

CRIMSON & BLACK

Central
Washington
University
Spring 2019







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SPRING 2019

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Web Extras

Go to CWUCrimsonandBlack.com for an enhanced digital edition of CWU *Crimson & Black*. Find extended versions of stories, web exclusive articles, and view related videos.



Left: Science and art come together in **Tarra Hall-Ward's** work. The Ellensburg-based artist has degrees in both fine art and chemistry from CWU. As such, she has long been fascinated by the concepts and patterns naturally found in chemistry. To see one of her paintings, go to *In Focus* on page 33.

For more information on her work go to tarrahallward.wordpress.com/about.

CRIMSON & BLACK

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Welcome to the first issue of *Crimson & Black*, the official magazine of Central Washington University.

The stories in this issue explore the transformative role that CWU plays for our students. Something that I have heard many times from Central alums is how the university prepared them for success after graduation. On countless occasions, I have encountered proud Wildcat graduates who tell me they would not be who they are today if not for the education they received at Central.

We can see the positive impact of Central in the lives of students like Axicalli Godinez, who is featured in the story *Made at CWU*. During her time at the university, she has managed to excel in the classroom while working a weekend job and helping to raise her two-year-old daughter. It's also evident in alumni like Oscar Torres, Leni Halaapiapi, and Cody Marxer who each, in their own ways, say what they learned at Central helped them find their eventual career paths.

The theme of transformation also applies to the publication in your hands, which replaces *CWU Connections*. The changes are partially the result of a recent reader survey in which an overwhelming 67 percent of respondents indicated they would like to receive the university magazine more frequently.

With that in mind, we have increased the publication schedule—*Crimson & Black* will be published in the fall and spring—and have created a new and enhanced website, ***CWUCrimsonandBlack.com***, that will be regularly updated. The website will include links to videos related to stories, expanded versions of printed stories, and original features written specifically for the website (some by our very talented CWU students).

Please enjoy the new *Crimson & Black*, and let us know what you think.

Sincerely,

James L. Gaudino
President

2019

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Commencement

Friday, June 7, Nicholson Pavilion, Ellensburg
Saturday, June 8, Tomlinson Stadium, Ellensburg
Sunday, June 9, ShoWare Center, Kent

For more information: cwu.edu/commencement



C is for Change, Central, and Civil Rights

By Robert Lowery



Ron Sims

has had a storied career in politics and public service, including serving as the King County Executive from 1997-2009 and Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 2009-2011.

Few, however, know that he was once a bit of a firebrand at Central Washington State College. He was elected the school's first black student body president in 1970 and served as the Associated Student Council (ASC) executive vice president the previous year.

"People now don't remember that I was this 'radical' student, threatening to close down my university over black student issues," Sims recalled recently.

The issues Sims cites were a clear echo of the mood across the country during the Civil Rights era.

"It was the first time when students openly questioned adults—inquiry was encouraged," Sims recalls. "We were thinking through the complexities of the world—should we even be in Vietnam? Campus was, all of a sudden, saying we need to be integrated. As an intellectual institution, it was growing. But rather than grow without us, Central swept us into it."

Of the era, the late Central President James Brooks, in a 2010 interview, said: "During this time the ones that I related to the most were the black students, because we'd completely ignored them. In the drive to build this institution, we had not taken care of their concerns."

Sims, as the 1970 student body president, fondly remembers Brooks, and other members of his administration, in terms of addressing black student issues.

"I understood what the students were thinking, but I also had a good idea what the administration was thinking," Sims explains. "The issue was to talk to each other the same way Dr. Brooks and I could. I came to admire Dr. Brooks. He was the consummate college president."

Fast forward 50 years from 1969 to present day CWU.

"When looking at it from today we see an improvement," notes Jasmin Washington, current president of the CWU Black Student Union (BSU). "I do see Central moving forward in trying to hire more black and faculty of color. But there's still work to be done."

Washington points out that her grandparents, who also lived through the Civil Rights era, helped instill the importance of education in her, along with the probability she will need to strive harder than her peers because of her race.

"For decades, black parents have told their children that in order to succeed despite racial discrimination, they need to be 'twice as good,' 'twice as smart,' 'twice as dependable,' 'twice as talented,'" she says. "Which is a harsh reality and sad to think about."

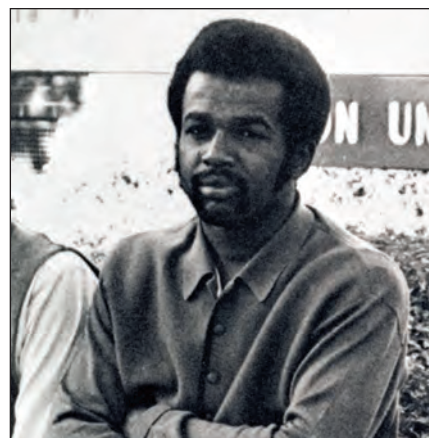
Recalling his time at Central, Sims says that despite the issues, "Central Washington [University] never told me I couldn't be a black man. I was never told that there was a difference between my race and my ability to achieve. That was important."

Fast forward a century from 1969 to 2069.

What does Washington hope to see at her alma mater?

"It will depend on people listening to the challenges—and taking the advice—of the people of color on this campus, and then working to overcome those challenges," she adds. "But I would hope that, when I walk down the hallways, I will see all races and different types of cultures."

When Washington does have that chance, Sims says she will undoubtedly realize, as he has looking back on the last 50 years, that the decades will pass with "light speed."



Above: Ron Sims, who served as ASC executive vice president in 1969 and ASC president in 1970.

Left: Ron Sims after CWU's 2017 State of University address.

"People now don't remember that I was this 'radical' student, threatening to close down my university over black student issues."

Ron Sims



Jasmin Washington, president of the CWU Black Student Union, 2018-2019, and president of the Associated Students of Central Washington University, 2019-2020.

Find extended content at:
CWUCrimsonandBlack.com



A Decade of Change



By Richard Moreno

If a single word could describe what's been happening at CWU's Ellensburg campus during the past decade, it would be *change*. Since 2009, the university has seen nearly \$300 million invested in new construction.

During that time, the campus landscape has been transformed by the addition of Discovery Hall (formerly Science II), the new Samuelson Hall, and the new Barto and Dugmore residence halls as well as expansion of Hogue Hall, construction of a north campus dining complex, renovation of Tomlinson Stadium, major overhauls of Lind and Bouillon Halls, and completion of a new recreation complex.

"It is interesting just how the growth in recent years has really impacted the campus," noted Shane Scott, associate vice president of campus planning and facilities management.

"If you go to the old campus (behind Barge Hall) and stand on the southeast corner near Samuelson Hall, you can see both Hertz and Bouillon halls (to the north and east), which have similar architectural styles, and represent the past," he continued. "Look directly east and north (to Samuelson Hall and Discovery Hall) and you can literally see the future."

Scott, who earned a BA in Anthropology in 1996 and MS in Natural Resource Management in 2003, said he came to work at the university in 2008 specifically because of the school's capital plan. He said he was impressed by how the university aligned future campus construction with its educational goals regarding science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) research and teaching. He said that plan "really set a vision that has changed the physical appearance of the campus for the next 100 years."

"Of course it all happened because of a collaboration of Facilities and Government Relations, staff, faculty, and legislative leaders, including Senator Jim Honeyford, who is a CWU alumnus, and Senator Judy Warnick," Scott added.

The construction boom has allowed Central to keep pace with the growing needs of students and faculty.

"I think we've been able to preserve the things about the campus that we all love while adding new, state-of-the-art facilities."

Shane Scott, associate vice president of campus planning and facilities management

While the bulk of the funding has been the result of capital appropriations provided by the state of Washington, some of the projects have been financed through support from generous donors, student fees, reserve funds, and other sources.

"We've been extremely fortunate during the past ten years to be able to have the support of our state legislators and the governor for construction projects that greatly enhance our academic programs," CWU President James L. Gaudino said. "But it's truly been a group effort on the part of our faculty members, students, alumni, and donors that has made these projects a reality."

Scott said the university's next facilities master plan, which will guide decisions during the next ten years, will continue to build on what's been done for the past decade. In addition to the construction of a new \$62 million health science building, he said the university is looking forward to the renovation of Nicholson Pavilion, for which the state recently approved funding.

Dugmore Hall, currently under construction, will be CWU's newest residence hall, with 402 beds. It is scheduled to open in fall 2019.



CONSTRUCTION

\$300 Million Investment



1 Dugmore Hall

- \$48 million residence hall to be completed in fall 2019
- Includes 402 beds and 6,000 square foot dining facility with Panda Express franchise and 1891 Market

2 Recreation Complex

- \$8 million project completed in 2018
- New all-weather track, artificial turf infield, outdoor lighting, throw venues, stadium-style scoreboard, and grandstands

3 Discovery Hall

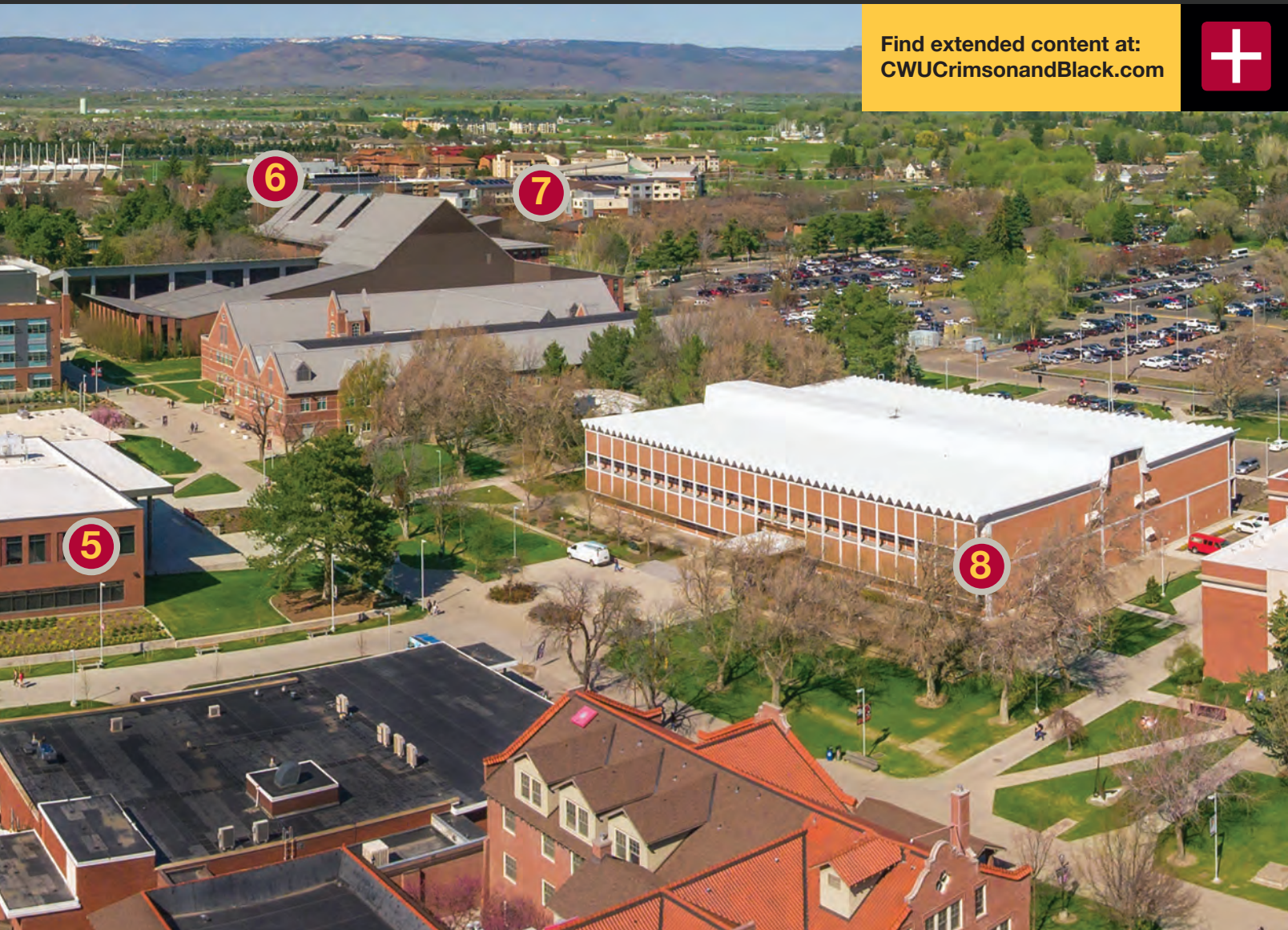
- \$62 million science teaching facility completed in 2016
- Includes planetarium, observatory tower, and specialty labs
- 120,000 square foot structure

4 Tomlinson Stadium

- \$6 million renovation completed in 2018
- New artificial turf, stadium lighting, entry gates, and expanded visitor seating
- Added Wildcat and Alumni Plazas

CON BOOM 2009-2019

Find extended content at:
CWUCrimsonandBlack.com



5 Samuelson Hall

- \$61 million project completed in 2018
- Demolition of the oldest portions of the original Samuelson, built in 1926
- 135,000 square foot structure integrates renovated portions of old building and new construction

6 Hogue Hall

- \$30.4 million renovation completed in 2012
- 61,000 square foot addition and update to the original 34,600 square foot structure

7 Barto Hall

- \$37 million residence hall completed in 2012
- Replaced old Barto Hall, built in 1962
- 368-bed, 116,000 square foot structure

8 Lind and Bouillon Halls

- \$15 million in renovations completed in 2018
- New home of the Department of Communication and the ROTC (Lind) and student services, such as Financial Aid and the Office of the Registrar (Bouillon)





The Transformative Effect of a Central Education

By Richard Moreno

What makes CWU different from other institutions? For some, it's the small classes. It's the professors who know them by name and spend time with them to help them learn. For others, it's the sense of community they found—a place where they fit in and belong. It's participating in a campus club, organization, or activity—and making personal connections that can last a lifetime.

Meet the following current and former Wildcats—many first-generation college students—who appreciate the Central experience because it provides them with the confidence, tools, and means to become the best versions of themselves.



Oscar Torres

Engineer
Rock Star

After he graduated from Sunnyside High School, Oscar Torres, now 28, wasn't sure college was even an option for him. He had participated in the Upward Bound program at his school, and took a few summer classes at Yakima Valley College, but wasn't certain of his next move.

"One of the coordinators at YVC asked me if I had thought about college," the soft-spoken Torres recalled. "I was kind of applying for college, and kind of not. He was working for CAMP (College Assistance Migrant Program) at Washington State University and encouraged me to fill out an application for WSU." CAMP provides academic and financial support to freshman students from migrant or seasonal farm working backgrounds.

Torres said he was rejected for admission but the coordinator must have made some calls because about a week before the fall semester he received an acceptance letter for the upcoming term.

"I told my mom—and she's a single mom and there were four of us—and she said she didn't want me to go. I was the oldest one and she said I needed to go to work. I yelled at my mom and I said, 'I am going to college in a week, with or without your help.' I don't talk to my mom like that, and I have so much respect for her because of everything she did for me and my brothers and sisters, but I was going to go to college.

"A week later, as I was packing to leave, she said, 'Okay.' And she even paid my dorm fee and then she drove me there."

But WSU wasn't a good fit. "The classes were so big. I'm a very social person but I felt like I would go to a class and I would never see the same person twice."

Oscar Torres

"There was just no connection there," he said. "But I hated the thought of having to go back home and say I couldn't make it. I wasn't going to give up. Failure was not an option."

While visiting a friend enrolled at Central, he decided to tag along for some of her classes.

"I met some of the professors and the classroom was just like a high school setting, not so big and impersonal, with maybe 30 students," he said. "And the professor actually knew their names."

"I went back to WSU and filled out the application to transfer to Central right away," he said.

Torres thrived at CWU where he enrolled in the construction management program and connected with like-minded people who enjoyed talking about building things.

"When I think of my favorite memories at Central, there are so many things. But I think going to The Tav with guys in the program for lunch was one of my favorites," he said.

In addition to classes and participating in the CAMP program at CWU, Torres worked part time at the local AutoZone store and was involved in the Associated General Contractors student club.

"I was a construction management student by day and rock star by night."

But equally important was the fact Torres was able to indulge in one of his personal passions—playing bass guitar. He even formed a band with a couple of friends.

"We would play every day at my apartment," he said. "One day I got a note on my door from a professor who was passing by and it said, 'You guys rock—keep it up! I wanted to come in but didn't want to ruin your jam.'"

"I was a construction management student by day and rock star by night," he added with a laugh. He still plays guitar in a classic rock cover band, "Cheap Red," in the Tri-Cities area where he now lives with his wife, Crystal, who is a teacher and also a CWU graduate.

At a career fair his senior year, one of his professors introduced Torres to recruiters from Fowler General Construction.

"He said there was a company I should talk to from my area. I went to their table and introduced myself and both of the vice presidents said 'oh, you're the guy.' I asked if that was good or bad and they said my professor was just talking about me and that I was from the valley."

He was hired following an intensive interview process and started work 10 days after graduation.

Today, Torres is a project engineer/field engineer overseeing a crew at the Hanford nuclear site. His job is to coordinate site clean-up staff to ensure they follow proper safety protocols, including closely monitoring how long they work in a contaminated area.

Looking back, he said his Central education "definitely" helped prepare him for his career.

"In the construction program, I can remember we were always loaded with homework. I now understand that their intent was to prepare us for what we could expect when you get out in the field."



Axicalli Godinez

Student

Mother

Future Physical Therapist

Axicalli Godinez, 19, quickly learned what she didn't want to do for the rest of her life when her parents took her and four of her siblings into the fields to pick cherries, asparagus, apples, and other produce.

"Dad told us that if we don't earn an education, 'this is what you'll be doing for the rest of your lives,'" she said.

It made an impression on Godinez. Her two older brothers graduated from Washington State University and are now an engineer and a nurse. One sister graduated from the University of Washington and works in health administration, while the other attended Heritage University.

Godinez was born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and settled in Toppenish when she was one. After graduating from high school, Godinez considered several colleges. She chose Central because it is close to home and family who are helping raise her daughter, Aleena.

"Because it was closer to home I chose it [Central]," she said. "I think it was a good choice."

Godinez, who is already a junior/senior because she took Running Start classes in high school, is pursuing a major in clinical physiology with minors in psychology and physical rehabilitation and therapy.

"The first time I was exposed to the cadaver lab, it blew my mind," she recalled.

Her hope is to eventually work as a physical therapist or, perhaps, a nurse practitioner. She is on track to graduate next spring.



In addition to her studies, Godinez works fulltime as a support specialist at Elmview, a non-profit community organization in Ellensburg that assists people with disabilities.

“I work double shifts on the weekends and take classes five days a week,” she said. “I have two clients. I love it. I’ve created a definite bond with them. I help them with their basic needs, their money management, cooking, bathing, all sorts of things.”

Because 20-credit quarters, homework, and a job make up a pretty full plate, Godinez said her mother cares for Aleena in Toppenish.

“I miss her a ton,” she said. “But I want her back with me for the spring quarter. She’s my main motivator. But I am always looking to the future, to what I want to be able to offer to her.”

“Being at Central has shaped me in a way I never thought I would be able to be—it’s helped me find out what I want to be.”

Godinez said she’s had several mentors, including Heidi Shaw, her psychology professor at Yakima Valley College, who provided her with internships and other resources. She also credits professor Vince Nethery, who teaches clinical physiology and exercise science, and advisor Pat Coffey for guiding her during her time at CWU.

She has also been involved in CWU’s TRIO program and Ellensburg’s Aspen organization, which helps victims of abuse, sexual assault, and other forms of oppression.

Axicalli Godinez and her daughter Aleena

"Central has made me a better person," she said. "I think, in a sense, it's provided me with many opportunities and options regarding what I want to do . . . being at Central has shaped me in a way I never thought I would be able to be—it's helped me find out what I want to be."



Leni Halaapiapi

Computer Science Whiz Big Brother

Leni Halaapiapi is a busy guy. Now a senior majoring in computer science (with a minor in math), he has been involved in Brother 2 Brother for four years, been in the McNair Scholars program and Cross Cultural Leadership Program, been an active member in and co-founder of the Polynesian Club, participated in the Yakima River and Olmstead Place Clean Up efforts, and served as legal guardian for his younger brother, who is in high school.

He's done all of this while excelling in the classroom, where he has a 3.5 GPA. He's earned a Washington State Opportunities Scholarship, a STEM Solver scholarship, a Hearst-Solver Fellowship, and a Boeing computer science scholarship, as well as the Provost/Academic & Student Life Vice Presidential Award for his impact on the lives of others at CWU.

"I learned to be involved in my community from my parents," he said. "They taught me about just helping people when they are in need or even if they don't need it."

Born and raised in Hawaii (Lahaina, Maui), Halaapiapi said that despite his success, he needed help when he first arrived at college. For one thing, he said he didn't know how to study.

"During my freshman year, I got interested in Brother 2 Brother. That organization really helped me in terms of finding out what college is all about. I'm a first-generation college student and nobody ever prepared me for going to college.

"For my mom, the highest education she received was beauty school. My father only had a high school education and six kids," he said. "My dad is a stone mason. He builds rock walls around houses. I learned my work ethic from him and about helping people from my mom."

Halaapiapi said Brother 2 Brother also helped him make the decision to raise his younger brother, Logan.

"I'm the legal guardian of my brother. He's 18 now and he has been with me the past two years," he said. "He had dropped out of school and didn't have much direction in his life. Being at CWU has taught me the value of an education. So, I made

continued on page 18

Leni Halaapiapi





WHY AW

~100,000

CWU alumni nationwide

19 to 103 Age range of alumni

Top 10 states where alumni live (outside Washington):

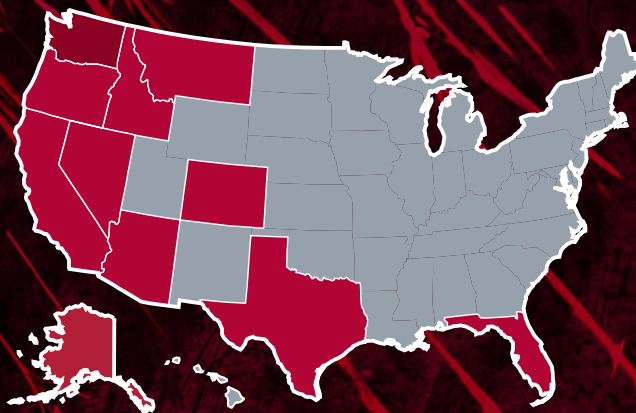
1. California
2. Oregon
3. Arizona
4. Texas
5. Idaho
6. Alaska
7. Colorado
8. Florida
9. Nevada
10. Montana

93

Percent of alumni who live in Washington State

42

Percent of alumni who live in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties



Top 10 occupations of alumni:

- Educator
- Accountant
- Manager
- Administrator
- Computers/ Programmer/ Analyst
- Salesperson
- Engineer
- Business Executive/ Senior Manager
- Financial Planner/ Investor
- Pilot

750

Alumni who are top company executives (CEO, CFO, President, VP, Owner)

WHAT MAKES WILDCAT?

12,332

Total CWU student enrollment

49

Percent of students in
the 18-21 age bracket

2,178

Students enrolled
in online courses

32 Percent of
students of color



18-to-1

Student-to-faculty ratio

425 Number of
student-athletes

45

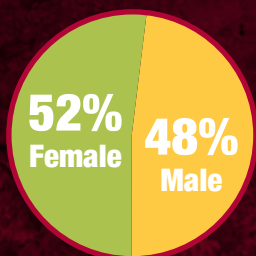
Percent of
First-Generation
students



135 Major
degrees
offered

125

Student clubs,
organizations,
and associations



Female/male
student ratio

20

Average
class size

Top **5** majors/degrees awarded:

- Business Administration
- Information Technology and Management
- Elementary Education
- Law and Justice
- Accounting

a deal with him: 'It's alright if you come live with me in Washington but you have to go back to school.'

"He was 16 and I enrolled him at Ellensburg High School. He's in Running Start and he's really picked himself up after dropping out of school. He just needed someone to guide him. Brother 2 Brother taught me to be a man, how to step up."

"The thing I like is the way the university is so connected to the community. It's a really unique environment."

Halaapiapi said he chose Central because he looked at the price of schools and it was the most affordable. He moved to Washington as a sophomore in high school to live with his grandparents but wasn't sure what he wanted to do.

"Central was my only pick for school that I was interested in," he said. "I originally wanted to major in electrical engineering but switched to computer science. Having small class sizes and being able to meet with my professors to get the help I needed was invaluable. You can't get that at WSU or UW. It really helped me.

"Looking back now, I'm so glad I came to Central. The thing I like is the way the university is so connected to the community. It's a really unique environment."

Halaapiapi recently found out he had been accepted to the University of Oregon's master's degree/PhD program. He's been offered full tuition, a monthly stipend, and money for books. After graduate school, he might go into industry, do research for a company, or perhaps teach.

"One of my philosophies is, I'm always learning, always improving, always thinking: 'What can I learn more about,'" he said. "Central taught me that."



Cody Marxer

Planner

Rancher

Cheerleading was a ticket to college for Cody Marxer, *née* Sims. After graduating from Burlington-Edison High School in Burlington, Washington in 1997, she accepted a cheerleading scholarship at Washington State University.

"It wasn't a great fit for me," she recalled. "The classes were huge and there were too many social opportunities."

Marxer, now 40, transferred to CWU in her sophomore year. She chose Central because "the class sizes were better and I could get to know my instructors." While at CWU, she also performed with the Orchesis dance company. She graduated in 2002 with a BS in exercise science and a minor in dance.

Then one of her mentors, Timothy Burnham, a CWU professor of clinical physiology and director of the exercise science division, talked her into pursuing a master's degree in exercise science, which she completed in 2004. Marxer also joined the staff of CWU's Recreation Center, where she worked as the fitness and membership services coordinator.

"It was wonderful. I got along so well with the staff," she said, adding that she still counts Bob Ford, now CWU's senior director of Alumni and Constituent Relations but formerly director of Campus Life, which included overseeing the Recreation Center, as one of her closest friends.

"In my time at Central, Bob Ford was one of my very best friends," she said. "He was my go-to guy for everything. He has the biggest heart."

"The staff and faculty [at CWU] are just so incredible. The connections among the students, staff, and faculty are unparalleled."

Marxer also has a passion for horses and ranch life, passed down from her father, the late Jack Orin Sims. The avid horseman raised quarter horses, competed in rodeos (bareback riding), and owned a tack shop for many years. Not surprisingly, Marxer operated an equine massage business for many years in Ellensburg.

Fast forward to 2015 when Sims met fellow horse person Clayton Marxer on Facebook. Marxer, who works as a soil conservation technician for the Natural Resource Conservation Service, grew up on a 325,000-acre cattle ranch in southwest Montana.

"We decided to grab dinner while I was passing through Montana and that was it," she said.

She relocated to Montana, because, “my husband is a tried and true Montana boy.” After working at various odd jobs—including as a wrangler at a dude ranch, a dental office receptionist, an equine massage instructor, an artisan cheesemaker, and a physical therapy office coordinator—she was hired in the Madison County planning department.

“I stumbled into that,” Marxer said. “There aren’t a lot of jobs around here and I got fortunate. They hired me because of my master’s degree and experience working at Central.”

In addition to their day jobs, Marxer and her husband work at the Sauerbier Ranch near Sheridan, Montana. The two help with 500-700 head of black angus cattle. In the spring and summer, they’ll move the animals to different grazing areas on Bureau of Land Management and private lands, while in the fall they’re busy with vaccinating and branding.

“Where we find our true passion and purpose is in ranching,” she said.

Despite her unusual path from cheerleader and dancer to planner and rancher, Marxer said she has nothing but fondness for Central.

“So often I find myself falling back on things I learned at Central, and I’m so glad I ended up there,” she added. “I don’t think the students realize how lucky they are until they get a few years out of school.”



Find additional profiles at:
CWUCrimsonandBlack.com

Cody Marxer

Learning Local

How CWU's
University Centers
Evolved to Serve
Students in Non-Traditional
Learning Environments

By Katie Stephens



Dalleri Olels

has worked most of her adult life in the medical field. But a few years ago, she began to get a restless feeling that something was missing in her life.

She decided to take a leap of faith. Olels quit her job at a hospital and sought to pursue something that she felt would be more personally rewarding—a career in education.

She enrolled at Yakima Valley College to knock out her prerequisites, then had a bevy of choices to consider when it came to finishing her degree. Originally from Selah, Washington, she had a job and a family in Yakima, which were major considerations in her deliberations.

“I was thinking about doing an online program, thinking about commuting to Ellensburg, and weighing all of my options,” Olels said. “The cohort program at CWU-Yakima was ideal.”

The center offered her the program she wanted and was also conveniently located just two miles from her home. She is now completing her senior year and will begin student teaching fifth grade this spring.

“I was born and raised in Selah and was always involved in the community,” Olels said. “I’m hoping to get a job teaching in Selah and be able to give back to the community again.”

Olels’s story echoes that of many Washingtonians who want to pursue educational goals. For them, CWU’s University Centers are a perfect fit. A large number have full-time jobs, families to take care of, or both—so a traditional university experience just isn’t on the menu.

CWU’s University Centers and instructional sites, however, offer outside-the-box education options at eight locations across the state for students of all ages and interests, including in Des Moines, Lynnwood, Moses Lake, Pierce County, Wenatchee, Yakima, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and Sammamish.

So how do the centers keep up with the growing needs of students? Melanie Palm, former director of Center Operations and current director of CWU-Yakima, has been with Central for 16 years and believes that it has something to do with agility and the ability to change.

“A student can go anywhere they want to in the world because of the online component,” Palm said. The centers, she explained, needed to be—and are—different. They are built on a system based on meeting a community’s educational wishes.

“With the centers, we have all kinds of flexibility because we are the closest to the students,” she continued. “Ninety miles is the maximum distance that most center students are able to travel, due to them being ‘place-bound’ with work or family.”

The idea of supporting community also goes full circle with CWU. In 2016, the city of Sammamish approached CWU and proposed a partnership that would open Running Start doors to the local high school population. In 2017, CWU did just that.

“Opening the doors here was incredibly agile for Central,” said Elaine Harney, CWU-Sammamish regional director. “We have already increased the breadth of classes offered including science, which we know the community wants.”

Listening to the community is also evident in a huge milestone that CWU-Sammamish recently celebrated with the announcement of the first program of its kind at the center, a master’s in Information Technology and Administrative Management (MS-ITAM) with a specialization in cybersecurity.

Survey findings initiated by CWU-Sammamish showed a deficit in the number of cybersecurity professionals in the area, representing a huge opportunity. The one-year program will be available to students beginning fall 2019.

Harney, like most of the center directors, is eager to serve the centers’ complex niche student base. “I’m a roll-up-your-sleeves, let’s-get-it-done type of person,” Harney said. “I’m not afraid of getting in the trenches. It’s invigorating.”

CWU
UNIVERSITY CENTERS

**SERVING
STUDENTS**

SINCE 1974

6

CWU
UNIVERSITY
CENTERS

2

CWU
INSTRUCTIONAL SITES

1974

FIRST

CWU Center
launched at
Pierce County.
Education,
Social Services,
and Law and
Justice were
first programs

5

CWU Centers
were started to
**SUPPORT THE
DEMAND FOR
TEACHERS** in
the surrounding
communities

71

Percentage of CWU Center
students who plan to use
their degree **TO GET A JOB
OR A PROMOTION**



Helping Wounded Soldiers

By Robin Burck



Since graduating from CWU in 1981, Bryan Hoddle has chosen to use his career to make an impact.

The Olympia native spent most of his career as a history and physical education teacher, retiring in 2015. But restless to keep making a difference, Hoddle began working with amputee athletes and those suffering from traumatic brain injuries, the majority being soldiers.

"I never imagined I'd be here in a million years," Hoddle said of his career. "I never served in the military, but I'm thankful to have been placed in a position where I could have an impact on people that I really care about and love."

For close friend and acupuncturist, Dr. Bob Greczanik, Hoddle's commitment to assisting injured amputees is where his work truly shines. Hoddle has worked with over 5,000 soldiers to date.

"Bryan really cares about people—he really cares about human beings," Greczanik said. "His great commitment to the military and giving his time to help injured veterans move really shows his love for people."

Hoddle has received numerous awards for his work, including being named a 2013 *Runner's World Magazine* Hero of the Year in Running, and also being selected as one of six Americans to receive the 2014 USA Track and Field President's Award.

However, one award stands out above the others.

"Being honored by the Washington State House of Representatives really meant a lot," Hoddle said. "The fact that they took the time to do it, they acknowledged my teaching, acknowledged my coaching. It's not every day that the House of Representatives and Olympia does that."

Hope Mortensen, a former multi-event track and field athlete at Idaho State University, is just one of the successful athletes that Hoddle has worked with.

"Bryan has helped me tremendously," Mortensen said. "He is a very genuine person and cares about his athletes, not only as athletes but as individuals. As a person, overall, he's very inspirational and passionate about his athletes."

Hoddle also serves as a motivational speaker with schools and local camps being his biggest target. He believes the human component is important for youth to have, and that teachers can have a bigger impact on students than tests ever could.

"I was at a camp in Alabama and watched this one young amputee soldier throw a shot put and I said to him, 'Man you looked really good,'" Hoddle said. "He came up to me at the end of the camp and said how much that meant to him because when he came to the camp, he was planning to go home and take his own life. Those words lit a fire under him. It changed the direction of his thinking."

While Hoddle's career took an unexpected turn later in life, he believes his passion for teaching aided him in providing support for athletes with disabilities. He credits the late John Pearson, professor emeritus of physical education at CWU, with giving him the tools necessary to succeed.

"I learned so many things from Dr. Pearson," Hoddle said. "He always said, 'Anticipate what could go wrong when you're teaching and have your plan ahead of time,' and it stuck with me all 34 years."

Hoddle says CWU played a big part in his career and was one of the critical steps in where he is today.

"I have a lot of former students that are in high school that would be a great fit for Central," Hoddle said. "If someone was trying to think of a college to send their son or daughter, a safe place [and] a solid education, I think Central is the place."

Hoddle also serves on the board of trustees for the Seattle-based Invictus Foundation, which works to increase and improve access to behavioral-health services for the nation's military, veterans, and their families. In the year ahead, Hoddle will closely consult with Peter Whalen, the Invictus Foundation's founder and chief executive officer, in preparation for the 2020 groundbreaking on its first TBI (traumatic brain injury) & Psychological Health Center. The new Western Regional Center will be located in Orting, 20-miles southeast of Tacoma.

"Bryan will provide the expertise and knowledge base to help me bring the physical recovery and fitness aspects of this project to life," Whalen said.

**"I never served
in the military,
but I'm thankful
to have been
placed in a
position where
I could have
an impact on
people that
I really care
about and love."**

Bryan Hoddle

Wildcats of Distinction: CWU Distinguished Alumni of 2019

By Robin Burck



The CWU Alumni Association annually honors individuals who embrace the university's spirit and mission. The Distinguished Alumni Awards showcase exceptional Wildcats for their personal accomplishments, professional achievements, community service involvement, and/or contributions made to CWU.

2019 Alumni of the Year

Doug and Sharon Andrews

The association is honoring Doug and Sharon Andrews for their decades of service to CWU. Doug is a 1968 graduate with a degree in business administration and Sharon is a 1990 graduate who received her degree in accounting.

During Doug's time at Central he was challenged with a learning disability, but through the support he received from the school he flourished and went on to have a successful career owning a construction supply business. Doug's passion for Central never left him; he served on the CWU Alumni Board of Directors from December 1974 to October 2012.

Both Doug and Sharon say the education, friendships, and connections they made through Central nurtured a heartfelt love of the university. In 2016, they established a scholarship for students with a documented accommodation with CWU's Disability Support Services.

"Central was so accepting of those who had challenges," Doug said. "The school and the teachers were able to help students like me who had potential, but just needed a little extra help."

Philanthropists of the Year

Ben and Nancy Remak

The foundation is honoring Ben and Nancy Remak for their years of support of CWU. In addition to providing full-tuition scholarships in law and justice and history, they also financially support CWU volleyball, football, Wildcat Commons, and, more recently, the Freedman-Remak Student-Athlete Academic Success Center—a facility that offers a dedicated learning environment for student-athletes.

Ben, a 1979 CWU graduate, and Nancy both give back to the university by serving on boards. Ben is on the CWU Law and Justice Department Advisory Board while Nancy has recently joined the College of Arts and Humanities Advisory Board.

Young Philanthropist of the Year

Andrew Mork

The association is recognizing Andrew Mork ('11) for his generous giving to many areas of CWU. Despite being only 30 years old, Mork has made significant contributions to Wildcat Commons, athletics scholarship support, and the CWU Alumni Association. He is an Account Vice President of Wealth Management at UBS Financial Services and serves on the Alumni

Board of Directors and on the Certified Financial Planning Advisory Board for the College of Business.

2019 College of Business Alumna of the Year

Amy Hanson

The college is honoring Amy Hanson ('90) for her professional achievements and support for the university. As the founder of Hanson Consulting Group, Hanson has over 20 years of finance, IT, business operations, and management experience. Prior to starting her company in 2009, Hanson worked 11 years at Microsoft. She also held management positions in finance information technology, corporate accounting, royalty operations, and global outsourcing. She is a member of the CWU Foundation Board.

2019 College of The Sciences Alumnus of the Year

Scott McGuane

The college is recognizing Scott McGuane ('95) for his accomplishments in the global finance world. His career path has seen him rise to senior leadership in some of the largest financial institutions in America. He grew up in the Chicago area and chose to attend CWU on the reputation of its mathematics department.

2019 College of Arts and Humanities Alumna of the Year

Rachel Harry

The college is honoring Rachel Harry ('04), who has taught drama at Hood River Valley High School for more than 30 years. In 2017, she received a Tony Award for Excellence in Theatre Education, after being nominated by her students. She used the cash prize to help Hood River Valley High School establish a costume library.

2019 College of Education and Professional Studies Alumna of the Year

Teresa King

The college is recognizing Teresa King ('02) for her advocacy for STEM education, including volunteering as an after-school science and math teacher and promoting engineering as a career choice. King currently oversees Cabin Technology Development & Integration for The Boeing Company. She is also a proud Wildcat mom to a recent CWU graduate and married to Central alumnus, Dr. Christopher Bigelow ('89).

To read about more Wildcats of distinction, please visit page 30.

Left to right: Sharon and Doug Andrews, Teresa King, Scott McGuane, Nancy and Ben Remak, Andrew Mork, Rachel Harry, and Amy Hanson

FACES OF CWU SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

Scholarship support from foundations, alumni, and donors is a crucial factor in helping propel student success at CWU. With 73.8 percent of degree-seeking students having received financial aid in the 2017-18 academic year, the need for scholarship support is more prevalent than ever.

The following are just a few of the 787 students who have benefited from scholarships at Central in the last year:

Darion Christiansen

W.J. Pennington Scholarship

Darion Christiansen has always had a passion for computer technology. For as long as he can remember, he has taken equipment apart just to see how it was put together. The Spanaway, Washington native received his associate degree in computer network engineering from Pierce College and now attends CWU, working to get his bachelor's in cybersecurity and planning on staying to complete his master's degree.

"The W.J. Pennington Scholarship funding will help me continue following my degree path here at CWU," he says. "This means the world to me, and I cannot thank them enough for the support. Without scholarships like these, many students, including myself, would not be able to continue our education."



Darion Christiansen



Central Alumnus Named State Teacher of the Year

For the second time in three years, a CWU alumnus is the Washington State Teacher of the Year. The state Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction honored Robert Hand, a Mount Vernon High School teacher, as the 2019 honoree. Hand earned his MS in family and consumer sciences education, along with his teaching endorsement, at CWU in 2011.

CWU-Sammamish Offers Master's Degree

For the first time, CWU will offer a master's degree program at CWU-Sammamish. The instructional site now offers an MS in Information Technology and Administrative Management, specializing in cybersecurity. The program, which begins in September, offers both full- and part-time program options and can be completed in one year. CWU-Sammamish will host classes once a month, on Fridays and Saturdays, which will be supplemented by online content.

Marivel Nevarez

Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship

Marivel Nevarez wants to find work that allows her to combine what she's learning in business and marketing at CWU with her Hispanic culture. An upcoming senior, Nevarez is majoring in business administration and specializing in marketing. Upon graduating, she plans to search for internships that will lead her into a multicultural advertising role. Thanks to the aid of scholarships, she will graduate from Central debt-free which brings her a great sense of relief.

"Scholarship support means a lot to me, not only as a student, but as a person. Being a first-generation student, I have found a lot of academic support within my university," Nevarez says. "My parents came to the United States from Mexico about 25 years ago. Through hard work and dedication, they have taught me that I can achieve and accomplish my wildest dreams—that I can dream big without anything holding me down."



Marivel Nevarez



CWU Football Has New Head Coach

Chris Fisk, who has served as offensive line coach and co-offensive coordinator for the CWU football team since 2016, was named the Wildcats' new head football coach. Fisk takes over a team that finished 8-3 in 2018. He replaces Ian Shoemaker, who recently became offensive coordinator at Eastern Washington University.

CWU's Accreditation is Reaffirmed

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) reaffirmed accreditation for CWU. The commission commended CWU for its service to students, employees, and the community. It offered suggestions for improvement in the areas of academic advising, assessment of learning outcomes at the class level, and combining divisional strategic plans into a single plan.

Thomas Effinger

Sally Wagner Piano Scholarship;
Men and Women of the '50s;
Schaake Music Scholarship;
Tekla Askegaard Hertz Scholarship;
Presser Foundation Scholarship;
Piano Scholarship

At the age of four, Thomas Effinger was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. From third through eighth grade, he took social skills classes and had coursework he found to be unchallenging. But as he grew older, he discovered a passion for music, which helped him better focus in school. Today, he is working hard towards a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and has the support of six different scholarships to assist him in getting there.

"When I reached high school, I was entirely unprepared for the leap in expectations of my coursework," he recalls. "I was no longer in special education classes and moved from learning a reduced curriculum to fully participating in my district's STEM magnet [program]. I began studying music as a junior in high school, and since I first began performing at the piano I've had my heart set on becoming a professional musician. I could not be more thankful for this scholarship."



Thomas Effinger

New Gen Ed Requirements

General Education classes are now updated in order to be more relevant to students. The requirements, approved by the Faculty Senate, offer students choices in eight general content areas as well as a first-year experience class and a culminating experience class during their final year.

Campus Police Honored as Department of the Year

The Western Association of Campus and Law Enforcement Administrators (WACLEA) named CWU's University Police and Public Safety as its 2018 Department of the Year. Additionally, CWU Officer Pete Ross received the WACLEA 2018 Officer of the Year Award.

New Series Celebrates Latinx Achievement in Higher Ed

CWU partnered with Yakima Valley College (YVC), Heritage University, and Univision to present Orgullo Comunitario (Community Pride), a series of televised interviews with students that celebrate Latinx achievement in higher education in the Yakima Valley. The weekly series runs on Univision in Yakima until June 26, 2019.

Brooklyn Isaacs

Coca-Cola First Generation Scholarship

Brooklyn Isaacs is paying it forward. Currently studying public relations and web design management at Central, for the past four years Isaacs has been active as a student and employee in the TRIO Student Support Services, a program that provides a range of services to first generation college students. As she strives to provide a better life for herself than she experienced during her childhood, she is grateful for the support she received from scholarships and TRIO, both of which helped push her through difficult classes and personal setbacks while building her portfolio and focus on classes.

"Since I was a little girl, I had only dreamt of being in the position I am today. Dreaming of a better life than that of my childhood, I can confidently say that with the help of this scholarship, I am one step closer to making that dream a reality," she says. "As I move forward into my final year at CWU, I strive to be the best student I can be. Though I have been through a lot, my past doesn't define my future—and no one can take away my education."



Brooklyn Isaacs

CWU Again Recognized for Diversity and Inclusion

For the fourth time in five years, CWU has earned the prestigious Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. The award recognizes commitments to diversity and inclusion. Central was one of only three schools in the state of Washington to earn the recognition this year.



Ryan Thompson Remembered

In March, more than 3,000 people attended a memorial service in Nicholson Pavilion for Kittitas County Sheriff's Deputy Ryan Thompson, a CWU graduate (BA Spanish, '03) who was fatally wounded in the line of duty. Thompson, 42, served with the CWU Police Department from 2007 to 2013. He is survived by his wife and three children.



The CWU Marching Band performs in front of the new Alumni Plaza during a Wildcat football game.

A Clowder of Cats

Last fall, alumni were treated to a new fan type of experience during home athletic events at Tomlinson Stadium. The stadium is now home of the new Alumni Plaza, a gathering place for past and present Wildcats to mingle and enjoy home games. Located at the north end zone, the plaza opened in September as part of the recent Tomlinson Stadium Renovation.

"Watching the game from the Alumni Plaza was a great experience," said Rachel Case, a 1995 CWU graduate. "To enjoy a Wildcat football game in a padded chair, with fellow

friendly alumni, while enjoying good food and a cold drink, it's the only way to watch the game."

Another new addition to Tomlinson Stadium is the creation of the Wildcat Plaza, located in the south end zone, featuring a donor wall highlighting the names of individuals who helped make the Wildcat Commons project possible.

Along with the plazas, other upgrades to the stadium include: LED stadium lighting, artificial turf, new entry gates, and much more. To learn more about the Wildcat Commons project, visit cwu.edu/wildcat-commons.

2019 '4 Under 40 Leadership Awards'

Each year, the CWU Alumni Association honors four individuals who excel in their industries or communities through their leadership roles and commitment to personal growth and community involvement. Honorees, who are under 40 years of age at the time of their nomination, are said to exemplify the Wildcat spirit.

Jennifer Schwope

Jennifer Schwope ('01) is a human resource leader with over 17 years of experience, including 12 years leading HR for international subsidiaries and 13 years in leadership. She currently works for Microsoft as a Human Resources Lead in commercial software engineering. She is married to George Schwope ('01) and they have two children.

Emily Von Jentzen

Emily Von Jentzen ('05) is a high-achieving alumna with a deep commitment to community, family, human rights, and social justice. Her areas of expertise are child advocacy and dependency, civil litigation, and non-profit formation and representation. She is also a member of the National Association of Counsel for Children.



Left to right: Emily Von Jentzen, Nolan Teasley, Jason Goetz, and Jennifer Schwope

Nolan Teasley

Nolan Teasley ('07) currently serves as Director of Pro Personnel for the Seattle Seahawks. While at Central, he was a running back on the football team and was inducted into the CWU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013. He joined the Seahawks organization as a pro personnel scout in 2014.

Jason Goetz

Jason Goetz ('05) is currently an operations manager at PCL Construction with over a decade of experience in the construction industry. Goetz joined the CWU Construction Management Advisory Board shortly after graduating. He and his company regularly recruit and hire student interns and full-time employees.



Left to right: Panelists Aaron Christophersen, Lisa van der Lugt, Jim Ockerman, Kendall McColley, and Doug Wood

Leading Alumni Share Tips

The 11th Annual Leadership Conference, held earlier this year, boasted a record registration of more than 200 students and—for the first time—panelists and presenters who were all CWU alumni.

The event, presented by the CWU Center for Leadership and Community Engagement, offered a day-long series of workshops, a keynote speech, and panel discussions designed to present students with a variety of leadership perspectives.

Panelists included: Aaron Christophersen ('92), Group Finance Manager for the Cloud Finance Group at Microsoft; Lisa van der Lugt, Director of the Washington State of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises; Kendall McColley ('07), Special Agent for the IRS; Jim Ockerman ('86), Vice President of Manufacturing—Embraer Integration Manufacturing, Supply Chain & Operations at The Boeing Company; and Doug Wood ('87), CEO of Tommy Bahama, who served as the keynote speaker for the event.



Doug Wood, CEO of Tommy Bahama, speaks to students during the 11th Annual Leadership Conference, held earlier this year in the SURC.

A Glimpse into CWU's Mentorship Program

The CWU Alumni Association enjoys engaging and connecting with alumni, students, and the Wildcat family through many different networking opportunities, including the mentorship program.

The program gives alumni the opportunity to engage with students and help them advance in their academic and career development. To learn more or participate, visit cwu.edu/mentoring.

Mentor

Katie Hovde

Education and Community Engagement Program Associate at Seattle Symphony

Katie Hovde says she is thrilled to be able to support the next generation of leaders, including her mentee, Jordan Braedt. "I remember how difficult it was to get through college at times, and graduation always seemed out of reach until it was actually happening...the transition into the professional world was jarring," Hovde recalls. "Anything I can do to help someone else navigate this crazy time of life means so much to me."



Katie Hovde

Mentee

Jordan Braedt

Music Major with Certificate in Nonprofit Organization Management

CWU's mentor program helped solidify what Jordan Braedt wanted to do in her future career. "I appreciate being able to learn from Katie and to see that she really puts her heart and soul into her career," Braedt says. "She took initiative and worked very hard to be where she is now. It's beautiful and selfless for her to come to help students like me."



Jordan Braedt



Yesenia Villanueva '19

"Growing up in a low-income community, I quickly realized education was my way out of that environment. I knew going to college would be difficult due to financial issues, but with hard work and support from my family and scholarships, I am accomplishing that dream and am graduating from CWU this spring."

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Stability in Oxygen, 2016, Oil on Canvas, Tarra C. Hall-Ward ('17)

Featured artist Tarra Hall-Ward said her work was inspired by research she had done as a chemist into how pigments in paint react over time when stored in an air-tight container. She said some remain stable while others decay faster from the lack of oxygen.



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