From the VPUE

Instilling sense of hope in our students is an integral part of our academic mission

Kris Bulcroft, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE)

Welcome to the 2006-07 academic year at Western Washington University!

Each year the offices associated with the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education dedicate the academic year to a theme or overarching goal. This year’s theme is one that we believe is particularly timely right now: “Educating for Hope.”

The theme of hope sprang from numerous sources: student and faculty discussion in the Teaching-Learning Academy last year; the creation and adoption of Western’s new strategic plan; our increased emphasis on international education opportunities; and our American Democracy Project initiative to foster students’ civic engagement, to name just a few.

Our world cries out for engaged citizens who will shape a collective future premised on trust, understanding and, most importantly, a sense of hope that what we can do individually and collectively matters. In conversation with Western students, I heard over and over again that they are seeking ways to make a positive impact on the local, national, and global communities they live in. Yet, many students related to me that—all too often—their academic journey left them feeling disempowered, cynical, and ultimately hopeless to create meaningful change.

WWU named again by the Carnegie Foundation as national teaching & learning leader

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) recently announced that Western Washington University has been selected to lead a cluster of institutions on Student Participation in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning as part of its new CASTL Institutional Leadership Program.

With Western’s lead, this group of institutions will continue the work begun by the Sustaining Student Voices in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning cluster, also sponsored by CASTL, and which was also led by WWU. The first convening of all CASTL Institutional Leadership Program partners is scheduled for November 8 in Washington, D.C., immediately preceding the annual conference of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (ISSOTL). The WWU institutional team includes faculty members Joyce Hammond (Anthropology), Craig Dunn (Management), Deborah Currier (Theater Arts), William Lay (Educational Foundations), Jane Verner (Human Services), and Carmen Werder (TLA Director). Student members will also be named to the newly established leadership team to replace those students who have recently graduated.

EVENTS

Community Connections Fair, Tues., Oct. 24, 10 AM - 2 PM, VU

—This is an exciting and innovative community service fair (formerly called Chance for Change) that brings more than 40 community partners to Western to talk with students and faculty about how students can be involved in community-based learning as volunteers, interns and service-learners. Lunch will be served for free.

Make a Difference Day, Sat. Oct. 28, all day

—Students and faculty can engage in one day community service project opportunities. Encourage your students to participate, or consider offering a project for credit as part of your course. For info on both events: Call Sara at the Center for Service Learning, x/7520.

INSIDE:

SPECIAL SECTION: “First Thursdays” faculty workshop schedule, 2006-’07

Three speakers, three ways to engage students, pg. 3

“Some Fridays,” faculty writing instruction dialogues, pg. 2

Welcome new faculty, TLA update, important links, news & more, pgs. 2-3
SOME FRIDAYS:
A DIALOGUE SERIES ON WRITING INSTRUCTION

Carmen Werder, Director of Writing Instruction Support

Looking for some teaching-writing colleagues, and some new ideas?

Come join a conversation on writing instruction beginning Fall Quarter 2006 on Some Fridays. While each session has an announced topic, they are informal and open for talking about whatever issues participants want to discuss. Fall quarter Some Fridays are:

Friday, Oct. 20: Expectations for Student Writing at Western Includes a chance to discuss the newly-minted document of the same name, created by WWU’s Writing Assessment Group.

Friday, Nov. 17: What Works Best for Responding to and Evaluating Writing—Bring your favorite response activity or evaluation scheme or rubric for an idea and materials exchange.

Friday, Dec. 1: Addressing the Needs of ESL Writers—Consider some helpful day-to-day practices for working with second language writers, including hearing from expert and Director of the Writing Center, Roberta Kjesrud.

Friday, Dec. 15: Revising Writing Assignments Until They’re Really Good—Bring your favorite successful writing assignment (or part of one) for an exchange of really good writing assignments.

Some Fridays sessions will be 1-2 PM in the Writing Center, Wilson Library 677. All faculty teaching/using writing are welcome. For more details, contact Carmen Werder, x/7329, or Carmen.Werder@wwu.edu

TLA Dialogue-Action Agenda for 2006-07:
Hope, Humanity, and Engagement

Now in its sixth year as a campus-wide forum to study and enhance the learning culture at Western, the Teaching-Learning Academy will address a new BIG QUESTION in the upcoming year:

How do we create a positive learning culture at Western, motivated by hope, marked by a shared sense of humanity, and made possible by the active engagement of many?

The BIG QUESTION for each year comes from the TLA itself, which boasted about 75 members (35 students and 40 faculty/staff) last spring. This year’s discussion begins with guest speaker Richard Gale (see details, pg. 3) All members of the Western campus and neighboring communities are welcome to join TLA study groups, which meet every other week in the Canada House Fireplace Room: Wednesdays Noon or 3 PM; and Thursdays, Noon or 3 PM. The first groups begin meeting Oct. 4/5 and continue on alternate weeks throughout the quarter.

TLA participants do not have meetings; they have an ongoing conversation. Hope you will come join it! To sign up for a regular TLA group, contact Kari Painter, Program Assistant, kari.painter@wwu.edu, x2329, or Carmen Werder, x/7329, carmen.werder@wwu.edu

WELCOME NEW FACULTY

Anthropology—Paul James, Lecturer
Art—Benjamin Moreau, Lecturer
Biology—Marion Brodhagen, Assistant Prof.; Eric DeChaine, Assistant Prof.; Sandra Schulze, Assistant Prof.
Chemistry—Elizabeth Raymond, Assistant Prof.; Loren Williams, Associate Prof.
Communication—Paul Bingham, Lecturer; Holly Giffin, Lecturer; Jennifer Karchmer, Lecturer; Rae Lynn Schwartz-DuPre, Assistant Prof.; Scott Silver, Lecturer
Computer Science—Perry Fizzano, Brian Hutchinson, Lecturer
Decision Sciences—Brian Morgans, Affl. Teaching Fac.
Economics—Dell Champlin, Lecturer; Brandon Dupont, Assistant Prof.; Ozan Sula, Assistant Prof.
EDL TESOL—Catherine Collier, Lecturer
Educational Administration—Mary Lynne Derrington, Assistant Prof.; Pamela Hopkins, Lecturer
Elementary Ed—Eileen Hughes, Assistant Prof.; Christina Reagle
Engineering Technology—Steven Fleishman, Assistant Prof.; Grant Lange, Lecturer
English—Julie Dugger, Lecturer; Margi Fox, Lecturer; Gulyas, Lecturer; Laura Kalpakian, Lecturer; Christopher Loar, Lecturer; Alison Mandaville, Lecturer
Env. Studies—Troy Abel, Assistant Prof.; William Dietrich, Assistant Prof.
Environmental Sciences—Andrew Bunn, Assistant Prof.
Fairhaven—Vaughn Bell, Lecturer; John Feodorov; John Tuxill, Lecturer
Finance & Marketing—Xiaofei (Sophie) Kong, Assistant Prof.
Geology—Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, Assistant Prof.; Peter Stelling, Lecturer
History—Laurie Hochstetler, Instructor; Marie Miran, Assistant Prof.
Sensor Technologies—Nandini (Angelina) Gunewardena; John Korsmo
Jewelry—Jack Keight Lecturer; Bonnie Southcott, Lecturer
Liberal Studies—Kimberly Hossain, Instructor,
Mathematics—Melissa Henry, Lecturer; Jianying Zhang, Assistant Prof.
Mod & Class Lang.—Karen Lopez Alonzo, Lecturer; Masanori Deguchi, Assistant Prof.; Hugo Garcia, Instructor; Meredith Josey, Visiting Asst. Prof.
Music—Christopher Bianco, Assistant Prof.; Tim Fitzpatrick, Assistant Prof.
PEHR—Ying Li, Lecturer; Brandi Row, Assistant Prof.
Philosophy—Ty Barnes, Visiting Lecturer
Political Science—Bidisha Biswas, Assistant Prof.; Cynthia Horne, Assistant Prof.
Psychology—Deborah Chun, Lecturer; Tina Du Rocher Schudlich, Assistant Prof.; James Graham, Assistant Prof.; Todd Haskell, Assistant Prof.; Joan Kimball, Lecturer; Cristina Sampao, Instructor
Theatre Arts—Rich Brown, Assistant Prof.; Kyle Matthews, Assistant Prof.
Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Three Dynamic Speakers, Three Great Ways to Connect Learning to Your Courses

Oct. 5
TLA & First Thursdays: Richard Gale
4 - 5:30 PM
Solarium (OM 590)

Oct. 12
Distinguished Lecture Series: Edward Tenner
6:30 PM, PAC Mainstage
FREE, tickets required

Nov. 15
Western Reads
Speaker: Roya Hakakian
4 - 5 PM, Fraser 4
FREE

Director of the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning
“Solving Student Learning...Together”
Join guest speaker Dr. Richard Gale to explore new frontiers in student learning and ways we might better include students in the teaching-learning process. Gale’s talk—which will be followed by opportunities for small group discussions—kicks off the year’s Teaching-Learning Academy dialogue and First Thursdays faculty development series.

Dr. Gale also works with the Integrative Learning Project. He has taught writing and composition at the University of Minnesota, playwriting and theatre history at Bowling Green State University, and most recently, theatre and interdisciplinary arts for the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies at Sonoma State University. Contact: Carmen.Werder@wwu.edu Or go to TLA on the web: http://www.wwu.edu/depts/tla/

Independent writer, speaker and consultant on technology and culture
“A User’s Guide to Unintended Consequences”
Dubbed by National Public Radio as “the philosopher of everyday technology,” Tenner looks at how inventions have impacted our world in ways we never intended or imagined. His book, Why Things Bite Back: Technology and the Revenge of Unintended Consequences, has been an international bestseller. His recent book, Our Own Devices: The Past and Future of Body Technology, is an instructive history of invention. Tenner has contributed essays and reviews to many leading newspapers and magazines.

*Tenner will also lead a class discussion open to interested students faculty, staff on Wed., Oct. 11, 4 - 5:15 PM, in the Solarium. For more information contact Fran Maas, Fran.Maas@wwu.edu or go to DLS on the web: http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~lectures/

Iranian author, journalist, speaker on human rights
Like Marjane Satrapi, the author of Western Reads 2006-2007 selection, Persepolis, Hakakian recounts her childhood experience of the Iranian Revolution and her eventual exile from her home in a poignant memoir. Her book Journey from the Land of No has been described as “immensely moving, extraordinarily eloquent and passionate.” Hakakian is also a widely published poet and print and television journalist, and a contributor to the Weekend Edition of NPR’s All Things Considered and a fellow at Yale University’s Whitney Humanities Center.

Hakakian’s talk is free and the entire campus community is welcome. For more information contact: Mary.Metzger@wwu.edu or x/3238. Or go to Western Reads on the web: http://westernreads.wwu.edu

News Briefs:

Free New York Times available for 2006 - 07
Beginning Oct. 2, a limited supply of New York Times—and some Seattle Times—will be available for free at campus locations, including VU Market, VU Commons, and the Wilson Library north entrance. The papers are part of the New York Times Readership Program, sponsored by AS Students, American Democracy Project, and University Residences. Those faculty who want subscriptions for themselves or for students should contact the AS Bookstore.

For more info go to the ADP website: http://www.wwu.edu/depts/adp/

Stay informed, get resources on WWU accreditation
Western is now engaging in the first phase of its 2008 accreditation process, a campus-wide undertaking that includes all departments and programs contributing to an intensive self-study report, and which is capped by a site visit in April 2008 from WWU’s accrediting body, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). To this end, an “Accreditation Resources” website is now available. Go to: http://www.wwu.edu/depts/vpue/accreditation Or, you can go to the Provost’s website and click the link under the “Announcements” section.

WWU observes “Constitution Day”
In compliance with the federal law passed last year, that every school in the U.S. offer some type of programming in honor of Constitution Day on Sept. 17, WWU now has an online U.S. Constitution resource website. There are numerous links, including the award-winning “Justice Talking” site, where students can access weekly podcasts. Go to: http://www.wwu.edu/constitutionday

SUPPORTING UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION AT WWU 3
CII Showcase: Nominations sought for “Teaching for a Sustainable Future” theme

Justina Brown, Center for Instructional Innovation

The Center for Instructional Innovation at WWU is now accepting nominations for the 2006-07 Innovative Teaching Showcase.

This year’s Showcase has the theme Teaching for a Sustainable Future, and will feature WWU faculty members who encourage students to examine the effects of human action on local and world communities. The Showcase theme also reflects Western’s new Strategic Plan, which states in part that WWU will provide a “high quality environment that complements the learning community on a sustainable and attractive campus intentionally designed to support student learning and environmental stewardship.”

Western faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to nominate an instructor whose course work reflects the

showcase theme. Examples include WWU classes or programs that focus on resources and the community as they relate to: the environment, international partnerships, economical or renewable design, or examining impacts on climate, poverty, health, to name a few.

To fill out the nomination form online and see previous showcases, go to http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/cii/ and click on “Innovative Teaching Showcase.” For more information, contact Karen Casto at X/4943, or via email, Karen.Casto@wwu.edu, or, stop by the CII in Miller Hall 156.

Instilling hope, con’t from pg. 1

As one student so aptly put it: “I think my classes helped me understand the problems we all face. My classes gave me bad news, and then more bad news. I can’t say that my education here provided me with much hope for the future.”

The good news, fortunately, is that every day I see evidence of the exciting ways our students are working with faculty to build upon their course work and transfer their skills into action, into making a real difference in the world, be it their immediate community or abroad. Nevertheless, there’s much more we as an institution of higher learning must do to instill hope in our students, to empower them to step forward and address the complex problems of our world, however hopeless it all initially might seem.

“Educating for Hope,” I sincerely believe, is one of the most salient and insightful themes we as a campus community can endeavor to explore and actualize. I invite you to join your colleagues and students in discussing this year’s theme in the Teaching-Learning Academy, and to participate in the host of other curricular/co-curricular opportunities happening this year, some of which we’ve outlined in this issue of Praxis.

And here’s to a wonderful, rewarding, and hope-filled academic year for you and your students.

International Education Week is Nov. 13 - 17

Western’s Office of International Programs & Exchanges (IPE) is hosting the seventh annual International Education Week, set for Nov. 13-17, on campus.

The theme this year is Promoting and Celebrating the Benefits of International Education and Exchange on Campus and in the Community. IPE and other departments are planning a variety of events designed to help promote cultural competency and global awareness.

Events include: Here to There and Back Again: Student Reflections on Learning Abroad; Student Symposium: Japan Night, (sponsored by Asia University America Program); a showcase of faculty and student research abroad, and Higher Education and Exchange Opportunities in Korea.

International Education Week is a joint initiative of the U.S. departments of State and Education, which aims to promote international understanding and build support for international educational exchange. For more information & locations, contact: International Programs and Exchanges, x/3298, or go to the web: http://www.ac.wwu.edu/~ipewwu/