Dear Center for,

With Thanksgiving upon us and the Christmas holiday season soon to follow, I would invite you to join me in thankfulness and reflection for all that we have.

I'm thankful for your generous support of Walla Walla University that allows the faculty and staff to consistently offer the highest quality Christian education and produce graduates who go on to make a real impact in our communities and the world. You can read about two of them—Paul Evans '95 and Gina Marie Lindsey '76—in the alumni profiles below.

I'm also thankful for the music that accompanies the holidays. At WWU, we have a long tradition of excellent music. On Dec. 9, the Department of Music will present their annual Christmas concert, "Eternal Purposes." Plan now to attend if you're in the area. There are two concerts that evening, at 6 and 8 p.m. You can also see the program this year by watching the concert via a live stream at wallawalla.edu/concert.

Michigan Alumni Dinner
Join us at 6:00 p.m. for good food, fellowship, and an update on WWU with special guest Dave Thomas, Dean of the School of Theology, in the Whirlpool Room (Chan Shun Hall, Andrews University). A complimentary dinner will be provided. Please RSVP by Nov. 30.

Alaska Alumni Weekend
Jan. 6 & 7 | Anchorage, Alaska
Join Loren Dickinson, professor emeritus, for an alumni vespers Friday night at 7:00 p.m., church service at 11:00 a.m. Following church, everyone is invited to a potluck lunch. Please bring entrees or salad; dessert will be provided by
P.S. Check out pictures from our last three alumni events on our Flickr page—Portland Old Spaghetti Factory Dinner, Yakima Alumni Sabbath, and Denver Alumni Weekend.

Wishing you happiness this holiday season!

Lisa Krueger
Editor
alumni@wallawalla.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

1995 Engineering Alumnus Designs Robots
From designing robots for Southwest Research Institute® (SwRI®) to dreaming up dishes to serve at one of his Green Vegetarian Cuisine restaurants, Paul Evans ’95, WWU mechanical engineering graduate, believes that there is nothing better than seeing new products or applications grow from concept to something that is of real value to real people. Read more about his company’s work with robots.

1976 Comm Graduate Manages LAX Airport
After an introduction early in her career to transportation management, Gina Marie Lindsey ’76, WWU communications graduate, found her calling with managing airports. Since then, she has been the Executive Director at Anchorage International Airport and the Managing Director for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, where she and her team oversaw a major construction project, including a new runway and the new Pacific Marketplace Central Terminal area. Today, you can

the Alumni Association. Then plan to attend a communication seminar by Loren Dickinson at 2:00 p.m. Sabbath afternoon. All events are at Hillside O’Malley Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Walla Walla University Orchestra Concerts
Feb. 4 | Portland, Ore.
The Walla Walla University Symphony Orchestra, directed by Brandon Beck, will be performing for the church service and in an afternoon concert at Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church. More details coming soon!

Southern California Alumni Weekend
Join Pedrito Maynard-Reid, professor of Biblical Studies and Missiology, for an alumni vespers Friday night at 6:45 p.m. at the Desert Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church. Maynard-Reid will also be speaking for church on Feb. 25 at Palm Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church. Stay tuned for more details!

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

RESOURCES

Give a gift to WWU
find her at the world’s sixth busiest airport, LAX, where as Executive Director, she and her team have launched into the first phase of a major addition to the airport, which will include new concourses and a Great Hall for passenger dining and shopping. Read her story.

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

**CAMPUS NEWS**

**Dennis Carlson Announces Retirement**

After four years at Walla Walla University, Dennis Carlson, vice president for advancement, will be retiring in January 2012. During his tenure, he has helped raise funds for the Portland nursing campus expansion and the “Jesus Among Us” sculpture and plaza. Read the full story.

**Husband-Wife Team Presents Math Research**

Heidi Haynal, mathematics professor at Walla Walla University, along with her husband Dr. Steve Haynal, worked together on a research project studying Discrete Fourier Transform, a mathematical tool used frequently in engineering and computer science. They presented their findings at the Ninth International Workshop on Satisfiability Modulo Theories held in Snowbird, Utah, this last summer. Read the full story.

If you are an alum and have recently had a baby, email us your birth announcement. We will mail you a commemorative baby bib for your new little one. We want to help welcome your sweet bundle of joy.
New Student House Opens

Walla Walla University students celebrated the opening of a new student house, The Atlas, on Nov. 3. In the works for several years, The Atlas will offer beverages and snacks and will be a place for students to study, connect, and worship together in a comfortable setting. The house is located on the corner of College Avenue and Whitman Drive and was most recently used by the School of Social Work and Sociology. Read the full story.

More campus news online >>

BULLETIN BOARD

• Phonathon is in full swing – The annual Walla Walla University Fund Phonathon, formerly the Annual Fund, is off to a great start! This fund supports student scholarships, faculty enrichment, and enhancements to the learning environment. We have already received 722 pledges from generous alumni who have pledged $92,968! Student callers will continue contacting alumni until Christmas break, which begins in mid-December. Thank you for taking time to chat with a student who may call you. Keep in mind that you can also give online. Thank you for your continued support.

• Job opening for Director of Alumni/Parent Relation – As you may know from our last alumni e-newsletter, Nicole Batten left Walla Walla University in September to become the Executive Director for the Loma Linda University School of Medicine Alumni Association. Applications are still being accepted for this position. Contact the WWU Human Resources department to learn more about the qualifications of the job and the interview process.

ALUMNI PHOTOS

Portland Alumni Dinner

Yakima Alumni Sabbath

Denver South Alumni Sabbath

Click on the photos above to see more pictures from these events.

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.
• See the Distinguished Faculty Lecture – Every year, WWU selects a faculty member to present a speech at the prestigious Distinguished Faculty Lecture. This year’s nominee, Joe G. Galusha, Jr., professor of Biology and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, gave his presentation "Watching Animals Behave: Things We Can Learn or Not" on Sunday, Nov. 13. If you were unable to attend and are interested in seeing it, you can watch a video recording of the lecture at www.wallawalla.edu/dfl.

• Fall issue of Westwind coming soon – Along with the holiday catalogues, expect to see the Fall 2011 issue of Westwind in your mailbox soon. If you don’t receive a copy before the end of the year, let us know. We may need to update your address.

• Share what's new in your life! Whether your recently married, received a promotion or an award, completed a new degree or had a new baby, we want to hear about it. Submit your alumnote now!

Share this eNewsletter: Alumni Currents is a publication of the Alumni Association of Walla Walla University. It is emailed monthly to alumni and friends of the university who subscribe to it. For questions or concerns, email the editor at alumni@wallawalla.edu.

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Alumni Q&A: Paul Evans

Engineering Grad Designs Robots for Tough Tasks

By: Loree Chase-Waite

Evans, a mechanical engineer with Southwest Research Institute® (SwRI®) in Texas, and his colleagues developed the world’s first fully-automated aircraft depainting system.

As part of a maintenance schedule, military aircraft get a makeover. No, it’s not a cosmetic luxury; it’s a maintenance requirement.

In order to maintain performance and conduct a variety of critical maintenance procedures, the old paint must be stripped off. It’s a time-consuming, labor-intensive process that can be dangerous for humans.

Enter Paul Evans ’95, WWU mechanical engineering graduate and robotics expert. At Southwest Research Institute® (SwRI®) in Texas, he and his colleagues developed the world’s first fully-automated aircraft depainting system.

Currently used at Hill Air Force Base in Ogden, Utah, a custom two-robot system can depaint about 100 F-16 Falcon aircraft each year. And at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Ga., a custom three-robot system can depaint about 50 F-15 Eagles each year.

We asked Evans about his role in this project and others—and discovered some fascinating facts.

Why is it helpful for robots, instead of humans, to depaint aircraft?

When humans do the job, they have to suit up in protective clothing, including an enclosed helmet with breathing hose, to avoid direct exposure to the dust-laden air.

And then, with limited visibility, the operators must scale up and down ladders and across platforms, using a heavy hose to forcefully blast the paint off, all the while managing their own breathing hose.

Robots, of course, don’t have lung concerns, which increases worker safety. Robots are also more efficient. And they can be programmed to depaint a variety of aircraft and parts. Experts estimate that robots save up to thousands of dollars per aircraft in labor and other indirect costs.

What are some of the unique ways that these robots have been programmed?

Each robot has nine motors that give us the ability to position it anywhere within the work area. Software in the robot controller coordinates the motion of all these motors so that the very end of the robot arm can travel in a straight line.

Also, we use sensing techniques to monitor the process and control the speed of the robot. If the paint is tough and hard to remove, the software can tell the robot to slow down. If the paint is thin or easy to remove, the software can tell the robot to speed up. This is a good way to optimize the amount of time required to depaint an aircraft.
What is blasted to remove the paint?
We use a dry media blast process. It’s essentially like sand blasting, but with plastic or corn starch. High-pressure air moves the dry media through the hoses and out the nozzles. A single robot carries multiple nozzles, whereas a person is only able to handle a single nozzle.

We have also demonstrated that lasers are viable for depainting aircraft. The laser process is starting to gain acceptance with the U.S. Department of Defense because it has the promise of being more controllable for removing advanced coatings and processing delicate surfaces.

What happens to the old paint and other dry media? How is it collected and where does it go?
The dry media falls into a large grating on the floor under the aircraft. Then it goes through a screening process to filter out the paint particles and separate out the good media, which can be used again, from the media that is too small or too worn to be reused. The waste is then collected and used as an additive for new products such as plastic lawn chairs, plastic fence posts, and concrete blocks.

With laser removal, the paint particles are reduced into a very fine particulate that is vacuumed up by a dust collection unit.

How do the robots know when the job is done?
The robots follow a pre-programmed path—or set of waypoints—in a sequence. So once the robots have processed all the waypoints, the job is finished.

You also helped develop a robotic device for a NASA project called DepthX (short for DEep Phrectic THermal eXplorer). What was the goal of the project and how were you involved?
NASA scientists would like to explore what is beneath the ice layer on Europa, the sixth moon of Jupiter. The idea behind DepthX was to develop an autonomous system that could explore and identify life here on Earth in an unexplored environment. That would be a precursor, then, to a future robotic mission to Europa.

I managed the robotics and automation engineering section, which was responsible for the environmental sensor suite, sampling arm, and sample collection.

How does the robot look for and retrieve samples for analysis?
Using sensors and computer algorithms, the robot seeks out places in the environment that have visual or sensory indications of life. Then, when the robot finds an area of interest, it automatically approaches the wall, extends the robotic arm, and collects a core sample. In the deepest known sinkhole in the world located in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, Mexico, where the robot was field tested, it also collected water samples. We developed an on-board microscope system that autonomously analyzed those samples for microbial life.

Have the changes at NASA affected how and where the device is being used?
The program here on Earth was viewed as a success and portions of the robot were repurposed for research in Antarctica.

As you’ve worked on robots, have any spiritual or life lessons occurred to you?
I have always had an appreciation for the complexity of human life. And working on electromechanical systems has strengthened that view. The systems we develop are complex and take years to develop—yet they barely scratch the surface of...
intelligent machine control.

This reinforces my faith that a more intelligent and omnipotent force is at work to enable the creation and sustenance of life. For me personally, it takes less faith to believe that human life was created by God, even though this view is not shared by the majority of the scientific community.

Are you doing things to improve manufacturing in the United States?
My department at SwRI works directly with small- and medium-sized manufacturers to help them become more competitive. We have the privilege of operating the South Central regional office of TMAC which is an affiliate of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which is run by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (http://www.nist.gov/mep/about.cfm).

The MEP is a public/private partnership that delivers a high return on taxpayer investment. For every federal dollar invested, the MEP generates $32 in new sales growth. Ultimately, this results in $3.6 billion in new sales annually for U.S. manufacturers.

Looking at those numbers, it appears that manufacturing in the U.S. may be more robust than we think. It’s true that many people don’t realize how important manufacturing is to our nation’s economy. I must cite a few interesting facts from the National Association of Manufacturers:

* The U.S. is the world’s largest manufacturing economy, producing 21 percent of global manufactured products. China is second at 15 percent, and Japan is third at 12 percent.
* U.S. manufacturing firms have the most productive workers in the world—twice as productive as workers in the next 10 leading manufacturing economies.
* Nearly 12 million Americans (or 9 percent of the workforce) are employed directly in manufacturing.

Speaking of manufacturing, you are invested in a very non-industrial company in Texas—creations of a culinary nature.
Yes, I am one of the partners of Green Vegetarian Cuisine, a restaurant in San Antonio.

My interest stems from a lifetime of vegetarianism. In 2006, my business partner became a vegetarian and sold his diner. Together we decided to expose San Antonio, a city known for its chicken-fried steak and carne guisada, to a diet that doesn’t involve animal products. So far the concept has been well-received, and we just opened our second restaurant.

The menu looks fantastic. Do you eat there often? What is your favorite meal?
I eat there about once a week. I love the Rueben sandwich—fresh purple sauerkraut on toasted bread with chipotle mayo. I recommend the kale salad as a side; it has a delicious dressing.

The Web site (www.greensanantonio.com) mentions that the restaurant is closed on Saturdays. Yes, we get questions about why we are closed on Saturdays. Our staff knows that this is a day of rest and they, too, have grown to appreciate the fact that we set this day aside from work. Our patrons are sometimes disappointed, but ultimately we would not have it any other way.
Can you tell us about your family?
My wife Ellen and I have two boys, 1 year and 3 years of age. Ellen owns an online maternity clothing business called Bloom Maternity and does some consulting in the field of social media. So, when the weekends roll around, we all come together as a family to relax together, play together, and rejuvenate.

How do you hope your career touches the lives of others?
Practically, I want to use engineering, manufacturing, and robotics to solve our customer’s toughest technical problems while also helping advance science and technology. Most great developments, of course, are not individual efforts. All of the project examples I have described have required expertise from a variety of people and disciplines. Teamwork and collaboration is critical to the advancement of science and technology.

Personally, I hope that some of the cool project examples I am able to share will help inspire students to explore a career in engineering. It is extremely exciting to be on the cutting edge of technical applications and development. There is nothing better than seeing new products or applications grow from concept to something that is of real value to real people.

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Alumni Q&A: Gina Marie Lindsey

Comm Grad Manages LAX Airport

By: Loree Chase-Waite

When Gina Marie Lindsey ’76 heads to the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), it’s usually not to catch a flight; it’s to manage the world’s sixth busiest airport.

After 16 years of airport management, Lindsey was appointed Executive Director of LAX by Mayor Villaraigosa in 2007.

Announcing Lindsey’s appointment, the mayor said, “In searching for a new executive director, we knew we needed someone with experience, with the ability to build bridges, and with a vision for moving the area’s airports forward. We have found the perfect candidate in Gina Marie Lindsey.”

So how did Lindsey move from WWU graduate to LAX manager, and what are some highlights of her journey? We asked her.

What prompted you to choose a career in airport management?
It was a total fluke. After graduating from WWU with a degree in Communication Media, I returned to my hometown of Valdez, Alaska, and took a job setting up the Valdez Historical Museum. Then I moved to Anchorage and worked at a land use and engineering firm. After that, I entered a three-year transportation planning training program with the Alaska Department of Transportation. That program allowed me to work in several transportation modes: seaports, transit, highways, and airports.

The airport mode stuck. Why? Because appropriately managing airports is incredibly complex. Major airports do not rely on general tax dollars, so an airport manager must handle the pressures of annual profit/loss responsibilities, along with the bureaucratic, regulatory, and procurement challenges of government.

To do that well requires creativity, persuasiveness, communication, understanding of people, ability to establish and articulate a vision, and sometimes, a thick skin. I don’t always succeed at all of those, but there’s never a dull moment, and it’s difficult for me to imagine a more diverse and interesting job.

What airports did you work at before LAX?
My first Executive Director position was at Anchorage International Airport System in 1989. I managed the airport’s transition from an international passenger refueling stop to an international cargo hub for Federal Express and United Parcel Service.

After that, I served as Managing Director for the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (Sea-Tac), where I was in charge of the operations, maintenance, and strategic and financial planning and capital development of the airport, which serves nearly 30
millions of passengers a year.

Together, my team and I were fortunate enough to take on a $3 billion, seven-year capital improvement project, including the construction of a third runway, demolition and reconstruction of a concourse, construction of the Central Terminal commercial area, and other major refurbishments. Anything I would consider an accomplishment is the result of collective expertise and the dedication of supportive leadership and terrific staff.

(Editor's note: In recognition of Lindsey's work on the Sea-Tac remodel, an arrivals pavilion, the Gina Marie Lindsey Arrivals Hall, was named in her honor.)

**Can you lend some perspective on how travel has changed over the last few decades?**

It's a totally different gig now than it was in the mid-70s. Not all of the changes are bad. On the positive side, air travel is more affordable now than it was 40 years ago. And it's safer.

On the less positive side, the security screening process on departure can be frustrating, unpredictable, and intrusive. And our country's experience with the tragic attacks of 9/11 have also meant that the process for international travelers entering our country can seem less-than-friendly.

It's important to remember that there are no villains in these transformations. Most of the changes have been implemented from a sincere desire to keep travelers and the country safer.

That said, we need to consistently pursue technology applications that can reduce the hassle factor for travelers in our security and clearance processes.

**What do you think are some of the best pointers for smart traveling?**

Travel light and wear slip-on shoes. Know precisely where your liquids are. And get to the airport early because the backups at the security lines are unpredictable.

**How do you see airports changing in the future?**

I think you'll see airports continue to migrate to even better commercial and service environments. The best example I have to illustrate that is the Pacific Marketplace central terminal area at Sea-Tac.

[According to www.portseattle.org: “The Pacific Marketplace is a city streetscape, a scene of the Northwest community complete with shops, restaurants, landscaping, a view to the airfield, and public art. The gathering place...encompasses 60,000 square feet with a 60-foot tall ceiling and a west-facing structural glass curtain wall. During the day, the large expanse of glass floods the space with sparkle and light; at night, the glowing room becomes a beacon. This interior space feels like an outdoor room.”]

I know many "road warriors"—the most impatient and demanding travelers because they travel all the time—who intentionally get to SeaTac early—or purposely route themselves through SeaTac—because they enjoy spending time in that central terminal now.
What are among your chief challenges and goals for LAX?
By early 2013, we need to complete the first phase of the Bradley West project, a major addition to the Tom Bradley
International Terminal’s west side. The addition will include new gates for latest-generation aircraft, new concourses and
seating areas, 18 new, roomier boarding gates and waiting areas, a secure corridor leading out of the Customs Hall to Baggage
Claim, and a Great Hall for dining, retail shopping, and other passenger amenities.

The Bradley West Project and the other projects comprising Phase 1 of the LAX modernization program is considered to be
the biggest public works project in the history of the City of Los Angeles and is expected to create 40,000 construction-related
jobs over the three-year construction schedule. Other major elements of Phase 1 include improvements to Terminals 5 and 6,
new concessions in Terminals 4 through 7, new taxi lanes, 212 new replacement elevators and escalators, and a new central
utility plant.

Our goal is to deliver the construction program with minimal hassle to travelers. We also need to instill a culture of customer
service and friendliness in all frontline employees at the airport.

With so many projects underway at the same time, how do you stay grounded, so to speak?
That’s never been a big problem for me. I still think I’m a kid from a small town in Alaska who was fortunate enough to have
spectacular parents, wonderful teachers, the blessing of opportunity, and not enough smarts to be afraid of trying everything.

I’ve never been fond of people who take themselves too seriously, so I assiduously avoid doing so. I seem to be wired in a way
that absorbs stress fairly well, although I apparently carry it around in my shoulders! I find that a sturdy sense of humor is a
fabulous coping mechanism, and I gravitate to people who employ theirs with consistently sharp wit.

My husband is a tremendous stabilizer and keeps me laughing all the time. We’re building our retirement place in the hills of
northern California and have planted 100 olive trees. Aside from trying to get semi-regular exercise biking and on a rowing
machine, it’s becoming a farmer that relaxes me most and refills my energy cup.

Are there certain professors, classes, or concepts at WWU that have been particularly useful in your career?
Of course! Both Loren Dickinson and Donnie Rigby were important influences during my years at college. Persuasive
Speaking was a course that I’ve drawn upon countless times in my professional life. In addition, I could never have known
during my college years just how practical Speech class would be. I think I have an average of two speeches or presentations
per week. I was fortunate to learn from the best.

I also need to note the importance, at least to me, of having a college experience with dedicated professors who cared about
the girl from a small town in Alaska. WWU enabled me to build relationships with talented and caring people that last to this
day.

(Editor’s note: We asked Dr. Loren Dickinson what he remembers of Lindsey’s time as a student at WWU, and here’s what
he shared: “Gina brought to her college life much of what she’s like today. We recall, for instance, her keen interests in the
arts. Drama and music were two. I think they helped nourish her fine blend of finesse and bravado. We recall, too, she was
plainly good at engaging people. It seems this has served her unusually well when facing tough, even monumental
moments since college. I’m recalling the agile mind she showed us. She often “got it” before the rest of us, and her pointed
questions convinced us the brain was intact and busy. She, I remember, served up her persuasive speech experiences with
pathos and clearness. A smile seemed nearly always ready to burst out, even in serious moments.

What advice would you have for people who are looking for the full potential in their career, hobby or other interest in life?

Don’t be afraid to take on new challenges. There’s always the risk of failure, but if you work harder and smarter than the next person, the odds are you won’t. Above all, be consistently truthful, open, and respectfully honest with everyone—even when the message is not what they want to hear.

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Dennis Carlson Announces Retirement

Vice President for Advancement for Four Years

By: Lisa Krueger

After four years at Walla Walla University, Dennis Carlson, vice president for advancement, will be retiring in January 2012. “It has been my honor and privilege to work with the Advancement team to further the goals of WWU,” says Carlson.

Carlson has led WWU’s Advancement team since April 2008. During his tenure, his department has helped to secure funding for a number of significant projects, including the Portland’s nursing campus expansion, the “Jesus Among Us” sculpture and plaza, and upgraded equipment for the aviation program. Additionally, Dr. Carlson has overseen the reorganization of the university’s policies and procedures for philanthropy (which were recently approved by the Board of Trustees).

In addition to his years of service at the university, Carlson has served as a pastor and leader in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the past 35-plus years. He was a pastor in Ohio and here in Washington from 1970-1984. He was a departmental director and the secretary of the Washington Conference from 1984-1994, after which he took the same role in the Upper Columbia Conference for two years. From 1996-2000 he was the president of the Minnesota Conference. He was the assistant to the president of the North American Division for Administration before his election as president of the Mid-America Union Conference, where he served from 2002 until he joined our WWU team in 2008.

“We have been blessed by Carlson’s steady and able leadership of our Advancement operation these past four years,” says John McVay, WWU president.
Husband-Wife Research Team Presents Work

Heidi and Steve Haynal study a mathematical tool

By: Emily Forshee

Heidi Haynal, mathematics professor at Walla Walla University, along with her husband, Dr. Steve Haynal, recently presented their findings on Discrete Fourier Transform, which is a mathematical tool commonly used in engineering and computer science to analyze and manipulate images and sounds.

After researching DFT, the Haynals found the minimum number of multiplications and additions necessary for certain classes of the DFT, and provided instances of these algorithms.

“We concluded that satisfiability solvers can be used to explore a rich family of algorithms that implement the Discrete Fourier Transform,” says Heidi. “Our lower bounds result answers an academic question, but we uncovered several new open questions to explore in future research.” Some of the Haynal’s findings surprised them.

“Even though the Discrete Fourier Transform has been a well-studied subject since the late 1960s, no one has proved bounds on algorithm complexity,” Heidi explains. “We were surprised to be able to prove some such bounds and find instances of new algorithms with lower multiplication and addition counts than the best known.

“At the beginning, Heidi said that she and her husband did not plan to do the project together. They first became interested when Steve was using the DFT in a project involving harmonic analysis of sound. “He was curious about the inner workings of the DFT algorithm and noticed that techniques he used at Intel could be, but had never been, applied to exploring families of these algorithms,” says Heidi.

The Haynals presented their findings at the Ninth International Workshop on Satisfiability Modulo Theories held in Snowbird, Utah, this last summer. They have also presented their findings at Intel, the University of California at Santa Barbara, and WWU. The Haynals’ research is also scheduled to be published in the Journal of Satisfiability, Boolean Modeling and Computation.

“Although the initial result came in a matter of months, we slaved for more than a year on preparing and polishing our final paper,” says Heidi. “It is satisfying to discover something new and receive affirmation from fellow experts. But really, we think it’s downright fun to work on solving the research puzzle.”
New Student House Opens

The Atlas Offers Food, Beverages, and More

By: Jenae Williams

Walla Walla University students celebrated the opening of a new student house on Nov. 3 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening event.

Called The Atlas, the new student house will be operated by the Associated Students of Walla Walla University (ASWWU). The house is located on the corner of College Avenue and Whitman Drive and was most recently used by the School of Social Work and Sociology.

Plans for the redesign of the building started long ago. In the 2003-04 school year, Paul Rhynard, then ASWWC president, envisioned a student center that would provide students with a place to study and socialize. Since that time nearly 10 years ago, each president has worked toward making the center a reality by planning and saving money for the project.

At the opening of The Atlas, James Oliver, current ASWWU president, addressed attendees. Oliver told details of The Atlas’ development and thanked those who contributed to the project through the years. Rob Folkenberg, ASWWU spiritual vice president, offered a building dedication prayer. Finally, the last three former ASWWU presidents, Evan Kinne (2008-09 president and 2009 graduate), Eric Wilkinson (2009-10 president and 2010 graduate), and Nolan Kinne (2010-11 president), participated in cutting the ribbon.

In keeping with the vision carefully laid out over the last several years, The Atlas will serve as place for students to study, connect, and worship together in a comfortable setting, conducive to group interaction. The house will also offer beverages and snacks on campus. The interior of The Atlas is decorated in an Old World style with artwork by WWU students. In partnership with Student Missions, The Atlas features a map that lists the location of current student missionaries and ACA students studying abroad.

In its final stages, William Fandrich acted as project manager to finish the fixtures; Chelsea Hardesty styled the building’s interior; and current ASWWU financial vice president Liz Douglass and The Atlas manager Jason Birkenstock coordinated the final work of the project. Ricky Barbosa, a sophomore design major, designed the logo, which is prominently placed on a building wall, as well as on all aprons and hot drink sleeves.

At the opening, Oliver thanked Ken Rogers, vice president for student life and mission, for his consistent support of WWU students, and Shawn McCrery of Tektoniks Corporation for contracting the renovation of The Atlas. Oliver also acknowledged that his list of contributors was not complete—a host of other students and individuals have contributed to the development of The Atlas through the years.

While The Atlas serves the students of WWU, it is also open to friends of WWU and the public. In addition to its customary hot and chilled beverages, the cafe offers vegan drink options as well. The Atlas is open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m.-11
p.m., Friday 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday 7 p.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m.-11 p.m.

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