



Celebrating the Campus School at Western, 1899-1967

# The Campus Schooler

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2010

[www.thecampusschool.com](http://www.thecampusschool.com)

## A Letter from Your Editor

Dear Campus Schoolers,  
I make this unaccustomed appearance on the front page to let you know that this will be my last *Schooler*. After fifteen issues since 2006, I am hanging up my editor's eyeshade following retirement in July from the faculty of the WWU Libraries.

It has been my privilege to create this newsletter for you these past four years. You have been marvelously supportive of all our efforts to commemorate the Campus School and I have treasured your contributions to and your warm appreciation of *The Schooler*.

Through this newsletter, as well as through the museum exhibit and fantastic reunion in 2007, I feel I have virtually lived the Campus School experience and have had a simply wonderful time doing so.

*The Schooler* may go on; we shall see. Meanwhile, I thank you for your generosity, your many kindnesses, and for loving this little effort on your behalf.

With all best wishes,

*Marian*

## *The Heritage Continues*

### 2010/11 Campus School Legacy Scholarships Awarded

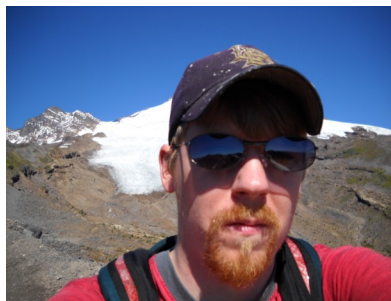
*The Schooler* is honored to introduce the exceptional recipients of the 2010/11 Campus School Legacy Scholarship.

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, the second oldest of ten children, **Yelena Davidenko** has overcome remarkable challenges. Totally blind since extensive cranial surgery, she has mastered English, Braille, and mobility and computer skills with extraordinary dedication and perseverance, earning the admiration and accolades of professors and practitioners alike. "I will not let anything stop me from becoming a teacher," Yelena writes, "a profession for which I was born."



After completing her student teaching this year, Yelena plans to enroll in a Master's program at Portland State University that prepares teachers of the visually impaired.

**Anthony J. Holm** was born and raised in the small town of Onalaska, in southwest Washington State. Homeschooled from seventh grade through high school, Anthony earned a GED followed



by an AA degree at Centralia College and was admitted to Western with honors in 2007. Lauded by his teachers as genuinely dedicated to learning and wholeheartedly committed to teaching, Anthony's principal goal is to return to Lewis County to teach American and Washington State history to middle or high school students. He

also hopes to resume coaching baseball, which he enjoyed as a Babe Ruth League and high school team volunteer.

Thanks to your support of the Legacy Scholarship, Yelena and Anthony can focus their attention on their student teaching rather than on making ends meet. To contribute to the Scholarship fund in support of outstanding future teachers like Yelena and Anthony, contact the WWU Foundation at 360-650-3027 or by email:

Foundation@wwu.edu. Do it now! ■

# Remembering May Mead, RN



Many Campus Schoolers fondly recall May Mead, who served as the school's nurse until 1947. But most probably do not know that her retirement that year culminated more than 30 years of service to Western, only a small number of which were devoted to tending the runny noses and skinned shins of little Schoolers.

Born Mary Alice Mead in Leota, Kansas, on July 13, 1888, May Mead grew up in Blaine, where her father Albert served as mayor, state legislative representative, and county prosecutor prior to his election as the fifth governor (1905-09) of Washington State. In 1909, May enrolled as a nursing student at the Northwest Sanitarium in Port Townsend, reputed at the time to be the state's largest private hospital outside of Seattle

In 1914, May was appointed to the faculty of the State Normal School in Bellingham as School Nurse. One of her principal duties was to conduct a physical examination of each entering student, a requirement mandated since 1911. In 1923, an infirmary "under the direction of the school nurse" was established within the new Edens Hall, the dormitory still standing just northwest of Old Main. At the same time, a "hospital" for emergencies and the housing of students with communicable diseases was

established south of Old Main, just beyond where the Campus School building was eventually constructed. It seems certain that Nurse Mead spent much of her time there as well.

In addition to her ongoing responsibilities, May Mead served as Acting Dean of Women and as a teacher, and was known to call upon and tend to sick students in their homes "with indiscriminate yet personal affection for all," according to a fellow faculty member. She also served as an officer of the Washington State Association of Public Health Nurses.

Both the Edens Hall infirmary and the campus hospital closed in or around 1942 (the hospital building was later demolished). As a "Health Suite" had been created in the new Campus School building, occupied that year, it is likely that May Mead took up her assignment as Campus School Nurse at that time.

After retiring in 1947, she continued to live in Bellingham, where she died on January 8, 1949. "No one who ever met Miss Mead could have failed to be impressed by her beauty and charm. Her white uniform was not only the symbol of her profession but ... a genuine reflection of her character and personality," wrote her colleague, Prof. Albert Van Aver. Mary Alice "May" Mead, RN, is buried beside her parents and siblings in Bellingham's Bayview Cemetery, a few miles from the campus she served so devotedly for so long. ■



May Mead in 1919 and, above, in 1947



## Editor's Photo Pick

The image collection accessible from *The Campus School at Western* website has been great fun to assemble. One of this editor's favorite pictures is the one above, taken in 1947. I love the twirling girl on the left, the topsy-turvy one below, and, as who could not, the grimacing boy mid-picture. Most of all, though, I love Miss Weythman, sailing serenely above it all, unperturbed by the chaos reigning all around.

By summer's end, the website will include images from the 1920s, and sometime thereafter, photos taking the story back to the school's origins in 1899. Keep checking for new additions, and keep on enjoying! — MA ■

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Marian Alexander, Editor  
360-650-3283  
Marian.Alexander@wwu.edu

Inquires, comments, etc., to:  
*The Campus Schooler*  
WWU Libraries  
Special Collections, MS-9103  
516 High St.  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
(or, send email to the Editor)

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