum of Central historical artifacts, which are displayed in the surplus warehouse at 14th and B streets in Ellensburg.

"It's one of those things, it's kind of a hidden gem," he said of the warehouse. "And a lot of people, even those who work here [at Central], never know it's here."

Walking through the 5,000-square-foot wooden warehouse—once a freight house for the now defunct Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad, which intersected CWU—Bakeman explains the origins of everything from chairs and light fixtures hanging from the ceiling to items inside dusty glass display cases scattered about the building.

Bakeman said that whenever the university is remodeling or tearing down a campus building, such as the recent demolition of Hertz Hall, "they give me a key, a bag of tools, and tell me to go to town."

Since Moffat began preserving Central artifacts more than three decades ago, Bakeman said Surplus has collected far more than can fit in the old freight building. As a result, some of the larger pieces of equipment are kept in a separate, 40-foot shipping container.

Bakeman, who calls himself an audiophile, said he appreciates the old electronics that show up at Surplus. He proudly points to a small black-and-white monitor atop several boxes of electronic equipment and notes "this was the first computer on campus, built by the computer science professors."

Other noteworthy items in the museum include an original oak dresser from Kamola Hall; a small tricycle from the elementary school that operated in Hebel Hall; and a large sousaphone used in music classes.

"Whenever they do one of these remodels or tear-downs, I get to find whatever is loose," he said. "That's the fun."



Jason Bakeman





"MASTER CLOCK"
THIS CLOCK RANG ALL BELLS
AND CONTROLLED CLOCKS IN
BARGE HALL
AS LATE AS 1950 IT WAS USED TO
CONTROL ALL CLOCKS ON CAMPUS



CWU Surplus Facts:

- Ten to eleven surplus sales/ auctions are conducted each year.
- Typically, 220 to 250 items are up for auction at each sale.
- The items people line up to buy are usually fixed-price computers and appliances, such as small refrigerators.
- Bakeman said many items are purchased and repurposed by buyers, such as converting a Mac computer into an aquarium, using discarded library newspaper racks for blanket drying stands, and making quilts out of old denim clothing.
- To find out when the next surplus sale and auction is scheduled, go to the CWU Surplus Facebook page or send an email to Bakeman (bakemanj@cwu.edu) to be added to a mailing list.



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On the Cover: Xavier Cavazos, senior lecturer in the Department of English, is just one of the many CWU faculty who have tried to make a difference both inside the classroom and in the community.
Photo Illustration: David Dick.

Left: Snorkel the African sulcata tortoise is 14 years old and approaching 100 pounds. Snorkel, who lives in the CWU Greenhouse, appears alongside a variety of other reptiles during community outreach efforts. Because of his habitat, he easily dovetails into academic conversations about desert adaptations.
Photograph: David Dick.

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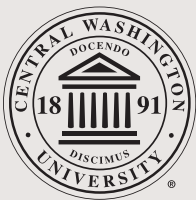
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As my tenure as president of this great institution comes to an end, the most common question posed to me is about what I will miss most. I do not doubt my answer—I will miss the daily interactions with you.

While serving Central, we have worked together to overcome significant challenges and to create exciting opportunities. We have marshaled our collective energy, talent, expertise, and experience. What I felt and saw during the past 12 years is a community that is fully committed to this great school and the role it plays in higher education in Washington and beyond.

I leave confident of Central's future because Wildcats are very special people. Even after more than a decade of working at Central, I find it challenging to articulate

what it means to be a Wildcat. I often fall back to terms like grit and moxie to explain our students' and graduates' exceptional success. I know there is much more to being a Wildcat.

What Central offers its students is a rare combination of excellence and opportunity. Our faculty and staff are talented and dedicated to every student's success, and their passion for teaching and inquiry is exceptional. What makes them unique, in my experiences, is the culture of learning they have created.

Central empowers its students by challenging them in an environment that values freedom, safety, and inclusivity. Central's faculty and staff embody qualities such as authenticity, humility, and generosity.

It is the combination of these factors that make Central great. It is why our faculty and staff are recognized for excellence nationally and internationally. It is why our students return victorious from academic, artistic, athletic, and professional competitions against those from other schools. It is why our alumni are thriving personally and professionally.

The excellence of Central is what helped Andre Dickerson overcome challenges in his early life. Andre dropped out of high school before graduating, but his grit drove him to Central. When he engaged Central's faculty and staff, he earned a bachelor's and two master's degrees. He is now working on his doctorate while directing our Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement.

At Central, Andre found professors like Bobby Cummings, whose teaching and mentoring have benefited countless students. Professor Cummings's work has been performed humbly and quietly for decades. Central recently recognized her by naming its award for lifetime support of diversity, equity, and inclusion in her honor.

Andre probably did not meet Ruth Harrington or even hear of her contributions while he was a student. That is because Ruth has worked behind the scenes to raise more than \$1 million in scholarships by hosting hundreds of small brunches, lunches, and dinners. Her work, performed over decades, was also recently recognized by Central with a special award for philanthropy.


These examples have been repeated many times by many people, including the dedicated members of the Board of Trustees, Foundation and Alumni Association leaders, and the alumni and friends that support Central and its students.

That is why the answer to the question is so simple—for myself and Katie. While memories and friendships will remain, we will miss being a daily part of making Central better tomorrow than it is today.

Thank you for allowing us to serve and for making our time at Central the best professional experience of our lives.

Go Cats!

James L. Gaudino
President



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When you support CWU,
you tell today's students
that you believe education
is transformational. Support
Central students today and
help them prepare to go on
to achieve greatness.



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A. James Wohlpart

Wohlpert to Serve as Next President

Central's next president will be A. James Wohlpert, who currently serves as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) and was interim president at UNI from July 2016 to January 2017.

Wohlpert assumes his new position on June 7, 2021.

"I am deeply honored to be selected as the 15th president of Central Washington University," Wohlpert said. "President James Gaudino leaves CWU a strong and diverse institution and I am excited to carry that legacy forward."

Wohlpert, who has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, said he was attracted to Central because of its commitment to inclusion and diversity, its record of supporting sustainability, and the value it places on transparency and shared governance.

"CWU, with its strong faculty, high quality academic programs, and innovative and caring staff, has the potential, and I would even say the responsibility, to lead the way in forging a new vision for higher education," he continued.

CWU Board of Trustees Chair Ron Erickson said the board was impressed by Wohlpert's longstanding belief in the transformative power of education and the role Central can play in creating and providing educational opportunities for all students regardless of their background or economic status.

Erickson added that Wohlpert's broad experience in a wide variety of university administrative areas, including in enrollment initiatives, serving place-bound students, engaging community college partners, and in fundraising set him apart from other candidates.

"He has been an effective and successful leader wherever he has worked," Erickson said. "He understands and is committed to Central's core mission of educational opportunity and elevating student success through experiential learning and academic excellence."

Wohlpert said his goal is to build an engaged community that embraces multiple perspectives and backgrounds, and works together to become a model for other institutions of higher education.

"As we work together to shape our future-oriented vision, I will invite everyone in the community to become a leader in place, to lead from the places where you are, while always recognizing that you are part of a larger community," he said. "It will be an opportunity to expand our capacities to see within ourselves the gifts and talents we have to offer the world in service of a larger purpose."

Wohlpert added that he has a "deep and abiding" interest in sustainability, noting much of his teaching and research has focused on issues of the environment from a humanities perspective. He said his priorities will include looking at ways to reduce the institution's carbon footprint and advancing the social, cultural, and economic components of sustainability.

The new president said he has already experienced the welcoming nature of the Wildcat community. He and his wife, Sasha, look forward to meeting students, faculty, and staff hopefully "face-to-face in the not-so-distant future."

"I believe that as we develop our vision for the future, we have the opportunity to expand our capacity for open-heartedness to ensure that all whom we welcome into our community truly feels that they belong," he said. "All of us should be able to bring our whole unique selves to campus and know that those selves will be seen, listened to, and honored." ■

HIGHLIGHTS

- Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Northern Iowa
- Interim President, University of Northern Iowa
- Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Florida Gulf Coast University
- Chair, Division of Humanities & Arts, Florida Gulf Coast University
- PhD English, University of Tennessee
- MA English, Colorado State University
- BA English and Philosophy, University of Tennessee

"I believe that as we develop our vision for the future, we have the opportunity to expand our capacity for open-heartedness to ensure that all whom we welcome into our community truly feels that they belong."

Only at Central

**Things you
probably didn't
expect to find
at CWU**

By Nicole Klauss and Richard Moreno

Jonathan Betz tends to the jungle room of the CWU Greenhouse. The greenhouse has four separate rooms that represent different environments.

It's warm and humid in the CWU Greenhouse jungle room. There's a faint floral smell in the air and clusters of tall, leafy green plants sprout from the room's center and rise along the glass walls. Perhaps the only things missing are the sounds of rainfall, birds, and buzzing insects.

"On a hot, summer day, or even a day like today where it's chilly and cold outside but it's sunny, some of the rooms can heat up to 110 degrees," noted Jonathan Betz, an instruction and class support technician who earned both his bachelor's ('09) and master's ('19) degrees in biology at Central.

Central's Greenhouse is a repository of botanical bounty—some 900 different types from all over the world. Within its 4,100 square feet are four distinct rooms that cater to various types of plants including the jungle room and the tropical room, both moist and warm, as well as the drier-but-still-warm desert room.

Inside of each are dozens of plants native to the particular environments. The fourth, called the research room, supports the department's academic needs.

Wandering through the various rooms, visitors will encounter a variety of familiar flora, such as chocolate, coffee, and vanilla plants, as well as more unusual varieties like the *amorphophallus titanum*, commonly known as the "corpse flower," which, when in bloom smells like decayed meat, and pitcher plants, which have modified leaves known as pitfall traps (they look like little pitchers) to capture and digest insects.

Operated under the auspices of the Biology Department, the greenhouse was constructed in 1981. According to records, the late CWU biology professor John Carr, who taught at Central from 1972 until he retired in 2000, played a key role in getting it constructed.

"It's really nice to have this facility. I'm really grateful to be part of it," Betz said.



Research room



Tropical room



Desert room



Above: Students engaged in plant study.



*Right: A fly lands on a 'carrion plant' (*Stapelia Hirsute*) in the CWU Greenhouse. The 'carrion plant' is one of the stinkers like the 'corpse flower.'*

Englehorn Pond, located northwest of the Public Safety and Police Services Building, is used by the Biology Department for classes, tours, and research projects.

Snorkel the Tortoise

While strolling through the desert room, you'll probably encounter an African sulcata tortoise, affectionately known as Snorkel. Now about 14 years old and approaching 100 pounds, Snorkel was donated to the university when he could still fit inside a small cat carrier.

"We oftentimes will receive animals from people who had them as pets before and, for one reason or another, wanted to find another home for them," Betz said. "And Snorkel has definitely been a very welcome addition to the Biology Department."

In addition to being a highlight of campus tours, Snorkel often appears alongside a variety of other reptiles during community outreach efforts, such as Arbor Day at the Yakima Area Arboretum. Because of his habitat, he easily dovetails into academic conversations about desert adaptations.

"They serve not only the Central students because they're learning areas, but they also are used for other schools," Betz said.

In non-pandemic times, the greenhouse is open on Fridays from 1-3 p.m. The CWU community and members of the public are invited in to meet Snorkel, tour the greenhouse, and purchase plant starts for a donation. This helps fund the addition of other uncommon plants to the department.



Snorkel the tortoise

From Mill Pond to Nature Preserve

Not every university can claim to have its own research pond. But Englehorn Pond, off 14th Avenue, is a little-known natural preserve and outdoor biology laboratory that is home to two species of frogs—the Columbia spotted frog and the Pacific chorus or tree frog—as well as ducks, salamanders, turtles, newts, freshwater amphipods (also known as scuds), and other water creatures and insects.

The pond was developed in the early 1900s as part of a saw-mill and pond facility, owned by the Kittitas Lumber Company, primarily to serve the Northern Pacific Railroad, which ran through Kittitas Valley. The lumber company had been established in 1903 by Fred Englehorn and his brothers-in-law, Carl Ortman and John Weston.

Englehorn operated the mill until 1928, when the lumber company dissolved as a result of financial problems at the start of the Great Depression. A gifted master millwright and planer operator, he worked for the Ellensburg Lumber Company until retiring in 1946.

In 1968, Englehorn and his wife, Agnes, gifted the pond, which they had continued to own, to the Nature Conservancy. In 1976, the Conservancy turned over ownership of the pond to CWU, which has, since then, used it for biological research. Over the years, students have been able to study a wide variety of plants and wildlife at the pond ranging from willow trees to scorpions.

While the pond, which is fed by Wilson Creek, is too shallow for fish to live in, they will occasionally pass through. Additionally, it is landscaped with native plants and is home to a variety of zooplankton, aquatic invertebrates, leeches, and many protozoans.

"A lot of the research that has happened over there lately has been on bird populations," said Betz, who studied frog species in the pond as an undergrad. "We get waterfowl, as well as a lot of migrating birds that pass through looking for water."



Students studying human anatomy on a high-resolution, life-size computer screen table. Image courtesy of Anatomage.



"Mammoth," the 15-foot-high steel sculpture by Ilan Averbach.

Cadaver Lab Gets High-Tech Upgrade

When the Health Sciences Building opens in January 2022, students will be able to visualize the human body in new high-tech ways. The cadaver laboratories are equipped with interactive 3D anatomy hardware and software (think Iron Man-like technology, except with a body instead of a suit of armor).

Students will work with a life-size computer screen table that presents high-resolution, 3D digital images of the human body and its organs. The tables will tilt upright so users can get a life-like view of the images, which are made from dissections of "real" cadavers (stored in the software).

"Students can interact and study high resolution, digital images of all body organs (from the whole body to the smallest nerves and blood vessels)," noted Health Sciences Professor Leo D'Acquisto, who has been involved in procuring the new technology. "Images can be rotated in multiple planes to study, in great detail, anatomical structures of the human body."

Additionally, according to D'Acquisto, the new high tech anatomy lab will also offer augmented reality technology. Students wearing special eyeglasses will be able to interact with holographic images of the whole body and specific organs.

"With this technology, you may have a group of 12 students, along with the professor, all wearing these special eyewear units and focused on a holographic image of an organ," he said. "The professor can rotate the organ in space in multiple dimensions and perform dissections of the organ."

D'Acquisto noted that the new technology will enhance but not replace traditional anatomy teaching that involves using real cadavers (CWU has had a cadaver lab with real specimens for many decades). "Bringing into play the innovative technology does not replace the cadavers," he said. "The cadavers provide an experience for students that no other technology can replace."

The existing lab will be moving from Purser Hall, where it has been since the 1980s, to the new Health Sciences Building.

Art for the Masses

Sure, lots of colleges and universities have public art. But at Central you can view a life-size bronze horse that looks like it's made of driftwood and a giant floating mobile of colorful glass with curved metal tubes and wires that represents piano keys.

All are part of the university's permanent public art collection, many acquired through the Art in Public Places program, which facilitates the purchase of artwork in public places throughout the state of Washington.

"Why is public art important on campus? There are obvious reasons, such as adding culture to an environment," noted Gregg Schlanger, chair of the Department of Art and Design. "But I think it's also important because it brings a unique identity to a place. Each piece creates an identity to the building or location, especially over time."

CWU's gallery of accessible artwork includes several dozen pieces, including Deborah Butterfield's "Wickiup," a seven-foot-tall bronze, solitary horse figure west of Mitchell Hall that appears to be made from weathered wood branches. Butterfield's work has been displayed at the Kennedy Center among other places.

Other noteworthy art includes John Rogers' "Octaves of Light," a massive sculpture made of aluminum, dichroic glass, and stainless-steel cables, which hangs in the rotunda of the McIntyre Music Building. Rogers' work is on display in such places as the Miami International Airport.

One of the most recent additions to CWU is Ilan Averbuch's "Mammoth," a towering 15-foot-high and 49-foot-long steel sculpture, found east of Samuelson Hall. The work resembles a giant mammoth tusk that appears to go under the walkway and emerges on the other side.

"Public art adds to the educational aspect of the campus. Where one likes the piece or not, it can inspire, encourage, and create critical thinking. Good public art considers its location and the public that use that location," Schlanger said. "It might consider the history, the use, the cultural aspects, the architecture, the landscape, and/or the lighting of the site." ■

OUT OF THE GROUND AND INTO THE GROUND



Xavier Cavazos traveled to Minneapolis in the summer of 2020 to visit the site of George Floyd's murder.

Photo courtesy of Xavier Cavazos



By David Leder

CWU PROFESSORS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON CAMPUS AND AROUND TOWN WITH OUTREACH EFFORTS

At CWU, you don't have to look far to find faculty members who are making a difference beyond the scope of their employment. A handful of professors have managed to combine their community outreach efforts with their work, to achieve both personal and professional satisfaction.



CONFRONTING OUR UNCOMFORTABLE PAST

Xavier Cavazos believes this country is long overdue for a frank conversation about race relations. But until Americans agree to confront our uncomfortable past, the healing cannot begin.

The only way we can distance ourselves from our nation's original sin of slavery, the CWU English lecturer argues, is if we address the issue head-on.

"Before we can fix the problem, we have to name the problem," said Cavazos, who has been at the forefront of the social justice movement in Ellensburg since arriving on campus in 2015.

"Our nation was started 400-plus years ago by enslaving a free people," he added. "We need to have a true reckoning about that. To me, that is the real problem in America right now."

By continuing to paint over how this country was built—and trying to move on as though slavery never happened—Cavazos fears American society will remain divided along racial lines.

"When we say 'Black Lives Matter,' I believe we are merely acknowledging that 'slavery happened,'" said Cavazos, who played an active role in last summer's protests that followed the death of an unarmed Black man in police custody. "But a lot of people don't see it that way."

While he was encouraged this spring to see former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin convicted for the murder of George Floyd, Cavazos still feels like the momentum for Black Lives Matter (BLM) has waned after months of nationwide protests in 2020.

"Last summer gave Americans a chance to gather together for a common purpose, which was great," he said. "But I'd say we're already moving back to the way it was before. If we think racism is over and stop working to dismantle it, the backlash to BLM will be even stronger."

Give Everyone A Voice

Through his efforts to address race relations in Ellensburg and around the state, Cavazos has come to recognize the importance of engaging people from all ethnic and cultural backgrounds—especially White people who feel threatened or disillusioned by recent social justice movements.

He understands there is significant resistance to the BLM message in Kittitas County, but he is confident he can find common ground without pushing the other side further away. Most importantly, he says people on both sides of the issue need to listen.

"What I've come to realize is that there's a large percentage of disenfranchised Americans who have lost hope," Cavazos said about many of today's conservatives. "They don't feel like they're being heard—and, in many cases,

they aren't. The number-one thing we, as educators and advocates of color, need to do is listen to those points of view, even if we don't agree. That's the only way we're ever going to understand each other."

For example, despite his political differences with childhood friends from conservative-leaning Moses Lake, Cavazos has maintained close relationships with them by focusing on shared interests. The same is true with his students and colleagues at Central.

"We have to find the issues we have in common instead of fighting over things that may or may not materialize," he said. "We can make a difference by leaning into our communities and taking time to listen to one another."

Shifting the Conversation

Bridging that divide has long been a passion for Cavazos and his colleagues in the Africana and Black Studies program, where he is an affiliated faculty member.

Upon joining the Central faculty six years ago, he began working with longtime English Professor Bobby Cummings on a study abroad program to Havana, Cuba. Fifteen students also made the 2016 trip, which was designed to open the travelers' eyes to the differences of projecting "Blackness" in Cuba and in the U.S.

"Cuba has a very strong Afro-Cuban culture where the people can be true to themselves and their heritage, rather than having to deny it to fit a set of ideals—like Black America has always had to do," Cavazos said.

"When Africans were enslaved and brought to America, they were forced to forget their music, their language, their religion, their culture—all of the things that made up their identity. They also had to suppress their ability to feel proud about who they were. But in Cuba, it's not that way at all. That was a very eye-opening experience for our students."

The Cuba trip forced the students and faculty to ask themselves, "Why is it so different here, and what hasn't been addressed back home?" The easy answer, Cavazos believes, is America's fear of confronting our past.

"Going back more than 400 years to Jamestown, we dehumanized Africans who were brought here as slaves, and that became part of our identity in this country," he said. "Even though some things have changed over time, the idea that 'slavery was OK' is embedded in who we are."

"So, to me, the question isn't, 'is there still racism in America?' The real question is, 'how could there not be racism in America?'"

Inspiring Others to Change

That's a reality Cavazos and his friends at Central—such as Cummings and Chuck Reasons—have been studying for years. Reasons, a Law and Justice professor who also teaches

for Africana and Black Studies, said that if anyone can break through that wall of denial, it's Cavazos.

"There's a collective amnesia about what happened over the past 400-plus years, and we tend to have a very selective memory," said Reasons, who has worked alongside Cavazos on a number of social justice initiatives.

"That's what we're addressing right now as a country, and Xavier has been very effective in exposing that history and how it relates to our current realities. As a person of color, he has even more influence in these areas—not just with the faculty, but also with his students."

Reasons noted that while Cavazos has become a familiar figure on campus and in the community, his reach goes far beyond Central Washington.

Cavazos now serves on the board of Humanities Washington and has built a network of allies across the state who work together to address issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"Xavier is well known beyond the Central campus because of his leadership and outreach on issues like race relations," Reasons said. "He has made so many connections over the years, and he's done a great job of broadening the minds of CWU students and faculty. I really admire him for that."

Discovering A True Identity

Cavazos, 50, said that as a Mexican-American youth in the 1970s and 80s, he never saw himself in the idealized characters portrayed on TV and in the movies. Thus, he made himself small in the communities he grew up in so he could be seen as part of the mainstream.

"That wasn't me, so in order for me to exist in those spaces, I had to make myself invisible," he said. "When I was younger, I constructed my whole persona after strong, White males. But, over time, I had to let those identities disappear in order to reemerge."

Cavazos remembers unwittingly following the American male ideal that was created for him by popular culture. He said his experiences are similar to other marginalized people who must let their true identities disappear so they can be accepted in today's society.

After his own life journey, Cavazos wants to encourage others in the CWU community to be proud of who they are—and continue pursuing change.

"If you want to be a part of change, being aware isn't enough," he said. "You have to work to dismantle those feelings within yourself. If you can do that, you will realize how good it feels."

Xavier Cavazos sits with his son during a 'teach in' outside the SURC last summer.

Photo courtesy of Xavier Cavazos

**WE CAN MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
BY LEANING
INTO OUR
COMMUNITIES
AND TAKING
TIME TO
LISTEN TO ONE
ANOTHER."**

Xavier Cavazos





**“I THINK WHAT PEOPLE
NEED RIGHT NOW, EVEN
MORE THAN FOOD OR
HOUSING, IS LOVE.”**

Stefanie Wickstrom

NONPROFIT WORK FEEDS HER SOUL

Sometimes our most important work doesn't happen while we're at work.

Since joining the CWU faculty in 2001, Stefanie Wickstrom ('88) has been advocating for underrepresented members of the Ellensburg community as a volunteer with APOYO (Allied People Offering Year Round Outreach), Central's on-campus food bank.

The political science and environmental studies professor took her commitment to a new level last summer when she became executive director of the nonprofit. With support from her faculty colleagues, Wickstrom helped APOYO establish a new organizational structure and negotiated with the university to allow the food bank to continue operating out of its on-campus location on East 18th Avenue for two more years.

As APOYO begins its search for a new off-campus location by October 2022, the volunteer network is trying to get back to what it does best: helping people.

"I think what people need right now, even more than food or housing, is love," said Wickstrom, the executive director of APOYO (which translates to "support" in Spanish). "Even if we can't help them find housing or money to pay rent, at least we can show them love."

What drew Wickstrom to APOYO two decades ago was the promise of having more opportunities to help her neighbors in need, specifically Spanish-speaking residents on campus and in the community.

When immigrant families come to a new community like Ellensburg—as a group of Honduran refugees did last winter—they need reliable support networks to connect them with food, housing, and other essentials.

Providing a crucial bridge for people in need makes Wickstrom and her colleagues feel like they are making a tangible difference.

Political Science professor Stefanie Wickstrom serves as the executive director of APOYO, which is located on the corner of Brooklane Street and 18th Avenue.

“Understanding other people’s cultures, and being able to communicate with them because you understand their culture, is what really motivates me,” she said. “To come into the APOYO office and have someone say, ‘tell me what you’re going through,’ and ‘let me see what I can do to help you’—that’s just tremendous for them.”

After putting so much effort into her nonprofit work at Central, Wickstrom feels an obligation to continue her outreach. Over the past year, she has helped the organization expand its services to offer housing assistance to vulnerable community members.

She believes the organization has the power to do even more.

“As a university, we have an opportunity to educate people about food security, and APOYO offers a direct means of providing food security to the community,” Wickstrom said. “But we can also be a center for cultural education. Understanding our cultural differences is crucial to a lot of the problems society is facing today, and I am glad I can contribute to that effort here at CWU.”

PROFESSOR COOKS UP NEW APPROACH TO WELLNESS

Longtime CWU Nutrition Professor David Gee has spent the past four years exposing the next generation of health professionals to a fresh approach for treating patients.

Instead of reflexively prescribing medicine to address health problems such as hypertension and type 2 diabetes, Gee wants doctors and nurses to know there are alternative treatment methods that target patients’ nutritional habits instead of treating the symptoms of their illness.

Since 2017, Gee has been leading a series of culinary medicine sessions that combines covering the clinical evidence supporting dietary approaches to disease prevention with presentations given by culinary experts on how patients can apply these approaches to their own diets.

Students participating in these sessions attend health-professional training programs at four institutions east of the Cascades, including Central. In a typical session, teams of three students from different disciplines prepare dishes fitting the dietary pattern discussed that day.

Gee explained there has always been a disconnect in higher education between medicine and nutrition, and his goal with the culinary medicine initiative is to change that dynamic. He says the partnership has gone a long way toward showing the importance of collaboration between programs.

“Health professionals and nutritionists have always been kept in separate silos, and they don’t typically interact until they get into a clinical setting,” said Gee, who recently completed his 40th year at the university. “When medical students are exposed to this nutritional information, they become much more committed to getting patients to change their diets, rather than prescribing them another new medication.”

As a way of bridging the gap, CWU has been offering more crossover courses in paramedicine, nutrition, and public health over the past few years. The other medical, nursing, and nutrition programs in Eastern Washington have adopted similar changes to their curricula.


The students being introduced to the culinary medicine approach have not yet graduated, but Gee has been encouraged by the early returns.

“We’re no longer talking about drugs; instead, we talk about the many health benefits that come from eating the right foods,” he said. “The key is we’re already beginning to see more positive outcomes. There’s a growing body of evidence that this approach works.”

Gee said he looks forward to seeing how the current crop of medical professionals will influence the future of health care in our state once they begin practicing. Another key element of the program is that it teaches people how to prepare food that tastes good and is good for them—a connection that is often missing from the modern approach to health care.

“We need to convince health care providers to link nutrition with food, and then refer their patients to a nutrition expert who can help them prepare tasty foods that are better for them,” said Gee, who recommends low-sodium plans like the DASH diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension).

“Reducing medication and improving your diet can contribute to a significant change in your overall health,” he added. “With the DASH diet, we often see drops in blood pressure similar to almost any drug that is used to treat the condition. That’s one of the main goals of this culinary medicine initiative.” ■

 **WE’RE NO LONGER TALKING ABOUT DRUGS; INSTEAD, WE TALK ABOUT THE MANY HEALTH BENEFITS THAT COME FROM EATING THE RIGHT FOODS.”**

David Gee

David Gee, a professor of food science and nutrition, scans the produce section of a Yakima grocery store.







Proud to be Wildcats

By Richard Moreno

A professor's words helped change the trajectory of Robert Jungmann's life.

Student government provided Yazmin Aguilar confidence to help others.

A better work-life balance attracted Delano Palmer to CWU.

They, along with countless others who call themselves Wildcats, are proof that the Central experience is something both tangible and special. What CWU provided for each, in terms of an education, a college experience, or a welcoming work environment, helped shape their present career paths.

For example, Robert Jungmann (BA Mass Communications, '96) credits one of his CWU professors, Morris Uebelacker (now an emeritus professor of geography), for inspiring him to launch Jungmaven, a company that manufactures a variety of products, ranging from shirts and sheets to wallets and sandals, using industrial hemp.

"One of the reasons I mention Central Washington University (in my online profiles) is that it was a pivotal point for me—college was amazing," he said. "I just remember how nice everyone was on the faculty, with professors giving out their home phone numbers if you needed anything. It was so awesome.

"It's where I met Morris Uebelacker; he was teaching a course on rivers and environment," he continued. "That's where I learned about industrial hemp and how we could start not cutting down old growth forests and could use industrial hemp for many of the uses we were cutting down all the trees for."

Jungmann, a native of Evanston, Illinois, who grew up in Phoenix and the Seattle area, said it was while seeing the environmental impacts of clear-cut timber practices in the West in the 1980s and '90s that he first became interested in saving forests and developing renewable products.

"Being a kid from Phoenix, where we really didn't have very many trees, and then coming here [on camping trips with his family] and watching the state get clear-cut during the '80s and '90s ... that really resonated with me," he said. "That was my 'ah-ha' moment there in Morris Uebelacker's course at Central, and it all kind of blossomed from there."

Robert Jungmann

Photo courtesy of Jungmaven.

In 1993, while studying at Central, Jungmann created his first clothing company, Manastash, which was named after the mountain ridge located just outside of Ellensburg—his favorite mountain bike ride. About eight years later, he sold that brand, which made clothing using sustainable materials, including industrial hemp, to a Japanese company (Japan had become his largest market).

After relocating to Costa Rica, Jungmann began working with natural dyes, batik, tie-dye, and hand-painting hemp shirts while planning for a return to the apparel business. In 2005, he launched Jungmaven with the goal of again creating sustainable clothing made from hemp.

Today, Jungmaven—which is sold online on a variety of specialty retailers including Velouria, Freeman Seattle, Prism and its own website—has 11 employees and is sold in more than 200 stores around the world.

Jungmann said one of his goals is to have a company that other companies want to emulate. His hope is for those firms to recognize the potential in adopting environmentally supportive company policies and in using sustainable materials such as industrial hemp.

As for the main thing he learned at Central?

“Follow your dreams and make it happen,” he said.

“That was my ‘ah-ha’ moment there in Morris Uebelacker’s course at Central, and it all kind of blossomed from there.”

‘Be a Groundbreaker’

Another Wildcat, Yazmin Aguilar (BA Spanish Language and Literature, BS Social Work, ’17), had a very different path in her life. Born in Puebla, Mexico, Aguilar came to the U.S. at the age of 11, when her family settled in the Tri-Cities area. It was while at Pasco High School that she discovered she was undocumented.

“Central was always in my sights,” she said. “I was interested in studying bio-medicine and Central has a reputation for being a great school for science. But I couldn’t afford it, so I went to Columbia Basin College for two years, and there I was also involved in student government.

“I mention my involvement in student government because it was how I became engaged in school, and it’s how I became the first undocumented student trustee at Central,” she added.

Aguilar said she found Central to be an inclusive and welcoming place. There, she continued to be involved in student government—serving as CWU’s student trustee for 2015-16 and on the Washington Student Achievement Council in 2018-19—and was eligible to receive state aid for undocumented students that helped pay for her education.

“I am thankful to Central Washington University for what I was able to do,” she said. “Central allowed me to apply to graduate school (she obtained a master’s degree in education from the University of Washington in 2019) and decide what I wanted to do in life.”

That decision led Aguilar to her current position as deputy director of Centro Latino in Tacoma. The community-based nonprofit serves as an important link for Latinos and Indigenous communities at a local and state level with educational programs, crisis intervention, family outreach services, and advocacy efforts—a way to help others who grew up like she did.

“This work is vital to me,” she said. “Not only am I devoted to this position with Centro, but, as I tell my staff members, every single client reminds me of my parents.”

As for what she thinks it means to be a Wildcat?

“It means being a groundbreaker,” she said. “I really like to take risks with learning something new, and Central allowed me to do that.”



Yazmin Aguilar

“I really like to take risks with learning something new, and Central allowed me to do that.”

'It's About Community'

While not a CWU alum, Delano Palmer has found a home at the university since arriving at Central in 2018. Palmer, who is CWU's Director of Capital Planning & Projects, earned a BS in Architecture from Texas Tech University and a MS in Construction Management from Purdue University.

"I spent eleven years as a project manager for a large construction company specializing in design-build projects: Haskell Company in Jacksonville, Florida," he said. "I wanted to find a job where I could have a better work-life balance. My wife and I have always liked the Pacific Northwest, so we started looking there.

"Central was uniquely fitted for me because it had a construction department, where I might be able to teach, and a Facilities Management Department where I could use my skills," he continued. "I'm grateful to be here, where I've been able to have the work-life balance I had been looking for."

In addition to developing and implementing CWU's campus master plan for new construction and renovations, Palmer, serves on the Board of Directors for the local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

"Public service is pretty important to me because my mom and dad were involved in that in our church while I was growing up," he explained. "I became involved with Habitat for Humanity while I was a student at Texas Tech. I just started to volunteer to go out to the job sites and to help build houses."

Palmer said his current involvement came about when he was approached to join the board by other members, who were familiar with his experience in construction management and volunteer work as well as his connection to CWU.

"We're pretty excited about the work we're doing in the county right now," he said. "There is a large parcel at Water and Bender that we're planning to build affordable housing on. Anyone interested in volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, we are always looking for help."

As for what he believes it means to be a Wildcat, Palmer said: "Being a Wildcat is about community, it's about the wonderful residential campus that provides such a beautiful collegiate experience, and about the comradery of the people you work with.

"It's also how we teach classes, how we were able to pivot with COVID to continue to instruct our students," he continued. "I really think the sharing of knowledge is crucial for what makes a Wildcat. It's our ability to work together, making sure we have an open perspective on anything and everything." ■

"I really think the sharing of knowledge is crucial for what makes a Wildcat."

Delano Palmer talks with Construction Management students while touring the new Health Sciences Building currently under construction.

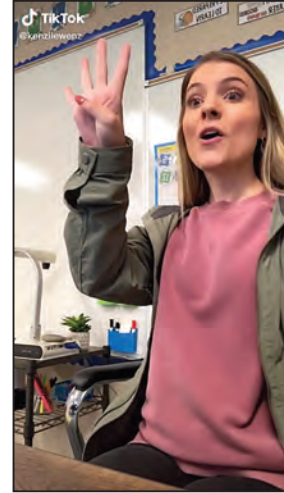
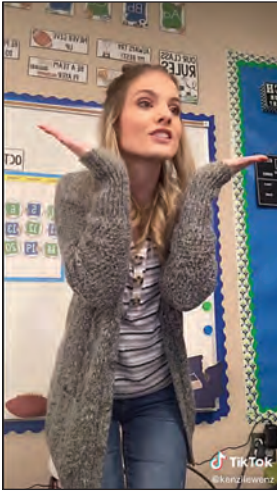


Central Wildcats Utilize

TIKTOK

to Teach Tots

By Robin Burck



A pair of CWU graduates—each kindergarten teachers in the Seattle area—have turned to the popular TikTok video app to reach their students in new ways.

Both Mackenzie Adams ('18) and Garrett Talcott ('12) found their worlds changed dramatically last year with the transition from in-person to online learning due to COVID-19.

Adams, a kindergarten teacher at Glenwood Elementary in Lake Stevens, Washington, said she never set out to be a TikTok star, but that's exactly what happened when she posted her first teaching video on the popular social media platform in 2020.

Not having taught online before the pandemic, she wanted to see what her students were seeing through their screens and began recording herself.

"I posted my first teaching TikTok just to reflect on my teaching," Adams said. "I wanted to see if I appeared engaging to the students and how the lesson looked from the students' perspective. I never expected anyone would see it!"

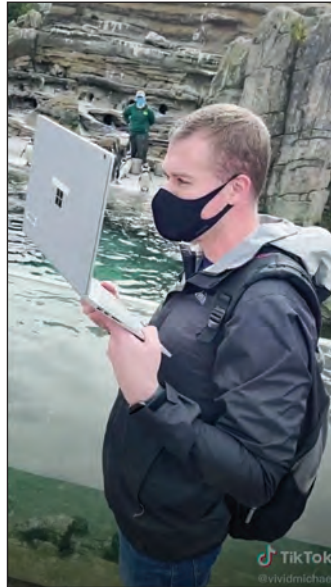
Adams' TikTok teaching videos quickly went viral, and her page now has more than 8.6 million likes and 403,000 followers. One of her first videos received more than 14.3 million views, and each post consistently receives a minimum of 100,000 views.

Talcott, a kindergarten teacher at Ella Baker Elementary in Redmond, also didn't start out seeking social media fame. When the pandemic hit, he began teaching remotely from his apartment.

Talcott's partner, Michael Rivera-Dirks, was so impressed by Talcott's animated and enthusiastic interactions with his students, that he wanted to share them. Working with Talcott, he started uploading small clips of lessons to his own social media accounts.

One of those videos, during which Talcott took his students on a surprise virtual field trip to Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo, soon went viral, attracting more than 800,000 views. That success attracted the attention of NBC's Today show, which featured him in March.

In the video, Talcott is shown interacting with his student via his laptop while walking around the zoo, talking to the kids about the animals.



Garrett Talcott taking his class on a virtual tour of the zoo.

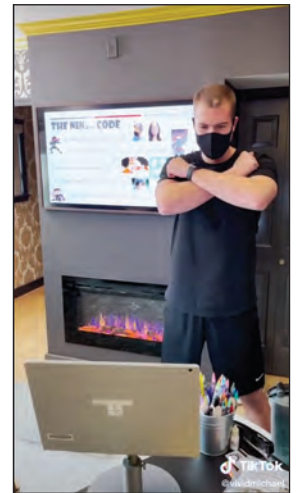
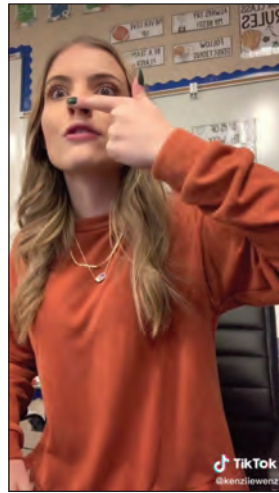
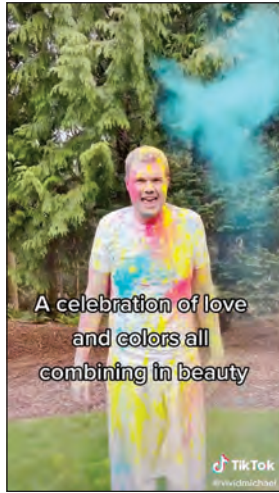
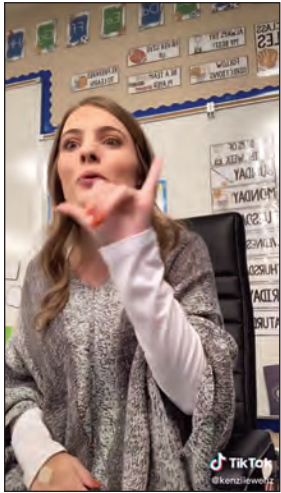
"Now what habitat do you think these animals live in?" he asks his class of 27 as he stands in front of the penguin enclosure.

"I was excited to take them all there," he told the Today show. "There is a lot we can learn from the zoo. Our school is brand-new, we're in our third year, and we don't currently do a field trip to the zoo. Myself, living 10 minutes away from the zoo, and teaching remotely, I wanted to use those resources."

Talcott said he sees his job as coming up with new ways to use virtual tools to excite his students to want to learn. That can include conducting science experiments in his kitchen, addressing important issues such as bullying (which has

more than 207,000 views), or showing the children proper health and safety tips during the COVID-19 pandemic—he calls it following the ninja code.

"We're all going through different feelings and emotions so when I get on there, whether I've had enough sleep or I'm ready or not ready, BOOM! The moment I hit that live button I have to be ready and



Adams and Talcott interacting with their classes via TikTok.

there for those students and make sure it's the best day of their life," he told Seattle's KING-5 television station.

Adams' experiences also created unexpected opportunities for her, including being featured in a two-hour "Celebrating America" program broadcast following the presidential inauguration on January 20.

After being introduced by Tom Hanks, Adams delivered a brief address, saying: "It's been a difficult year for our students, and I am so proud of all the teachers, parents, and students across the country who have adapted and made the best out of a tough time."



Mackenzie Adams

She concluded her remarks by introducing a performance by the Foo Fighters, an award-winning rock band originally from Seattle.

"I was in disbelief when they told me they wanted to honor me during the program. I feel very lucky and honored to represent teachers all over the country, they deserve to be recognized for all their hard work," she said. "I was able to film at Kerry Park in Seattle with the beautiful skyline behind me, it was truly incredible."

Coming from a family of teachers, Adams has always watched them and wanted to be one herself. She started playing school with her stuffed animals at age five, and when she became an adult, she followed her passion to Central where she enrolled in the CWU School of Education.

"Central gave me the best memories and the best friends," said Adams. "I enjoyed the teaching program and had so many great professors.

College was an unforgettable time, and I will always cherish Ellensburg and Central."

Adams still records her lessons and shares them with her followers. If you would like to watch them, you can find her profiles at @kenziiewenz on TikTok, or @kenziiewenzteacher on Instagram.

Talcott's videos can be found at @vividmichael on TikTok or @vivid.michael on Instagram. ■

Social Media Platforms in the Classroom

88% of schools and districts report using Facebook as the best means for reaching parents since the start of the pandemic

75% of parents say that effective use of technology in school is "very important" for their child's future success

45% of schools are planning to integrate social media into their curriculum in the next year

25% of teachers turned to social media to interact with students after the pandemic began

Sources: Class Intercom.com, Michigan State University, *The Journal: Transforming Education Through Technology*

TikTok 'Tistics

- TikTok is the 7th most used social media site in the world
- In the US, 32.5 percent of TikTok users are age 10-19
- The most followed person on TikTok is 16-year-old Charli D'Amelio, who has over 103 million followers and has amassed more than 8 billion likes for her dance videos

Source: blog.iconosquare.com/50-important-tiktok-statistics-for-2021/

Honoring the 2021 Distinguished Alumni and 4 Under 40 Awardees

The CWU Alumni Association honored 13 individuals for their embrace of Central's spirit and mission during the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards, held virtually on April 16.

"It is with great pride and admiration that I congratulate the 2021 Distinguished Alumni recipients on behalf of the CWU Alumni Association," said CWU Alumni Association Board President Karina Busch. "The recipients have demonstrated excellence within their professions and made lasting impacts within their communities.

"These individuals have demonstrated the true meaning of civic engagement by serving as leaders and mentors," she continued. "The Wildcat community is proud and thankful for all the contributions made by these incredibly talented and generous individuals."

Alumni of the Year

Joseph P. Stoltman ('62)—Distinguished Professor of Geography and Science Education, Western Michigan University

Philanthropists of the Year

Dave Heaverlo ('73) and **Peggy Basler McNutt** ('74, '90)—Manager, Sand Lake Farms, LLC (Dave)

Young Philanthropist of the Year

Sabrina M. Dominguez ('18)—Marketing Coordinator, Thomas James Homes



Joseph P. Stoltman



Dave Heaverlo and Peggy Basler McNutt



Sabrina M. Dominguez

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

College of Arts and Humanities

Myron N. Dobashi ('65)—Retired Brigadier General and Assistant Adjutant General, Air, Department of Defense, State of Hawaii, and former commander of the Hawaii Air National Guard

College of Business (Awarded Posthumously)

Ed F. Dooley ('64)—Retired Chief Financial Officer for Community Hospice, Inc., Community Hospice Foundation Inc., CHI Management, Inc, and Samaritan Village, Inc.

College of Education and Professional Studies

Mia T. Williams ('94)—Chief of the Office of African American Male Achievement, Seattle Public Schools

College of the Sciences

Joseph P. Stoltman ('62)—Distinguished Professor of Geography and Science Education, Western Michigan University



Myron N. Dobashi



Ed F. Dooley



Mia T. Williams



Joseph P. Stoltman



Sergey Bogza



Brittany A. Lewis



Matt E. Johnson



Kasey J. Eickmeyer



Jon M. Lane



Mackenzie G. Adams

4 Under 40 Award Recipients

College of Arts and Humanities

Sergey Bogza ('11)—Music Director and Conductor, Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra

College of Business

Brittany A. Lewis ('11)—Finance Manager, Microsoft

College of Education and Professional Studies

Matt E. Johnson ('10)—Manufacturing Instructor, Snohomish School District

College of the Sciences

Kasey J. Eickmeyer ('14)—Quantitative Sociologist and Demographer, Center for Policing Equity

Alumni Trailblazer Award

Jon M. Lane ('70)—Trustee at Big Bend Community College and Retired Educator

Alumni Innovator Award

Mackenzie G. Adams ('18)—Kindergarten Teacher, Lake Stevens School District



Former 4 Under 40 Recipient Wins Daytime Emmy

Simone Corbett was a 2020 4 Under 40 recipient who is making the Wildcat family proud once again with her most recent accomplishment.

Corbett, an associate producer at Entertainment Tonight, and her ET team recently took home a Daytime Emmy for Best Entertainment News Program in 2020.

"Winning a Daytime Emmy and being recognized among the incredible team of producers and talent at ET who make this show a success, especially during this unprecedented time, has been an absolute blessing," Corbett said.

Growing up, Corbett always knew that she wanted to pursue a career in entertainment, and during her time at Central she was very active in student media including *Pulse* magazine, *The Observer*, and *Central News Watch*.

She says that each of her experiences with student media at Central solidified her passion for journalism.

"My education at Central absolutely led me to where I am today," said Corbett. "My journalism professors at CWU not only helped me become a stronger writer and producer, but their belief in me helped me to believe in myself."

"I was constantly challenged, both academically and personally," she continued. "The foundational life and professional skills I learned while at Central are lessons I still carry with me today."

Meet CWU's Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Life: Michelle DenBeste

The world was a very different place when Michelle DenBeste accepted an offer to become CWU's new provost and vice president for academic and student life early last year.

There was no such thing as a COVID-19 pandemic and the idea that a college might have to shut down and convert overnight to remote learning was unimaginable.

On March 16, 2020, the university announced DenBeste's appointment. Four days later, it announced that all in-person classes and labs were cancelled, all learning would immediately shift to remote instruction, and all in-person, university-sponsored events were cancelled.

Since then, one could say that DenBeste has been busy. Previously the dean of the College of Social Sciences at California State University, Fresno, DenBeste began working at Central on May 18. She had to coordinate a move during a pandemic and jump right into her new position, addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic.

"It's definitely been a whirlwind, I've hardly had time to catch my breath," she said. "In my first few weeks, I had to deal with the fact in-person commencement had been cancelled and moved online, faculty needed the tools and resources to do their jobs remotely, and we were finalizing plans for the fall quarter. I was talking about space requirements on a campus where I hadn't been inside many of the buildings.

"The past year has been difficult for everyone. We have all had to change the way we do things and change how we live and work," she continued. "I've been impressed, however, by the incredible dedication of the faculty, staff, and students, and how all have worked together to get through this."

Prior to becoming dean of Fresno's College of Social Sciences, DenBeste was chair of the Department of History at Fresno and principal investigator on several national grants. A Pacific Northwest native, she earned a BA in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Washington in Seattle before completing an MA and PhD in history at Southern Illinois University.

She has published research articles on 19th century Russian women doctors and is currently working on an exploration of the history of a Russian religious group, the Molokans, in California's Central Valley.

An avid cyclist, DenBeste said she is eager to be able to finally be able to engage in-person with the community and to continue to learn about CWU.

"Central has a strong commitment to its students and to student success not only during college but in the years after," she said. "Throughout my career, I have focused on those same values. I want to work with my new colleagues to build on that foundation and engage in the innovative thinking and strategic development that will help define the future of this amazing institution."

DenBeste said the university's current plans for fall quarter 2021 include a return to in-person instruction, a near-typical number of students living in on-campus housing, and a resumption of traditional student activities. She cautioned that all plans remain subject to change, depending on the recommendations of state and county health officials.

"The good news is that we have been getting lots of inquiries and lots of applications for the fall," she added. "I am encouraged that we'll be able to have campus tours starting up again shortly and, for orientation, we will be able to have smaller groups on campus along with online options." ■



Parks Named Kuolt Distinguished Professor

Anderson Parks was named the 2021 Kuolt Distinguished Professor of Business. College of Business Dean Jeffrey Stinson said the appointment will allow Parks, a management professor based at CWU-Lynnwood, to amplify the impact of his teaching and other activities that connect the college and classroom to industry.

NEH Grant Helps Digital Humanities Growth

CWU was awarded a \$257,000 grant last year from the National Endowment for the Humanities, allowing the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) and CWU Libraries to pay for a half-dozen new faculty positions for 2020-21. The grant helped CAH and the libraries fund 15 faculty positions, including a digital historian/archivist, and also helped introduce programming for the CWU EthicsLab, the first interdisciplinary, public humanities space in the Northwest.



Michelle DenBeste

CWU Partners with Renton Technical College

CWU and Renton Technical College have teamed up on a new program designed to help people in the occupational trades earn a college degree, by counting work and apprenticeship experience toward degree completion. CWU and RTC signed a memorandum of understanding last fall that will allow more apprentice-level workers to develop their project management skills and earn a bachelor of applied science degree.

Among the Best for Non-Traditional Students

CWU offers one of the best higher education experiences in the state for non-traditional learners, according to the national college ratings website, CollegeFactual.com. CWU was ranked third in the 2021 Best Colleges for Non-Traditional Students In Washington report, earning high marks for programs that cater to individuals who don't follow the conventional high-school-to-college route.

CWU Dining Services Earns Prodigy Award

Dining Services received a second-place Prodigy Award in late 2020 from Computrition, one of the nation's leading providers of food service and health care software. Dining Services was recognized for streamlining its digital operations, improving data collection processes, and creating new visual displays for nutritional information from 2019-20.

New CWU Wine Club to Benefit Wildcat Family

When Heather Neff graduated from Central in 1999 with a degree in business administration, she planned to work with her family in the golf course industry.

However, when she met her now-husband Dean, they found a common interest in wine. The couple spent two and a half years in Oregon's Willamette Valley, where they worked in the wine industry and completed a winemaking program. A few years later, they returned home to Chelan, Washington, to start their own label: Nefarious Cellars.

"Having a business degree changes the lens through which you look at your own business," said Heather. "I credit a lot of what I am able to provide to Nefarious with what I learned at Central. My degree was a great foundation for owning my own business."

Within their winery, Heather is in charge of the wine club, marketing, blog writing, bookkeeping, tasting notes, and white winemaking, while Dean makes sure they grow beautiful fruit by managing the vineyard, overseeing operational details, and making their red wine.

The partnership has clearly worked as Nefarious Cellars has been featured in regional and national magazines such as *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*, *Wine Spectator*, and the "Top 100 Wines of the World" in *Wine Enthusiast*.

"Wine publications have so, so many wineries to choose from when they are looking at regions and states, both nationally and globally for wines to review and mention," Heather said. "It is incredible to have your wine reviewed by those publications and in turn, receive such positive feedback and scores."

"In the case of the 'Top 100 Wines,' making a list out of all the wines produced in a year is mind-blowing. It is every wine-maker's dream to make something that will be considered that noteworthy."

Recently, the couple partnered with the CWU Alumni Association to introduce the CWU Wine Club.

"I would love for this program to benefit the Wildcat family by making wine more approachable and fun. It adds one more layer to an already vibrant alumni association and it is really exciting that the alumni association will be able to add this as yet another benefit."

For more information and to join the wine club, please visit cwuwineclub.com. ■

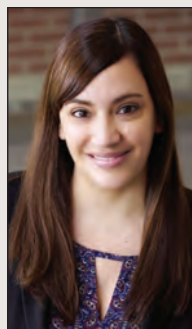


CWU alumna and Nefarious Cellars owner Heather Neff ('99) opens a bottle of wine made by her and her husband, Dean.



Scholarship Honors CWU Alumni Mattis

The US Marine Corps Support Group of Washington has changed the name of its annual scholarship to honor General James N. Mattis, a 1971 graduate of CWU. The General Jim Mattis Scholarship awards \$2,000 annually to a Marine Corps or Navy veteran who has served with the Marines. The scholarship recipient is selected by the CWU Veterans Center Advisory Board at the start of each fall quarter.



National CAMP Organization Elects Bocchetti

Miriam Bocchetti is the new president of the National HEP CAMP Association, which supports students from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds who are seeking educational opportunities. Bocchetti is CWU's director and principal investigator for the High School Equivalency Program and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).

Sister Turned Guardian is a Champion for Change

By Robert Lowery

From sibling to parent: that was the choice Autumn Adams made when she was just 19 years old. To keep her family together and maintain their Native American cultural identity, the 2020 CWU graduate sought and gained legal guardianship of her sister, Kaya Tahmalwash, then 7, and her 11-year-old brother, John Adams III.

"I knew I would be able to give them the best home they could have, with the most stability, and the greatest chance they could have to survive," Adams said of her decision.

Growing up in Toppenish, on the Yakama Indian Reservation, Adams lived in foster care, poverty, and an environment of substance abuse. Her mother left the family during Adams' senior year in high school, which left her as the primary caregiver for her two siblings.

A couple years later, while Adams was attending CWU, she secured legal custody of her sister and brother. That process initiated a profoundly different family dynamic.

"I had to transition from sister and confidant to parental figure 24-7," she explained. "People had concerns about my ability to take care of my siblings. However, I had always taken care of them, so that was second nature to me."

Adams, 23, has been supporting Kaya and John since that day. Over the past year, due to COVID-19, she had to take on the additional role of teacher, which provided an opportunity to teach her siblings the importance of self-advocacy.

"Advocacy was very foreign to me," Adams acknowledged. "I never wanted to talk about the things that I went through because then I became the 'foster-care girl.' But I realized that I provided a better future for my siblings because of my story and that I could motivate others to do the same."

Her own advocacy efforts have included an internship with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, a nonparti-



John, Kaya, and Autumn in Leavenworth, Washington

san, nonprofit organization that provides Congress with information about adoption, foster care, and child welfare. Adams served on a 12-member COVID-19 task force, where each member developed child welfare policy recommendations related to foster care and the pandemic.

"I do the work that I do, not for the attention or for the accolades," Adams said. "I do it to make a change in a [foster care] system that is severely broken."

Her proposal was one of two that were presented to the US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau. Based on her recommendations, the Children's Bureau released federal guidelines and clarification on kinship caregiver funding.

For her devotion to family and advocacy efforts, Adams recently received the 2021 Casey Excellence for Children Kinship Award from Casey Family Programs. Two years ago, she also was named one of five Champions For Change by the Aspen Institute's Center for Native American Youth.

Adams earned her CWU bachelor's degree in anthropology last June and now works for Yakama Nation Cultural Resources. She plans to start law school next fall.

Reflecting on her long list of accomplishments, Adams said, "I'm doing it to set an example for my brother and sister. They see everything I do firsthand, and I don't want them to think they can't do something because of their background." ■

Grant to Study Effects of COVID-19, Poor Air Quality

The CWU Department of Health Sciences was awarded a \$100,000 research grant by the American Lung Association to study how COVID-19, poor air quality, and certain socioeconomic factors have adversely affected underserved populations in the Yakima Valley. The Emerging Respiratory Viruses Research Award will help CWU Public Health faculty and a team of student researchers conduct surveys of Lower Yakima Valley residents about the combined effects of the virus, air quality, and limited economic resources.



CWU Multimodal Helps State Train Contact Tracers

A partnership between CWU Multimodal Learning and the Washington State Department of Health helped train more than 1,000 COVID-19 case investigators and contact tracers last fall and winter. Introduced in September, the program utilizes CWU's Canvas education platform so the state can provide instruction to individuals who want to help protect people in their communities from the virus.

The Strange Worlds of Robert Dohrmann and Leon Richmond

By Richard Moreno



Robert Dohrmann



A, B, C's < > 1, 2, 3's

Paper collage, digital imaging, color markers, color pencils, graphite pencils and wood ruler on thrift store children's chalkboard. 2021. 22.5"h x 24"w



Swanson's TV Landscape

Paper collage and floor linoleum on constructed cardboard thrift store print paintings. 2019. 17"h x 14.5"w x 4.5"d

Robert Dohrmann wants you to meet Leon Richmond.

Richmond is an artist, like Dohrmann, and the two have nearly identical backgrounds: born in Defiance, Ohio in 1961, raised in Lafayette, Indiana, then uprooted to Yakima, Washington.

Their paths veered, however, when, following high school and some time at Yakima Valley Community College, Dohrmann enrolled at CWU, eventually studying art, and Richmond went to Shoreline Community College to study accounting.

After years of what Richmond describes as, "soul sucking jobs," he ended up taking an accounting position at the University of Oklahoma (a public research university in Norman, Oklahoma), where, coincidentally, Dohrmann is now an art professor.

But it was while working in monotonous jobs that Richmond slowly became interested in art. It started with art walks in Seattle, which led him to develop an appreciation for art galleries, museums, and watching documentaries about art and artists.

At the university, Richmond befriended Dohrmann, who encouraged him to follow his muse and start creating art from his hobbies, which included searching for treasures in thrift shops and collecting old catalogs and records.

With Dohrmann's help, Richmond's eclectic work—combining drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, LP covers, and items found in thrift shops—has been displayed in galleries and exhibitions. In fact, he has four upcoming solo shows scheduled in the next year.

But here's the funny part: Richmond and Dohrmann are the same person.

"A lot of artists and writers have taken the idea of a nom de plume, and I really like that idea," he explained. "And to be honest with you, I've



American Pie Holes
 Paper collage, cut out cardboard, thrift store print, paintings, plastic signage letters and spray paint on cardboard, thrift store print painting. 2020. 37"h x 50"w x 1.5"d

spent 25-30 years promoting Bob Dohrmann, to, you know, shows here and there, nothing huge. But I said, 'screw it, I'm going to promote Leon Richmond,' and it's basically my cat's name and my middle name.

"I tell my shows, 'please, if you're comfortable with it, do not even use Robert Dohrmann.' I said I want to create this kind of mythology of this guy who really has no history online except for art shows," he continued. "So, I wrote a biography (on the website). It's basically me and, obviously, I took some liberties and did a composite image of faces of guys about my age. The picture is like a composite of five different guys."

Dohrmann said his motivation for the subterfuge was to "drop the ego. I'm a pretty modest guy and this would be the most modest thing I could do, to promote somebody else."

The end result, which Dohrmann has titled "Leon Richmond's Theater of the Absurdo," has featured everything from collage/paintings, portraits, and shadow boxes that incorporate images taken from 1950s catalogs, to Winnebago, pie, liquor, automobile, and cigarette advertisements, to NASA spacemen, clocks, and a host of other sources (which can be seen at leonrichmondart.com.)

Think *Mad Magazine* and *Mad Men* meet Salvador Dali and Marcel Duchamp.

Dohrmann said his goal with the work is to repurpose seemingly nostalgic images to make statements about contemporary issues, such as rampant consumerism, politics, climate change, and gender.

Or, in his words, "Bob Dohrmann makes art about weird times." ■



Mount Jell-O Landscape
 Paper collage, digital imaging, color pencils and wall paper on thrift store shadow box clock. 2020. 24"h x 14"w x 3"d

The real Bob Dohrmann is a CWU graduate (BA Art, Painting, '89; MFA, Painting and Drawing, '92) and currently serves as a professor of studio art at the University of Oklahoma's School of Visual Arts.



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