



Unpaid volunteer position created for Ana Ramirez

Joshua DeJong
THE WESTERN FRONT

Ana Ramirez, Associated Students vice president for governmental affairs (elect), has assumed an unpaid volunteer position instead of her elected position due to legal issues regarding her undocumented status.

As the consultant for governmental affairs to the AS Board of Directors, Ramirez will retain some of the responsibilities of the position she was elected to, but in a much more restricted capacity.

Western's AS created the volunteer position on Aug. 17 for Ramirez. The position is solely advisory, so she can't conduct any actual work.

Ramirez, an undocument-



Undocumented student Ana Ramirez has been unable to fill the position she was elected for last spring. // Photo courtesy of Ana Ramirez

ed student, was elected by her peers last April, but is unable to be paid or hold her official title until she gains

see **RAMIREZ**, page 5

Local blood bank hosts drive on campus to benefit shooting victims

Dan Thomas
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bloodworks Northwest will host multiple blood drives on Western's campus this week in preparation for upcoming aid needs from Las Vegas United Blood Services in treating victims from a recent mass shooting.

In Las Vegas Sunday night, Oct. 1, a gunman opened fire onto an outdoor concert festival from the 32nd floor of Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino.

Fifty-nine people are confirmed dead, 527 were injured and thousands fled the Route 91 Harvest Festival according to the New York Times's live briefing.

"While our primary mission supports local patients, when catastrophes happen we do whatever we can to help -- even when local supplies are as tight as they've been in recent weeks," James P. AuBuchon, MD, president and CEO of Bloodworks, said in an official press release.

Bloodworks distributed an email Monday urging donors to help Las Vegas shooting victims by participating in on-campus blood drives from Tuesday, Oct. 2, through Thursday, Oct. 5.

Although United Blood Services in Las Vegas is currently meeting immediate hospital requirements,

Bloodworks is anticipating the need for future assistance.

"We know that a large number of patients will need treatment and ongoing care," AuBuchon said. "We expect to be called upon, and stand ready to assist immediately with emergency shipments."

Bloodworks is already undergoing a shortage in operational A positive blood type levels, according to an alert distributed Monday, Oct. 2, afternoon.

Regular and first-time donors are encouraged to donate Tuesday and Wednesday in the Viking Union Room 565 and Thursday in Red Square to help Bloodworks build local inventories.

The current highest need is for most-common type O blood, platelets and universal AB plasma, according to a Bloodworks press release.

Only collected, tested and shelved blood is usable to assist in the Las Vegas emergency relief.

"Whether the need is local or somewhere else, we need to be able to respond instantly -- and for that we need stronger inventories all the time," AuBuchon said.

Donors can also check online at bloodworksnw.org to find dates and times of mobile drives close to where they live or work.

Alumnus' assault charges reduced

Fourth degree assault charges dropped to disorderly conduct

Zoe Deal
THE WESTERN FRONT

Assault charges against a Western journalism alumnus have been amended from two counts of fourth-degree assault to two counts of disorderly conduct charges, according to court documents.

Evan Joseph Elliott, 22, appeared in Whatcom County District Court for pre-trial Sept. 14 in response to charges of assault against two 21-year-old Western students, according to court documents.

The prosecuting attorney could not be reached for comment.

In separate written statements to University Police, the women reported that Elliott assaulted and groped

them numerous times throughout the night of June 5. Both survivor's accounts describe how the assaults continued as a group of graduating journalism students travelled to bars and restaurants around downtown Bellingham.

Elliott declined to comment. Elliott's attorney could not be reached for comment.

According to police documents, the women tried to distance themselves from Elliott throughout the night and sought help from friends as Elliott continued to grab their buttocks and vagina.

While the reported assaults were said to have occurred on the same night, neither woman was aware of the other's encounter with Elliott until leaving the gath-

ering, according to police records.

After the survivors contacted a university staff member June 9, efforts were made by university staff to distance Elliott from one of the survivors who was also graduating during the June 10 ceremony, according to police records.

Elliott will return to court December 13 at 3 p.m. Until then, he remains on alcohol and drug probation. A pre-trial fee of \$150 was paid by Elliott to the Probation Department for monitoring, according to court documents. Disorderly conduct is a misdemeanor.

Elliott graduated with a bachelor's degree in journalism on June 10 after working on The Western Front from fall 2015 to fall 2016.

Blood drive for Las Vegas victims:

Tuesday, Oct. 3 & Wednesday, Oct. 4
11 am – 5 pm in VU 565
Thursday, October 5: 11 am – 5 pm
(closed 1:00 to 2:00 pm)
Bloodmobiles in Red Square and near the Rec Center



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OPINION: Western administration is unwilling to work with undocumented student Ana Ramirez, **PAGE 12**

SPORTS: Walk-on soccer player Stephen Jinneman earns a spot on the team, **PAGE 13**

SPIKEBALL CLUB JUMPS INTO FALL QUARTER



Paul Goins, president of the Western Spikeball Club 19, Quinn Murphy, 21, and Aaron Glickman, 20, had the first meeting of Spikeball Club in the Communication Facility lawn on Oct. 2. This is the club's first year and meet on Monday's and Wednesday's at 4:30 pm. The club has a tournament the weekend of Oct. 6. Photo by Kirstyn Nyswonger

Cops Box

Compiled by Joshua DeJong



Time to turn off the internet
Sept. 30, 12:52 p.m.

Subjects got into an argument over Facebook.

TIMBERRRR, OMG WATCH OUT TIMMY
Sept. 26, 4:21 p.m.

Neighbor felling large trees that fell onto playground.

Hide and seek champion
Sept. 26, 8:01 p.m.

Police received report of missing juvenile, who was later found at home.

Honey, I'm home!
Oct. 1, 2:44 a.m.

Intoxicated male entered the wrong residence.

Safety is my number one priority
Sept. 26, 3:03 p.m.

Bicycle helmet theft.

His batteries must have run out
Sept. 28, 10:30 a.m.

Loss Prevention observed subject stealing batteries and a flashlight. When subject exited the store, he took off running but eventually gave up and walked back with Loss Prevention. Subject was arrested for theft and was issued a lifetime trespass notice from Safeway.

Dude where's my car?
Sept. 30, 6:09 p.m.

Subject's vehicle was possibly stolen but they did not want to press charges for the theft.

Junkyard jungle
Sept. 27, 9:15 a.m.

Alleged municipal code violation consisting of tall grass and junk vehicles.

Macy's madness
Oct. 1, 2:26 p.m.

A Macy's chair broke while subject was sitting in it, causing a great deal of upset.

The Western Front

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First week of school canceled at Bellingham Tech due to faculty strikes

Rachel Sandal
THE WESTERN FRONT

Classes were canceled at Bellingham Technical College Monday, Sept. 25, through Thursday, Sept. 28, of last week due to strikes.

BTC faculty, office staff, technical workers and the Bellingham Educational Support Team union refused to cross the picket line. The staff members were striking for salary increases due to the rising cost of living, better work conditions and other terms.

The union has issued a vote of no confidence in BTC President Kim Perry and other administrators.

The motion, in part, read, "BTC's current administration is disconnected from staff and students, and the administration's increasingly authoritarian approach to decision-making and employee relations has added to the tension and discontent within our college," according to a statement released by the union.

The BTC Board of Trustees voted to approve the contract presented by the union at a board meeting held Monday, Oct. 2. Specifics of the contract are not currently public.

Negotiations between the union

and the administration have been ongoing since April.

Students at BTC have expressed irritation and concern toward the situation.

want something like this to get in my way. And shouldn't the teachers and staff here care more about the students than anything else?"

The last time staff members at

up at six in the morning and then I went over there and I was like, "Oh, school is closed," said Tanner Bergseng, a student in the welding program. "It's just like, I paid for it and it was really stressful."

The financial aid office, the library and many other student services were still open to the students on the days that school was canceled.

Marni Sailing Mayer, director of marketing and communications at BTC, said the college has done its best to inform students on the issue, to let them know that school will continue exactly where it left off and to respond to student concerns.

Classes resumed on Friday after the union and administrators reached an agreement, the details of which have not been released.

Before the agreement was reached, administrators at BTC said they were planning on filing court paperwork requesting an order for faculty to return to work if the strike continued past Friday.

During the last BTC strike, the school requested an injunction to have faculty return to work. It was rejected, but they were willing to do it again, Mayer said.

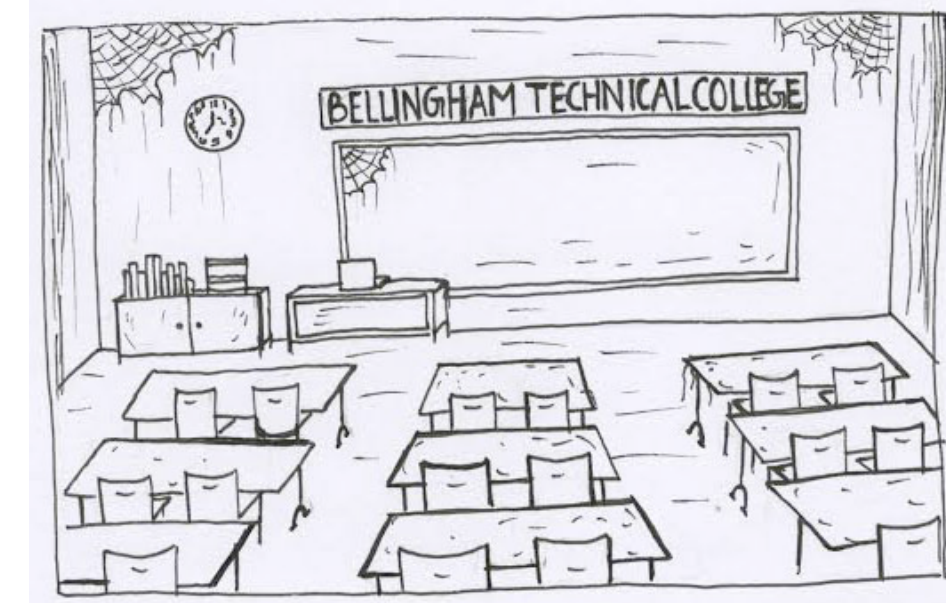


Illustration of empty BTC classroom by Shannon DeLurio

"If you ask me this whole thing is bull****." BTC student Matias Gradilla said. "I just got into the program I wanted. It has taken me so long to get to this point and I don't

BTC walked out for a strike was about four years ago and was surrounded by many of these same issues.

"It was just frustrating, I woke

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OCTOBER 26, 2017
12:00 - 4:00PM
VU MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

Fall Business Career Fair

NOVEMBER 2, 2017
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Campus Community Coalition hosts 'Do Good in Your Neighborhood'

Event encourages Western students and community members to combine efforts to improve local parks, gardens while building lasting relationships

Joshua DeJong
THE WESTERN FRONT

when in need.

Maeve Pickus, a Huxley graduate student with the Learning Environment Action Discovery (LEAD) program, said that events like this help connect undergraduate students at

It also helps to educate students about their backyard, the plants that grow here and human impact on the environment, she said.

"It's great to see a university connecting with the community and do-

ordinator Rae Edwards said one of the main goals was to help remove invasive species of plants at Harriet Spanel Park. Some of these species kill other plant life around them and others were covered in thorns.

Volunteers also battled angry hornets after accidentally disturbing a nest.

"Herb Robert or Stinky Bob is a [type of] geranium that is allelopathic, which means it sends chemicals throughout its roots to kill other plants," said Edwards. "If that isn't enough they can also throw their seeds 15 feet. They are killing and throwing and killing and throwing."

Food grown in the Happy Valley community garden is donated to the Bellingham Food Bank.

Senior Paige Donald helped pick fruits and vegetables out of the garden, as well as help prepare it for this upcoming winter.

"I really like the fact that the tomatoes we picked are going to a food bank to donate," Donald said. "I like that we are able to not just grow things, but also donate them to let others prosper."

This event is one of many the Campus Community Coalition and AS Environmental Sustainability Program do to unite Western and the greater Bellingham community.

Hornets, thorns and rain couldn't stop Western students and Bellingham locals from getting together to clean up a local park and garden Saturday, Sept. 30.

At the "Do Good in Your Neighborhood" event, volunteers helped prepare a Happy Valley neighborhood community garden for the winter and remove invasive plants from Harriet Spanel Park.

The event was hosted by Western's Campus Community Coalition, which aims to incorporate students into the greater Bellingham community.

Julia Burns, Campus Community Coalition and New Student Program Initiatives coordinator, said events like this help to create a positive relationship between the students and community members.

"The idea [is] to get neighbors and students, who are short-term and long-term neighbors together, meeting each other and connecting," Burns said.

She said the benefits of the relationships built create an environment where students and community members can go to one another

Western with service learning opportunities.

Pickus said this was a good opportunity for those living next to campus to volunteer in local parks.

ing things," Pickus said. "We are a resource of 15,000 young, energetic people that can put their hands to good use."

Bellingham Parks Volunteer Co-



Huxley Community Ambassador Alyssa Webster removes invasive species from park. Photo by Joshua DeJong

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In face of rising textbook costs, students get creative

Students are opting for more affordable alternatives to textbooks

Joshua DeJong
THE WESTERN FRONT

Students across campus are feeling the pain of textbook purchases, some spending upward of \$300 for fall quarter alone. According to the National Association for College Stores, last year students spent \$579 on average for required course materials.

This causes many students go on the hunt for the cheapest textbook prices.

Amazon, Ebay, Chegg and CheapestTextbooks.com are among a few of the places students find textbooks online, but they have also turned to other avenues.

Course reserves, borrowing textbooks from friends who have had the same classes or PDFs found online are some of the ways students are to saving money on textbooks.

Some students are looking to cut the prices altogether.

NACS reports, "In spring 2017, 25 percent of students surveyed reported using a free method to obtain what they needed for class, up from 19 percent the previous year."

Freshmen Kyle Griffin said the AS Bookstore, in some cases, has been the best choice for him because of shipping prices and times, which could cost him more in the long run.

"I usually look online for lower

prices if I can, but sometimes it might take weeks to ship. It might end up being a lot more expensive," Griffin said.

Claire Farnsworth, an international business major, said it was normal for her to spend \$300 to \$400 per quarter on textbooks.

Because of this, she started using CheapestTextbooks.com, a price comparison website.

"You just type in the ISBN and it gives you a list of all of the sites that have the cheapest textbooks for that book," Farnsworth said.

Senior Shelby Sterbenz said the course reserves in the library is her go-to place for her textbooks.

"For the hard sciences, they always have those books in the course reserves for one class or another," Sterbenz said. "You can always go in there and find the book you need."

Junior Stevie Cairns, a communications major, said it was hard to work all summer to end up paying so much for textbooks.

"Paying tuition and then having the extra expense of \$300 or \$400 is kind of disheartening," he said.

These changing trends have been reflected in a decline in AS Bookstore sales in recent years.

"It is very much a national trend," AS Bookstore General Manager Peg Goodwin said in previous interview with The Western Front.

RAMIREZ

continued from page 1

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, approval from the U.S. government.

"They made [the] position so that I can do work. But in technical terms, they covered it so other board members do the rest of the work and then I consult with them," Ramirez said in a forum last Friday detailing her journey and continued struggles up to this point.

Ramirez also said the other AS board members are not being paid for the extra work they are taking on, which she said bothered her.

There has also been frustration with the communication between Ramirez, her lawyer and Western's administration, which Ramirez said has produced no result beyond what was decided earlier in the year.

Paul Cocke, director of communications at Western, said in an email that Western is committed to its most vulnerable students, including undocumented students and that they remain a top priority. He said they had not found an alternative way in which they could legally compensate undocumented students that had not

yet received DACA status.

"Western Washington University values undocumented students and has a deep commitment to inclusion. At the same time, we cannot put in-

fine is \$458 and the maximum is \$4,384.

The salary allocated for the AS VP for governmental affairs position for summer 2017 remains in an account

So it was almost like they gambled with somebody's life, to see what's going to happen, and then deal with the collateral effects afterwards.

Verónica Vélez

Director of the Education and Social Justice Minor

dividual students or the University at risk of violating federal or state law," Cocke said in an email.

According to Ramirez, Western's assistant attorney general told Ramirez that if the university had allowed her to work without DACA, they would have had to pay a small fine.

"That's it, and they didn't even want to do that for me," she said. "I know they can afford that."

According to the United States Customs and Immigration Service (USCIS), employers could face civil fines and/or criminal penalties for employing unauthorized workers.

The Federal Register notes that on first offense for 2017, the minimum

during the election process. "So it was almost like they gambled with somebody's life, to see what's going to happen, and then deal with the collateral effects afterwards," Vélez said.

Ramirez said she applied for DACA after winning the election, but is still awaiting approval. She applied before the Trump administration started its six-month wind down to the program.

"Building up to that announcement, everyone was saying how that was going to be ending DACA, meaning not accepting first-time applications or applications that haven't been approved yet. And so I was really scared that that was going to happen [to me]," Ramirez said.

It turned out that the government would however still process DACA applications submitted before the Sept. 5 announcement.

Ramirez said this meant she could still get her DACA application approved and fill her original position as AS vice president for governmental affairs.

Ricardo López, vice president for the United Faculty of Western Washington, said he would bring up the issues surrounding Ramirez's situation to the union executive committee on Tuesday and to President Randhawa the week after that.

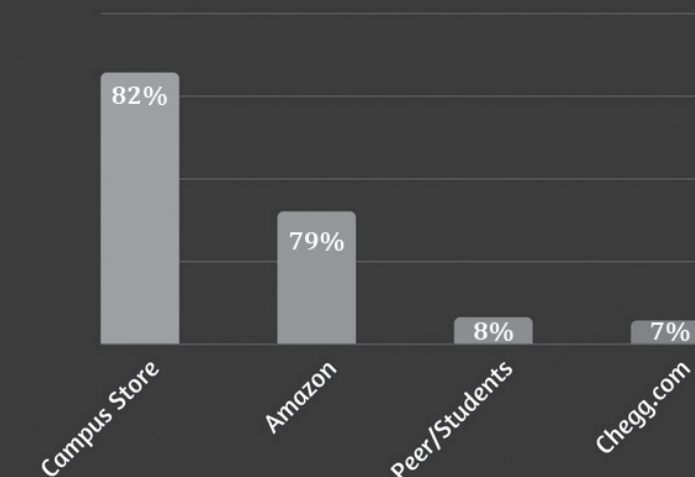
How students bought their course materials



Survey taken in fall 2016

Data from the National Association of College Stores

Where students get their course materials



Data from the National Association of College Stores

Infographics by Ben Olson

Parking shortage remains an issue on campus

Ray Garcia
THE WESTERN FRONT

Returning students may have noticed the newly-paved commuter parking lots, or C-lots on south campus and hoped the university's parking shortage problems had finally been solved. However, the construction project was not intended to expand available parking.

"We did get a modest increase in parking spaces," said Bob Putich, manager of the Student Business Office and member of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee. "It will hardly keep up with the increase in our student population."

The parking construction project included repaving parking lots, preventing potholes and addressing stormwater environmental issues.

In addition, the project resulted in a few more added spaces in the lots, but the number of new spots was not proportional to the increasing number of students attending Western.

"It's frustrating," junior Selani DeJesus Ponce said. "I've had to park far away due to the lack of parking."

If the C-lots are full, students are redirected to park at the Lincoln Creek Park and Ride on Lincoln Street and catch the bus to campus.

Due to the limited amount of parking spaces on campus, students get stuck on a waitlist for a parking per-

mit they may not get. As a result, these students must find alternative options to get to campus.

"I didn't get a parking pass," junior Austin Ford said. "I signed up for it, but then I was on the waitlist. I checked this morning, and I think I'm spot number 151, so I don't think I'll be getting it."

Ford said the 10-minute drive from his house to campus takes 45 minutes on the bus.

"It's kind of what I'm stuck with at this point," Ford said. "It would help if there was a parking structure somewhere."

Putich said it would cost the school between \$25 million to \$40 million to build a parking structure.

"Those kinds of dollars are just not making sense today," Putich said. "When push comes to shove and we don't have a choice, then we will make a decision."

Given that such a structure isn't financially feasible right now, Western advocates for the use of the current transportation system that is in place.

In 2007, the Alternative Transportation Fee was voted on and passed by a committee that was run mostly by students.

Students pay \$26.25 per quarter, which funds bus passes for students and the late-night shuttle. It has been renewed twice – in 2012 and 2017.

"Western students, faculty and



The commuter parking lots were paved over summer as part of a parking construction project. // Photo by Katie Webber

staff, as a community, have an admirably low rate of single-occupant vehicle commuting," Carol Berry, program director for the Campus Conservation and Sustainable Transportation program, said in an email. "Providing a low-cost bus pass for every student, and a late-night shuttle, is a huge factor in social equity."

Berry added that because not all students can afford to own a car and drive to school, paying to add more parking spaces using funding that

could be put towards something else would disproportionately benefit certain groups of students.

Despite these alternative forms of transportation, some students still face difficulties on their commutes.

"I live in a very busy neighborhood," Ponce said. "I've had times where both buses got full, therefore, I had to walk 30 to 35 minutes to campus. It's ridiculous how much students have to struggle to get on campus."

Don't get caught in a phishing scam

Keep personal information protected with these cybersecurity tips

Julia Philips
THE WESTERN FRONT

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month and the Better Business Bureau has some tips to keep students safe while using the internet on a daily basis.

In 2017, identity theft reports to BBB scam tracker increased by 49 percent with a total of about 700 scams, up from 350 reported in 2016.

Victims in 2016 also reported about 1,200 phishing scams to BBB. From January to September 2017, phishing victims reported more than 11,000 scams – an increase of 89 percent.

BBB and the National Cyber Security Alliance urge consumers and businesses to give hackers a scare and be cyber aware with these tips:

Be vigilant with personal information. Think of personal information like money: value and protect it.

Also be sure to be on a legitimate site before entering personal information.

Additionally, be wary of communications that pressure people to act immediately or offer something that sounds too good to be true.

Get two steps ahead. Users should

consider looking for a new laptop or cell phone that incorporates the strongest authentication tools such as two-factor authentication.

This tool requires users to not only sign in with a password and username but also something extra only the user knows or something they have such as a fingerprint or face for facial recognition.

Keep machines updated. To keep online threats, viruses and malware away, consumers should make sure all devices have the latest security software. Updating devices can reduce the risk of infection from malware.

Be careful when clicking. Links in emails, social media posts and online advertising are often how cybercriminals try to steal personal information. If something looks suspicious, delete it.

Sophomore Trevor Heater works with ATUS as a computer assistant at the ATUS Help Desk.

If anyone has fallen for a scam, they should change their universal password immediately, Heater said in an email.

Check what sensitive information, such as direct deposit information, addresses, and phone numbers

they have on their Web4U or email, and make sure those things aren't being used by the scammers, Heater said.

"Most of the scams or phishing emails come from

people that claim they work at Western or are an official employee that needs information urgently," Heater said.

The emails are always different but one pattern is the same: they ask for private information such as passwords or sign-in information.

"The phishing emails occur at different rates throughout the year," Heater said. "People have always tried to phish for private information from students and faculty but



Illustration by Shannon DeLurio

are usually unsuccessful."

The emails they send are usually poorly worded and come from long strange email addresses that are clear signs of fraudulence, so people tend to know whether or not they are fake, Heater said.

Remember to never give anyone your password. No one needs to know it but you, Heater said.

For cybersecurity tips and the latest alerts, download the BBB App at bbbapp.org. Anyone who feels they may be a victim of a cybercrime should report it to local law enforcement and BBB Scam Tracker at bbb.org/scamtracker.

TechStyles on display at Western Gallery

Alexis Edgar
THE WESTERN FRONT

The unveiling of Coded Threads, an art exhibition featuring the integration of textiles and technology, was launched Thursday by art professors Seiko Purdue and Barbara Layne.

The objective for the exhibit is to highlight the creative techniques artists and designers implement, incorporating science and technology with textile design.

The exhibit was long-awaited by curator, Purdue. The professor of Fibers and Fabrics at Western spent a significant amount of time researching and collecting artists willing to participate.

"I worked on this exhibition for a long time, more than two years," Purdue explained.

While conducting her research, Purdue contacted an innovator in textile design, professor Barbara Layne of the Milieux Institute for Arts, Culture and Technology at Concordia University in Montreal, Quebec. Layne agreed to participate in the exhibit and spoke at its launch on Sept. 28.

Layne united the art and engineering departments at the Milieux Institute to create fabrics that host circuits and LED lights. These special textile features are controlled by control pads interweaved into the clothing and LED displays. The displays can then show whatever was drawn onto the clothing via the LED lights.

An example shown during the pre-

sentation was of the letter "c" being drawn onto the control pad in the garment with the wearer's fingertip. The light display showed the letter "c" as drawn. Scrolling images of a dog chasing a ball, messages, and chevron zig-zag designs have also been featured in the garment demonstrations.

Madelaine Stubblefield, a senior art history major, assisted in the creation of the catalog for the event. Stubblefield had not previously heard of the innovative approach to unifying art and technology, prior to assisting in writing the catalog, but agreed the concept sparked interest.

"I hadn't heard of it before, so that in itself was intriguing. It's really cool because you can do all of these different creative things," Stubblefield said.

Layne employs coding specialists that create the programs for these designs, while the art students hand-weave the fabric on computer-assisted looms. Together, Layne and her research assistants worked to explore the boundaries of technology in fabric design.

Junior Max Seuberlich initially came to the exhibit's launch for his art studio major but left with a deeper appreciation for the art.

"I find it to be a very fascinating mix... It was interesting to see how you actually have to know how to make fabrics and mix it in with electronics because I never really thought about that," Seuberlich said.

Layne has since began working on tweaking her initial designs to provoke deeper curiosity among the tex-

tile and technology industries.

"Our next project was to stop with the garments and start making interactive environments," Layne said.

Layne continued to explain that

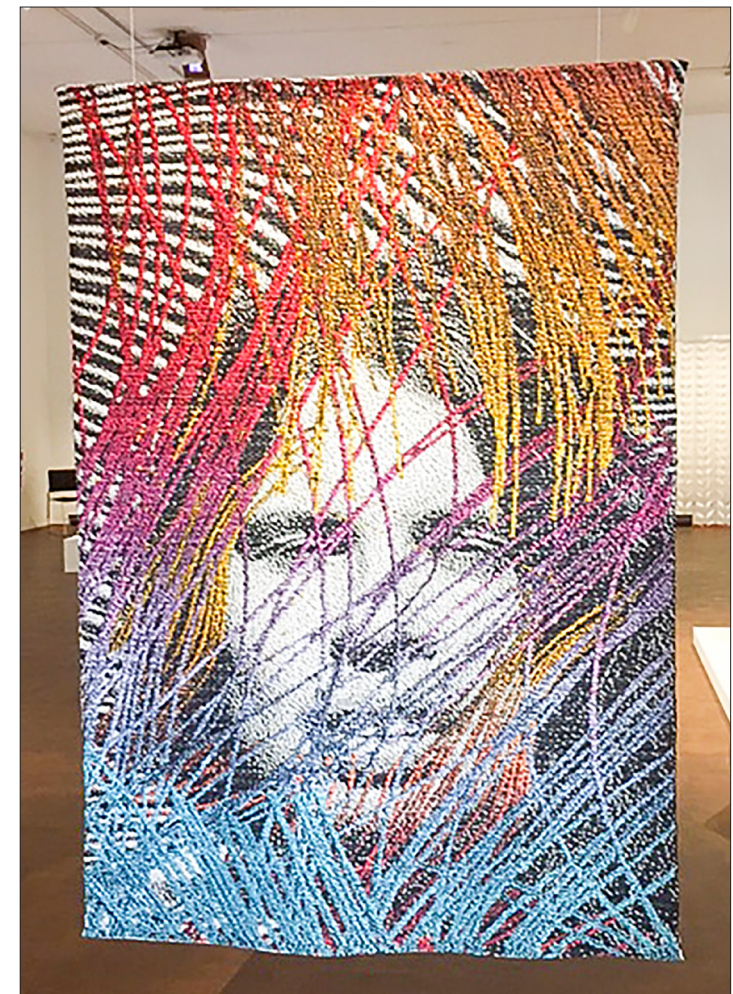
they are currently working to improve their designs that respond to mirrors, which can display messages based on the proximity of the audience.

Although the concept of integrating technology and textile was foreign for some students, others were well aware of the growing presence of the innovation. Senior Molly Rayl, a former student of Professor Purdue's, heard about this concept beforehand while in Purdue's textiles class.

"I've seen fragments of it before, so it wasn't super new to me. But it is pretty cool

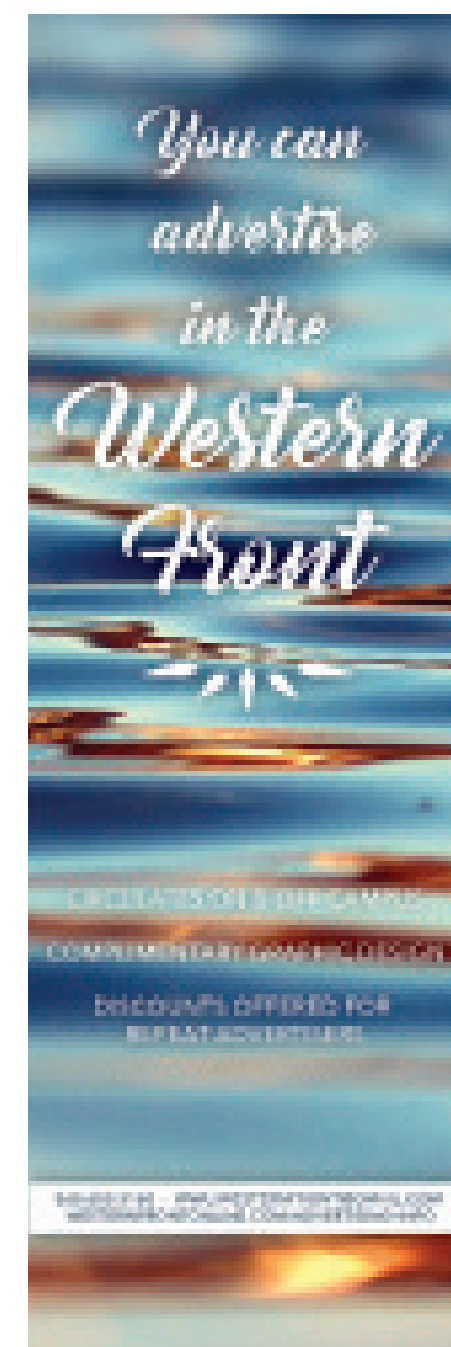
seeing a lot of the stuff here," Rayl said.

The exhibit will be available in the Western Gallery until Dec. 8, during normal gallery hours.



Technological textile piece by artist Barbara Layne in the Coded Threads Exhibit.

Photo by Alexis Edgar



Solemates cross the finish line

Western professors prepare to tie the knot following Hardrock 100 marathon in Colorado



Jeffery Hart and Jennifer Thistle at the finish line of the race with their son Xander. // Photo courtesy of Jeffery Hart and Jennifer Thistle

Kristina Rivera
THE WESTERN FRONT

After a grueling 100-mile ultramarathon, climbing and running through the rugged San Juan Mountains of Colorado for 40 hours, Western professors Jeffery Hart and Jennifer Thistle found themselves at the beginning of another adventure: marriage.

It was Hart's first time running the Hardrock 100, a southern Colorado-based ultramarathon that spans 100.5 miles with a total change of 66,100 feet in elevation, according to the race's website. Thistle ran the last 11 miles of the race with Hart, with no idea of what was going to happen next.

The couple stopped for a picture at the final high point of the course, which rests at 13,000 feet of elevation. Thunder clapped in the south and dusk settled in the west. The views stretched into the glacial valley for miles as Hart got on his knees and fumbled through his bag, seemingly to look for his phone, while Thistle took pictures of the views.

"Come here and give me your hand," Hart asked Thistle. "I need help getting up."

Thistle grabbed Hart's hand to help him up, but Hart stayed on one knee, looked her in the eyes and said Thistle's full name.

Before Hart could say anything else, Thistle interjected. "Shut up!" she said, followed by tears

and a rush of happiness. She said yes.

"In hindsight, I should have known something was up," Thistle added.

For 89 miles, Hart kept the ring clasped inside of his bag and constantly checked to see if it was still there.

"I built this nervous tick of reaching back and [saying] 'OK, the ring is still there,'" Hart said.

Hart had been planning the proposal eight months prior to the race as soon as he started training for the Hardrock 100. It had taken him five years to even get a place in the competition. He decided to propose to Thistle at the end of the race because he con-

sidered it a pinnacle, not only for his running career, but for also him and Thistle.

"The whole proposal was more or less an affirmation of putting up with all these crazy adventures I end up dragging her along on," Hart said.

Hart and Thistle are no strangers to expeditions like the Hardrock

100. The couple has climbed rocks and mountains all over the country from the Grand Teton in Wyoming to the Shawangunk Mountains in New York to the High Sierras in California.

Hart and Thistle were brought together by their mutual love for rock climbing and the outdoors.

Eight years ago, the couple met at a rock climbing gym in Massachusetts. At the time, Thistle was working as a speech language pathologist in the Boston area, while Hart was a special education teacher in New Hampshire.

The two then moved to Bellingham in December 2016 and are eager to explore more of what the city has to offer. As for the future, Hart and Thistle take the term "plan" lightly.

"People make plans?" Thistle joked.

The couple doesn't have set plans for their next endeavor, but they want to fastpack, a combination of running and backpacking, around Mount Rainier, hike Timberline Trail around Mount Hood, climb Mount Baker. Hart also plans on running the Hardrock 100 again next year.

Hart and Thistle plan on getting married next summer in Bellingham and want to explore more of the Pacific Northwest as they embark on their newest journey together.

The whole proposal was more or less an affirmation of putting up with all these crazy adventures I end up dragging her along on.

Jeffery Hart

Woodring College of Education
Professor



TOP: Jeffery Hart and Jennifer Thistle at the proposal site.

BOTTOM: The "Hardrock" at the start and finish line of the race. // Photo courtesy of Jeffery Hart and Jennifer Thistle

Fall into fashion

Western embraces autumnal style

Zoe Deal
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students are swapping sandals for sneakers and tank tops for sweaters as autumn begins in the Northwest. The first day of classes fell five days after the Autumn Equinox, bringing with it a swarm of new out-of-state students unaccustomed to the mild climate of Washington.

But the transition hasn't been difficult for freshman Hanalei Lewine, a Minnesota native.

"The first five days I was here it

was very sunny and warm which is like Minnesota in the summer," she said. "I lived in The Netherlands for three years, and it's very rainy there so I'm kind of used to it."

In preparation for rain, Lewine has pulled out her raincoat, waterproofed her shoes and left her down winter coat behind.

Returning students and Washingtonians are already prepared. For some, dressing for the weather has become a mindless activity.

"I think a lot of people put more thought into it than me. I kind of just grab stuff," senior Nick Miles said.

Though Miles was born in Washington, he came to Western after living in Texas for eight years.

Adapting to Washington wasn't a challenge for him or his fiancée, freshman Aleta Neill. Also a Texan, Neill said she is acclimating seamlessly into Western's style.

"I feel like I fit in more here than I did in Texas," Neill said. "I like to be warm, and I like having my arms covered."

Students feel at home in whatever they

wear on campus, including Western's style of Birkenstocks, mom jeans and Patagonia.

"I feel like everybody here is super expressive," sophomore Zoe Poyen said. "I love being comfortable wearing either a garbage bag or a really cute dress. If I'm going to rock it, I'm going to rock it."

Miles said he feels connected to other students by his clothing.

"I can relate to some people better because of what we wear," he said.

Freshman Erin Mcallister said she communicates her identity through her clothing with her "Fighting Animal Testing" bag and self-made vagina necklace. Like many Western students, Mcallister gets her clothing from friends and thrift stores.

"I just rely on the cheapest possible clothing I can get," she said.

The dorm T-shirts handed out on move-in day are one way Lewine said she feels connected to other freshmen at Western.

"Someone told me you can tell who's from Washington, because when it gets into the 60s they wear their light puffy coats, and then when it gets down into the 50s they wear their heavy puffy coats. And I have seen a lot of people wearing puffy coats when I'm wearing a T-shirt," Lewine said.

When it comes to purchasing the



Sophomore Zoe Poyen models a long dress // Photo by Zoe Deal

Western clothing staple, Lewine remains wary. She said she's not sure if she's going to invest in a puffy coat, yet. For now, she is comfortable wearing her fleece jacket.

Though the geographical diversity of Western's student body may stay hidden in the realm of fashion, the motivations and personalities of individuals shines through regardless of the season. Moving forward into the 2017-18 school year, clothing will continue to bring students together and create a common thread of confidence and belonging for a new generation of Western students.

CELEBRATING CENSORSHIP

Village Books hosts afternoon for advocates of banned books

Emily Mueller
THE WESTERN FRONT

"Catch-22," "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Where the Wild Things Are" and more were propped up in the Village Books window display for the Banned Books Week Read-In on Saturday, Sept. 30.

Although the event was meant to be open-mic style with volunteers reading passages from their favorite banned books, Village Books employee Hayden Winn answered questions, informed customers of books that have been banned and chatted with people about some of their favorites.

"[Books] are getting banned every day from libraries and schools all across the country, even in our own state," Winn said. "A lot of people think it's just something that happens in the South—it is not. It is a country-wide thing."

Shonda Purvis, the only person to read a passage aloud, read about the event in a monthly magazine and wanted to participate.

"I don't like the idea of banning anything arts-wise because it's all subjective anyway," Purvis said. "My mom pretty much let me read anything I wanted to. And things that were above my head went above my head, so I was allowed to read and

watch a lot of things that might've seemed odd to my friend's parents."

Macile Assink had the opposite experience growing up, which made her want to read the books even more, she said.

"My mother's a librarian and so we all grew up with books," Assink said. "She was a fundamentalist and all of the books that were banned of course I wanted to read. I didn't restrict my daughter's reading at all and some of the banned books are our favorites."

Although Assink listed "Fahrenheit 451," "The Fault in Our Stars" and "The Handmaid's Tale" as some of the banned books she enjoyed, she said she recognizes "Catcher in the Rye" as one of the most memorable.

The American Library Association's Top 10 Most Challenged Books of 2016 were opposed because some included LGBTQ+ characters or sexual material. No. 6 on the list is "Looking for Alaska" by John Green, an author who will be visiting Western on Oct. 29. The book was challenged because it contains a sexually explicit scene.

"Most of these books end up getting banned for more religious and conservative issues, in that they have sexual themes or language people don't find appropriate for a specific age group," Winn said. "In fact, a lot of young adult books that are written for teen readers are then deemed by parents to

be only suitable for adult readers, so they get pulled from schools."

Winn said many of the books are being banned in schools and public libraries, which depend on funding from the public. Books can be removed for profanity, immorality or for being offensive in various contexts.

Libby O'Connor doesn't think any books should be banned.

"Books should inspire conversation. Nothing should be banned. Even

racist, Nazi, KKK stuff shouldn't be banned," O'Connor said. "[It] doesn't mean you have to agree with everything, but information is power. Trying to stop people from having information is never going to be good."

Village Books was taking part in the ALA's Banned Books Week, an annual celebration of "the value of free and open access to information" that usually takes place during the last week of September.



Illustration by Shannon DeLurio



Freshman Erin Mcallister wears her own handmade vagina necklace // Photo by Zoe Deal

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FRONTLINE: Undocumented students need help

Western's treatment of Ana Ramirez contradicts claims of support for undocumented students

Opinions of the Editorial Board

From being told she was the first undocumented student elected to the Associated Students Board in April, to being denied the position due to her lack of work authorization under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, in June, junior Ana Ramirez has been thrown to the wolves by her country, and Western is doing little to help.

Ramirez's current obstacle is working with Western administration to receive compensation for her position, though little has been done to resolve the issue despite several proposed solutions. The AS has been in support of Ramirez and even created an unpaid, volunteer position in which she is able to maintain some of her elected position's responsibilities, though the position is merely advisory.

With the Trump administration's Sept. 5 announcement of plans to phase out DACA, Western should show it truly supports its undocumented students by not relying on the requirements of a program that is no longer beneficial to its constituents.

Under the Obama administration, DACA was created to provide undocumented individuals who came to the U.S. as children the opportunity to obtain work authorization and defer deportation. Though Ramirez applied for work authorization under DACA days after being elected as AS vice president for governmental affairs, the university says it cannot legally compensate her as she has not yet received authorization.

The university communicated with Ramirez that she would need DACA approval before being employed, but didn't take into account the difficulties surrounding the application process, such as requiring personal information and steep application and lawyer fees.

In July, Ramirez found herself in a similar position to another undocumented student elected into an AS. California State University, Long Beach student Jose Salazar Arenas was elected AS, Inc. student body president in 2015 without DACA work authorization, and instead received a scholarship from his school.

Western, in the meantime, has done nothing for Ramirez despite learning of other schools using alternative options. Administration has continued to rely on DACA requirements in its defense to the issue, citing differences between compensation for each campus's elected leaders and current Western policy.

"We do not know whether other institutions have a student elections code that requires that students be able to complete a U.S. employment eligibility form and be eligible to work under federal law as a specific criterion for

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Jordan Carlson, Alex Halverson and McKenna Cardwell.

DACA explained

What is DACA?

DACA is a program implemented in 2012, that brought 787,580 undocumented immigrants to the United States.

Who was protected?

- Applicants had to be under the age of 30 when the program was implemented.
- Applicants had to be over the age of 16 when they came to the US.
- Applicants must have been living in the United States since June 15, 2007.

How long can they stay?

- Applicants could apply to defer deportation for two years.
- Applicants could apply for renewal.
- Over 800,000 renewals were approved over the lifetime of DACA.

What now?

- Applications are no longer being accepted for DACA.
- Protection currently remains for Dreamers.
- Work permits still accepted.

What could happen?

If Congress doesn't protect DACA recipients, nearly 300,000 dreamers could be at risk of deportation in 2018.

Infographic by Ben Olson Data from CNN

eligibility for office, as is the case for AS," Western's Communications and Marketing Director, Paul Cocke, said in an email in July.

Not only is Western unwilling to come to a solution for Ramirez, President Trump's plans to rescind DACA leave

her – and all undocumented people – in a vulnerable position.

Current plans for DACA leave six months for Congress to replace the policy with new legislation, but new applications received after Sept. 5 will not be accepted, according to a CNN article from September. This is good news for Ramirez who completed her application in the spring, but what good does it do should the program be phased out?

The lives of the nearly 800,000 people approved by DACA since it's beginning in 2012 are now up in the air until Congress makes a permanent fix or the Trump administration renews the program.

If Congress fails to pass a measure protecting DACA recipients by March 5, nearly 300,000 people could be at risk for deportation in 2018, according to the CNN article.

Though federal law and policy is out of the hands of university administration, Western should be doing everything in its power to compensate Ramirez for the position she was elected into – the position that Western's student body wanted her to hold. President Sabah Randhawa's Sept. 5 email following the announcement to rescind DACA indicates that it is not.

"Western's commitment to our undocumented students, and our policies regarding immigration status will not change," Randhawa said. "We will continue to monitor the situation at the national and the local level so that we can proactively plan to protect student safety and provide educational support. And, we will continue working with local, state, and national partners, including those in government, to advocate for preserving DACA and the protections and opportunities it affords."

It's necessary for Western to fight to preserve DACA, but there's more it could be doing now to protect the futures of undocumented students. If Western is truly committed to the success of its undocumented students, it should rely on institutional policy – which can and should be changed to meet the needs of all students – rather than a program with an uncertain future.

Ramirez needs all the support she can from her university, and the fact that administration is so cut and dry about the issue and refuses to look into alternative options contradicts its claim of unabated commitment to undocumented students.

As an admitted student at Western, Ramirez deserves the same opportunities as every other Western student, and the university administration should not be dangling this opportunity over her head.

Walk-on athlete creates his own path

Landon Groves
THE WESTERN FRONT

When Stephen Jinneman arrived at Western, he wasn't sure if he wanted to play college soccer.

It is a big commitment, after all, and he hadn't been recruited by the coaches like the rest of the team.

Now, as a junior, Jinneman is a starter on the men's varsity team, ranking sixth in points, fourth in assists and tied for first in game-winning goals.

Jinneman is a walk-on player, who had to try out to make the team. He's the only one on both men's and women's soccer teams that's earned his spot through a walk-on tryout, rather than recruitment.

"I didn't have the exposure that you get on the premier teams like a lot of the kids I play with now, so I was always one step behind," Jinneman said. "When I came here, I really realized I wanted to play on the team and just worked hard."

Jinneman started playing soccer when he was three, and continued through childhood. In high school, he opted to play for his area's select soccer team, a tier below the pre-

mier team, so he could continue to play for the school as well.

When Jinneman was a freshman, he introduced himself to head coach Greg Brisbon after a game and told him how much he missed the sport.

Brisbon agreed to let him come out to one of the practices and tryout.

"He kept his perseverance," Brisbon said. "His athleticism is a big thing and I think today that's one of his strengths."

Now, Jinneman's role on the team is a vital one, senior team captain Luke Olney said.

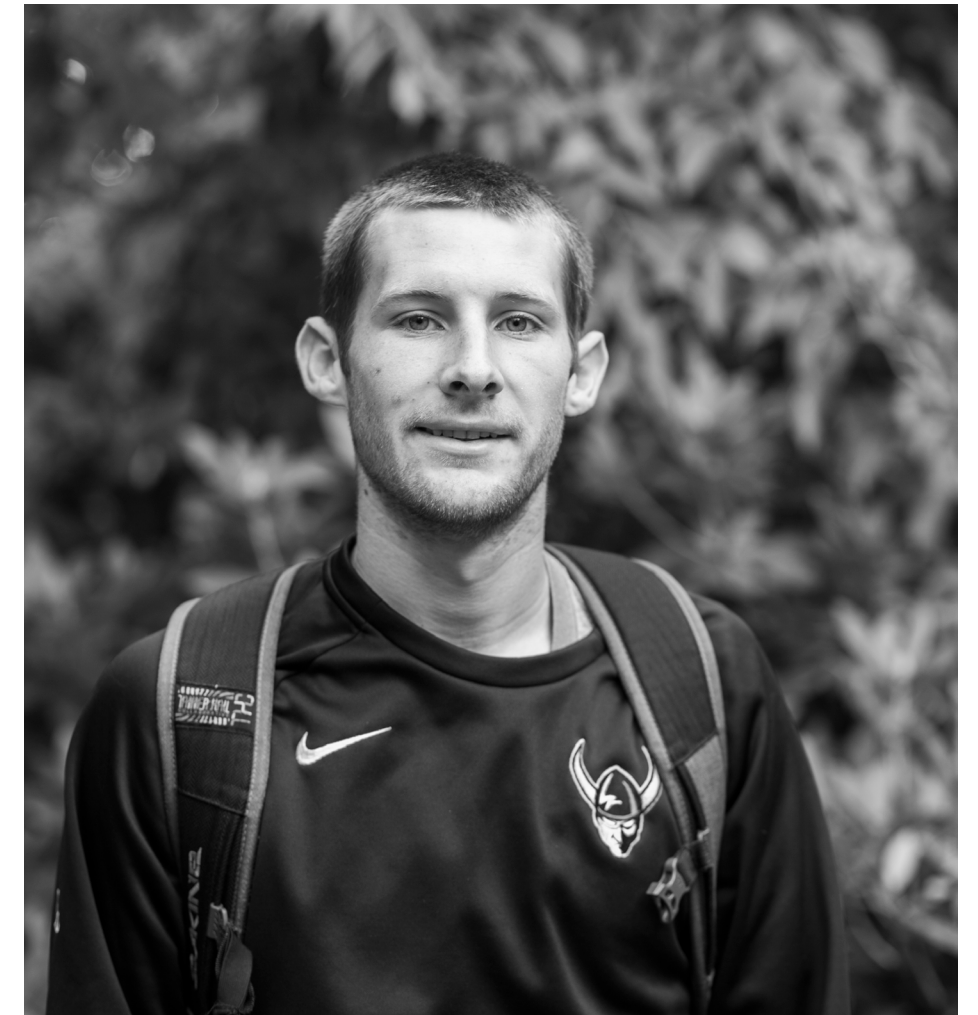
"He's really grown into kind of a leader for us. When things aren't going well, he's working to step up either his words or his actions, or his play to propel the team forward," Olney said.

When spring of 2016 came around, Brisbon offered Jinneman a permanent spot.

"It was a great, great feeling going into Greg's office and discovering I was on the team," Jinneman said. "I was very fortunate to be able to fall into a position. I had never played defense before coming to Western, and the left back spot

His athleticism is a big thing and I think today that's one of his strengths.

Greg Brisbon
Head Coach



Left back Stephen Jinneman is a starter on the men's varsity soccer team, being the only player on the roster who made it by a walk-on tryout. // Photo by Kirstyn Nyswonger

Brisbon gives tryouts to all Western students that feel like they're ready to play college soccer.

"It's a good opportunity for kids that we may have missed, or kids that think they don't want to play college soccer their freshman year, but they get here in the fall and realize 'God I really miss it,' and so I give those kids a chance as well," Brisbon said.

Brisbon welcomes students to email him at greg.brisbon@wwu.edu if they're interested in trying out for the next round of walk-on tryouts in January.

WWU MEN'S RECENT RESULTS

- WWU 4, Concordia 2
- WWU 3, Seattle Pacific 2
- WWU 3, Saint Martin's 2
- WWU 2, Fort Hays 2

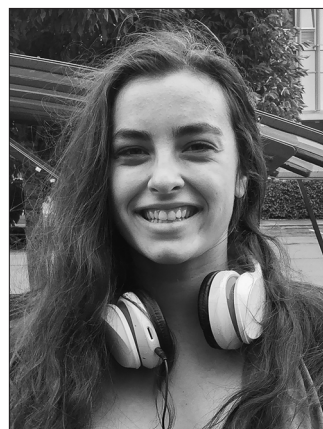
Viking Voices

What changes are you looking forward to seeing at Western this fall?



Fatuma Musa
Sophomore, accounting

"More diversity involvement and representation within the school. Maybe something to bring [us] together."



Emily Deardorff
Junior, environmental science

"I'm hoping to connect more with my professors...they have a lot more to give than what they give in class."



Sara Bauer
Senior, human services

"I want more compost bins wherever there's a trash can on this campus. It seems like it's something that us, as a campus, would want to do."



Mathew Roland
Senior, visual journalism

"I would like to see the university reaching out to students who are struggling in some of their GUR classes that are required by the university, but may not be in that student's major."

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Women's row team celebrates national championship

Eliana Ala'ilima-Daley
THE WESTERN FRONT

About 100 eager students, staff and fans gathered to honor the Western Women's Rowing team's 2017 NCAA Division II national championship.

The win marks the eighth national championship for the perennial powerhouse program, though this is the first in recent years.

The first seven championships came consecutively from 2005 to 2011.

The event was held outside the Western Washington University's Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Sept. 27.

The word surreal seemed to be a common theme among the team members when asked to describe this year's national championship run.

"Nothing was really going through my mind, it was just a blur of everything happening," senior rower Giselle Kiraly said. "People were telling you that you won, and you couldn't comprehend that at all."

The Vikings were victorious over Central Oklahoma in the team competition in order to take the championship. The race was held on Lake Mercer in Springfield, Virginia.

Wednesday's event, held to honor the team, was filled with other student athletes from Western's Athletic Department out to show their

support, including the women's soccer team, softball team and the cheerleading squad. The Viking Band was also in attendance, providing music and entertainment for the evening event.

"I really appreciate the support that we get from the Western community and the students," senior rower Megan Reid said. "It really helps us thrive on the water at 5 a.m., just knowing they support us."

Kiraly was also thankful to the Western community for putting on and attending the celebration.

"You feel the support from your team and from your family and friends, but it's nice to feel that all of Western cares," Kiraly said.

After eight national championships in just over 11 years, it's not hard to wonder what it is that makes the Western women's rowing team so successful.

Assistant coach Courtney Moeller says it has to do with the student athletes truly being students first, and loving the Bellingham and Western atmosphere before joining the rowing team.

"Unlike a lot of other sports, most of our girls, the first time they ever rowed is when they step onto campus here at Western," Moeller said. "Our student athletes want to be in Bellingham, they want to come to Western and they already have a passion and a love for this community. Rowing is just the icing



Western rowers celebrate their eighth national championship. // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics

on the cake for them."

The women's rowing team does not compete in the city of Bellingham, but rather practice at 5 a.m. on Lake Samish.

Because of this, Moeller, considers women's rowing at Western to be a very low visibility sport. This makes her and the program even more grateful to Western's community for the event.

"To have the students and the

staff and the community recognize us, and to be a part of this celebration means a ton to us as the coaches, and I know it means the world to the girls on the team as well," Moeller said.

The Vikings will open up their 2017-2018 campaign on March 10, 2018 at Pacific Lutheran University on American Lake.



The Vikings were victorious over Central Oklahoma in the team competition to claim their eighth national championship. The race was held on Lake Mercer in Springfield, Virginia. // Photo courtesy of WWU Athletics

From the sidelines

Opinions from The Western Front staff on all things sports

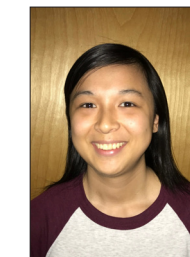


Eric Trent
Copy Editor

There's more than a few teams that would benefit from signing Kaepernick. Derek Carr just went down for two to six weeks. Would you rather have Kaepernick or EJ Manuel taking the reins for, possibly, the next month and a half?

At least Kaepernick has the ability to extend plays. The dude has a top-end speed higher than Russell Wilson. Did I mention the 49ers, Giants, Browns and Chargers are all winless?

Just signing Kaepernick might compel the current starter to play better. Look what happened with Alex Smith after the Chiefs drafted Patrick Mahomes: eight touchdowns, zero interceptions and quarterbacking the lone unbeaten team in the NFL.



Hailey Palmer
Features Editor

If there's a team in the NFL that should take a chance on Colin Kaepernick it's the Oakland Raiders or the Jacksonville Jaguars. With the Raiders losing Derek Carr for 2-6 weeks they need someone capable of keeping them in the playoff hunt even if it's still early in the season. Kaepernick has taken a team to the Super Bowl and has proven he can lead a team. I don't think EJ Manuel can do that for the Raiders. On the other hand, the Jaguars could also benefit from Kaepernick. Let's be honest, Blake Bortles is not a franchise quarterback and is too inconsistent. The Jaguars have a defense that can keep them in games, but without a reliable quarterback their defense isn't really going to matter.



Ben Olson
Online Producer

There should be a handful of teams that should take a risk on Colin Kaepernick. The Tennessee Titans and the Oakland Raiders could be without their starting quarterbacks for a few weeks due to injury. When they lost Derek Carr to injury last season, the Raiders couldn't even beat Brock Osweiler and the Houston Texans.

Being able to sign a quarterback with Kaepernick's ability could help keep those teams from falling out of the playoff race. People seem to forget that Kaepernick led the San Francisco 49ers to two NFC Championship games.

Multiple teams should be giving Kaepernick's agent a call.



Jake Gregg
Sports Editor

Colin Kaepernick was the first to kneel during the national anthem, and was shamed for it. No team wanted to take a chance on what they saw as a distraction.

Now, not only are a huge majority of the NFL teams kneeling, but many are not even coming out of the locker room during the anthem.

Kaepernick is a proven winner and I believe any team in the NFL would be crazy not to pick him up, even as a backup.

To be more specific, the Oakland Raiders would benefit significantly with Kaepernick on their roster, especially with an injury-prone quarterback in Derek Carr.

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Viking volleyball sweeps the Wolves

Western Volleyball earns fourth straight win against Western Oregon

Samuel Biehn
THE WESTERN FRONT

The 10th-ranked Vikings collected their fourth straight victory in women's volleyball and remained undefeated at home in a sweep of the Western Oregon Wolves Saturday, Sept. 30 at Sam Carver Gymnasium.

The Vikings improve to 11-3 overall, and 5-1 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference.

The Vikings quickly started the match with intensity on offense, setting up plenty of scoring opportunities for teammates which led to a swift 25-11 win in the opening set in front of an electric home crowd.

"I think we have a pretty balanced attack," Vikings head coach Diane Flick-Williams said. "They're not allowed to key on one of our players; They might try to, but that's going to open up a lot of things for our other players."

Western Oregon, who came into the match unranked, wouldn't let the Vikings take them down without a fight. The Wolves responded in the second set with intense back and forth play, holding tight most of the way until Western gained momentum back for a 25-17 win.

"Western Oregon's a good team," Flick-Williams said. "We just had to be patient, run what we do and eventually we would get that separation point."



Michaela Hall spikes the ball. // Photo by Kirstyn Nyswonger

Western's teamwork on offense was bolstered by the play of junior setter Brette Boesel, who finished the match with a game-high 33 assists.

Boesel was quick to commend the play of her teammates, saying without them, she wouldn't be able to do her job.

"It starts with a great first ball contact," Boesel said. "If we didn't have

our servers and we didn't have our defense, I couldn't do my job either. It really starts with our defenders."

Having a team first mentality proved to be significant for the Vikings down the stretch as Western, in the final set, found itself in another tight contest.

The Wolves traded blows with the Vikings, taking a 3-2 lead early before

finally being put away with strong defense and another offensive outburst, this time led by junior middle blocker Michaela Hall.

Hall finished the game with nine kills, including the match point in the final set that finished off the Wolves.

"Our first ball contacts were superb," Hall said. "And then I was able to put the ball down. All those first ball contacts, those backrow players, I rely on them."

Western finished the game with 60 digs, being able to extend plays and scoring opportunities throughout.

"We're just a really scrappy team," Boesel said. "Kinda cliché, but they say defense is an attitude."

The team's success late also had to do with great execution of half time game planning, Hall said.

"I think we just implemented that [game plan] so well into the third game," Hall said. "Because we had a little lull in the second, implemented it right away in the third, we were able to come out swinging."

The Vikings will need to sustain their offensive prowess to keep these good vibes going throughout the season, but Flick-Williams said she's just excited to watch the team take its next steps.

The Vikings will hit the road next to try and extend their winning streak, set to play at 7 p.m. Oct. 5 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

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- Student Health Center, Campus Services, (360) 650-3400
- Counseling Center, Old Main 540, (360) 650-3164
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services of Whatcom County (DVSAS), 24-hour help line (360) 715-1563 or (877) 715-1563

To Report:

- Western's Title IX Coordinator - Sue Guenter-Schlesinger
Equal Opportunity Office, Old Main 345, (360) 650-3307
Sue.Guenter-Schlesinger@wwu.edu
- University Police, (360) 650-3911 (emergency) or 650-3555 (report)
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