

# THE WESTERN FRONT

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Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018

## Faculty Senate approves international recruitment program

Max Brunt

THE WESTERN FRONT

After months of tension with university administration, the Faculty Senate voted unanimously on Monday, Feb. 12 to approve a new program for international students in partnership with Study Group, a privatized in-

ternational student recruiting service.

The Global Pathway Program is a set of coursework for certain international students that is designed to combine English as a Second Language courses with other credit-bearing classes, all taught by Western faculty, according to Western Today.

The main concern raised over the Global Pathway Program involves its use of Study Group. Critics of Study Group say that the company prioritizes wealth in selection of international students.

Concerns with the service were previously raised in November when Western entered

into a 10-year contract with Study Group without consulting with the Faculty Senate, The AS Review reported in November.

President Sabah Randhawa issued an apology in November for not discussing the contract with faculty. Plans to implement the program were delayed so

that the senate could have time to review the current proposal, and the strategic planning committee halted their work in response.

Western history professor Ricardo Lopez said that while he doesn't like some of the language used by Study Group, he is now supportive of

see SENATE, page 2

## Huxley students demand increased accountability for sexual harassment

Roisin Cowan-Kuist

THE WESTERN FRONT

Huxley College students were given an opportunity to voice their frustration concerning issues of departmental sexual harassment Tuesday evening at a bystander intervention presentation hosted by CASAS.

The event, which was co-sponsored by Huxley College and CASAS, offered a platform from which students could raise concerns surrounding student safety within the environmental sciences department and at Western as a whole.

In the fall, The Western Front reported on disciplinary action taken against Huxley faculty member Paul Stangl, who was accused of sexually harassing a student during a class trip in 2016. Students at Tuesday's event expressed concern over the lack of policy change following the 2016 incident to prevent future instances of

harassment and assault.

"There's been a huge lack of actual, explicit policy in our department on these topics," Maeve Pickus, Western graduate student and member of Huxley's Diversity & Community Affairs Committee, said. "We have to acknowledge that a lot of these things happen where we're not seeing it, and it's intentionally in these alone situations."

The event continued with CASAS members sharing resources and facilities available to students who may be seeking modes of reporting sexual harassment and Title IX violations confidentially. Some students shared concerns over a lack of safe spaces for Huxley students to report instances of systemic sexual harassment and discrimination without fear of repercussion from department or university faculty.

Mental Health Promotion Specialist Jon Dukes explained the complex

## Black History Month Summit



Junior Labra Dangaladima Ambo converses with fellow fashion show participants before performing at the Black History Month Summit event on Friday, Feb. 9. // Photo by Nic Ulmer

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barriers that often prevent victims of sexual assault and harassment from coming forward.

"Sexual harassment and sexual assault happen because there is a power differential,"

Dukes said. "Is there a power differential between a student and a faculty member? Absolutely. But what resources do you have if you are seeing something that is a concern and you don't

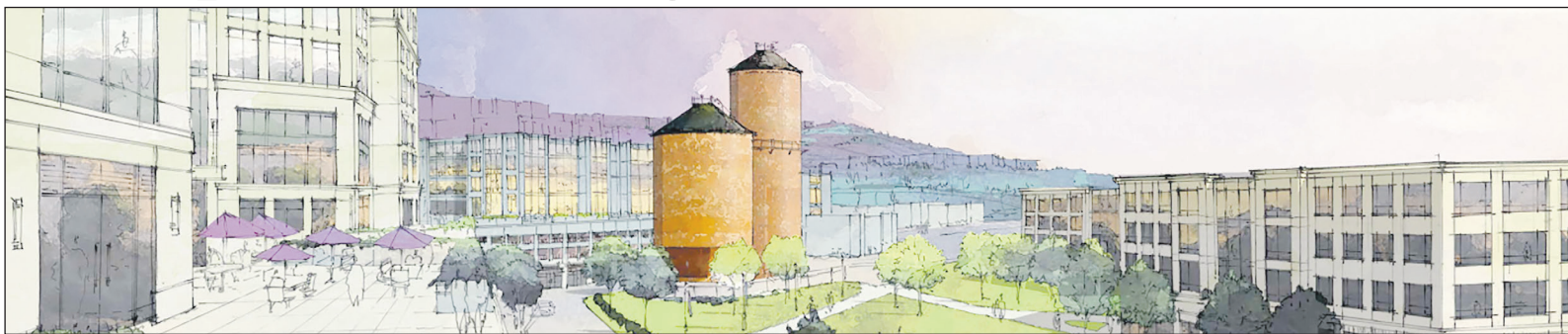
know what to do?"

### Resources

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Full story available at [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

## Sneak peak into Bellingham's new waterfront district



Graphic rendering of one of the proposed developments to Bellingham's waterfront district. Full story on page 4. // Rendering courtesy of the Port of Bellingham

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## Watch out for scam flyers

Erica Wilkins

THE WESTERN FRONT

Mysterious flyers promoting easy, online work for a website called "work23.com" have been popping up on bulletin boards all over campus. The posts offer part-time work with no experience or contact required, but appear to be a part of a larger scam operation.

Western student Thomas Velik said he took notice of the flyer Feb. 5 last week on his way to class.

"I saw this flyer and I was looking for a job, and when something says, '\$15/hour, no experience necessary, start whenever you want, fits around your schedule,' it's pretty seductive, right?" Velik said.

Velik took one of the tear-off tabs from the

see SCAMS, page 3



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## Bellingham from a bird's eye



An aerial view of north campus overlooking the bay on Friday, Feb. 9. // Photo by Nic Ulmer

### SENATE continued from page 1

the proposal because it would provide international students with a comprehensive ESL curriculum.

“When they actually see students as ‘customers’ or as ‘clients,’ I don’t like that,” Lopez said.

While critical of Study Group, Lopez said the Global Pathway Program itself could be a valuable opportunity for international students. He said that Study Group should only be one component of Western’s internationalization.

Lopez was among a group of faculty members who visited James Madison University to see how their Global Pathway Program and Study Group programs have done. Their report said they saw increased diversity in the student body, and that the program hadn’t simply served to make money.

“The reports from JMU indicate that this is not a profit center for them,” said faculty senator and management professor Craig Dunn.

Proponents of Study Group and the Global Pathways Program say that it increases the international student population, despite its selectiveness.

“The MBA program is really excited about the opportunity

to increase our international student population,” Mark Staton, director of the MBA program, said.

Staton also said other committees such as the Graduate Council had approved the MBA’s proposals unanimously.

The AS Review obtained the Study Group contract in November, which says that a Study Group will receive a little more than half of the first year’s tuition for students it recruits, and then decreasing portions the rest of their years at Western.

Faculty expressed concern that there would not be enough space and resources on campus for the students, and that Western was more concerned with revenue than diversity. The AS Review reported. President Sabah Randhawa addressed to some of these concerns in a post on Western Today in November.

The university told The AS Review that faculty was left out due to time constraints, and that the program is part of a goal to increase international students at Western from 1 to 5 percent.

The provost’s office will hold a public forum on the Global Pathway Program and Study Group on Thursday in Bond Hall 109 from 3-4 p.m.

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**  
Asia Fields  
**Managing Editor**  
Melissa McCarthy  
**News Editors**  
Dante Koplovitz-Fleming  
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westernfront.opinion@gmail.com

**Press releases:**  
wfpres.release@gmail.com  
**Faculty Adviser**  
Jack Keith  
Jack.Keith@wwu.edu  
**Advertising Department**  
360-650-3160  
**Advertising Manager**  
Annie Becker

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bottom of the flyer and did some research.

“When I entered the URL it redirected to another site and I immediately became suspicious,” Velik said. “They required you to pay some sort of fee to them and then there was nothing on the website that describes the typical job duties or any contact information.”

Velik said he was redirected to a tax service site where he was asked to pay a fee. It was obvious to Velik that this was some type of scam.

Velik went back, tore down the flyer he saw and began doing further research. He notified the Student Employment Center, University Police and The Western Front.

“Not only was it the case

here, but there were also other college students on other campuses in other states, including states that do not border Washington, that were also getting this sort of mysterious flyer that also redirected back to the work site,” Velik said.

Velik said that each state has different redirect links, but all of them seemed to be targeting various college campuses nationwide and attempting to blend in with legitimate campus organizations elsewhere.

“This is a national phenomenon; this is weird,” Velik said. “There’s probably some sort of organizational hierarchy, local affiliate system or something that’s being perpetrated here.”

According to a public service announcement from the FBI, scams like these have

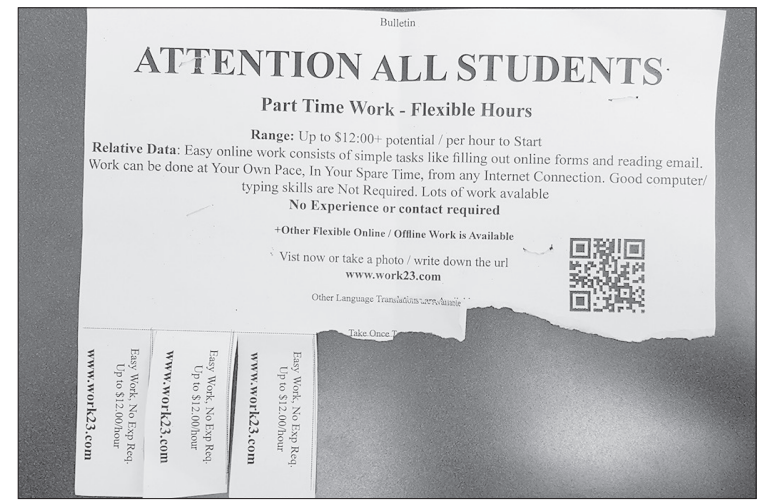
been going on in universities across the country for years now.

Falling for the scam could lead to the student’s bank account being closed due to fraudulent activity as well as being served with federal charges, according to the FBI. Without the student’s participation, the scam could not be perpetrated, so they were the one who facilitated the theft.

The FBI urges students to forward these emails to the university’s IT personnel and tell other students to be on the lookout for the scam.

Velik shared his advice for fellow students on how to spot scams like these.

“If it seems too good to be true, it probably is,” Velik said. “Plus, legitimate employers will never ask you to pay them in advance for some obscure service that they may



The scam-flyer torn down by student. // Photo staged by Mathew Roland

not actually deliver on.”

Ken Pearce, IT security manager from Western’s Information Security Office, said their office is not involved in any active investigation on these flyers, but they are making an effort to

stop the spam.

“A person’s best defense is their own education and awareness of the threat these messages pose. Err on the side of caution, and stay vigilant,” Pearce said in an email.

## City Council: More shelter, more bike lanes

Zoe Buchli  
THE WESTERN FRONT

The Bellingham City Council met to hear a presentation on homeless shelter operations and for a public hearing to discuss the possible removal of on-street parking on Roeder Avenue.

The meeting took place on Monday, Feb. 12 and began with the swearing in of the new Police Chief David Doll and was followed by a presentation from Lighthouse Mission Executive Director Hans Erchinger-Davis.

He updated the City Council on the temporary low-barrier shelter that is located on West Holly Street and talked about the scale of how many people there are in Bellingham who need the shelter’s services during winter months.

There are about 120 to 160 people on an average night who stay at the shelter, Erchinger-Davis said.

Erchinger-Davis also talk-

ed about the Lighthouse Mission’s partnership with Fountain Community Church, which has been taking in women during these colder months, allowing the mission to take in more men.

“If we didn’t have that partnership, we’d be turning people away because we’d have just not enough beds to be able to host everybody,” Erchinger-Davis said.

The mission’s drop-in center currently has 190 beds, Erchinger-Davis said.

Erchinger-Davis’s briefing

comes at a time when the city is still looking for a new site for a 200-bed shelter, which has faced several setbacks.

“Our goal is to create a motivational space for people to take the next steps in life recovery,” Erchinger-Davis said.

In addition to the shelter briefing, the council held a public hearing to consider removing on-street parking on Roeder Avenue and installing bike lanes in its place.

Director of Public Works Ted Carlson gave a presenta-

tion on why Roeder Avenue is a possible site for new bike lanes.

“Whenever we’re resurfacing a street we look to the Bicycle Master Plan to see if there’s an opportunity to provide some sort of bike facility,” Carlson said.

The Bicycle Master Plan was approved in 2014 and aims to create a safe and connected bike system throughout the city, according to the City of Bellingham’s website.

The plan outlines design strategies for potential bikeways, and differentiates between multiple types of bike facilities that can be installed, including buffered bike lanes, bicycle boulevards, shared lane markings and cycle tracks.

The city determined that it is possible to fit bike lanes on Roeder at the cost of the existing on-street parking.

Local residents were largely in favor of the removal of parking and building of bike lanes, and said they will im-

prove the safety of bikers who travel on Roeder Avenue.

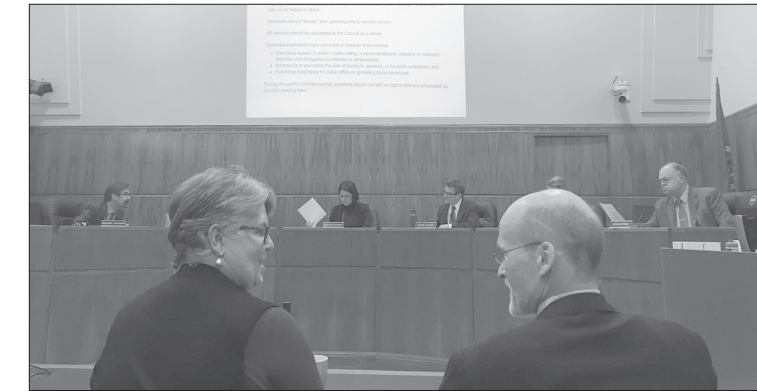
Bellingham resident Galen Herz spent several years biking most places, but now drives.

“As a motorist I support protected bike lanes because I don’t want to kill other human beings with my car,” Herz said.

Residents also talked about how incorporating Roeder Avenue into the Bicycle Master Plan will help open up the waterfront to the public and encourage people to attend events that take place there.

Kristin Noreen is a Cordata resident who rides her bike almost everywhere around town.

“If we’re going to make our waterfront an international showpiece, let’s do it right. The time to make this change is now, before it’s already been done and it becomes a big deal to change it. Let’s do it right the first time,” Noreen said.



Mayor Linville at City Council meeting Monday Feb. 12. // Photo by Zoe Buchli

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# Late Night Shuttle debuts new real-time tracker

Zoe Buchli  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Western students now have access to a real-time tracker app that allows riders to follow the location of the late night shuttle.

The app went live in January and gives students the ability to track the late night shuttle using minute-by-minute updates. The app is called Ride Systems, and it's free for both iPhone and Android users to download.

Its real-time features enable users to pinpoint the shuttle's exact location and estimated time of arrival.

The app immediately pinpoints your location and pulls up a map of shuttles near you. You can search active shuttles, or all shuttles, regardless of if they're active. This makes the service much safer and eliminates students having to wait in the dark for the shuttle to arrive.

When the shuttle is approaching a stop, the app will notify riders that the shuttle is arriving, Student Transportation Program Support Supervisor Kay McMurren said.

The map also shows all the shuttles' locations so students can follow their location even if they aren't arriving at a stop yet.

The shuttle is free to ride for

all students with valid Western ID cards.

Junior Natalie Reeder used the shuttle her freshman year at Western, but stopped using it due to its inaccessibility.

"I'm more likely to Uber since in the Uber app you can see exactly where it is and when it's arriving," Reeder said.

Now, the shuttle will also have this feature, and the app will allow riders to follow the location of the shuttle in the same way Uber riders can follow the location of their car.

Ride Systems also enables riders to see if the shuttle is running late or is canceled for any reason, like ice or snow.

If the service is canceled, students will be notified by the app, and can also check under the "alerts" tab on the right side of the screen, McMurren said.

In addition to improving accessibility, the app also makes traveling on the shuttle safer for its riders.

"It's not safe if you're just sitting there in the dark for 20 minutes having to guess when it gets there, so this is definitely a big safety improvement," Reeder said.

The shuttle has two routes, A and B, which travel in opposite directions of each other throughout

north and south campus, according to the Western Transportation website. Route A departs from the Viking Union and Route B leaves from Haggard Hall. The shuttle operates Monday-Saturday from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., and Sundays from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

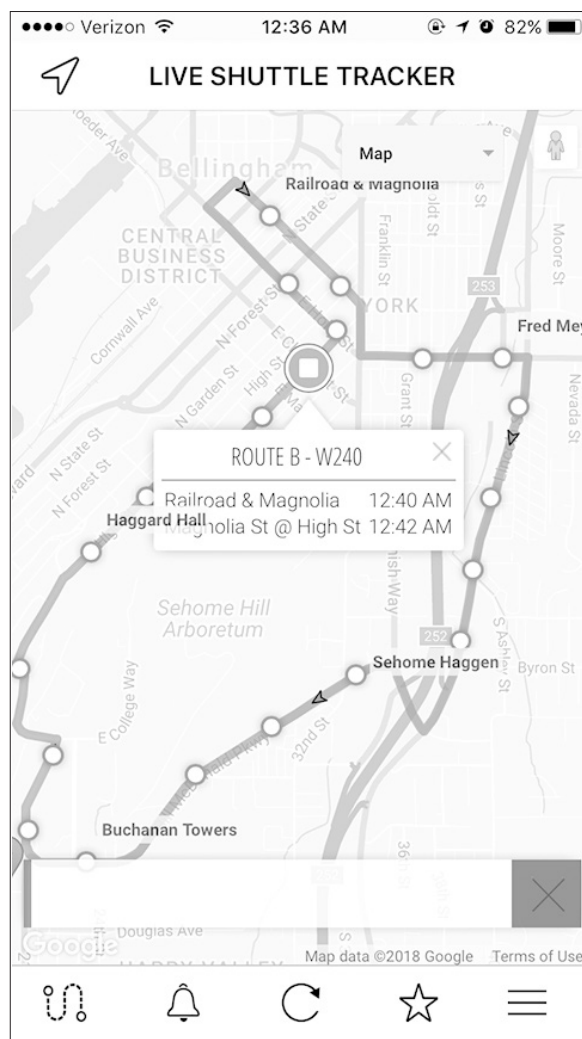
Before the app was introduced, students had to rely on the PDF schedule, which is still available online and in the Western Wheels app.

McMurren said she first learned about these types of systems around four years ago, and decided to use Ride Systems based on its reasonable cost and good product.

"The Ride Systems app costs \$515 per month," McMurren said. "The total late night shuttle expense represents 16-17 percent of the [Student Transportation] program's expenses."

The app and shuttle are funded by the Alternative Transportation Fee, and are a part of the Student Transportation Program, and not in any way affiliated with Whatcom Transportation Authority, McMurren said.

"I think it will definitely start getting used more because of this app, because it's obviously a much cheaper alternative to Uber or Lyft," Reeder said.



Screenshot of the new late night shuttle app. // Photo by Zoe Buchli

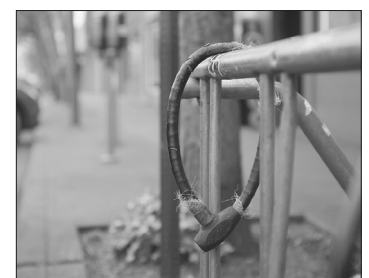
# Bike serial number registration aids in recovery

Carina Andrews  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bicycles can be an easy and lucrative target for thieves looking to make a quick buck, and they are often difficult for their rightful owners to recover when their serial numbers aren't registered.

Skylar Hinkley, a former Western student who works at Kulshan Cycles, is an avid bicyclist.

"I have lived in Bellingham for 10 years, and the rate of bike theft has increased tremendously since then," Hinkley said. "On a regular basis, I'd say at least once a month, I have someone coming in to my store [looking for their lost bike]. And my store is only one of 12 in town."



Broken bike lock on Railroad Avenue. // Photo by Nic Ulmer

Returning stolen bikes to their owners can be difficult, especially when there is no record that relates the serial number of the bike to the

owner. Services such as Project 529 and Bike Index are trying to change that.

**"Be serious about security. Buy a U-lock, buy a lock that is really going to prevent thieves from wanting to steal your bike."**

Skylar Hinkley  
Kulshan Cycles

Hinkley said another reason it is difficult to catch bike thieves because the value of bicycles doesn't result in felony or grand theft charges. However, the issue of bike theft doesn't end with catching the thieves.

Both Project 529 and Bike Index are online resources that allow users to register their bike's serial number to their account. Bellingham uses Project 529 and its database to return recovered bicycles to owners.

According to statistics provided by the Bellingham Police Department in a Face-

book post, 73 percent of bike thefts are reported without a serial number and only 26 percent of all reported bike thefts result in bike recovery.

Project 529 is a for-profit organization that, along with registration, helps users connect and help each other.

"I think Project 529 is a good idea because not only is it registering your bike but it is also creating a network to have more eyes looking for bikes that have gone missing," Hinkley said. "So not only are the police tuned into it, but it is also using other members of 529 to recover stolen bikes."

However, co-founder of Bike Index Bryan Hance believes that Project 529 isn't the best fit for Bellingham and that is why Bellingham is in the process of switching over to Bike Index.

Hance said that Bike Index has been implemented in more bike and pawn shops than Project 529.

Bike Index is a nonprofit organization, opposed to Project 529.

Both Project 529 and Bike Index provide Bellingham bikes with a database to link bikes to their owners.

Charles Davis, a current Western student, had his \$700 bike stolen from his Fairhaven dorm last year.

Davis had not registered his bike and it was never recovered.

"What I learned is that you should register all your bikes no matter how much they cost," Davis said.

Davis said that he thinks the Bellingham Police Department is doing the best job it can in returning bikes to their owners, but that without registration, there isn't much it can do.

Along with registering your bike, Hinkley suggests bike owners take more measures to keep their bikes safe.

"Be serious about secu-



A bike locked to a handrail with no seat off of 21st street. // Photo by Nic Ulmer

rity. Buy a U-lock, buy a lock that is really going to prevent thieves from wanting to steal your bike," Hinkley said.

During Hinkley's 10 years in Bellingham, he said he has never had his bike stolen, which he attributes to where and how he locks it up.

"I always lock my bike up in a lit area in front of a shop that's open. Something that's in a high-traffic zone and with a lock that really has a high level of security," Hinkley said. "I think [bike theft] is really preventable and it starts with bike owners."

# Waterfront's first park to open summer

Western still trying to secure waterfront property, investment opportunity

Drew Stuart  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Bellingham's waterfront district is getting a new lease on life.

The and City of Bellingham are slowly but surely cleaning up the polluted shoreline and are close to completing Waypoint Park, the first new addition to the waterfront.

But with so much work still ahead, it's hard to know what a completed waterfront will look like.

There are currently two designs that Harcourt Developments, the developer in charge of the first step of construction, has proposed.

Both designs were presented to the public at an open house at the Granary Building on Wednesday, Jan. 17. Brian Gouran, the director of environmental programs for the , said they received useful feedback from the event.

"People seem to be leaning more toward the Waypoint design," Gouran said. He continued by saying that several employees at the felt similarly.

Paul Cocke, director of communications for Western, said in an email that Western has plans to build on the waterfront.

"Western continues to believe that the waterfront district holds great promise," Cocke said in an email.

development entity created by the and Western to sell this piece of land, which would afford Western additional cash for waterfront development.

Western previously requested \$4.5 million from the state to acquire water-

Bellingham Technical College's Technology Development Center has been open on the waterfront for nearly a decade.

There are already a handful of businesses on the waterfront. All American Marine, an aluminum boat

as the coffee shops and retail businesses that Bellingham is known for.

Sundin also said housing on the waterfront will largely consist of condos that will spark a return on investment, but at least 10 percent of residences will be affordable housing.

The expected completion of redevelopment is tentative at best, Gouran said. Cleaning up the waterfront after a century of industrial pollution has proved challenging for the .

"We've run into some complications along the way. One was the Whatcom Waterway cleanup [...] one of the biggest projects the has ever undertaken besides building the air," Gouran said.

The process of cleaning up the waterway cost \$35 million, and had to be constantly re-evaluated until cleanup was proven successful.

Economic development isn't set in stone either. Gouran said Harcourt is contracted to develop the first 20 acres of the project, including remodeling the Granary building, constructing residential units and a proposed waterfront hotel. However, after these are finished, other businesses will determine the pace of redevelopment.

"It's going to be partially driven by the market," Gouran said.

Still, Bellingham will see the first area of the waterfront, Waypoint Park, open in a few months. Annie Waddell, a Western student working in Bellingham's Parks and Recreation Department, said she's excited for the opening.

"I think everybody is going to be able to enjoy it," Waddell said. "It's really gonna flow with the feeling of Bellingham."



Graphic rendering of one of the proposed developments to Bellingham's waterfront district. // Photo courtesy of the Port of Bellingham

He explained that Western wants to develop on the waterfront, and is currently selling a plot of land at the intersection of Hannegan Road and Bakerview Road through Western Crossing Development.

Western Crossing is a de-

velopment property in its 2017-19 operating budget. This request, however, did not make it into the final version of Western's operating budget.

This wouldn't be Western's first venture on the waterfront. Western and

manufacturer, moved into its new waterfront facility last year, and brought over 100 people from its Fairhaven location, according to Gouran. Additionally, solar panel manufacturer Itek Energy recently moved into their waterfront factory on Cornwall Avenue, allowing them to expand their environmentally-friendly business.

In the future, Bellingham can expect a mixture of businesses to populate the developing waterfront district. According to the sub-area plan by the and city, the vision for the waterfront is one that encourages marine commerce and shipping, office spaces, small businesses and housing, all without the need for a car.

Tara Sundin, the community and economic development manager for the city, said she's hoping for an increased presence of tech-related businesses, as well



Aerial photo of the waterfront redevelopment. // Photo courtesy of the Port of Bellingham

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Photo courtesy of Randy Le

# Escape through breakdancing

Western student on using breakdancing to escape gang affiliations in his hometown. Now he's brought breakdancing to Woodring.

**Ricky Rath**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

It's April 2007 and tensions between gangs at Pasco High School are high. Word around school is students are joining a pact to wear red the next day to represent a local gang.

Fourteen-year-old freshman Randy Le doesn't want to get involved, but his friends suggest he join the pact to look cool.

Le goes along with his friends and leaves home with a red shirt to fit in. As he arrives to school, he hears that some students are being suspended for participating in the pact. Le immediately takes off his red shirt and changes into another one he brought with him.

Le realized how close he was to making a mistake that would have impacted his future.

As a Vietnamese American and first-generation student, Le is now a

senior at Western who brings his passion for breakdancing to Woodring College of Education and the Bellingham community.

Le grew up in Pasco, Washington, a city 300 miles south of Bellingham that has a large gang presence.

A 2015 study by Charles Katz, a national expert on gangs from Arizona State University, found that Tri-Cities was home to at least 25 violent gangs and more than a thousand gang members, The Tri-City Herald reported. The study found that Pasco has the highest risk for gang-related issues in the Tri-City area.

Throughout middle and high school, Le said student gang affiliations were common. The Tri-City Herald said that Pasco High School reported 61 known gang members in 2015, and that schools in the Tri-Cities often had a "particularly aggressive" approach to these students, oftentimes

expelling them.

Holy Chea, former assistant program manager at Northwest Leadership Foundation, who helps guide Southeast Asian at-risk youth, said the pressure of fitting in leads many young

He gathered a group of kids who were interested and they began learning through mentors and Youtube.

The countless hours of practicing and competing left him with bruises, scars and rug burns, and it eventually took a toll on his body senior year.

Le was practicing head spins and his knee shifted sideways. He tore his medial collateral ligament, but kept practicing until he finally realized he was causing long-term damage to his knee.

"As a passionate dancer, I could not control myself from resting. I always pushed myself even with a minor injury. I was kind of stubborn but today, I know when to take breaks," Le said.

After two years of hitting windmills and top-rocking in high school, Le was faced with the question of what he would do after graduation.

As Le thought about his options, he began to develop a passion for math and teaching.

"After school, I would go to the freshman class and start tutoring students because I had so much free time," Le said.

He decided to attend Western for its reputation for teaching programs, but it was his other passion that drove him to confirm his decision, Le said. "My dancing guided me to Western," Le said.

Fast forward four years later, Le is performing in dozens of competitions and shows while a full-time student.

Read the full story at [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

**"It was my escape to step away from all of the stress and conflict in my life."**

**Randy Le**  
Western student

teens into joining gangs.

This was the pressure Le faced in high school.

"It wasn't about the gangs, it was more about fitting in and trying to be a part of the popular kids' group," Le said.

He began learning to breakdance during sophomore year of high school through his brother's best friend. After Le invested more time into breakdancing, he developed a conflict between his friends and his new hobby.

"I had to make a decision. It's either sacrifice a hobby to be popular or pursue something and hope for a better outcome from it," Le said.

As Le began to practice four to six hours a day, his passion grew and formed a community of breakdancers.

"We basically breathed, slept and thought about breakdancing 24/7," Le said. "It was my escape to step away from all of the stress and conflict in my life."

The breakdance community in Pasco was small and Le said he was part of a rising generation in the community.



Randy Le mid-practice in Miller Hall. // Photo by Ricky Rath

# Western's black community celebrates blackness through art

Faculty, students and staff organize first Black History Month event at Western in a decade

**Jack Taylor**  
**Rahwa Hailemariam**  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Despite obstacles, Western faculty and students put on a two-day event honoring black history and culture through art.

The event began Friday night with the unveiling of the art exhibition, followed by "The African Diaspora Fashion Walk," the Black National Anthem and a participatory workshop to reflect on the hardships of African slaves.

Early Saturday morning, artists and curators from around the country came to Western to talk about the importance of recognizing black art.

Even though the turnout was successful, planning and getting the funds for this event was challenging, according to the organizers.

Karen McLean Dade, professor of secondary education at Woodring College, was on research sabbatical leave, but she still worked with students and faculty to make sure there would be recognition of Black History Month at Western this year.

Since there was no allocated money set aside for them, they had to gather funds themselves in order to make this event happen, said Shanean Walter-Edwards, president of the African Caribbean Club.

The event was funded by the Doug Dreier Family, as well as through collaboration with University Residence Life, Enrollment and Student Services, Woodring College of Education, the WWU Diversity Fund and several other Western programs.

Part of the summit was initially going to be held in the Viking Union Gallery, but due to construction

preparation in the VU, it had to relocate for a large part of the Saturday event.

The art exhibit was held in the Performing Arts Center's main lobby and the Saturday program was held in the Wilson Library.

Additional costs for staffing, equipment, transport services and creating a gallery space out of the library and PAC was a challenge, Dade said.

"The planning committee very much appreciated those units and programs that helped make it all

"Coming here and hearing things like, 'We love diversity,' but seeing the lack of support for our events is just discouraging."

**Abdul-Malik Ford**  
Black Student Union president

possible," Dade said.

On top of little funding, Edwards said there was very little promotion for the event.

"The program itself was not advertised, and I think that was partially because we did not have enough money," Edwards said.

Abdul-Malik Ford, president of the Black Student Union and emcee of the summit, said he was shocked at how difficult it was to put on this event, considering the emphasis on diversity on campus.

"Coming here and hearing things like, 'We love diversity,' but seeing the lack of support for our events is just discouraging," Ford said.

Ford said there's been a decade-long absence of a prominent black history month event occurring on campus. This was pointed out in the opening remarks by many fac-

ulty and staff, including Counseling Center Director Shari Robinson.

Not having seen a Black History Month program in her three years of being at Western, Robinson acknowledged that her peers, Kunle Ojikutu, the assistant vice president for Enrollment and Student Services, and Dade, who both have been at Western longer, have also not seen an event held in their time.

Despite little promotion, many people showed up to the event eager to learn about and celebrate black art.

Having the arts featured as the focus of the program helped showcase the importance of art in learning.

"It is one of the very first things cut out of any program, especially in K-12. So that tells us it does not mean much to people, when in fact, it is an integral component of learning," Dade said.

People learn in ways other than just linearly and analytically, Dade said.

"Look at how many things we have talked about. Sensitive subjects around race, mass incarceration, but we are doing it through art and people feel a little more comfortable in that creative space," Dade said.

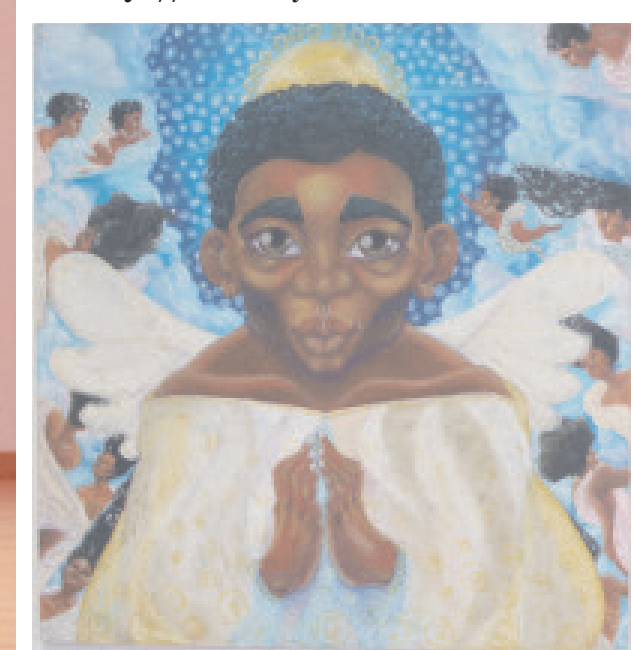
The legacy of black art was at the forefront of discussion during the panel on Saturday. Nyanda Donaldson, Dade's daughter, was one of the four panelists.

Donaldson, who owns galleries with her husband in Los Angeles and New York, said she thinks artists should not feel afraid to challenge themselves in their art during the first panel.

Read the full story at [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)



Photos on the left: Performers and speakers at the Black History Month Summit on Friday. // Photos by Nic Ulmer  
Photo below: "Cherub" an artwork by Johnnae McDaniels hangs in the PAC during the Black History Summit on Sunday. // Photo by October Yates



# What's happening this weekend?

## Friday

**Valentines Day Public Skate**  
**Bellingham Sportsplex**  
 (1225 Civic Field Way)  
 7 p.m.  
 \$6 Adults and \$5 Youth

"The exhibitions are an opportunity to showcase some of the skaters in our Learn to Skate Academy and give the community a chance to enjoy the performance and then skate with friends and family afterwards."

Keri Ferguson, Skating Academy Director



Photo courtesy of Bellingham Sportsplex

**Kristin Allen-Zito, The Mountain Flowers, Karl Blau**

The Shakedown (1212 N State St.)  
 Doors open 8 p.m. Music at 9 p.m.

\$7 - 21+

Musical artist Kristin Allen-Zito will be performing along with The Mountain Flowers and Karl Blau at The Shakedown.

**Couples Bouldering Competition**  
**Vital Climbing Gym Competition**

1421 N State St.  
 5-9 p.m.

\$20 for members, \$25 non-members  
 Vital Climbing Gym is celebrating Valentine's Day with a climbing competition involving teams of two. Sign ups are online or in the gym.

## Saturday

**NSEA Community Work Party**  
 Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association  
 (3057 E Bakerview Rd.)  
 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Free — All Ages (Liability Release form for under 18)  
 Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association is organizing a work party to restoring salmon habitat at Squalicum Creek. Community members are welcome to help pull out invasive plants, and plant new native trees. Snacks and coffee will be provided. A shuttle will be provided at the Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association building to Squalicum Creek.

**Men's Basketball vs. Alaska Fairbanks**  
 Carver Gym  
 3-5 p.m.

\$5 Students \$10 Non-Students  
 WWU Men's basketball team will take on Alaska Fairbanks for their last seasonal home game of the year in Carver Gym. The basketball team will also be celebrating senior night.

**The Dawn Bombs, Joseph Hein, Shimmertraps**

Alternative Library (519 E Maple St.)  
 7:30-11:30 p.m.

\$5

Local band The Dawn Bombs will be playing with Shimmertraps and Joseph Hein at the Alternative Library.

**Staged Reading of Circle Mirror Transformation**

Sylvia Center for the Arts (205 Prospect St.)  
 7:30 p.m.

\$5

Directed by Western professor Rich Brown, the second of three Annie Baker plays will be stage-read at Sylvia Center for the Arts.

Events compiled by Isa Kaufman-Geballe

## Sunday

**Chinese New Year Celebration**  
 WWU Performing Art Center  
 2-5 p.m.  
 \$8 Students \$15 Non-Students

Northwest Chinese Cultural Association is celebrating the Year of the Dog with Chinese music, lion dances, calligraphy demonstrations and martial arts.

**Hip-Hop Dance Workshop**  
 ABCDance Bellingham (1844 N State St)  
 Noon-3:30 p.m.

\$5 for class #1 and 2, \$10 for class #3

Western's Hip-Hop Dance Team has put together a hip-hop dance workshop open to students and overall Bellingham community. Classes for intermediate and advanced level will be offered at the ABCDance studio.



**"Black Code" Film Screening**

Fairhaven College  
 7-9 p.m.  
 Free

Bellingham Human Rights Film Festival will be screening Black Code, a documentary that takes an in-depth look at the internet's influence on privacy, free speech and activism.

## FRONTLINE

Opinions of the Editorial Board

### Lack of funding for critical resources failing students

College can be an extremely stressful environment, and the severe underfunding of vital resources on campus exacerbates the stress students are already feeling. Whether it's getting an appointment at the Counseling Center in a timely manner or graduating on time in the face of extreme bottlenecks, students are unable to get their needs met.

In-state tuition and fees are around \$8,000 a year, and for out-of-state students, it's around \$22,000 a year. A dorm room and meal plan adds on an extra \$10,000. With these exorbitant costs, students should be receiving the resources they need.

Western's most critical services continue to be underfunded. Essential needs, such as the Counseling Center, Health Center and disAbility Resources Center, lack adequate funding and square footage. Attempts to alleviate this issue have still left gaps in funding, leaving some students unable to access the services they need to be successful.

Increased funding needs to come from the legislature, but Western also needs to address institutional issues affecting students' access to resources.

#### Counseling Center

A lack of resources for the Counseling Center means students have to wait up to two weeks before having an initial assessment from a counselor.

If Western increased its number of counselors to 14, the student-to-clinical staff ratio would allow for students to be seen within five days, and the average number of sessions could increase to six, Counseling Center Director Shari Robinson said. This would cut down on lengthy appointment wait times and create more opportunities for students to access counseling.

Robinson has also expressed concerns with a lack of diversity on the

Counseling Center staff.

While funding is largely dependent on the legislature, some of the issues related to providing mental health support to students is institutional.

"Western is a difficult university to recruit and retain faculty and staff of color," Robinson said, calling the issue systemic.

#### Health Center

Although the Health Center received a fee increase this year for staff salaries and part-time pay, it still struggles with understaffing, resulting in overworked healthcare providers. This is especially critical during this time of the year, when a debilitating flu season can cause appointment times to overlap, and the staff is often working past their expected hours to meet high student demand.

#### disAbility Resources Center

The disAbility Resources Center suffers from understaffing, as the center does not have the state-mandated five counselors it needs to match Western's size. Right now, it only has two, which is not nearly enough to keep up with the current student demand. It's also squeezed into Old Main, with space for only three offices, a common reception room and a testing center.

#### Limits on class sizes

A common complaint among students is not being able to get into a class for their major. Overcrowded classrooms and endless waitlists have become the norm in some programs. This is proven to be especially true in Western's STEM fields, but it is also a problem in other programs.

Western has made addressing bottlenecks in STEM a priority this legislative session. We are hopeful the issue will be addressed for STEM programs, but also for other in-demand programs throughout campus.

#### The small things count too

With students paying around \$20,000-\$34,000 annually for tuition, fees and housing, the small things count too, like having to put up with routine building disrepair and fighting to find an available parking spot in Western's Hunger Games-inspired C-lots.

Ninety-five percent of the buildings within campus housing are at least 50 years old, resulting in failing mechanical parts and costly repairs. The 60-year-old Edens North became famous in winter 2016, when students had to shower in cold water for over a month. The Fairhaven stacks and Mathes Hall have experienced flooding in the past year. And it's not an uncommon occurrence for people living in Birnam Wood to find mice in their rooms, which the Front has both heard from students and seen in university maintenance requests.

#### The road to funding

The long-needed expansion of the Ethnic Student Center and Resource and Outreach Programs offices is one step forward in adapting to student growth and needs. However, the majority of the funding for the Multicultural Center project comes from student fees.

Obtaining more funding, especially at the university level, is never an easy process. And while it's easy to critique Western's allocation of funds, a lot of the burden falls on the legislature. Western has asked the legislature time and time again to address the funding gaps that exist for critical student services. The mental and physical health of students are non-negotiables and necessary for student health, success and retention. It's not enough to merely look at decreasing tuition; once students come to Western, they should be able to access the services needed to keep them here.

*Western's vital resources are severely underfunded and understaffed. More funding is needed, but The Western Front would like to acknowledge and show appreciation for the counselors, doctors and all others who work more than they should have to in support of students. These people often work long hours, and as many of them are salaried, do not receive additional pay for the extra hours required to meet high student demand. They contribute to the well-being of Western's student body in ways that are essential to student success and retention, despite the unfair lack of resources.*

For the full opinion piece and to see past coverage, visit [westernfrontonline.com](http://westernfrontonline.com)

The Western Front Editorial Board is composed of Kira Erickson, Asia Fields and Melissa McCarthy.

## Viking Voices

What resources at Western do you think need more funding?



**Natasha Motley**  
 Senior, economics

"Counseling. I've been to them a few times and I feel like they could definitely use more funding to have more opportunities for people to know about what they do."



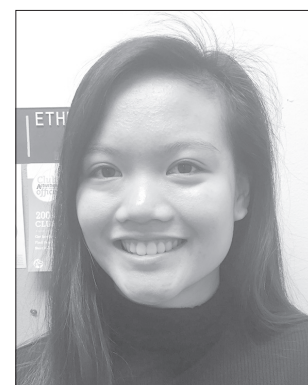
**Patricia Anyango**  
 Senior, communication sciences and disorders

"The ESC for sure. I think that there could be more funding for retreats and the space in general, which is okay because they're building the new space, but for the time being I feel like there's so many of us. If you think about, there's like 17 clubs and 30 people in each club, there is not enough space in this small space."



**Island Icolucci**  
 Freshman, undecided

"I haven't really gotten full use of all the resources yet. Maybe we need more information on what's available."



**Samantha Luong**  
 Junior, undecided

"Probably the Ethnic Student Center, a lot of people don't know about it, especially the ethnic students... Maybe advising should be more funded. A lot of people are lost around classes or what to sign up for and I feel like if advising had more time slots and more staff they'd be able to help us."

Compiled by Erica Wilkins

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# Succeeding with player-coaches

Western women's lacrosse finished 15th in the nation in 2017 – while coaching themselves

Aaron Gillis  
THE WESTERN FRONT

Last year, the Western women's lacrosse team made it to nationals. This year, they don't expect anything less. The Vikings finished last season with a 14-3 record, winning the Northwest Women's Lacrosse League for the second time in three years and finishing 15th in the nation in the Women's Collegiate Lacrosse Association national tournament.

This season, they look to improve on that.

The seniors have formed a tight-knit group over the years and are ready to "go out with a bang," senior co-captain Amelia Chirichigno said.

"We're bringing everything we've got this year," Chirichigno said. "I think all the other players are feeling that energy, and our practices so far this quarter have just been super high focus and intensity."

All practices are run by the players and they coach the team themselves instead of hiring a separate coach.

Senior co-captain Sarah Wyrick, who was a second team All-American selection in 2017, has high hopes for the upcoming season.

"Our team's goal is to make it to nationals for the second year in a row," Wyrick said. "With that goal in mind,



Senior Amelia Chirichigno in the first half of the Vikings' 11-10 win over Oregon State on Saturday. // Photo by Nic Ulmer

we want to maintain positive, fun and focused attitudes throughout the season."

Wyrick said last season's success brings up difficulties for this one.

"A big challenge for the team is remaining determined throughout our long season," Wyrick said. "Since we

won regionals and went to nationals last year, we know teams are looking to beat us."

Senior co-captain Amanda McKay said the team will look different than a year ago, most notably with the loss of goalie Sheri McCarty, who was an All-Tournament selection at nationals

in 2017. Additions of four freshmen and a few transfers will play a factor in the team's dynamic, McKay said.

"We have a lot of new players this year," McKay said. "I am extremely excited to see them play this season because they all have amazing potential."

Chirichigno said she's also impressed with the new players already.

"Sometimes it takes freshmen a while to open up," Chirichigno said. "But these players are already giving us seniors some sass. I love it."

Team chemistry takes time to build, as players have to learn the system and how to play with each other, Chirichigno said.

"This year we're developing almost a brand new defensive line, and already tremendous progress has been made with the rookies," Chirichigno said.

The team wrapped up a home tournament this past weekend, going 2-1.

"We are excited to get as many fans as possible out there supporting us," McKay said. "I'm very excited to just have fun playing the sport that I love with some of my closest friends."

The Vikings next home tournament is April 14 and 15 at the Wade King Student Recreation Turf Field.

# Redemption year for men's lacrosse

A revamped men's team looks to rebound by adopting new coach's play-to-win mentality

Galen Gemperline  
THE WESTERN FRONT

After four months of practice with new head coach Coady Adamson, Western men's lacrosse team is hopeful and excited for the upcoming season. This year, they're going to implement a more aware and team-oriented style of play.

Adamson took over the head coaching position at the beginning of fall practices. He is a former collegiate All-American, as well as an indoor player for several teams in the Western Lacrosse Association in British Columbia.

"He brings quite a bit of experience," senior co-captain Tanner Amell said. "And a more current style of play. He knows the techniques that have been working best recently."

Along with new styles of play, Adamson brings a win-first mentality to the team.

"It goes without saying, we're always thinking of playoffs," Adamson said. "Winning side of the ball, winning record, winning season, always keeping playoffs in the back of the mind. If we're not thinking playoffs, we're not really playing at all."

After finishing last season with



The 2018 Western men's lacrosse team after a January practice at the Wade King Student Recreation Turf Field. // Photo courtesy of Western men's lacrosse

a 3-3 record and 1-3 in conference play, this year's team is looking to turn that around and has adopted the play-to-win attitude of their coach.

"This is kind of a redemption year for us," Amell said. "Last year was unfortunately cut a little short. We want to make it back to conference finals and win those."

As a defender, Amell is striving to lead the team in forced turnovers and ground balls. Efforts like that

are what the team is looking for out of its veteran defense.

For a successful season, the lacrosse team will need its defense to set the standard.

"They're going to be the leaders for sure," Adamson said. "Our offensive, our IQ, ball movement and field awareness isn't there yet. It's nothing that can't be taught, there are just bad habits that need to be tweaked."

Having a strong defense is an im-

portant part of this year's strategy that involves a collective team effort.

"We've set the team up for a more structured approach, where everyone has to touch the ball, versus a couple superstars," junior co-captain Benjamin Cole said.

Last year, 57 percent of the team's goals came their two star attackers, Tate Brumsickle and Joe Finnell, both of whom graduated. This leaves Cole as the team's highest-returning scorer.

"I've been blessed in the past with some amazing teammates and have just been able to feed them the ball," Cole said. "But this year, I'm looking to step up, score more and make things happen off the ball."

Joe Finnell, who has returned as an assistant coach for the 2018 season, hopes Dominick Lopes, Elliot McIntyre and Marcus Capidilli will step up in the midfield and attack positions, joining Cole to create dangerous offense, while maintaining a strong defense that can help lead the team.

"This is the year of seeing who is going to step up," Adamson said. "Nothing is really set in stone in terms of offense. It's kind of an open door for whoever is going to step up."

# Men's baseball looks to ride pitching staff to national stage

Vikings aim high after getting ousted at regionals three years in a row

Galen Gemperline  
THE WESTERN FRONT

If there's something the players of Western's baseball team know all too well, it's the consequence of losing a game at the wrong time.

One lost game at the regional championships in three of the last four years is all that's been stopping Western men's baseball team from playing in the national championships.

But the veteran squad looks to capitalize on the combined skills of its returning players this season, player-coach Ethan Weller said.

"Three quarters of the team is back this year and have been to regionals," Weller said. "So we have the experience."

Fifteen of the 21 players on the roster are returning from last year's team.

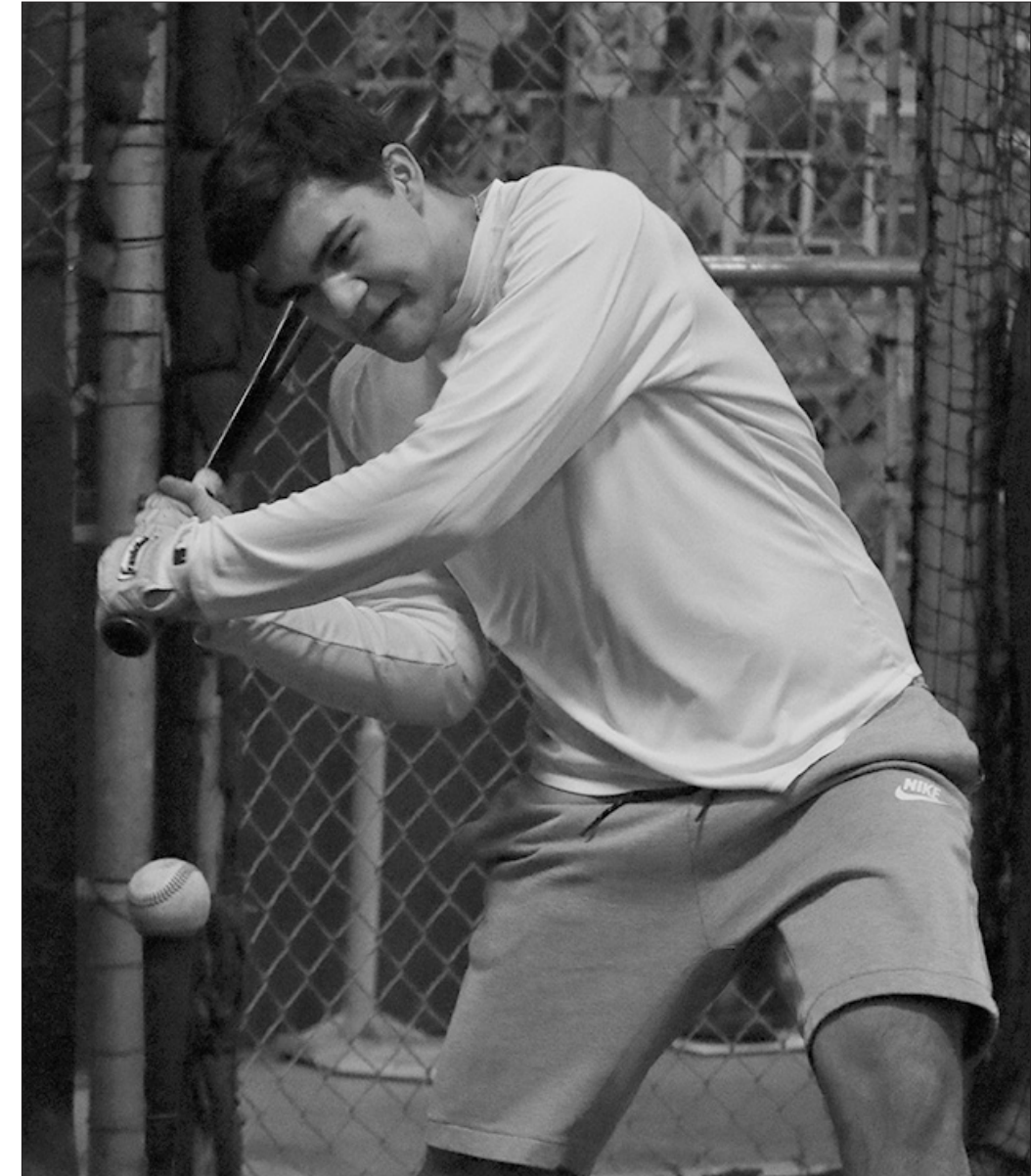
They all know what it takes to get to regionals and are ready to take the next step that will place them in Cary, North Carolina for the national championships, Weller said.

The last time Western made it to the national championships was in 2013, one year before Weller and the team's seniors joined.

However, four years of playing on a team with the expectation to move on to nationals and play for a title has left them hungry for this season.

"Going to nationals would be a huge feat, and I would be perfectly happy with that," Weller said. "But to win nationals is definitely the dream."

Making it to nationals means playing four nine-inning games in three days.



Western's freshman third baseman Keoni Terrana hitting off a tee in the batting cage during practice on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at Inside Pitch. // Photo by Taylor Nichols

This is almost twice as much as they play in regular season tournaments, and only happens at regionals.

"We [have] a shortage of pitchers and usually lose a little bit of energy in the last game," Weller said.

This year, the team has extra help in the bullpen with 11 capable pitchers, opposed to the seven they had last year.

"We have a very deep pitching staff with three senior starters and more guys ready to fill in behind

them," pitching coach Caleb Wallen said.

Good pitching is a key aspect of a successful team, but pitching has to be combined with consistent fielding to stop opposing offenses, Wallen said.

"Our defense last year was sometimes a little off. If we can fine-tune some of those defensive things we should be good, because I know we can pitch and we can hit," player-coach Michael Heath said.

The team is still sorting out where everyone will be positioned for the upcoming season after losing some key components in the field.

"Kyle Pegram was our shortstop last year, he was a fifth-year guy, so now we're looking for someone to fill in the shortstop role," Wallen said. "But we're loaded with seniors at first, second and third base."

Having a deep pitching group should help the team in the second half of a season that consists of 20-25 games, with some long road trips to Idaho and Oregon.

Long road trips are tough on teams because the players typically have to miss a day of school for travel and then play three seven-inning games in one stretch, Weller said.

But the captains don't worry too much about the team's attitude toward playing on the road, Heath said.

"My favorite part of this team is the whole environment," Heath said. "I know we're a good group of guys. We have a relaxed environment, but we all still get in to practice and like to put up [wins]."

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HEAD THE WESTERN FRONT

# SPORTS ROUNDUP

Women's and men's track runners break into Western top-10 record books; Gracie Castaneda scores career high as women's basketball moves to sixth place; and men's basketball secures GNAC tourney berth

## Aaron Gillis

THE WESTERN FRONT

### Women's Basketball

The women's basketball team went 1-1 this past week with a win over Saint Martin's and a loss to Seattle Pacific. The Vikings are 11-13 overall and 7-9 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, holding down the sixth and final spot in the GNAC championships with four regular season games remaining.

The Vikings took down Saint Martin's University 79-51 on Thursday, Feb. 8, at Sam Carver Gymnasium. Sophomore Anna Schwecke scored 13 points to lead the Vikings, and sophomore Dani Iwami, freshman Gracie Castaneda and freshman Emma Duff all added 12 points each.

The Vikings then lost a hard-fought game against Seattle Pacific 80-62 at Brougham Pavilion in Seattle on Saturday, Feb. 10. Gracie Castaneda scored a career-high 21 points, including 5-for-6 from long range to lead the Vikings. Hannah Stipanovich and Kelsey Rogers also scored in double figures with 12 points each.

The Vikings have their final homestand on Thursday and Saturday. Western takes on Central Washington on Thursday at 5:15 p.m., and Northwest Nazarene on Saturday at 7 p.m., both at home.

### Men's basketball:

The men's basketball team gathered two wins last week to boost their record to 18-6 overall and 13-3 in the GNAC.

The Vikings are currently in second place in the GNAC with four regular season games left.

The Vikings beat Simon Fraser University 86-64 on Tuesday, Feb. 6, at Carver Gym. Senior Deandre Dickson and sophomore Daulton Hommes both had 15 points to lead the Vikings, and junior Trey Drechsel added 13.



The Vikings then beat Montana State Billings 91-65 on Thursday, Feb. 8, to win their third straight game and seal a berth in the GNAC tournament.

Sophomore Trevor Jasinsky scored a career-high 23 points to lead the Vikings to victory.

The team has its final homestand on Thursday and Saturday. The Vikings took the floor on Thursday against Alaska Anchorage at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday at 3 p.m. against Alaska Fairbanks.

### Track and field

The Vikings Track and Field program traveled to the Husky Classic on Feb. 10 and 11, then competed in the UW Indoor Open on Feb. 11, both in Seattle this past weekend.

## Husky Classic

### Women's:

Sophomore Hannah Bradley ran a 25.96 in the 200-meter dash, placing 22nd and seventh in Western top-10 history. Sophomore Emily Sytsma ran a 26.02 in the same event, placing 23rd overall and ninth in Western history.

The women's 4x400m relay, consisting of freshman Isabella Foos, junior Savanna Smith, senior Deja Svastisalee and Emily Sytsma finished in 3:57.88, placing 13th overall and sixth in Western top-10 history.

### Men's:

The men's 4x400m relay, consisting of freshman Bryant Welch, junior Reid Lovercamp, sophomore Cordell



## UW Indoor Open

### Women's:

In the 800-meter run, freshman Shawnee Konrad ran a 2:23.25, finishing 21st overall and seventh in Western history.

Freshman Jane Barr ran the mile in 5:09.14, placing 15th overall and ninth in Western history.

Freshman Claire Hansen ran a 9.14 in the 60-meter hurdles, placing sixth overall and third in Western top-10 history.

Freshman Hannah Dodson cleared 3.39 meters in the pole vault, placing 23rd overall and 10th in Western history.

### Men's:

Junior J.T. Konrad cleared 4.73 meters in the pole vault, tying for sixth overall and reaching the NCAA II provisional-qualifying mark, securing his spot in nationals.

Garrett Davies and Tupre Wickliff placed eighth and ninth in the high jump with leaps of 1.9 meters.

Ben Malquist finished eighth in the shot put at 14.73 meters.

### Next meet:

The Viking men and women next compete in the GNAC Championships Feb. 16 and 17 at Jacksons Indoor Complex, hosted by Northwest Nazarene University, in Nampa, Idaho. Field events begin at 10 a.m. and running events start at 11 a.m.

**Photos: Left, Gracie Castaneda goes for a layup against Western Oregon in the Vikings' 66-46 win on Feb. 1. // Photo by Nic Ulmer. Right, Trey Drechsel surveys the court during Western's 92-88 loss against Seattle Pacific on Jan. 27 at home. // Photo by October Yates.**

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