MAY 2011 ISSUE

Dear Center for,

A few weeks ago was WWU’s annual Homecoming Weekend. Almost 1,000 alumni descended upon the campus to reconnect with old friends and relive their college days. Read about the weekend’s events on our website and view over 200 photos on our Flickr feed. Some of the major events included the Homecoming Banquet, the Eugene Winter Golf Classic, the “Jesus Among Us” sculpture dedication, and the Alumni Car Show. At the Homecoming Banquet, we honored the Alumni of the Year: Rhona Kwiram ’91, Lori Ciccarelli ’81, Nancy Cross ’66, and Darold Bigger ’66. Learn more about these four accomplished individuals on our website.

P.S. Class Reunion photos are now available on our website and can be downloaded. Printed copies are also available upon request.

Till next time,

Nicole Batten

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upper Columbia Campmeeting
June 18 | Spangle, Wash.
Come enjoy ice cream and strawberries at the WWU tent on Sabbath, June 18, at 2 p.m. There will also be free Walla Walla Sweet Onions and alumni license plates at the WWU tent while supplies last.

Kettering Alumni Dinner
June 23 | Kettering, Ohio
Join fellow alumni for good food, fellowship, and learn what’s new at WWU on Thursday, June 23, at 5:30 p.m. at the Amar India Restaurant (2751 Miamisburg-Centerville Road). Please RSVP by June 20.

Washington Campmeeting
June 24-25 | Auburn, Wash.
Come enjoy cold drinks, cookies, and brownies at the WWU tent at 2 p.m. on Friday and Sabbath, June 24-25.
1997 Art Graduate Makes Toys, Publishes Book

Joel Henriques '97 has garnered a lot of attention recently for his creative mind. As a stay-at-home dad, Henriques has used his creativity to come up with simple, fun, and convenient toys to entertain his 4-year-old twins. He started blogging about his ideas and creations and soon found he had an international following of over 100,000. This fall his first book will be published: a "how-to" manual with 35 of his own projects. Read the full story.

2006 Aviation Alumnus Becomes Aerialist Photographer

Bryan Mulder '06 has put his aviation degree to good use since leaving Walla Walla—first as a pilot in California, and more recently as a first officer in Alaska. It was while soaring thousands of feet above the rugged beauty of Alaska that Mulder realized a second passion: photography. "Flying by so much stunning scenery without being able to capture, preserve, and share it felt like a waste," he says. So Mulder bought a camera to share with others the unique aerial perspective he saw every day. Read the full story.

2010 Alumna Publishes Book, Goes on Book Tour

Emily Wilkens '10, a health science graduate, recently published a book with Pacific Press, *African Rice Dream*. It is about her student missionary experiences working as a nurse in a hospital in Bere, Chad, where she lived with a family of nineteen. This occurred while she was enrolled at...
WWU. Over the past few months, Wilkens has been on a book tour and speaking all across the U.S. Read the full story here.

Have news to share? Send it to us at alumni@wallawalla.edu.

More alumni news online >>

CAMPUS NEWS

Professor’s Project Selected by Smithsonian
Jerry Hartman ’99, assistant professor of communications at WWU, recently had his documentary “Indigenous Suriname,” screened at the Smithsonian National Museum of American Indians Native American Film and Video Festival. The challenges facing the people of Suriname made for such a compelling documentary that Hartman’s work has been aired on television five times, and has been screened at two conferences and three festivals, as well as won an award. Read the full story.

Beloved History Professor Passes Away

Rosario Alumni Sabbath
Aug. 27 | Anacortes, Wash.
Join your alumni friends for a Sabbath at Rosario Beach Marine Station on August 27. Activities will include a worship service by President John McVay, Sabbath lunch, a nature walk with Professor Joe Galusha, sundown worship on the beach, and a bonfire with smores. Make it into a weekend getaway by reserving a cabin or a RV spot, and arrive early on Friday for a special sundown vespers service. For more information or to reserve your accommodations, visit www.wallawalla.edu/rosario-sabbath.

For more information about any of the above events, call the Alumni Office at 800.377.2586.

RESOURCES

Give a gift to WWU
Reserve a guest room
Update your contact info
Get help with estate planning
Search the WWU Archives

USEFUL LINKS

Alumni Central
New Sculpture and Plaza Dedicated on Campus

During Alumni Weekend, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members gathered on the Kretschmar Lawn in the newly built plaza for the unveiling of the “Jesus Among Us” sculpture. The sculpture was created by renowned artist Alan Collins. The sculpture represents more than just a beautiful piece of art on campus; it is meant to represent one of the things WWU strives to include in all they do: service. As an example of service, the sculpture features Jesus washing the feet of contemporary disciples. Read the full story.

Wilma Hepker Honored

During Homecoming Weekend, the Wilma Hepker School of Social Work & Sociology honored its namesake, Wilma Hepker, retired professor of social work who served at WWU for over 30 years. The event included the unveiling of a painted portrait of Hepker, by Martha Mason, professor of art at WWU, and a plaque, both of which will be displayed prominently in the school’s new home in the Winter Educational Complex. Read the full story.

Did you miss the last issue of Alumni Currents? Don’t worry, you can still read it. Visit the archives now to catch up on past issues.

BULLETIN BOARD

• Alumni Tours -- We are planning to do another alumni tour in 2013 and want to know where to go. Tell us what destination you would like to visit. Be sure to check out the photos from the March Alumni Germany Tour on our Flickr feed and read about this amazing trip on our website.

• Bibs for WWU Babies -- If you are an alum and have recently had a baby, email us your birth announcement, and we will mail you a commemorative baby bib for your new little one. We want to help welcome
your sweet bundle of joy into the world. Bibs are soft cotton with a Velcro clasp and say “Future graduate of Walla Walla University.” View a sample bib.

• **College Experiences Survey** -- Adventist church leaders are very interested in improving the academic, spiritual, and social experiences of students attending both Adventist and non-Adventist colleges. In a few days you will receive an email with a link to the College Experiences Survey. We invite you to complete the survey, which should take about 25 to 30 minutes. Upon completing it, you will be entered into a drawing for one of 10 iPod Touches. Your input is very important because it will help improve the quality of experiences for future students.

• **New Database for WWU** -- As we are always looking for ways to improve our services to students, alumni, and our campus family, we have undertaken the monumental task of transferring to a new campus database system. This system will provide support for accounting, human resources, academic records, alumni, and donation management. What does this mean for you? Beginning next month, we may be running a little behind as we transfer to our new system and learn how to use it. This means you may experience delays in service and correspondence. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we make this transition.
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
Joel Henriques of Portland has created Paper City, a project that can be printed and used from the Internet. The Portland Artist, soon to be father of three, has been making toys using his art skills. A cereal company has had him design ways to use their used boxes as toys.

Southeast Portland man goes international with online guide to making simple toys, crafts

Published: Monday, May 02, 2011, 4:00 PM    Updated: Tuesday, May 03, 2011, 7:34 AM

By Noelle Crombie, The Oregonian

It's hard not to touch things in Joel Henriques’ studio. The tiny wire chaise lounge in a simple dollhouse. The colorful bird cutouts floating from the ceiling. The wood and cloth puppets on a sunny shelf waiting for a voice and a hand to animate them.

Henriques designs crafts and toys for young children but these aren't ordinary playthings. They're stylish, simple and -- here's the best part -- easy for even the most uncrafty of parents to replicate. Since becoming the father of twins four years ago, this stay-at-home dad has quietly built an international following among grade-school teachers, artists, designers and parents looking for ways to engage little kids using stuff found around the house or the backyard.

Each month, more than 100,000 people stop by madebyjoel.com -- a site where Henriques shares how-to videos, photos of his work and simple instructions for his crafts. He offers free templates of his creations, including one called Paper City, a black-and-white drawing of a skyline and figures that can be cut out and used for storytelling. Thousands have downloaded Paper City, making it the most popular post on his blog.

Now Henriques is on the verge of becoming an author. His first book, "Made to Play! Handmade Toys & Crafts for Growing Imaginations," is due out in October. The book contains a handful of crafts familiar to visitors to his blog, but most of the 35 projects are new.

"Everything in the book involves open-ended and creative play," he said. "All of the toys are designed to have kids play with them however they want to."

Henriques, 38, has a boyish face and the energy of a man used to spending the afternoon playing with preschoolers. He greets a visitor to his Mount Tabor home with the cheerful offer of a homemade latte that he effortlessly tops...
Joel Henriques arranges items from his Paper City project, which can be printed and used from the internet.

Prototypes of his creations -- cardboard owls and other birds, puzzles, mobiles, a dollhouse -- sit on a shelf. Everything here has been tested by his 4-year-olds, Tess and Jack.

"They will totally surprise you," he said. Henriques will design crafts so they can be used in a few different ways, but his kids "always find a different way to take it, a step further. It's hard to predict what a kid might do with a toy because their imaginations are so open."

Maiz Connolly, the mother of three young boys and the blogger behind The Brooding Hen (thebroodinghen.blogspot.com), is one of Henriques' fans. His craft ideas are original, modern and child-friendly -- a hard-to-find combination when it comes to kids' toys, she said. Connolly's tried many of his crafts with her sons and watched as they've come up with ideas for new toys on their own.

"When the kids want a toy, they just try to make it," said Connolly, who lives in Los Angeles. She recalled how one son proudly showed off the toys he made. "He will say something like, 'Look how many toys I have made!' and I will look and it's just little pieces of paper he's cut out. I love that."

Henriques didn't start out as a craft designer. His parents had dreams of medical school for their middle child but Henriques had other plans. Raised in Portland, he studied art and philosophy at Walla Walla College, now Walla Walla University, then returned to his hometown and supported himself by waiting tables at local restaurants, playing in a band and painting. When he was 23, he sold his first painting for $150. He started showing his work around town and holding annual art shows, earning himself a "decent little side living."

And then he became a dad. While his wife, Shannon, works as a doctor, Henriques has chosen to stay home with the couple's twins. (They're expecting their third child in June.)

Henriques remembers being struck by how his kids, even when they were very young, were surrounded by toys and yet were drawn to the most simple and tactile things. Like their drool bib.

"This is crazy," Henriques recalls thinking. "We have hundreds of dollars worth of toys -- all of these wooden, non-toxic things -- and they are playing with their drool bibs."

So, using whatever he had on hand, Henriques made a few simple toys for the twins. He sewed stuffed animals. He made pillows out of old fabric and stitched boy and girl images onto them using black yarn. He made easy-to-manipulate elephant puzzles and wooden dolls with Velcro dresses.
Henriques says he's not much of a tailor so his sewing crafts are basic.

"Just about anyone can make them and they look cool," he said.

In 2009, he started documenting his work on his blog. Last year, after a mention by a well-known Dutch designer, the number of visitors to Henriques' blog skyrocketed, turning him into an international crafting sensation. He's created a line of toys for British-based toy company, Made in Me. He's working on an idea for a show he'll post on his blog called 'Zip and Zander Blastoff' -- an ultra low-tech space story for the preschool set.

His latest craft projects -- including some work for Cheerios in which he made videos of crafts using cereal boxes -- have meant a steadier income.

Henriques, who's been called Craft Daddy by designers and European magazines, seems a bit bowled over by the fuss his crafts inspire. Etsy (etsy.com), the online marketplace for homemade goods, dispatched a film crew to his home earlier this month to shoot a video of Henriques at work. Each morning he logs onto his blog to find piles of new comments from overnight. And then there are the photos, dozens of them, of kids holding up the crafts they did on their own -- or maybe with some help from Mom or Dad -- inspired by Henriques' blog posts.

There's the monster mobile, which is one kid's take on Henriques' owl mobile. The proud mom who made fabric nesting dolls using scrap material. The kid on the stilts he made following Henriques' directions.

It's an immediate payoff, and a deeply satisfying one, for a guy who spends his days dreaming of ways to turn a tiny pinecone into a dollhouse seat or how to make a doll dress out of scrap fabric.

"It's kind of humbling," he said. "It's really cool."

-- Noelle Crombie

© 2011 OregonLive.com. All rights reserved.
Alumni Central

The Unexpected Hobby

Alumnus pilot photographer shares his view of Alaska

By: Becky St. Clair

Making the switch from sunny California to snowy (and often dark) Alaska isn’t an adjustment everyone desires. But for 2006 Walla Walla University aviation graduate Bryan Mulder, it just made sense. His fiancée was attending air traffic control school in Anchorage, and he wanted to work near her, so he packed his bags and headed north.

“The city of Los Angeles has more roadways than the entire state of Alaska,” says Mulder. “If something needs to be moved, chances are at some point it will fly on an airplane. My job in California was a luxury job; people flew because they wanted to, not because they had to. In Alaska, flying is a necessity.”

Initially landing a flying job in Alaska was challenging.

“Alaskan flying is unique and demanding, so many companies are hesitant to hire someone who only has experience flying in the lower 48,” Mulder explains.

After nine months of job hunting, he was finally given a chance with Everts Air Cargo as a DC-6 flight engineer. The Douglas DC-6 is a vintage 1950s 4 radial engine transport plane capable of carrying around 100 passengers, though it now only hauls freight and cargo between the cities and remote Alaskan villages.

“I’ve seen them haul everything from flying fish from Dutch Harbor to sled dogs headed home from Nome after the Iditarod finish,” Mulder says.

The flight engineer fuels and inspects the airplane prior to departure and is then responsible for monitoring all aircraft systems while the aircraft is operating. After five months in this role, Mulder was upgraded to first officer, which means preparing paperwork and trading off flying duties with the captain. The DC-6 has no auto pilot so either the captain or first officer must fly the plane at all times.

It was while he was soaring thousands of feet above the rugged beauty of Alaska that Mulder realized a second passion: photography.

“Flying by so much stunning scenery without being able to capture, preserve and share it felt like a waste,” he says. “So I bought a cheap Nikon D40 to be able to share with other people my unique view of the world.”

Though Mulder has had his private pilot certificate since his 17th birthday – the first day he was old enough to qualify – he had no idea when he began flying that photography would become another passion. Mulder says he is happy this newly discovered hobby compliments his current job.

“The most common question I get from people is, ‘Does it really look like that up there?’” says Mulder. “My goal is always to make my pictures match what I see as closely as possible, so I do very minimal photo editing.”

Mulder’s favorite part of flying is the change in perspective. To illustrate his point, he quotes Antoine de Saint-Exupery: “The aeroplane has unveiled for us the true face of the earth.”

For more images of Alaska and beyond, and more about Bryan Mulder Photography, click the link below.
Alumni Central

My Heart Beats Better

Emily Wilkens on doing a book tour

By: Becky St. Clair

Emily Wilkens, 2010 health science graduate of Walla Walla University, is currently on the road, meeting new people, catching up with old friends, and sharing the stories in her recently published book, “African Rice Heart.” The book tells of her experiences as a student missionary in Chad. To read more about her book, click the link below. This is Emily’s story of being on the road for nearly three months.

The idea for this book tour developed back when I knew I’d have this gift of time. I just graduated last year from WWU, and had deferred PA school with the intent of beginning in May 2011. The break in-between schools gave me the chance to return to Chad, and then in February, spend time with the book on the road.

Emily Wilkens has been traveling across the U.S. for nearly three months, sharing her experiences in Chad and talking about her recently published book, "African Rice Heart." Here she presents to a group at Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash. Photo credit: Heidi Martella

I have always loved the road; maybe I love it a little less after this trip (haha), but there's something about the proximity to the land you're crossing, and it's something that you don't get from the height of a plane.

My original intent was to speak in homes—to share in close quarters while we all drank this tea that Jolie, my Chadian mother, and the kids sent back with me. But schools and classrooms brought equal connection. And in the planning, we proceeded with an attitude of, "We will share anywhere," which found us not only in homes, but retirement homes, pre-schools, academies, coffee shops, poetry shops, thrift stores, bookstores and universities.

When WWU said they would sponsor the tour with some funding, it empowered the trip greatly. It was incredible to feel so supported and I’m really appreciative of Walla Walla University for believing in service so much.

Since February I’ve covered 23 states plus Mexico, including Wash., Idaho, Utah, Wyo., Colo., Neb., Okla., Ariz., Mo., Ill., Ind., Ohio, Ky., Kan., Tenn., Ga., La., Ala., N.M., Texas, Miss., Ark., and Ore. I spent the first two weeks of the trip on my own. I felt independent and free. But by the time I was creeping through a vicious white lace that whipped across the roads of Wyoming in February, I was ready for a traveling buddy.

I picked up my long-time friend Dylan Wren in Lincoln, Neb. Over five years ago, Dylan and I taught English in the Czech Republic together. He’s quality and quirky and has been an absolutely vital part of this book tour.

Being a business major, his title became, "Book Agent." We’ve spent 90 percent of our non-sleeping hours together for the last 6 weeks. He listened to my career path change with each sequential state. He gave advice, challenged my ideas, supported my goals, never complained, and drove many hours while I slept in the passenger seat.

The entire U.S. has passed by our eyes, coast to coast, and then back to the first coast again. I don’t want to forget any of it. We’d arrive to a new place, and get a sense of the rhythm there, and we’d leave with something we didn’t arrive with. Oklahoma farm air, Pacific ocean salt, Arizona orange trees, and LA smog. The scent and essence of each place moved us to experience new things wherever we went.

The hard moments came in a few different forms. In the beginning, when there was a free day, I’d start to feel antsy. I’d think, "I'm here in Nebraska with no job today." In those moments, it was a struggle to feel purposeful. However, as the trip progressed, I began to value the breaks in the marathon. And the go, go, go began to wear on me. Three months on the road, living out of your car, moving every other day—naively, it’s a piece I didn’t anticipate being difficult. Sometimes, as boxes of books were sliding in the back of the car around turns, and soda bottles clanked against each other in the cup holders, or when the atlas slid across the front dash, I would feel stressed. The car, though our home, could often be a stressful place.
However, this tour has meant a lot to me and will be something I look back on as pivotal. But I want to say this: the stories I’m sharing are not my own, but those of the people of Chad. I’m telling the stories of how my mother there delivered her babies in a hut by herself—pulled them out of her body just like that! Oh she’s so strong! I’m telling the story of Samedi, my father there, who went from being the maintenance man, to being the surgeon at the rural hospital—learned it all through observation. I’m telling the story of my sister, Dinga’s, heart, which pained her so much, beating irregularly, skipping beats and pounding through her ribs. Yet it was that heart—her heart, and the hearts of so many good-hearted people there in Chad, that taught my heart to beat better—to beat with intention and hope and faith.

The prayer that stayed central to the trip was that God would take us where He wanted us the next day. I came to appreciate that prayer and also the surrender of the details. Rob Bell, in his book, “Drops Like Stars,” talks about a Franciscan priest named Richard Rohr who told about a group of Native Americans who would leave a blemish in the rug they were weaving because they believed the spirit would enter there. And I love that metaphor for life’s weave—that perhaps those places where the trip felt so crazy, were the exact places where the Spirit of God entered in.

Check Emily’s book tour schedule to see when she’ll be presenting in your area. Click the link below to access the schedule.

Links:
Emily's Book: African Rice Heart<br/>Book Tour Schedule
<- Back to: Alumni News
Jerry Hartman, assistant professor of communications, created a documentary on the indigenous people of Suriname and after several film festivals and awards, the film will be screened at a Smithsonian Museum film festival March 30-April 3.

In February 2008, Jerry Hartman, instructor in communications at Walla Walla University, spent two and a half weeks in Suriname, formerly known as Dutch Guyana, located on the northeast coast of South America. His goal was to use film to tell the stories of the interior peoples of Suriname.

Though it started as the thesis project for his Master of Fine Arts degree in digital cinema, the project has grown. At the end of March, his documentary, “Indigenous Suriname,” will be screened at the Smithsonian National Museum of American Indians Native American Film and Video Festival.

“The focus of the film is mostly basic human rights,” says Hartman. “They need access to clean water, land, education, and health care. Gold mining is causing major water quality problems, and land is being taken away from the indigenous people in order to be mined, as well as for ecotourism.”

The challenges facing the people of Suriname made for such a compelling documentary, that Hartman’s work has been aired on television there five times, and has been screened at two conferences and three festivals.

“To enter it in the 2010 X Film and Video Festival of Indigenous Peoples, which took place in Ecuador, three volunteers did English to Spanish translation for subtitles,” says Hartman. “They deserve a lot of credit for the amount and the quality of the work they did.”

Two of the volunteers are current Walla Walla University students: Cassy Collins, senior international communications and Spanish major, and Tristinn Williams, senior Spanish major. The third is Fiona Taggart, a Whitman College alumna, currently serving with AmeriCorps in the Walla Walla area.

“The film won an award there for the social organization process of indigenous peoples,” says Hartman, “for showing the struggles and the process of organizing that makes it possible for the first time to see the existence of these people.”

Amalia Cordova, one of the judges for the X Film Festival in Ecuador, is the Latin American Media Coordinator for the film and video center of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian.

“Having seen the film in several different contexts, Cordova felt it was an important addition to the museum’s Native American Film and Video Festival this year,” explains Hartman. Hartman will lead question and answer sessions at the screenings with his wife, Machelle, audio director and associate producer of the film.
They were also able to raise money through Summit Northwest Ministries so Eric Wijngaarde, a representative from the indigenous community could be present at the screenings as well. Wijngaarde served as co-producer of “Indigenous Suriname.”

“Indigenous Suriname” was also awarded the United Nations Caribbean Population Award in 2008. For their work in the film, the Organization of Indigenous Suriname won $10,000, which they will use to further their work on indigenous rights.

“I am honored that our community-directed documentary has been able to screen around the world,” says Hartman. “The more people who know about the issues that the interior communities in Suriname are facing, the better chances are that a positive change can happen.”

Hartman is currently working on a 60-minute version of his documentary, which will incorporate more interior communities. In November 2010 the fine-cut was sent to the communities for final feedback and approval; the team hopes to complete the project, “Inside Suriname,” by fall 2011.

<- Back to: News
Professor Emeritus Robert Henderson Passes Away

History professor of 36 years died Feb. 19

By: Becky St. Clair


Henderson taught thousands of students to think coherently and write well-supported essays and contributed to many areas of campus life (at one point serving simultaneously on 17 different committees). He was a master storyteller and a craftsman who could finish a home interior to perfection or meticulously restore a Piper Cub.

He is survived by his wife, Solange (Carvajal) who taught Spanish at WWC and also chaired the Modern Languages Department for many years until her retirement in 2004; their children Karen Henderson (’attn), Rob (’87), and Luzi Hedmann (’89), and four grandchildren.

A memorial service honoring Henderson will be held Sunday, March 6, at 2 p.m. in the University Church.

The Henderson family requests that, in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Robert A. Henderson Memorial History Scholarship at the WWU Office of Advancement by calling 800-377-2586.
Alumni Central

Jesus Among Us

Sculpture dedicated April 23

By: Jennifer Jorgenson

During Alumni Weekend, on Saturday, April 23, students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members gathered on Kretschmar Lawn for the unveiling of the “Jesus Among Us” sculpture.

The sculpture represents more than just a beautiful piece of art on campus; it is meant to represent one of the things WWU strives to include in all they do: service. The university’s mission statement says that WWU is a community of faith dedicated to excellence in thought, generosity in service, beauty in expression and faith in God. As an example of service, the sculpture features Jesus washing the feet of contemporary disciples. This ultimate picture of service is meant to inspire those who view it and calls for interaction as well as action.

“Members of the university community—specifically, university students—now replace the original participants in the Upper Room,” says John McVay, university president. “We experience the selfless, cleansing ministry of Jesus. Our feet are in His hands. He is among us.”

The interpretation plaque nearby explains more, “The invitation is open to you, the viewer, to join this scene by sitting on the vacant space on the bench, thus becoming part of the symbol while reflecting on where Jesus would commission you to serve.”

The sculpture was created by renowned artist Alan Collins. Collins has done work for other Seventh-day Adventist institutions and, as with his other pieces, he spent a great deal of time developing this work of art. He started with the concept given to him by the college and created a sketch for them to see. Then he worked with clay to sculpt a small-scale model of the final product. The sculpture was then scanned digitally to create a mold for a full-scale rendition and was sent to the Old School Bronze Foundry in Umapine, Ore., for the rest of the process.

Former WWU President Jon Dybdahl, who helped conceptualize the project, is excited about its completion.

“It was a very moving experience for me,” Dybdahl said. “Seeing the plan that began while I was president carried on and finished is a very moving experience.”

Installation of this project has been a long time coming since the idea was suggested in 1999 when the class of 1950 stepped forward with a gift in honor of their upcoming 50th anniversary. The initial funding came from the class of 1950, and many other alumni and friends helped to fill in the gaps to create what stands today.

In the dedication prayer during the April 23 dedication ceremony, Ginger Ketting-Weller, vice president for academic administration, prayed, “Lord, we ask that Jesus be among us in this church and on this campus. May students, faculty, staff, and visitors to this campus come to spend time here at this spot and rededicate themselves to you. We ask to feel a calling in our hearts to serve, and that Jesus will be among us and work through us to the glory of God. Amen.”

To watch video from the dedication and installation of the sculpture, visit the WWU Facebook page by clicking the link below.

Links:

WWU on Facebook

<- Back to: Alumni News
Honoring Wilma Hepker

Social Work & Sociology holds special event

By: Becky St. Clair

During Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2011, the Wilma Hepker School of Social Work & Sociology honored its namesake, Wilma Hepker, retired professor of social work who served at WWU for over 30 years. The school was named after Hepker in 2006 when she retired.

“Dr. Hepker had an amazing vision to develop and provide quality bachelor's and master's level social work education in the Northwest,” says Pam Cress, dean of the School of Social Work and Sociology. “This vision continues to inform faculty and benefit hundreds of potential social workers who enroll in the programs each year.”

The event in honor of Hepker included the unveiling of a painted portrait of Hepker, by Martha Mason, professor of art at WWU, and a plaque, both of which will be displayed prominently in the school’s new space in the Winter Educational Complex.

The social work program at WWU began as a minor in Social Science in the History Department in 1955, which changed to sociology in 1965 with its first full-time faculty member added in 1967. In 1987 the university board approved the creation of a master’s program in social work, and professors Jack Ellis and Standley Gellineau were hired as program consultant and director of the master’s program, respectively, who worked closely with Hepker to develop graduate curriculum, policies and procedures, recruitment plans and needed approvals through campus governance. When the Department of Social Work and Sociology became the School of Social Work and Sociology in 1999, Hepker became the school’s first dean.

“Faculty, staff and students in the School of Social Work and Sociology are excited to be a part of social work education in the 21st century,” says Cress. “And we’re happy to be carrying on the grand tradition of excellence in service embodied through the years by Wilma Hepker.”

<- Back to: Alumni News
Alumni Central

Send us your birth announcement!

Did you graduate or attend Walla Walla University? If so, send us an email or a copy of your birth announcement, and we will mail you a commemorative baby bib for your new little one. Bibs are made out of soft cotton with a Velcro clasp and say “Future graduate of Walla Walla University.” We want to help welcome your sweet bundle of joy into the world.

Questions? Email Nicole Batten.

Mail your announcement to:

WWU Alumni Association
204 S. College Avenue
College Place, WA 99324

Page maintained by Sarah Corkey
Last update on December 8, 2010