



Graduation rates dictated by registration

The four-year myth and obstacles in meeting graduation requirements

Joshua DeJong
THE WESTERN FRONT

It's that time of year again, and we aren't talking holidays. We're talking registration and the stress of getting into classes. Will you make it into the class you need that's only offered once a year? Are you going to be pushing graduation back?

Senior Austen Joeckel is

one student who has faced the nightmare scenario of class registration. Joeckel transferred to Western from the College of Southern Nevada in fall 2015.

His dream was to get a degree in computer science, but he said he faced obstacles at almost every turn.

Joeckel, who is now pursuing a degree in business, transferred to Western with over 100

credits. He had not taken any computer science classes, nor did he have the math prerequisites to enter into some computer science courses.

Western's computer science department restricts high credit students from registering for certain entry-level courses for every quarter except summer. Joeckel said this would push graduating back two years.

"In their attempt to help freshmen and sophomores, people like me who are transfer students are getting the bad end of the stick and it is making it almost impossible for me to graduate with a degree [in computer science]," Joeckel said.

Joeckel said he was heartbroken not being able to take

see *GRAD RATES*, page 3

What's inside...

Trio of bands rock the Multi-Purpose Room
FEATURES, PG. 4-5

Campus sexual assault punishment too lax
OPINION, PG. 6

Spotlight on Western's only female boxer
SPORTS PG. 8

Rectifying the Ridge: students, police, work together



Dong Vo, RA director for Beta-Gamma/Kappa residence halls addresses students before they walk the properties on campus // Photo by Paul Kelly

Paul Kelly
THE WESTERN FRONT

Ridgeway residents and campus community members are looking to increase dorm security. Students organized a safety walk in response to recent reports of lewd behavior, voyeurism and other crime on campus.

"We're doing a safety walk, and just checking the perimeters to make sure things that should be fixed or need to be improved in terms of safety are looked at by administrators," junior Jonathan Mao said. "Rather than just the RAs telling the administration that there is a problem, when they come out here and do it with us they can see that it is a problem."

Students, administrators and University Police walked the perimeters of on-campus

housing on Wednesday, Nov. 17 to look for potential trouble spots, repairs and safety concerns.

Participants were issued maps of the buildings with checklists and encouraged to take notes and photos of any areas that raised concerns.

Sophomore Ridgeway resident Tatum Eames participated in the safety walk and said she believes it will prompt the university to make changes.

"I wanted to use my voice as a community member to do something about it," Eames said. "Tonight is about seeing what is unsafe and getting validation that other people also think it's unsafe."

Another Ridgeway resident, sophomore Audrey Lutz, noted that seemingly small, everyday problems with the buildings could lead to potentially dangerous situations.

"I was just getting frustrated with the lack of night time security in the communities," Lutz said. "There's not enough lighting, and there are a lot of things that are really simple fixes that

just aren't getting addressed."

Western Chief of Police Darin Rasmussen and Cpl. Joe Bailey counseled students on what safety hazards to look for. They told students most of their job is reactive after an incident occurs, but paying attention to these types of things can help prevent problems in the future.

"This is obviously not going to change the world, but it's a good first step to start recognizing potential issues and places that are going to be hazardous," Junior Ian Brumbaugh said as he made marks on his map. "If any changes are made to lighting, entry or exit points, or fall hazards, if there is at least one change, then it was worth it."

While this is a small step, some students felt it was an important one toward better security.

"We are the people that know this community best, so if we don't say something and care for it, then who will?" Eames said.



Connor Garrels and Rowan Daetwiler check the security of a door on one of the residence halls.

// Photo by Paul Kelly

Police say sketch subject not voyeur



Walker Sacon
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham police have identified a man arrested on Nov. 7 near Laurel Park as the subject of a composite sketch they released last week.

When it was released, police believed the man in the sketch may have been connected to recent voyeurism incidents near Western, according to a police statement. Police now do not believe the man is connected to the incidents.

He was arrested on suspicion of three felonies connected to two incidents in the Laurel Park area on Oct. 31 and Nov. 3, according to the statement.

The sketch was released after an Oct. 31 incident where Owen Allen, 21, punched and kicked a 20-year-old student in the 800 block of N. Garden Street before fleeing. Police determined the sketch's subject matched physical descriptions from witnesses in voyeurism incidents, according to a police statement.

A police statement released Thursday, Nov. 16, said Allen was arrested after detectives noticed his resemblance to the composite sketch and that his clothing matched witness descriptions from the two incidents.



@thefrontonline



@thefrontonline



facebook.com/westernfrontonline

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

The Western Front
Week in Review
Nov. 12 - Nov. 19

Scan to view video



Locust's shoreline: squeaky clean



Volunteers spent a Saturday collecting garbage from Locust Beach Nov. 18. The event was organized by WWU Students for the Salish Sea. // Photo by Tyler Morris
See the full story and slideshow online at www.westernfrontonline.com // Scan here



Stay tuned...

Look for upcoming coverage of these events on our website www.westernfrontonline.com

Deck the Old City Hall

Whatcom Museum will be getting into the holiday spirit by decorating Old City Hall on **Friday, Nov. 24**. There will be more than 20 decorated trees and Jolly Old St. Nick is said to make an appearance.

Free Thanksgiving dinner

Lighthouse Mission is making sure that no one goes hungry for the holiday by hosting a free Thanksgiving dinner starting at **12 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 24**, at Assumption Church. They seek to give shelter to anyone who may be homeless, hungry or alone near Thanksgiving.

Shop small Saturday

Many Bellingham companies will be participating in "Shop Small Saturday" **Nov. 25** to encourage the support of local business. Similar to Black Friday, it's a day-long event in which local businesses will offer special deals to holiday shoppers.

Cops Box

Compiled by Landon Groves



Nov. 14, 7:14
1400 blk. Ellis St.

Someone reported a woman who was stopping traffic to film other drivers and vehicles.

Nov. 14, 4:57 p.m.
1000 blk. Puget St.

A person called the police to report that they'd found a piece of mail in an alley behind someone's house.

Nov. 15, 3:12 p.m.
300 blk. Grand Ave.

A person had an arrest warrant served to them while they were already incarcerated.

Nov. 18, 12:18 p.m.
1300 blk. St. Paul St.

Police were notified after someone broke a window trying to enter a crowded party.

Nov. 18, 10:14 p.m.
1000 blk. N. Garden St.

A person called to report people throwing water balloons at one another.

Nov. 17, 9:37 p.m.
1200 blk. N. Forest St.

Someone reported that their purse was stolen, only to call again to say they'd found it.

The Western Front

The Western Front
Western Washington University
Communications Facility 222
Bellingham, WA 98225
Newsroom number:
360-650-3162
Email address:
westernfrontonline@gmail.com

Editor-in-Chief
Alex Halverson
Managing Editor
McKenna Cardwell
News Editors
Melissa McCarthy
Taylor Nichols
Features Editors
Kira Erickson
Hailey Palmer
Sports Editor
Jake Gregg
Photo Editor
Kirstyn Nyswonger
Daily Editor
Brooke Carlson
Opinion Editor
Jordan Carlson
Online Editor
Anna Edlund
Social Media Manager
Kaitlin Eslinger
Online Producer
Ben Olson
Copy Editors
Haley Ausbun
Eric Trent
Hannah Wong
Video Editor
Eythan Frost
Photographers
Tyler Morris
Katie Webber
Illustrator/
Cartoonist
Shannon DeLurio
Web Developer
David Whorpole
Letters to the editor:
westernfront.opinion@gmail.com
Press releases:
wpress.release@gmail.com
Faculty Adviser
Jack Keith
Jack.Keith@wwu.edu
Advertising Department
360-650-3160
Advertising Manager
Megan McGinnis

The Western Front is published once weekly in the fall, winter, spring quarters and summer. The Western Front is the official newspaper of Western Washington University and is published by the Student Publications Council. It is mainly supported by advertising. Opinions and stories in the newspaper have no connection to advertising. News content is determined by student editors. Staff reporters are involved in a course in the department of journalism, but any student enrolled at Western may offer stories to the editors.

The Western Front aims to report accurately and ethically. If you notice an error that needs to be corrected, please email us at westernfrontonline@gmail.com.

**INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING
IN THE WESTERN FRONT?**

FOR RATES, DISCOUNTS, AND MORE INFORMATION
EMAIL WWW.WESTERNFRONT@GMAIL.COM OR CALL 360.650.3160

GRAD RATES

from page 1

the courses he wanted to. He said it was one thing to restrict a student who doesn't have enough credits, but unfair to restrict one for having too many.

"If you have too many credits you can't go backwards, you can't lose credits, so you are working toward a never-ending hole," Joeckel said. "It's making it impossible for me to do what I want to do with my life."

Computer science department chair Perry Fizzano said in an email to Joeckel in March that the registrar and the computer science department will need this restriction for a few years, because the courses are in high demand. According to the email, the department plans to add more faculty to help address this issue.

"The need for [computer science] classes is outpacing our ability to keep up with it," Fizzano said in an email to Joeckel.

It takes first-year Western students, who started higher education at Western, an average of 4.6 years to graduate with a computer science degree, and transfer students an average of 3.6 years at Western, according to the Registrar's office. Some transfer students are coming in with multiple years of school already completed.

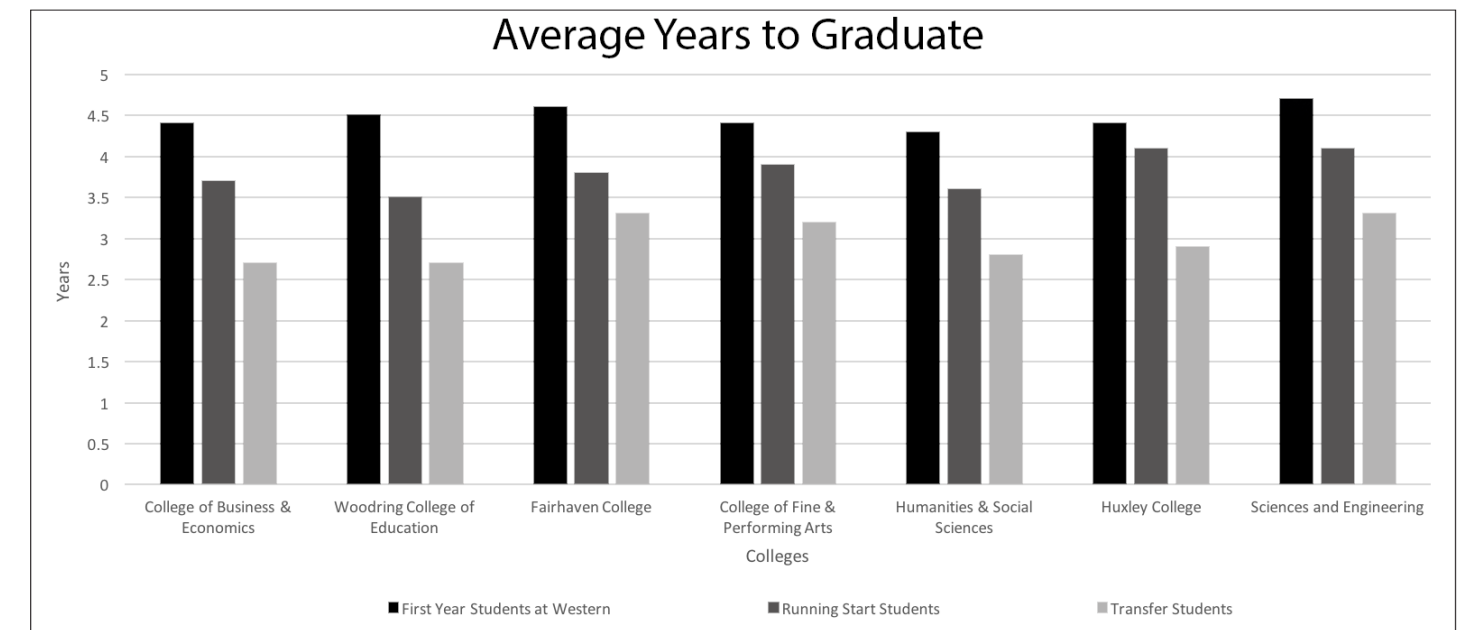
The average years to complete a computer science degree includes data from the past six years, not including 2017.

The registrar's office calculates the data by using a formula that takes the number of ellipsed quarters between a student's first year at Western and their last year, then divides it by four.

If a student were to start Western in fall 2010 and graduate spring 2014, their years-to-degree data would be represented as 3.75 years.

Western has an average 4.4 years to graduation for incoming freshman. Some degrees require a small number of credits to graduate and are fairly flexible, while others have high credit requirements, and failing to register for a class could set you back months.

Sharon Schmidt, Western's associate director of institutional research, said a lot of programs have more than 180 credit requirements to graduate, which can cause students to extend beyond four years.



Infographic by Ben Olson

She said it is much more common for students to graduate between four and six years.

"I would say our four-year rate [for graduation] tends to be low and our six-year rate is very high," Schmidt said.

Seventy percent of Western students finish their degree within six years.

Registrar David Brunner said his department is the academic record holder of the school and they manage all software systems related to registration.

"There has always been, since the beginning of time, this belief that you get out of school in four years to the day," Brunner said.

Brunner said there are positive and negative aspects that affect graduation rates. A student taking a quarter to study abroad may have to push their graduation date back. Another student may be in a program that has a large number of credit requirements.

"One student might be able to have a lot of flexibility and elective use, and complete a degree in four [years]," Brunner said. "Another student, if they miss one sequence [of courses], they are out for a year."

Brunner said sometimes the student controls that, other times it's the university, and other times it is a combination of both.

"Statistically, when anybody seems to care about graduation rates there is this four-year concept that goes back for centuries, and then there is

the realities of what happens when people take longer and the hundreds of reasons why they might go longer," Brunner said.

Business and sustainability major Jessica Ramsey is a junior who said still believes in the four-year myth. Ramsey said her parents set the goal for her to graduate in four years and because of that she is doing her best to work within the confines of her major to accomplish graduating on a four year timeline.

"I'm finding that I have to be really on top of tailoring my schedule a lot better," Ramsey said. "Meeting with advisers ahead of time as soon as you can is definitely important."

Senior Jacob Rodan is studying elementary education with a focus in developmental psychology. He said he doesn't know a single person in his program or cohort who is graduating within four years.

Rodan said elementary education is a 105-credit program, which also requires a focus area of study. Rodan is in his fifth year of study.

"I came into Western with 45 to 50 credits from Running Start and this is still my fifth year here," Rodan said.

Life circumstances like finances, work, or sick family members can also play a role in delaying a student's graduation. According to a 2015 National Center for Education Statistics report, 43 percent of full-time students are holding a job, and 78 percent of part-time students are working.

Brunner also said switching ma-

jors, course sequences and whether you are entering into college with certain proficiencies, like math, can play a role in a student's timeline.

Western is planning to roll out an online advising tool early next quarter called Degree Works, which should help with student plans and advising, Brunner said.

Degree Works is a program students and faculty can access, which will display a dashboard of GURs and major requirements to aid students in planning future courses.

"Every single student will be able to log in, they will be able to see their academic record and the software will calculate how they're doing toward finishing their degree," Brunner said.

When it comes to planning courses, Brunner said the registrar's office opens its system to all the academic departments, who then take their budgets, courses and faculty and begin planning for the next academic year. The registrar's office then takes all of their info and runs it through filters to analyze where courses are most needed.

"I start doing this crazy gigantic calculation to make it to where, when fall quarter starts, we're full and most of the students, to the best of my understanding, will be happy," Brunner said.

Expert Care At

**AFFORDABLE
PRICES**

**Birth Control,
STD Testing/Treatment,
Emergency Contraception**

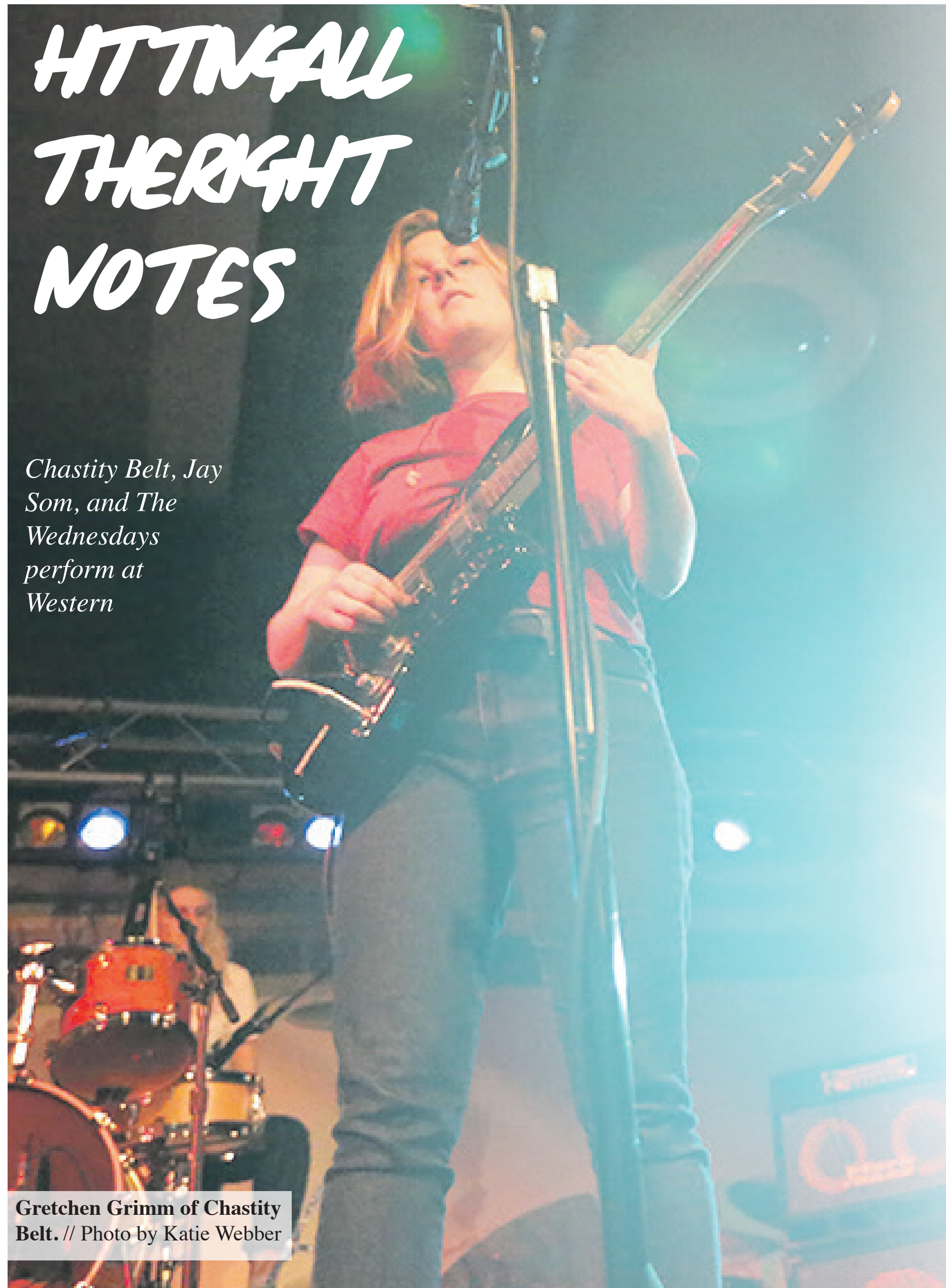
Call 1.800.230.PLAN today.
Bellingham • Mount Vernon • Friday Harbor
mbpp.org



Planned Parenthood
Care. No matter what.
Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood

HITTING ALL THE RIGHT NOTES

Chastity Belt, Jay Som, and The Wednesdays perform at Western



Gretchen Grimm of Chastity Belt. // Photo by Katie Webber

Dawson Finley
THE WESTERN FRONT

The crowds in the Viking Union Friday, Nov. 17, found themselves in the midst of an intimate atmosphere, where bands and fans alike enjoyed surrounding themselves with a full range of musical talent.

The show featured three rock acts; headliner Jay Som, The Wednesdays and Chastity Belt.

While the concert was scheduled to start at 6 p.m., groups gathered around the Viking Union Multi-Purpose Room beforehand excitedly waiting to enter the venue, not deterred by the colder weather.

Sophomore Julia Furukawa said she was excited to see an empowered female band like Chastity Belt perform.

"I feel like it's a really supportive environment to enjoy music," she said. "I'm ready to dance."

Inside the venue, multi-colored streamers lined the pillars and walls as the overhead disco ball reflected complex displays of light, illuminating the dance floor and a photo booth in the corner. The coat-hanger racks found opposite of the booth were filled as people shed their heavy layers before walking out onto the dance floor.

Associated Students pop music coordinator and event organizer Dayjha McMillan introduced each act to the crowd as the night progressed. She provided commentary between the transitions, from the more aggressive stylings of The Wednesdays to the pop rock features of Chastity Belt and Jay Som.

The venue created an environment where the head bob was the more popular dance move of the night.

Around 200 tickets were sold for the event, a number that surprised McMillan.

"Originally, I thought maybe I would get 100 people [to attend], so I was expecting a pretty small turnout," she said. "I was really shocked when I saw how many people showed up. That was really exciting."

Between each set, the venue's occupants shuffled about, heading between the merchandise tables in the back to purchase shirts and records, and to the exit to get some fresh air before the next band.

The concert even attracted non-Western students. Whatcom County resident Elizabeth Mayo was getting a tattoo in her kitchen when she found out Chastity Belt was performing that night.

She immediately dropped everything to head to campus. For Mayo, the band played an important role in her life.

"I would not be me without realizing, via Chastity Belt, that I like music," she said.

After living in the area for six months, she said the concert acted as a capstone for her Pacific Northwest experience.

Chastity Belt seemed to be a popular band for many of the people attending.

"I was really surprised at how many people knew Chastity Belt," McMillan said. "I don't think I really conceptualized the number of people that came to see them play."

Senior Katie Ross said that the band played a lot of new music she hadn't heard before, and it was cool to have had that experience.

The concert ended with Jay Som, leaving the night on a high note for those who attended.

The next AS Productions concert will be Sound Block, a festival-like concert series on campus, created by last year's pop music coordinator Jonah Folk, on Dec. 7.

"We are going to announce the lineup very soon, most likely after Thanksgiving break," she said.

The concert is planned to have a beach theme and as many as five to seven artists performing, McMillan said.

As last year's Sound Block was an electronic dance music concert, McMillan said she wanted to keep a similar format, but expand it to different music genres.

It won't be EDM music, but you'll still be able to dance, she said.



TOP: Guitarist Lydia Lund of Chastity Belt. MIDDLE: The Wednesdays play their set to a packed Multi-Purpose Room. BOTTOM: Melina Duterte sings for Jay Som in their last show of the year. // Photos by Katie Webber

FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

Western's lax punishment for perpetrators of sexual assault solves little

The Department of Education guidelines for handling sexual assault cases at universities continues to change, but Western's investigative procedures and resulting punishments need to be made more firm.

In 2011, The Department of Education under the Obama administration issued a directive for colleges to comply with Title IX, a law that prevents the discrimination of sex in educational institutions that receive federal money.

Title IX allowed universities to be more involved in resolving sexual assault cases, where before it was up to police to handle the specifics of the case. This system was far from perfect — if an assault was reported and the police couldn't make a case, there was always a chance sexual assault survivors could see their attackers on campus.

The Obama administration attempted to fix this problem with guidelines for universities that include adopting a "preponderance of the evidence" standard, no longer cross-examining accusers, and allowing the accuser to appeal not-guilty verdicts.

In September of 2017, the Department of Education under the Trump administration announced that it's rescinding Title IX guidance.

Secretary of Education Betsy



Illustration by Shannon DeLurio

DeVos argued, "Schools have been compelled by Washington to enforce ambiguous and incredibly broad definitions of assault and harassment."

But rape and sexual assault have been redefined in a broader way — as sex with someone without consent — for good reason.

It's not the definition that's the problem, but finding a corresponding approach for punishment that responds adequately to the severity of individual cases.

The ramifications of rolling

back Title IX guidance is that universities can weaken procedures and investigations for sexual assault. With Western's past questionable decisions surrounding lax punishments of sexual assault perpetrators, this cannot be an excuse to treat sexual assault lightly.

On one side, the university claims community safety is of utmost importance and shows support and concern for rape victims through Western's Prevention & Wellness Services and programs such as Consultation and Sexual

Assault Support.

On the other hand, the university has readmitted perpetrators of sexual assault and given out punishments that survivors find too forgiving.

In 2015, Connor Griesemer was charged and pleaded guilty to a gross-misdemeanor charge of fourth-degree assault. In May 2017, he was readmitted.

Or the more recent case of the Huxley College professor Paul Stangl, who allegedly sexually harassed a teaching assistant during a class trip in June 2016. A university investigation found Stangl's behavior not severe enough to be considered an incident of sexual harassment. Only after the case was reopened in March 2017 did the university decide to issue a punishment — Stangl will be barred from teaching field courses until summer session of 2020.

In response to the Title IX rollback, and especially in regard to the concerns of the Western community, Western needs to issue stricter punishments regarding sexual assault cases.

Forgiving sexual assault perpetuates an environment of fear among victims and the campus community while doing nothing to solve pre-existing issues.

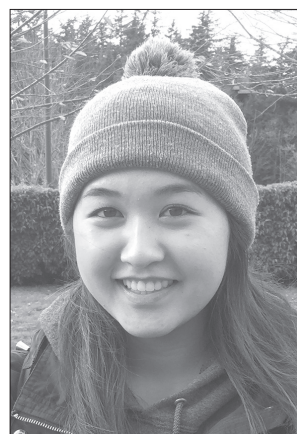
The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Jordan Carlson, Alex Halverson and McKenna Cardwell.

Viking Voices

What are you thankful for?



Ian Miller
Sophomore, German



Kadu Xiong
Senior, communications



Seleni De Jesus Ponce
Junior, Spanish/sociology



Zoe Kromer
Sophomore, Spanish/psychology

"I am thankful for a family that feeds me and pays for college. I am thankful to have as many good friends as I have, despite my very pessimistic and narcissistic personality."

"I am thankful for my family, for everything they've been able to provide me and get me to where I am right now. I am fortunate to be raised in this beautiful country of America."

"I am thankful for almost completing my major. Even though this quarter has been super rough on me, going home is my treat."

"The thing I am most thankful for is my health and the ability to move my body in all the ways that I enjoy moving it. Some of my passions are yoga and dance, and I am thankful for this body that allows me to do those things."

Compiled by Ray Garcia

Western volleyball dominates GNAC

Samuel Biehn
THE WESTERN FRONT

With a sweep against the No. 13 Northwest Nazarene Nighthawks at Sam Carver Gymnasium on Thursday, Nov. 16, Western volleyball not only extended their win streak, but gave the Vikings a new title.

2017 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Champions.

It's the first GNAC championship in four seasons for the Vikings, who went out to sweep Central Washington 3-0 on Saturday, Nov. 18, at home.

Western, the fifth-ranked team in the nation, received a No. 2 seed at the NCAA Division II West Regional quarterfinals where they will face No. 7 seed



Outside hitter Arielle Turner has 193 season-kills, the fourth most on the team. // Photo by Katie Webber

Alaska Anchorage (19-10.) The tournament will be held on Nov. 30, in Riverside, California.

The Vikings now stand 25-3 on the season, and 19-1 in GNAC play, tied for the best record in GNAC history, and are riding an 18-game win streak.

"We keep trying to look at every game [as] one game at a time," Vikings coach Diane Flick-Williams said. "I think this is at least an opportunity for us to actually pick our head up and go, 'what have we done so far?'"

side hitter Abby Phelps, who led Western with 19 kills, also known as "The Terminator," was busy relishing the moment.

"These are the kinds of games that you like," Phelps said. "As an athlete, this is the kind of game you want to play in. The big game at the end of the season that determines a championship."

Vikings' setter Brette Boesel, who finished with a team-high 38 assists, said the Nighthawks are no easy foe.

"[Northwest Nazarene is] a really good team," Boesel said. "They're ranked

As an athlete, this is the kind of game you want to play in. The big game at the end of the season that determines a championship.

Abby Phelps
Outside hitter

Going into the match, the Vikings knew Northwest Nazarene well.

The Nighthawks handed the Vikings their only loss in the last 18 games. The Nighthawks, ranked 13th in NCAA Division II volleyball, beat the Vikings 3-1 on their home court in Nampa, Idaho on Sept. 16.

This time, with the GNAC title on the line, the pressure was on. Vikings out-

side there for a reason."

During the first set, the Vikings led 21-13, but watched as the Nighthawks crawled their way back into the game, trimming the deficit to 24-22 before Western finally escaped 25-22 following a serving error by Northwest Nazarene.

"Our mindset is always the next play," Vikings opposite Joellee Buckner said. "I think we've done really good at that this

year. We knew it was going to be a battle. They're a super good team, so we were just focusing on that one point and staying in the next ten seconds."

The Vikings had to fight their way through two more sets with the Nighthawks, falling down early in the third and final set before coming back from a 15-11 deficit to win the match and take the title.

Flick-Williams said the victory was a reflection of the strength of her team.

"It took every single person," Flick-Williams said. "Whether it was the people on the court, or the people that prepared us yesterday to come to what we did today. I've got the best team; I'm so proud of the team that I have."

Buckner, a senior on the team who was honored during Western's Senior Night game against Central Washington University, said she was on the 2013 GNAC Championship team for the Vikings in her redshirt freshman season.

"I don't think I understood how amazing it was because I was just a red-shirt here," Buckner said. "Just to win it as a senior again with the best team ever, I give it all to my team. We battled, and it's such a team effort. It means a lot to me and it's a big accomplishment, so I'm really proud of them."

HEAD TO TOE BUFFALO

WE ARE BUYING MEN'S & WOMEN'S FASHION!

BUY-SELL-TRADE ON THE SPOT!

Buffalo EXCHANGE

New & Recycled Fashion

DOBANYTOWN: 1209 N. State St. • 360-676-1375 BUFFALOEXCHANGE.COM

NEVER GO BEERLESS

BOUNDARY BAY BEER DELIVERY

- CANS | BOTTLES | KEGS -

ORDER ONLINE OR CALL
BBAYBREWERY.COM/BEERDELIVERY
360.647.5593

DELIVERY HOURS
THURSDAY-SATURDAY | 11AM - 11PM
SUNDAY | 11AM - 8PM

GET YOUR PARTY STARTED!

ADVERTISE

WITH THE

WESTERN FRONT

CALL 360.650.3160 FOR RATES & DISCOUNTS

BELLINGHAM FAMILY HEALTH CLINIC

Health Care for Living Well

Primary Health Care, Family Practice
Birth Control, Nexplanon, IUD
Coughs and Sore Throats
STI, ADD, UTI, Depression
Acupuncture, Weight Loss

Sports & Travel Physicals
Discounts Available
Call for Details

Bonnie Sprague, ARNP, Tay Kopanos, ARNP
Steve Bogert, LAC

Near WWU
Convenient Same-Day Appointments
Most Insurance, Cash Discount
Call for an Appointment Today!
(360) 756-9793
www.BellinghamHealth.com



Alex Dupille
THE WESTERN FRONT

HIT LIKE A GIRL

Chase Merino, the only female boxer on Western's boxing team, packs a punch

job. She's very disciplined. [In boxing] you can be athletic about it, you can be super explosive – or you can be very proper – and she's proper about everything she does.”

For Merino, boxing has been a family affair, with Merino and her twin brother being signed up for boxing by their mother in middle school.

Although many people idolize big-name boxers such as Pacquiao, Ali or Tyson, Merino said she looks up to female boxer and friend Alex Love.

“She's a good friend of mine but also a personal coach, life coach and boxing coach,” Merino said. “I've learned a lot from her. She joined the army so she could make it to the Olympic trials – she made it twice. She taught me a lot about being a girl in boxing.”

Merino's teammate and WWU Boxing Club President Jay Lee has been

training with her since they attended the same boxing gym in their hometown of Bellevue, Washington.

“The biggest growth I've seen is her ability to teach other people,” Lee said. “A couple of years after I started, she started teaching the women's class for kickboxing. Even now I see her helping other people out, and she's really good at being patient with whoever she teaches.”

Merino said being a female in a male-driven sport does not bother her one bit.

“[Being a female boxer] doesn't matter,” Merino said.

“You don't have to think about it because it's just your skill that shows. If anyone has any doubts about me being a girl, they don't have doubts after they see me fight.”



If anyone has any doubt about me being a girl, they don't have doubts after they see me fight.

Chase Merino
Western boxer

Chase Merino has been boxing since middle school.
// Photos by Katie Webber

Applications Sought for Two Faculty Grant Programs

Thaddeus Spratlen and Lois Price-Spratlen Inclusion and Diversity Grant

Western Washington University is committed to creating and improving efforts to make our campus a diverse and inclusive community. Through this grant program, we hope to generate ideas, foster initiatives, and stimulate educational efforts that are tailored to the needs of the various colleges and constituencies at Western. This program seeks to engage a broader spectrum of faculty in the work of making Western locally responsive and globally engaged.

Fraser Lecture Series Fund

Funds have been established for the Fraser Lecture Series Fund. This endowment is one of six different endowments generously provided from the estate of Gordon H. and Alice C. Fraser. The purpose of this endowment is to support lectures, seminars, symposia or workshops in the natural, social and applied sciences, with emphasis on the Health and Life Sciences. Individuals of international and national reputation shall be invited to the University to share their knowledge with the campus community and help improve existing programs or initiate new programs.

Applications are due for both grants by December 1, 2017

Additional information about each grant, the application process, and the links to the on-line forms may be found at

<http://www.wvu.edu/provost/faculty/grants/index.shtml>

RIDE THE AIRPORTER HOME



10 TRIPS A DAY TO SEA-TAC AIRPORT & BACK


PICKUP RIGHT ON CAMPUS!

Ride Bellair Charters / Airporter Shuttle from WWU to SEA-TAC AIRPORT and SEATTLE! Easy connections from Sea-Tac to Columbia City, Westlake, U District, Bellevue & more! Convenient pickup right on WWU campus, at the Performing Arts Center (PAC) on High Street. Ten trips a day!

Advance reservations are REQUIRED and can be made at airporter.com/wwu and by calling 1-866-235-5247.



See www.airporter.com/wwu for more info!



**YOUR COLOR AD
COULD BE HERE**

complimentary graphic design contact 360.650.3160 or www.westernfront@gmail.com

**SUPER
CONVENIENT**

WESTERN STUDENT
WST
TRANSPORTATION

BELLAIR
CHARTERS & AIRPORTER