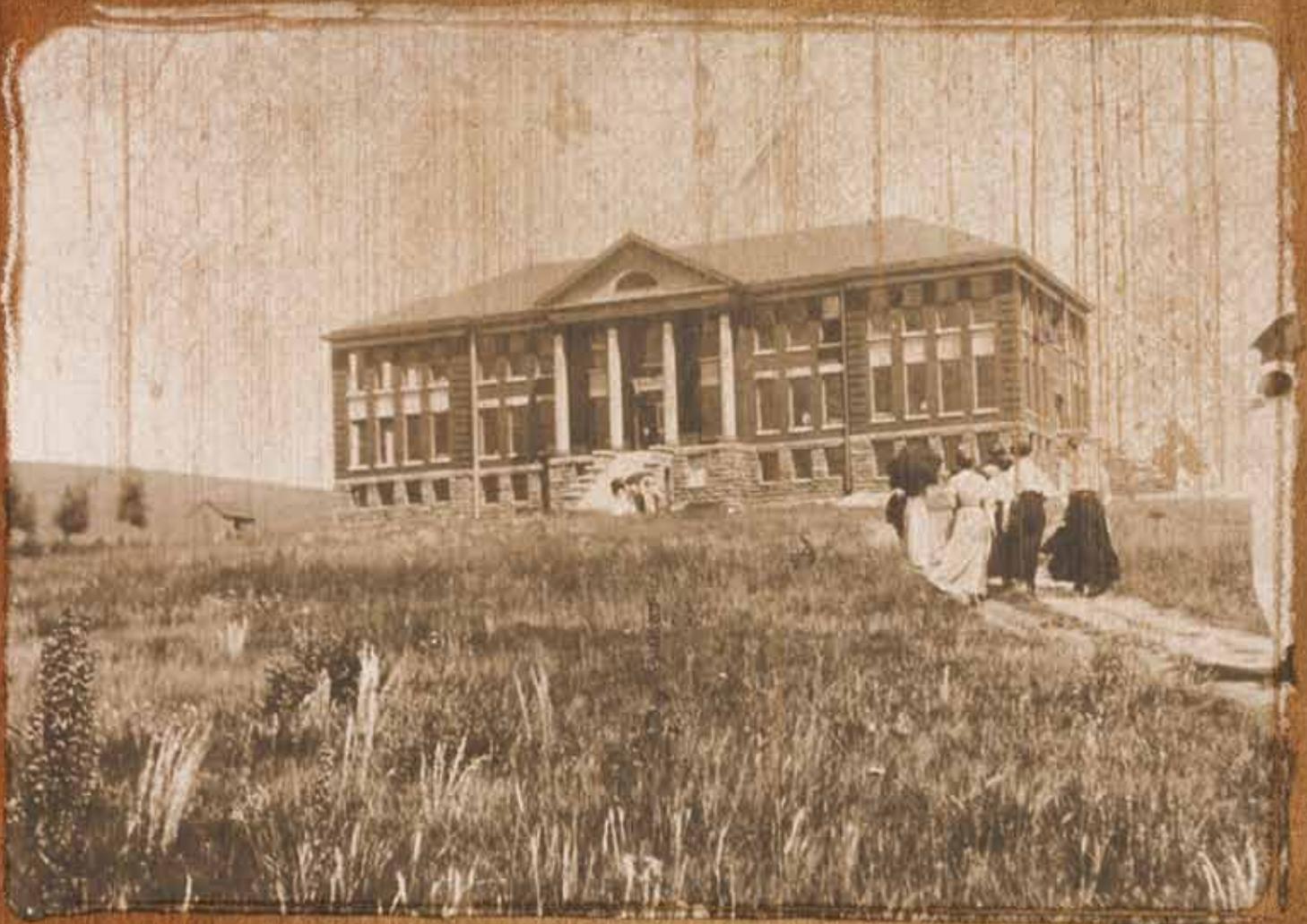


# WESTERNER

Western State College of Colorado

Alumni Magazine

Commemorative Issue



**HERITAGE TO HORIZON**

Celebrating Western's

100-year Legacy



## "Heritage to Horizon"

As Western prepares to celebrate a century of service, this issue of the "Westerner" reflects back on the people who breathed life into this College and championed for its success.

Western has persevered through many challenges as milestones have been achieved. Each time we have triumphed and emerged even stronger, transforming setbacks to momentum to move us forward.

And as the adage goes, "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Today, we continue to face state funding challenges, but in spite of them our successes continue, thanks to the resilience and tenacity of the Western community. This year several monumental achievements occurred that will hold a place in Western's history. These historic events are catalysts as Western enters a new era.

This year's first historic moment was the opening and dedication of the new College Center, which is a point-of-pride on campus. The building has done exactly what was envisioned – it brings together the campus and Gunnison Valley communities for social activities and more. The building also earned LEED Gold certification for environmental design and resource efficiency. (The first LEED certified building on campus was a silver designation earned by the Borick Business building). Kelley Hall is designated a gold LEED certified building.

In February, the College received official accreditation for its new graduate programs, which had been discontinued in 1989 per state legislation. It was a long, arduous process to bring the programs back to campus, but was accomplished thanks to the hard work and dedication of faculty and staff; as well as strong political support from local legislators. This summer Western

welcomed more than 100 graduate students for the first sessions of the Master of Arts in Education and Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing programs.

This spring, Western students approved a facility fee that will enable the College to enhance campus life for all students, faculty and staff. They share our vision for Western to continue providing a high quality, well-rounded college experience. The facility fee will make possible construction of a new residence hall facility as well as a new field house and recreation/fitness center. All new construction will occur on the west side of campus and includes the demolition of Keating Hall and the Shavano apartment complex.

The 2010-11 academic year has been declared the Year of Sustainability as a result of a student initiative to create campus-wide awareness of the Western's commitment to resource conservation and environmental stewardship. The events and activities presented throughout this year set the stage for College efforts to support student-led initiatives that will shape future policies and direction.

As we look from our heritage to the horizon for our second century of service, we can see the challenges that lay ahead. But as our history has demonstrated, we are ready to face and overcome those obstacles and to continue to engage our students, faculty, staff and alumni in Western's future success – all of you have a stake in our success as we move forward and upward. Please join us in celebrating these milestones with many more to come.

# WESTERNER

Western State College of Colorado Alumni Magazine

ABOUT THE COVER  
 July 1912. Members of the student body  
 (five men, 28 women) march up a dirt  
 path through the weeds to North Hall.

in this issue

## Western State College Fall 2010 Volume 9, No. 2

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would just like thank those who helped me edit, proofread and research this commemorative issue of the Westerner. A big thank you to Ken Tandy, WSC Senior and Journalism major; Tom Burggraf, WSC Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Marques Bravo, WSC Alumni Outreach Associate, and the one and only, Dr. Duane Vandenbusche, WSC History Professor and local historian.

Research for this issue of the Westerner was found through several sources--Mountain Academia: A History of Western State College of Colorado, written by Abbott Fay was a huge help and a great read for any of you who

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**foundation news**



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**campus news**



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**wsc athletics**



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**news from the alumni association**



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**Nominate top 100 westerners**



would like to know more history about the college; the Looking Back book written by Larry Meredith was also very helpful; and the 70 or so volumes of the Curecanti yearbook were an invaluable source of information. Thanks to each and every one of you out there who at one time was an editor or who worked on the staff of the Curecanti--little did you know how historic your contributions would be.

Most of the photographs in this issue came from back issues of the Curecanti Yearbook, but others came from the Library archives.

## Welcome to our Commemorative “Heritage to Horizon” Edition of the Westerner!



I know what you're thinking. If you've been an alumnus for 10 years or longer, you're thinking didn't we already celebrate our 100-year anniversary? Well, the answer to that is, yes. We celebrated a centennial 10 years ago--at that time acknowledging the approval by the state to allow a college to be built in Gunnison, Colorado. Well, it took a decade of

tradition of spirit unrivaled by any other institution in the country. With that said, I have no doubt that there will be those who will want to celebrate yet another centennial in 2023 to mark the milestone of our college transforming from the Colorado State Normal School to Western State College of Colorado in 1923. I almost hope we do and that I'm around to enjoy it--because with a school as resilient as Western has been throughout the years, it deserves many, many recognitions for all of the great people who have given their blood, sweat and tears for this place to become the outstanding institution it is today. In this issue of the Westerner, I hope that we can portray those people and the spirit that has kept this place thriving over the years--that is my sincere hope and aspiration--as this issue is dedicated to them.

Tonya Van Hee  
WSC Alumni Director, 1991 WSC alumna

hard work for the people of Gunnison to get that college built and it wasn't until June 1911 before the first students stepped into the State Normal Building for the very first classes to be offered by what was then The State Normal School of Colorado at Gunnison. That is why we've decided to celebrate our “First class” 100-year legacy for the entire year of 2011--and we're going to go big. There will be special events all year long to commemorate those first pioneering students to brave the elements of Gunnison and initiate what would become a

### 1911-1919

- 1911** - North Hall is finally completed - a full decade after the establishment of the college by the State. 1911 - First classes begin at The Colorado State Normal School at Gunnison
- 1914** - The first President of Colorado State Normal School is named - James Herbert Kelley.
- 1916** - Western celebrates its first Homecoming during commencement ceremonies.
- 1919** - Samuel Quigley is appointed President of the College. John C. Johnson named Dean of Students.
- 1920** - Approval by the Board of Trustees for the college to expand offerings to a four year program offering a BA in Education.



Footnotes - <sup>1</sup>Letter, C.A. Hollingshead to Z.X. Snyder, in Reports file, Western State College, Gunnison, CO April 28, 1913.

The date was September 13, 1911. Excitement was in the air as the first group of 13 students made their way to the impressive new building Normal Hall at the State Normal School of Colorado at Gunnison to attend classes for the very first time. That excitement may have waned just a bit as they went inside this building to find that there was no electricity, no heat, and no light--there were also no desks, tables or chairs. The only books, according to pioneer faculty member John C. Johnson, lay in piles on the floor. The first official act in the educational program was a devotional exercise conducted by the Reverend S. Lumley of Gunnison.

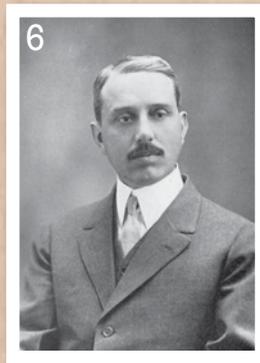
During its early years, the actual collegiate-level work at the Normal School was a two-year program leading to a lifetime teaching certificate. There was also a Normal Elementary, or high school program, which was operated by the college. Many of the activities at that time were either high school level or combined college/high school activities, as the college itself was just getting underway. In May 29, 1912, the Normal School graduated its first class, consisting of five women.

During this first decade, finances at the college were tight to say the least. The college wasn't even charging in-state students, and out-of-state students paid just \$5 per semester. On April 28, 1913, Principal Hollingshead wrote to President Snyder of the Board of Trustees that it would be "unwise to assume the responsibility of attempting to struggle through another two years, for without adequate equipment and financial assurance, little, if anything, can be accomplished."<sup>1</sup> However, as the plight of the school received publicity across the state it became increasingly apparent that many wished to keep the college open. With support from the Trustees, Governor Shafroth and the Gunnison County High School, along with faculty members agreeing to accept half-pay until February 1, 1914, the college

was able to stay open and classes were held that September as scheduled. This would be the first of several "imminent closings" the college would face in its first quarter of life.

Despite the difficulties at the college, students were active during those early years. Numerous sports were developed including basketball and indoor baseball, both competing at the high school level. The Elementary and Normal students combined to form a football team and competed against regional town teams including a Gunnison team which included the mayor. Seniors regularly held presentations of class plays for commencement, and in 1913 the entire student body presented a comedy entitled Papa's Nose. From 1911 to 1919, The Curecanti (yearbook), two women's literary societies and one for men, three Camp Fire Girls organizations, Glee clubs, a German club, a history club and the Hiking and Outing Club were organized. An annual Fourth of July fish-fry was the high point in the summer session. In 1915, some 450 fish were served to the student body, who rode a special excursion narrow-gauge train to Almont for the outing.

Enrollment during these years was difficult to calculate, as the high school students were often included in the enrollment figures. In 1914 there were 43 bonafide Normal students attending, and by spring of 1915 this number had increased to 98. This jump in enrollment can be attributed to the Kelley Administration as well as the fact that fifteen states now accepted CSNS degrees for teacher certification with four other acceptances pending. In 1917, enrollment at the college took a dip, followed by a significant decrease to just 64 students in 1918 due to World War I. Enrollment continued to drop in 1919, just before President James Kelley resigned in order to join the Red Cross, when many of the students failed to return to college following a three-month recess due to the nation-wide influenza epidemic.



**1)** October 25, 1910 - the earliest known picture of Normal Hall which would become Taylor Hall. A crowd has gathered on this day to watch as the Grand Masonic Lodge lays the cornerstone for the building which had yet to be completed. **2)** 1914 - Camp cookery class **3)** 1914 - Scene from a theatre production - "Polished Pebbles" **4)** 1914 - Women's domestic science class **5)** 1914 - One of the first women's organizations which were very popular in the early days of the college - "Campfire girls" **6)** President James Kelly who served as the Normal School's first President. His Presidency lasted from 1914 - 1919. **7)** The staff of the 1914 Curecanti looking very busy indeed! **8)** Normal football team from 1914 **9)** 1917 - Billiards at the "Men's Club" **10)** Legendary music professor, F. George Damson, who taught at Western from 1914 - 1956. **11)** 1917 - 4th of July fish fry up in Almont

## 1920-1929

The 20's began with a bang for the Normal School with approval by the Board of Trustees to extend the offerings at the college to four years of undergraduate work and instituting the BA degree in Education. The prestige of the college took a definite upturn, with one newspaper commenting: "Gunnison is no longer merely a Normal Town. It is a COLLEGE TOWN."

Although this extension placed more financial pressures upon the operation of the college, in 1921, the Board of Trustees extended the program even further to include graduate study leading to an MA degree in education. The Board had faith in Samuel Quigley, who began his Presidency of the college in 1919, to weather the financial storm facing the college. The Board wasn't alone in their faith in Quigley, who was well loved by all of Gunnison and the Normal School.

It was Quigley's ideals that were the impetus behind the final extension of the academics programs at the Normal School. On March 30, 1923, House Bill No. 35 passed, changing not only the name of the college, but the central purpose as well. The name was changed from the "State Normal School at Gunnison" to "The Western State College of Colorado" and the program became a "liberal arts college with a professional school of education." Western was now not only the first institution of higher education on the western slope, but the only state-supported liberal arts college in Colorado. Its purpose and name were now clearly defined, but it was sadly underfinanced for such a mission. Quigley became creative in funding projects for the school—often using his own money to supplement projects. He was a man for the college and would do anything to keep it afloat, but the Board and others in the state did not appreciate his efforts. Eventually there were charges of misappropriation of funds, which created a storm and resulted in demands from Quigley's enemies in the state for his resignation. The attack was intermixed with political maneuvers by organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan, to gain power in the state government. During this period, more than one flaming cross appeared on the hill overlooking campus. Quigley was eventually exonerated from the misappropriation charges and, by 1924; he had weathered yet another financial storm.

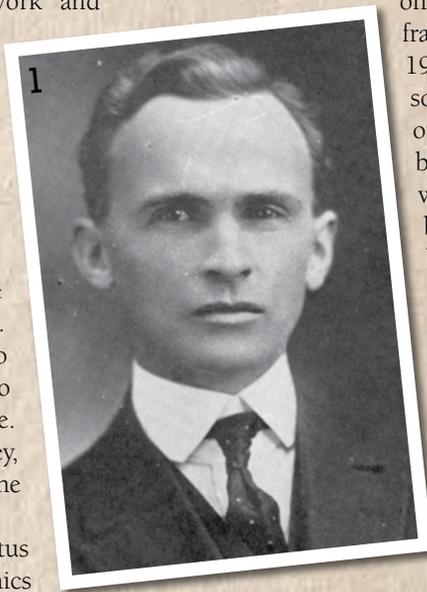
Enrollment increased during Quigley's administration, with 295 students enrolled in 1922, and 503 by 1926. Activities also increased for students with the introduction of honorary and

social fraternities and sororities. Kappa Delta Pi, National Professional Education Society, was the first honorary fraternity on campus, started in 1923. The first social fraternity on campus was Kappa Delta Mu in 1924, followed by Kappa Sigma Alpha, the first social sorority, in that same year. Musical organizations were numerous and the college band was hugely successful. In 1922, the band was named the outstanding band in the state by the Denver Post. Other organizations were beginning at this time as well. The student newspaper, Top 'O The World, published its first issue on November 23, 1921, athletics moved from the elementary level to the intercollegiate level with the introduction of men's basketball in 1921 with football and track to follow in 1922, and the first formal student government was organized in October of 1922. One student council activity was to adopt the official college colors in 1923—crimson and slate—and

the school mascot—the fawn. The fawn would remain the school's official mascot until the late 50's at which time, it was officially changed to The Mountaineers. However, the term Mountaineers is how the students referred to themselves beginning in 1923 to present day.

One would be remiss in the telling of Western's history to leave out the story of the creation of the "W" on Tenderfoot Mountain. In 1923, John C. Johnson led the students in one of the most spectacular student/faculty projects in history. He planned and supervised the construction of the huge "W" made of white washed rocks still seen today overlooking the campus. It's dimensions of 300 by 400 feet (increased to 320 by 420 feet some years later) make it still the largest collegiate emblem in the world today.

Quigley remained President of Western until forced out by the Board in 1927—a wildly unpopular decision to the citizens of Gunnison and the students and faculty of Western. Richard Aspinall was selected by the Board to take over the reins and remained in that capacity until 1930. Aspinall's presidency caused much dissatisfaction among the faculty at Western by cutting funding to central programs and forcing out popular faculty members such as John C. Johnson who would go on to start the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in 1928. His three year tenure as President was a constant battle between administration and faculty. Enrollment figures also declined during his Presidency with 496 in 1927, 428 in 1928 and 386 in 1929.



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# 1920-1929

- 1920** - Gunnison County High School District builds South Hall.
- 1921** - Further expansion of offerings to include an MA in Education.
- 1921** - Men's Basketball becomes first inter-collegiate sport at Colorado State Normal School. In January of 1921, CSNS admitted to the Athletic Conference of Colorado Colleges.
- 1922** - Football becomes second intercollegiate sport at CSNS with track starting that same year.
- 1922** - Student Government formed
- 1923** - The name of the college is changed to Western State College of Colorado; mission changed to liberal arts college with professional school of education.
- 1923** - "W" on Tenderfoot Mountain formed under planning and supervision of John C. Johnson; School colors (crimson and slate) and school mascot (the fawn) are established.
- 1923** - Western's first Student Union, The Clubhouse, is built.
- 1924** - "W" Club formed
- 1924** - With the building of Crawford Gymnasium, Western admitted into the newly formed Rocky Mountain Conference.
- 1924** - Women's Athletic Association organized.
- 1927** - Wrestling becomes intercollegiate sport at Western competing against opponents such as the University of Colorado only to become an intramural sport the following year.
- 1927** - Richard Aspinall takes over the Presidency of Western.

1) Samuel Quigley, President 1919-1927 2) May 1923 - Taylor Hall before central hall was built to combine the north and south halls. This photo is from a collection of John C. Johnson's. Along with the photos was a note, "I dug, hauled in auto and planted, most of the trees on campus." John C. Johnson 3) May 2, 1923 - Building the "W" - Built by John C. Johnson and a group of students, the "W" was 300' by 400' with each line of the letter 16' wide. This size was later increased to 320' by 420'. The bucket "brigade" passed the buckets and cans of whitewash from person to person, from huge fires where the snow was melted to the far arm of the "W." Fire and "wood" in the background. It took one ton of lime to whitewash the "W." 4) 1923 Top 'O the World Staff 5) 1927 Colorado State Normal School Band 6) The "W" Club organized in the spring of 1924. 7) The "Clubhouse" built in 1923, then rebuilt in 1933 after a fire. This photo appeared in the 1927 Curecanti with the caption, "Where a man makes friends without half trying."

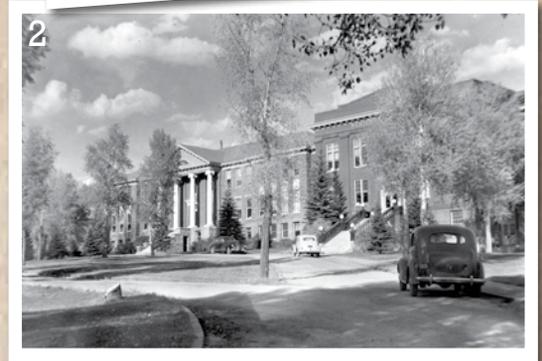


# 1930-1944

Charles Clinton Casey took over the Presidency of Western in 1930 and continued through another extremely difficult period until his death in 1946, making him the longest serving President in Western's history. These were the years of the Great Depression as well as World War II and times were tough all over. In 1932, the college instituted a "Produce for Tuition" program to compensate for the lack of funding by students. Under this program, the college accepted farm produce in lieu of tuition. College professors and local citizens were asked to buy produce acquired by the college in order to help out students and make the program successful.

Also in 1932, the proportion of female to male students was reversed--up until that time, there had always been more women than men, but starting in 1932 through 1941, that trend switched. Total enrollment increased from 293 in 1930 to a pre-war high of 417 in 1939. The war years sent that number spiraling down to a mere 139 in 1944, but after the war, in 1945, the GI Bill aided all college enrollments, increasing Western's numbers to 549.

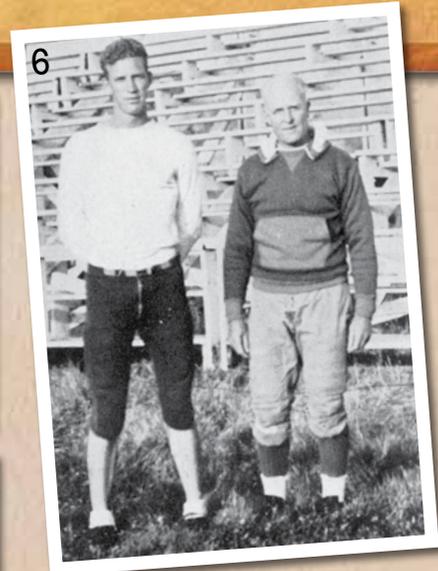
Several enterprising programs were started during this time period. One program of National recognition was the Western State Music Camp, first held in 1934. The program's founder, F. George Damson, began his tenure at Western in 1915 and continued until 1951, noting that the Music camp was his biggest thrill. Other programs started at that same time were the Southwestern Archaeological Society, founded by another long-time faculty member, Dr. Clarence Hurst, and the first annual Writer's Conference, founded by yet another pioneer faculty member, Dr. Lois Borland. In 1941, an effort to organize a collegiate ski competition was sponsored by the college. Under sanction of the Southern Rocky Mountain Ski Association at the Pioneer Ski area on Cement Creek north of Gunnison, Western competed against Mesa, Mines, Montana State and Weber College.





# 1930-1944

- 1930** - Central Hall (joining South Hall and Normal Hall) is completed. The entire joined building will later be called Taylor Hall.
- 1930** - Intercollegiate Track is dropped to intramural sport. Western is currently fielding intercollegiate teams only in men's basketball and football.
- 1930** - Charles Casey becomes the fourth President of Western.
- 1932** - Chipeta Hall (re-named Ute Hall in 1955) is opened to women students in March.
- 1933** - The Clubhouse burns down--construction of a new Clubhouse is begun the same year.
- 1934** - Western hosts its first Band Camp under the direction of F. George Damson.
- 1937** - Ouray Hall, Keating Hall, Coronado Hall, and the President's House all built simultaneously.
- 1939** - Savage Library, designed by architect, Temple Hoyne Buell, is completed.
- 1941** - First intercollegiate skiing competition is sponsored by the college.
- 1943** - All athletics at the college are suspended due to the war.



**1)** Charles Clinton Casey, President, 1930-1946 **2)** Taylor Hall as it appeared in 1940. **3)** 1932 Chemistry class **4)** 1939 Basketball game played in Crawford Gymnasium. **5)** 1931 Western State College football team **6)** 1938 photo of Coaches Pete Pederson and Paul "Frosty" Wright. Pederson was arguably one of the best athletes to ever wear a Western jersey, playing both football and basketball, and Wright not only played football at Western, but went on to become a teacher, coach and athletic director. Wright became known as "the grand old man of Western athletics" and Wright gymnasium is named for him. **7)** Miss Lucy Spicer in 1941. Spicer was one of the original 1911 faculty members and retired in 1944 after having served as the first dean of women, and later as the registrar, in addition to having taught Latin and mathematics. She was devoted to outdoor life and took a leadership role in hiking and outing activities. **8)** Taylor Hall as it appeared in 1940. **9)** 1932 Hiking and Outing club **10)** 1940 Western State College baseball team

# 1946-1960

In 1946, all were saddened by the death of Casey who was still serving as President at the time of his passing, but in true Western style pulled themselves together and found yet another great President in Peter Palmer (Prexy) Mickelson. Mickelson had one huge advantage over all previous Presidents of the college in that, for once, the college was not faced with extreme financial hardships and was not at the verge of closing its doors. In fact, during Mickelson's tenure, the college experienced a construction boom not seen before. Mickelson had a vision and knew that when the public pays for a school, they want to see something, and by the end of his term he had definitely given them a beautiful campus to see.

During this timeframe, Paul Wright Gym, Chipeta Hall, Beckwith Hall, Kelley Hall, the Student Union, the maintenance building, and three units of the Shavano Complex were built. Keating Hall and Crawford Hall were renovated, and the heating plant was expanded. Athletics underwent similar growth with the expansion of Paul Wright Gym, adding a swimming pool and lower gym, and, in 1948, Mountaineer Bowl was constructed. In addition, all streets and parking lots were paved and night lighting and additional sidewalks were added.

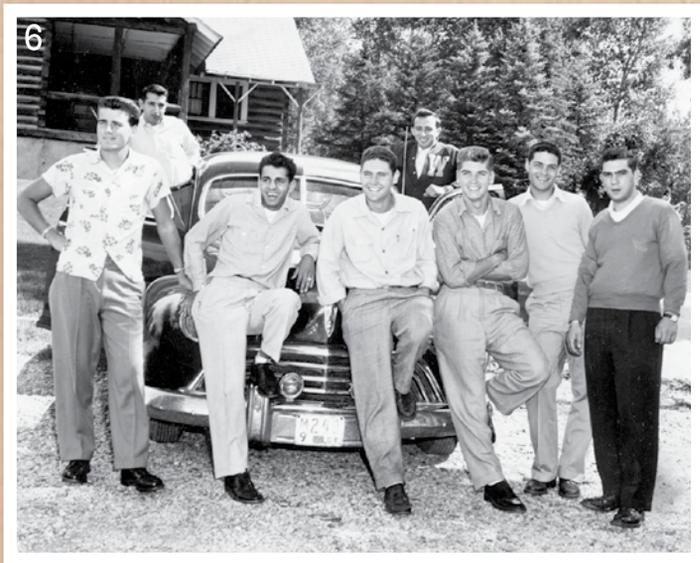
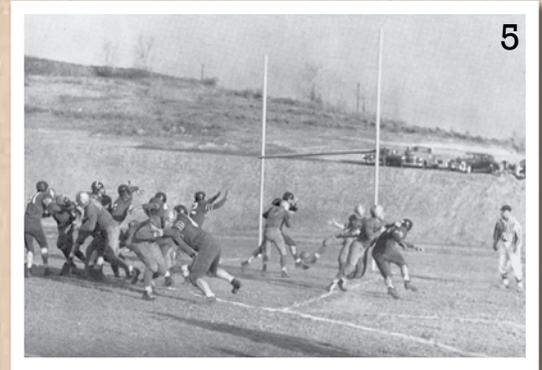
Enrollment also boomed during the era, with 556 in 1947 and 1,369 by 1958. Students were very active on campus with social and honorary fraternities and sororities along with a slew of other clubs and activities available and energetic during this time which gave the campus a feeling of vibrancy and life. Women's athletics were

overseen by the legendary Hannah Praxel, with many sports to choose from including skiing,

basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, swimming and badminton. In 1949, Paul Wright got the sport of skiing sanctioned as an NCAA sport making him "the father of intercollegiate skiing." They participated in what was termed "play days" at other colleges in the state. The popular "Mountain Dewins" program was alive and well during the 50s and 60s at Western. Begun in 1946, Mountain Dewins was a performance competition in which many different campus organizations enacted wild and comedic short skits and was attended by virtually every student and most faculty.



**1)** Peter Palmer Mickelson, President, 1946-1959 **2-3)** 1950 Western State College ski team **4)** Abandoned in a field near Parlin for years sat the most famous bus in Western State College history. On November 18, 1950, it was carrying the football team to Canon City for a game against Adams State. Descending Monarch, the bus suddenly lost its brakes, and the gear shift popped into neutral. While the driver fought to hold it on the road at speeds that reached over 100 miles an hour, the players, at his command, shifted their weight from one side of the bus to the other to help hold the vehicle on the curves. After making it down safely, the team went on to play their game and beat the Indians 35-14. **5)** 1949 football game. One of the first games played in the new bowl. **6)** 1955 - One of the first groups of students to arrive from the east coast to attend Western; these young men were all from Connecticut and managed their trip in a 1941 Plymouth. **7)** 1947 - President Mickelson addresses the crowd at the ground breaking ceremony for Mountaineer Bowl. **8)** 1955 - "W Days" - President Quigley began "W Days" by declaring May 2 an all-school holiday with the sole purpose of whitewashing the "W" each year. Freshmen were delegated to carry a ton of lime



in 100 pound sacks to the top of the mountain on their backs ("Freshmen were not allowed to be sissies back then," John C. Johnson commented in 1948). The whitewash (lime and water, the consistency of sludge) was passed the length of the letter, bucket-brigade-style, and sloshed liberally over the rocks. In the early days, because the lime was caustic, it not only burned the skin but could damage the eyes and medics were kept close by to treat any lime wounds. **9**) Float from the 1958 Homecoming parade. **10**) 1950 - One of the winning snow sculptures from the Winter Carnival

# 1946-1960

- 1946** - Men's intercollegiate basketball returns to Western following the war.
- 1946** - Peter Palmer (Prexy) Mickelson becomes President of Western.
- 1946** - Intercollegiate football also returns after a four-year break for the war. Skiing returns as well for the 1947 season.
- 1948** - Intercollegiate track and field returns to Western.
- 1948** - Mountaineer Bowl fitted and graded to Smelter Hill and seating for 3,000 provided.
- 1949** - Beckwith Hall is built
- 1949** - Intercollegiate wrestling and baseball begin at Western.
- 1951** - Paul Wright Gym is built.
- 1955** - Both the Student Union and Chipeta Hall are built. Ute Hall is now the name for what was Chipeta Hall.
- 1957** - Kelley Hall is built along with three units of the Shavano apartment complex.
- 1959** - The swimming pool and lower gym are added to the gym; the gate-house to Mountaineer Bowl is built.

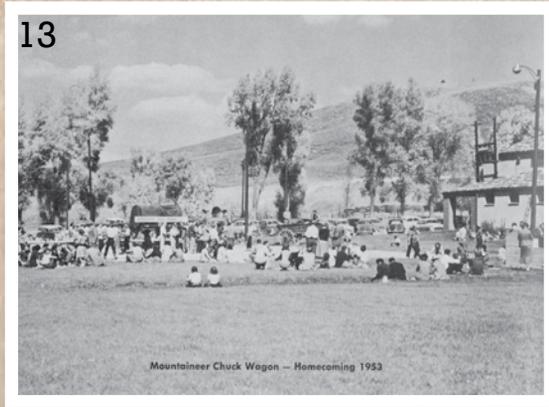
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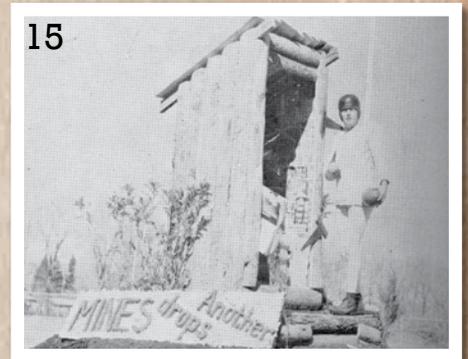
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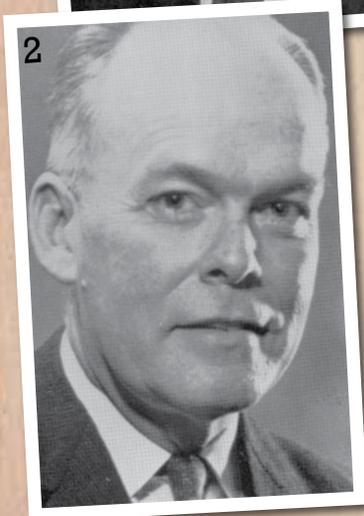
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**11)** Completed Mountaineer Bowl in 1949. **12)** 1955 Twirlers **13)** Mountaineer Chuck Wagon, Homecoming 1953 **14)** King and Queen of the Winter Carnival, 1954 **15)** 1949 Homecoming parade float **16)** 1951 theatre production, "Seven Keys to Baldpate" **17)** 1949 Western State College marching band in the Homecoming parade.



The 60's began with new leadership for the college. After 14 years, Mickelson stepped down from the Presidency and left a legacy at Western that would prove difficult to top. In 1960, Grant Venn was named president and served for just two years. In 1962, Harlan Bryant took over the helm for the next decade.

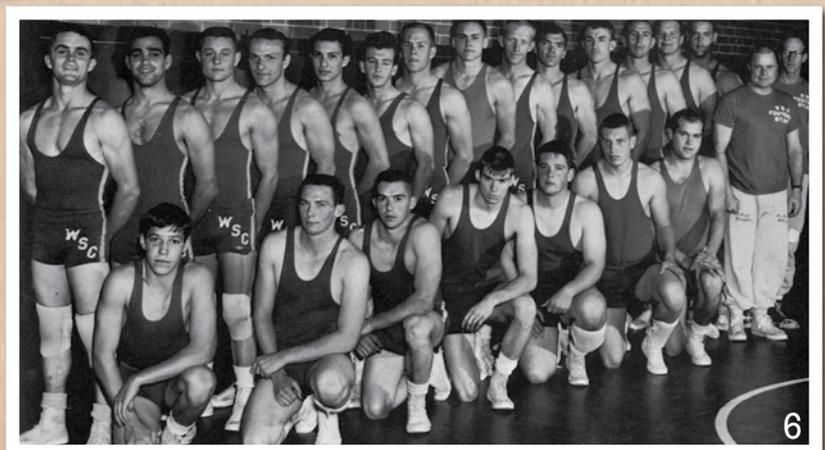


Construction continued during this time with the building of Escalante Terrace, Hurst Hall, Quigley Hall, and Mears Hall, along with additions to the Student Union and the Library. Enrollment soared to over 3,000 students by the mid 1970's and this rapid growth created many changes in campus life. In 1960, students and faculty wore slacks, dress shirts and sweaters; women wore dresses, blouses, skirts and sweaters. Also, in 1960, women were restricted to specific residence halls and were required to sign in and out with "lockdown" at 10:00pm on weekdays and midnight on weekends. But by 1965, jeans and sweatshirts were the clothes of choice for both men and women and residence hall restrictions gradually disappeared and gave way to coed residences by the late 70s. In the late 1960s, the popular "Mountain Dewins" program was called to a halt by the administration, stating that the program was too "risque" to be continued. Not to be hindered, Western students began Springfest in the late 60s. Springfest was originally started by the Kappa Delta Mu fraternity and was a combination of Woodstock, Iron Man/Woman contests and picnic. It featured raft races, mud-wrestling contests, mud football games, tug 'o wars, bed-races, live bands and barbequed foods. Springfest was a rite of passage for students that would last until the late 80s.

By 1974, more changes were on their way. This was the time of much turmoil across the nation with the Vietnam War and the resignation and disgrace of a US President. Western was becoming much more worldly with about 20 percent of the student body coming from outside the state of Colorado. The enrollment more than doubled between 1960 and 1975 bringing more and more people from all over the nation to Gunnison. Also, with the passage of Title IX in 1972, women's athletics became more organized than they had been previously with full competitive schedules and paid coaches.

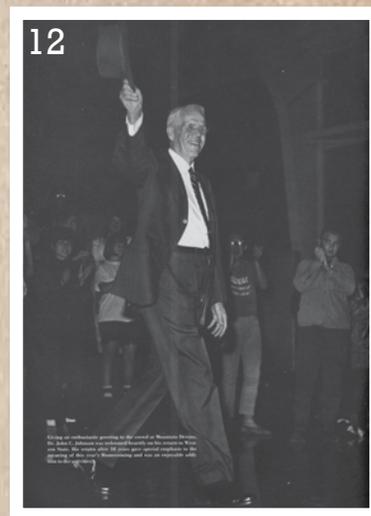
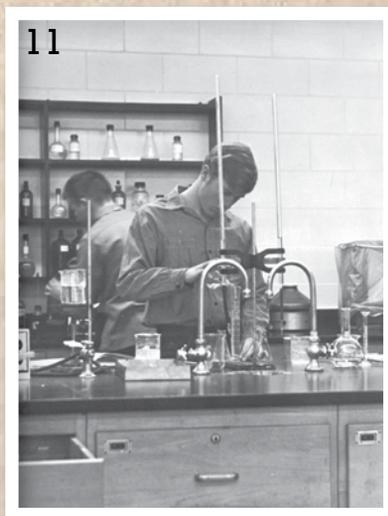
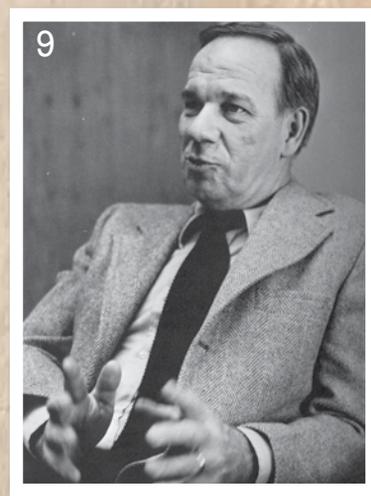


1) Grant Venn, President, 1960 - 1962 2) Harlan Bryant, President, 1962 - 1973 3) 1966 Cheerleading squad 4) 1960 - Held the Friday night before Homecoming, "Mountain Dewins" always entertained a capacity crowd. This photo is of the winning skit performed by the ski club. 5) 1961 Art class 6) The 1963 and 1964 wrestling teams, led by legendary coach, Tracy Borah, won the National Championships two years in a row. Here, the 1964 team stands proudly with their coach.



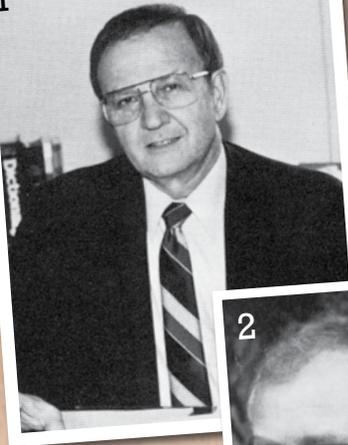
# 1960-1975

- 1960** - Grant Venn is appointed the new President of Western.
- 1961** - Escalante Terrace is completed.
- 1962** - Hurst Hall opens its doors to science students.
- 1962** - Men's intercollegiate swimming begins at Western.
- 1965** - Expansion of Savage Library is completed.
- 1966** - Mears Complex is built.
- 1968** - KWSB 91.1 begins keeping the coldest valley hot.
- 1971** - Intercollegiate golf begins at Western.
- 1973** - John Mellon is named President of Western.
- 1974** - Women's intercollegiate basketball and swimming expand to full competitive schedules.
- 1975** - Fire consumes the 3rd floor of Robidoux Hall.
- 1975** - Women's intercollegiate skiing and volleyball are formally organized with full competitive schedules.
- 1975** - The Western State College Foundation is founded.



**7)** Second place float in the 1961 Homecoming parade made by Sigma, Sigma, Sigma sorority. **8)** 1972 Springfest tug-o-war contest. One of the many, many activities of the popular Springfest. **9)** John Mellon, President, 1973 - 1985 **10)** The one and only, Dr. Duane Vandebusch calling the football game in 1969. **11)** 1967 Science class **12)** 1967 - Giving an enthusiastic greeting to the crowd at Mountain Dewins, Dr. John C. Johnson was welcomed back after a 38-year absence to thunderous applause from WSC students and faculty. **13)** 1961 Winter Carnival dance.

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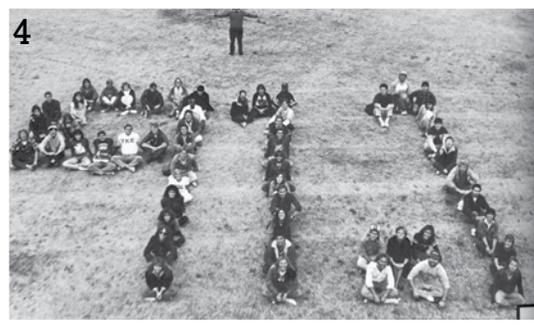
This era would see five different Presidents take the helm at Western. In 1973, John Mellon began his Presidency. In 1985, J. Gilbert Hause would serve for just two years with William T. Hamilton taking over the helm in 1987. Hamilton would serve until 1991, at which time Kaye Howe would begin her Presidency at Western becoming Western's first female President. Howe's term would again test the strength of Western with much tension between this new administration and the faculty and staff. She would introduce new programs--implementing a four day school week--and beginning the infamous "Western Wednesdays"--and would also lay off many Western employees during her term further straining relations. It was during her tenure that the Curecanti yearbook, which had been in print since 1914, would be eliminated. In its place would be introduced the Pathfinder literary magazine which is still in print today. In 1996, Harry T. Peterson took over the Presidency at Western and led the college until 2002. Peterson's Presidency would bring some much needed healing to the college after the Howe era and Western would again go back to a traditional semester system.

Students during this era also went through some major changes. The new feeling of freedom began in the early 70s would continue to grow. The styles would go through some huge changes from bell-bottom pants and mullets in the 70s and early 80s to big hair, shoulder pads and neon colors in the late 80s to leggings, slouch socks and rolled jeans in the early 90s to low riding jeans and grunge looks in the late 90s and early 2000s. But the thing that would ultimately separate this era more than anything else would be the progress of communication and technology. In fact, during this time the Speech Department became the Department of Communication. Computers came in full force and by the early 90s had made their way into administrative offices, academic buildings, the library, the student union and dorm rooms. The World Wide Web had become available for public use in 1991 and by 2000 there were over 295 million users on the internet. Also, by the year 2000, owning a cell phone was a fact of life. The pace at which communication was taking place was increasing rapidly not to see a decline anytime in the foreseeable future. There were other major changes during this time. Costs increased exponentially for the college due in large part to the inflation of the dollar during the 80s and into the early 90s. In 1985, the college lost a hard fought battle with the Colorado Commission of Higher Education and lost its ability to award master-level degrees. Enrollment decreased from its boom of the 70s and leveled off at around 2,500 students.

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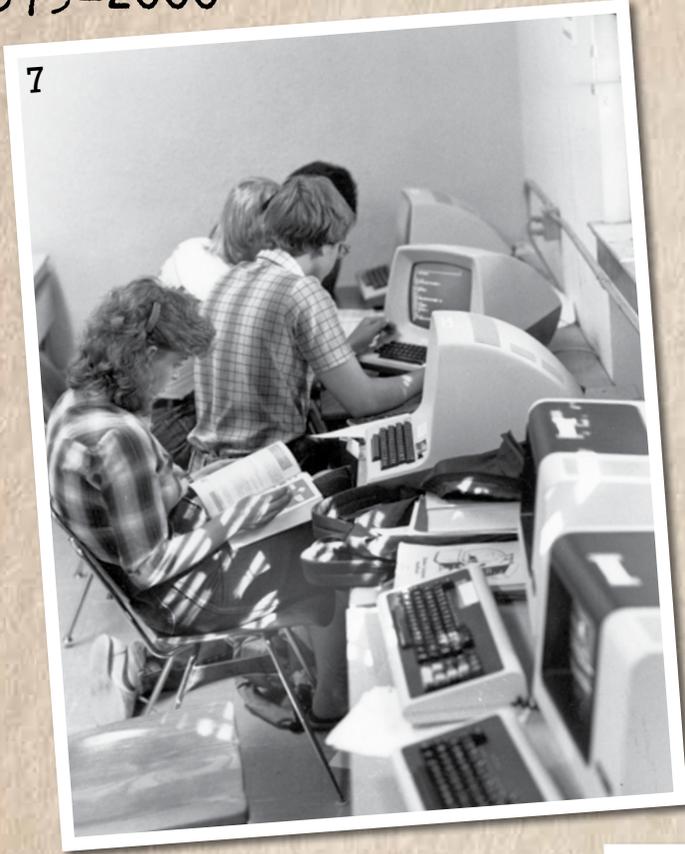


6



**1)** J. Gilbert Hause, President, 1985 - 1987 **2)** William T. Hamilton, President, 1987 - 1991 **3)** The Mountaineer at a 1987 football game. **4)** KWSB photo for the 1987 Curecanti--"Keeping the Coldest Valley Hot" **5)** 1976 Western State College Women's Alpine ski team **6)** 1977 Western State College Volleyball team

7



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11



12



7) Students working on some of the first computers on campus in the early 80s. 8) 1985 Mountain Rescue team 9) The 1982 Ski club had quite the membership. 10) Geologist Bruce Bartleson teaching an outdoor Geology class in the early 80s. 11) Dr. Curt Gravis assisting students in his gross anatomy class during the 80s. 12) Dr. Duane Vandenbusche with his first National Championship team in 1986. Western's cross country team would go on to win 12 National Championships under Vandenbusche's leadership between the years of 1986



## 1975-2000

**1977** - Men's rugby club starts at Western.

**1978** - Women's soccer club starts.

**1985** - The Colorado Commission on Higher Education directed the Trustees of the consortium, including Western, to discontinue the awarding of master-level degrees.

**1985** - J. Gilbert Hause is appointed the President of Western.

**1987** - Taylor Hall receives much needed renovations.

**1987** - William T. Hamilton is named President.

**1989** - Western awards its last masters degree.

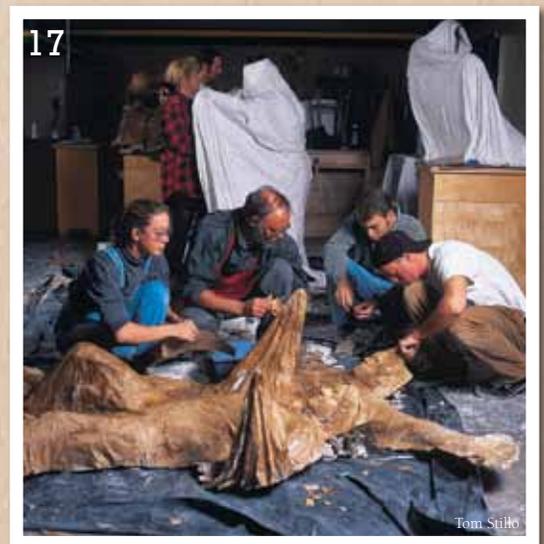
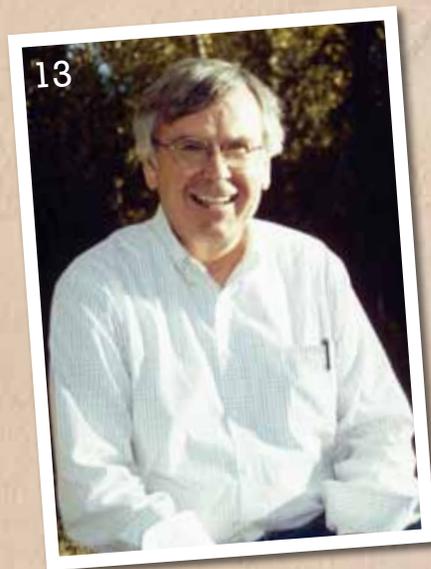
**1991** - Kay Howe is selected as Western's President.

**1995** - The College Union receives a renovation.

**1996** - Western receives approval to award Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees.

**1996** - Harry L. Peterson becomes President of Western.

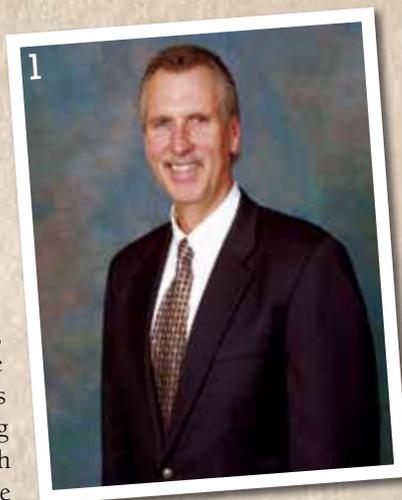
**1998** - Paul Wright Gym receives a 40,000-square foot addition.



and 2005--eight in the men's division and four in the women's. **13** Harry Peterson, President, 1996 - 2002 **14** Western keeps up with the technology of the times as this television station photo from the late 80s shows. **15** Mark Stiger with an anthropology student at the dig site at the top of Tenderfoot Mountain in the late 80s. **16** A proud WSC Homecoming tradition. **17** Al Caniff, Chair of the Department of Art and Music, works with students in his sculpture class. Caniff spearheaded the effort to achieve approval of a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree for Western in 1996.

# 2000-2011

The 2000s began with the celebration of Western's centennial of its chartering in 2001. Colorado Governor, Bill Owens declared the week of April 16, 2001, "Western State College Week in Colorado." This would be a year of reflection similar to our 50th and 75th anniversary years (held in 1961 and 1986 respectively). The celebration was an exciting time in our history. In 2002, Jay Helman became the thirteenth President for Western and has been the type of leader that has been setting Western apart since the early 1900s both internally and at the state level, and will be remembered for the closest community/college relationship in many decades. Helman's Presidency created the crescendo of a century for Western, and would see more much needed development demanded by today's savvy college-age student. During this time, the experimental theatre was constructed, the auditorium renovated in Taylor Hall and the Mountaineer Bowl received a new track. Kelley Hall underwent a major renovation and was completed in 2007, including a new Center for Environmental Studies. More historically, however, would be the building of the Borick Business Building in 2006, making Western the first college campus in the state to build an academic building completely from private funds. In 2009, the Student Union was leveled and in its place the new College Center was erected. This modern, 70,000 square-foot building houses the new cafeteria, Rare Air Cafe, for the campus and includes a public movie theatre, the Prosser Theatre. The Center officially opened in January, 2010. Kelley Hall, Borick Business Building and the College Center all received LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) ratings staying in line with



the college's commitment to the environment. Also, in March, 2010, WSC students passed a student fee hike enabling Western to build a new apartment complex and a new field house in a historically close election--the vote passed by a whisker-thin 12 votes. The new field house will stand where the current Shavano complex is located. Shavano will be leveled and the new apartment complex will be located where the Beckwith and Coronado complexes currently stand. By 2014, both of these projects should be completed. In this day of twittering, texting, iPhones, and tiny laptops, students expect facilities to be super modern and providing these types of facilities is really the only way to compete with other colleges who, for the most part, have already engaged in the facilities arms race. Helman's visionary leadership has inspired more than \$30 million of private giving to Western State College Foundation during his continuing 9-year presidency.

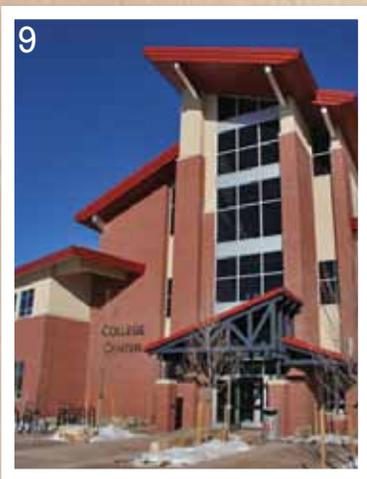
Politically, great things happened for the college during this decade as well. In 2003, Western became independent from the State College of Colorado Consortium and gained its own governing board. And in 2007, House Bill 1014, initiated in the House by Kathleen Curry and sponsored in the Senate by Gail Schwartz, was approved by the Colorado Legislature. This bill granted Western authority to once again offer graduate programs. The bill was signed officially in front of hundreds of happy Westerners and Gunnison residents by Governor Bill Ritter on Friday, March 9, 2007 in the Student Union on Western's campus. Western now offers masters degrees in education and creative writing.



1) Jay Helman, President at Western since 2002. 2) Demolition of the old Student Union in the summer of 2008. 3) March 9, 2007 - House Bill 1014 signed by Governor Ritter on Western's campus in front of hundreds of happy Gunnison residents and Westerners granting Western the authority to once again offer graduate programs. 4) Mountaineer Bowl as it appears today. 5) Western's campus in the fall. 6) Western's Borick Business Building. This photo was taken just after the dedication of the new "Western Challenge" sculpture was dedicated at Homecoming 2010. The sculpture was commissioned by the Oates family and sculpted by WSC alumnus, Josh Tobey ('00). 7) An artist's rendering of what the new "Name TBD" apartment complex will look

# 2000-2010

- 2001** Western celebrates its centennial. Governor Bill Owens declares the week of April 16, 2001 "Western State College Week in Colorado."
- 2001** Jay W. Helman is appointed the 13th President of Western.
- 2002** Taylor hall Auditorium is renovated and the experimental theatre construction is completed.
- 2003** Western becomes independent from the State College of Colorado Consortium and gains its own Governing Board.
- 2005** Mountaineer Bowl receives a new track.
- 2006** Western builds the Borick Business Building, the first privately funded academic building at a public college in the state of Colorado.
- 2007** House Bill 1014, initiated in the House by Kathleen Curry and sponsored in the Senate by Gail Schwartz, is approved by the Colorado Legislature. The bill grants Western authority to once again offer graduate programs. The bill was signed officially in front of hundreds of happy Westerners and Gunnison residents by Governor Bill Ritter on Friday, March 9, 2007 in the Student Union on Western's campus.
- 2009** The Student Union is leveled and in its place a brand new, state-of-the art College Center is built. The College Center now houses the new cafeteria, Rare Air Cafe, for the campus and includes a public movie theatre, the Prosser Theatre. The Center officially opened in January, 2010.
- 2010** The students pass a student fee hike enabling Western to build a new apartment complex and a new field house in an historic vote--the vote passed by a mere 12 votes in an election with record turnout of students voting. The new field house will stand where the current Shavano complex is located. Shavano will be leveled and the new apartment complex will be located where the Beckwith and Coronado complexes currently stand.



like. Construction will get underway in 2011 starting with the demolition of Beckwith and Coronado as well as Keating Hall to make room for this super modern living complex. **8-9)** Western's new College Center officially opened in January 2010.

Photos on pages 18-19 taken by Jason Dunning ('04) and Jared Verner

## Onward and Upward

In some of the most important ways, Western is still the same today as it was back in 1911. Westerners (students, faculty and alumni) are still incredibly resilient and are always ready to face and overcome any challenge set before them. Taylor Hall is still standing proud and is currently undergoing the most major renovation of its existence. Its re-opening will be one of our landmark events during our 2011 centennial celebration year. And Tenderfoot Mountain still exhibits the largest collegiate emblem in the world, the "W", eliciting feelings of pride and nostalgia for all Westerners. The things for which we stand haven't changed either--love of learning, concern for one another, respect for the environment, an unparalleled esprit de corps with the community of Gunnison, and an enjoyment and appreciation for all things outdoors. The faces may have changed and the campus may have evolved over the years, but those core values and the fortitude of the people have not changed. There is no doubt that Western will continue to thrive and we are all looking forward to the next 100 years with an unmatched excitement and enthusiasm.

The Western State College Foundation was incorporated on August 22, 1975 with the generous bequest of former Colorado Governor Dan Thornton and his wife, Jessie. The Thorntons' gift created one of the finest undergraduate biology programs in the country.

The Founder of the Western State College Foundation was L. Richard Bratton ('54), an attorney in Gunnison. To this day, the Foundation Board of Directors still conducts, manages and controls the business and affairs of the WSC Foundation. The WSC Foundation serves as the depository of funds raised by the Western State College Foundation and Western State College.

The Foundation's home, the Aspinall-Wilson Center, was dedicated on August 4, 1984. Named after Joan Adams-Wilson, whose family donated the land for the building, and Wayne Aspinall, a former member of the Colorado House of Representatives, the Colorado Senate and the United States Congress.

Since the Thorntons' generous gift, countless Western donors have transformed dreams into reality, demonstrating the power of private support. The following accomplishments could not have come to fruition without the generosity of Western alumni and friends:



**Above Inset:** Western State College President Jay Helman; Gary Garland ('85), a former President of the WSC Foundation Board of Directors; Pat Wiesner, a former Chair of the WSC Board of Trustees; and Steve Borick ('75), donor of the \$3million challenge gift at the ground-breaking celebration for the Borick Business Building.

## THE BORICK BUSINESS BUILDING

On Friday, September 16th, 2005 the WSC Foundation hosted a banquet to celebrate the groundbreaking for the Borick Business Building. The Foundation received the largest gift commitment in its history, a \$3 million challenge from Steven Borick (Business '75) and Family, to build a new \$6 million, 25,000 sq. ft. business building on Western's campus. Added amenities pushed the final budget to \$7.1 million, which donors generously supplied.

The Borick Business Building was the first major academic building, at any public college or university in Colorado, built, furnished and equipped entirely through private investment. The building received LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Silver Certification, the first building at Western and in the Gunnison Valley to achieve a LEED status.

The Dedication of the Borick Business Building was held during Homecoming on Friday, September 14, 2007.

## THE MISSION OF THE WESTERN STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

To provide financial leadership and support of the Western State College vision while offering an ever-improving and remarkable learning environment.

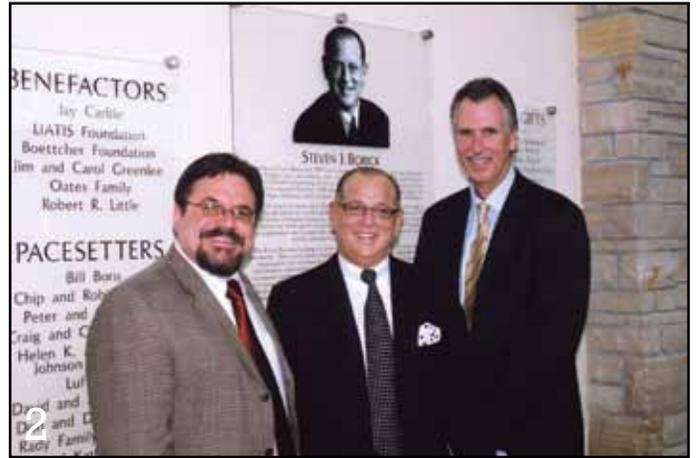
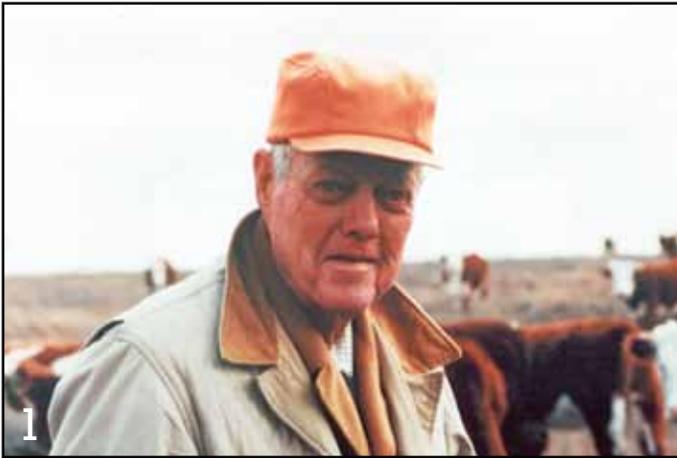
## OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FOUNDATION THROUGH THE YEARS:

- All-Weather Track in Mountaineer Bowl
- Tracy Borah Mountaineer Sports Hall of Fame Room
- Studio Theater Lobby in Taylor Hall
- Center for Environmental Studies
- MAA and Corporate Sponsor Programs (through the work of the Athletic Department and volunteers)

# \$1 MILLION CLUB

## DONORS WHO HAVE MADE GIFTS OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE TO THE FOUNDATION:

1. W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr.
2. Steve Borick ('75), Center, with Tom Burggraf, Executive Director of the WSC Foundation and VP for Institutional Advancement of Western (Left) and Jay Helman, President of Western State College (Right)
3. Don Prosser ('73,'75), President, WSC Foundation Board of Directors
4. Gerry Shear ('92), Member of the WSC Foundation Board of Directors
5. Paul Rady ('78), Left, former member of the WSC Board of Trustees and a Past President of the WSC Foundation Board of Directors, with WSC President Jay Helman (Center) and Pat Wiesner (Right), a former Chair of the WSC Board of Trustees.
6. John Brach ('71) and Ethel Rice ('63), a former member of the WSC Foundation Board of Directors and retired Western Librarian.
7. Bill ('54, '58) and Janet ('57, '63) Smith





Above and Left: PLRM and Geology students in the field.



### W.A. "TEX" MONCRIEF, JR.

Over the past several years, Texas oilman Tex Moncrief of Ft. Worth, Texas has invested more than \$5.5 million in Western through the WSC Foundation, making him the largest single benefactor in Western's history.

#### TEX'S GIFTS HAVE CREATED:

- the W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr. Chair in Petroleum Geology;
- the W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr. Petroleum Geology Endowment for Excellence;
- the W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr. Chair in Professional Land and Resource Management;
- and the W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr. Chair in Anthropology.

### PROFESSIONAL LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Western's PLRM Program is the first privately funded Land Management degree program in the nation. A group of alumni, friends and industry leaders joined together to plan the program and give over \$3.5 million to endow it. Classes in the new PLRM emphasis in Business Administration began in the 2008 spring semester, and now boasts 55 students.

Western's PLRM Program is the only such program in the Rocky Mountains, and one of only six nationwide.



Dick (54) and Donna (62) Bratton.

### RULAND PROPERTY

Dick Bratton, Tom Havens and Dan Tredway led the effort to raze the Ruland Middle School building. Close to 300 Gunnison community members made contributions to purchase the property for Western. Elnora Smith and Don Eastman ('51) came forward with financing to secure the \$600,000 Ruland Middle School site. The WSC Foundation purchased the 5 acres of land from the City of Gunnison and deeded it to the College, creating a gateway to Western from Highway 50.



## WESTERN'S SECOND CENTURY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In the summer of 1999, Western began the silent phase of a five-year effort to raise \$5 million in the first capital campaign in the College's history, which soon turned into a \$10 million goal when the original \$5 million was met and surpassed. The \$10 million goal was reached one year early, with a total of \$10.3 million raised. Western donors celebrated the Centennial of Western's Chartering in most generous style, providing program and technology support and endowments in academic programs, athletics, the arts and scholarships.

Three \$1million gifts helped to reach the Campaign goal. Ethel Rice, a 1963 graduate of Western and Retired Librarian, designated an estate gift of \$1 million, the College's first, to establish an Endowed Chair in Art in 2000. This was the first seven-figure gift commitment to Western.

In 2001, Paul Rady ('78) made a cash gift of \$1 million to establish an Endowed Chair in Petroleum Geology. It was the largest cash gift in the College's history, and the first \$1 million gift received by the Foundation. Paul's gift enabled Western to create a new curriculum for Petroleum Geology and to hire energy industry leaders to teach courses.

John Brach ('71) gave Western's third million-dollar gift. In 2001, John announced that he was making a gift through his estate for \$1 million to purchase books and research materials related to the history of the American West for Western's Savage Library.

Western's Second Century Campaign exceeded everyone's expectations. It was an amazing start for Western entering the new Millennium!



## COLLEGE CENTER

Western State College Foundation celebrated the opening of the new \$28 million College Center February 12 and 13, 2010.

The College and Foundation partnered to fund the 75,000 sq. ft. College Center, which is LEED Gold certified. The Ballroom and well-appointed, smart meeting rooms host the city leaders, local and regional nonprofits, student government and more. And the College Center is the home of Gunnison's only movie theater, an amenity that the College and Community have been craving for years. Don ('73,'75) Prosser, his wife, Donna, and their family are leading the College Center Campaign with a gift commitment of \$1.5 million to provide the Prosser Theater in the new facility.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Western State College Foundation has grown remarkably since its inception. The Foundation distributes over \$2 million annually to the College, with nearly \$600,000 of that designated for scholarships. Every department on campus benefits from Foundation support.

Since 2005, Western State College Foundation has tripled its asset base to more than \$30 million. This translates into nearly \$14,000 in assets-per-student, exceeding the assets-per-student levels of several of the state's large universities. From 2004-2009, Western received, in charitable gift revenue alone, more than \$26 million, 48% more than its next closest Colorado state college peer. In that same time period, Western's Foundation distributed \$9 million to the college.

Successes of the Western State College Foundation are a reflection of our loyal Western alumni and friends. The Foundation's past is a tribute to you! In every chapter of Western's history, you have written passages of hope, triumph and promise. In recent years you have risen up to new and inspiring levels of support that have set Western above our peers with regard to private investment. With you, Western will continue to grow stronger, elevate its visibility, enhance its reputation and advance its mission beyond what seems possible.

The next Century holds unlimited potential and promise, and we look forward to taking this exciting journey with you!



## TAYLOR HALL RENOVATION UNDERWAY

### ORIGINAL WSC BUILDING UNDERGOING \$21 MILLION IMPROVEMENT

The original building on the Western State College (WSC) campus, Taylor Hall, began a \$21 million renovation this summer, and will reopen its doors in the fall of 2011.

Taylor Hall, once the lone building on the WSC campus, was granted state funds for the project in 2008. In addition to necessary mechanical upgrades, improvements are aimed at meeting the academic needs of students and creating a more visible entrance for visitors to the campus.

The building underwent its last major renovation in 1986. Nunn construction is the general contractor for the project. SlaterPaul Architects are the architects for the renovation.

The new Welcome Center will be the most noticeable change to the exterior of the building. This south-facing feature will house the admissions staff and provide an obvious entrance for visitors to campus, most notably prospective students and their families.

"This will be a better introduction to campus for our visitors," said Brad Baca, vice president for finance and administration. "It will put a much improved front face to Western."

The Welcome Center will be located next to the existing Studio Theater.

In addition to improving the building for prospective students, current students will have a vastly improved learning environment. The first and second floors will be primarily dedicated to the Communications Arts, Languages and Literature (CALL) department. The third floor of the building will house other campus administrative and student support offices, including Financial Aid, Extended Studies and the Office of the President.

"One purpose of these changes is to make the building easier to navigate for students," Baca said.

Significant upgrades will be made to the campus radio station (KWSB), the campus newspaper ("The Top O' the World"), as well as spaces used by the film program and their co-curricular club, Mountaineer Media.

"Not only will these programs have new spaces and equipment upgrades, they will be clustered together to encourage interdisciplinary and multimedia work," said John Sowell, vice president for academic affairs.

The inside of the Taylor Auditorium will remain unchanged, as will the Studio Theater. Informal gathering places for students will be created on the first and second floors.

"These spaces will be created to encourage learning and community outside of class," Sowell said.

Classroom spaces, studios and laboratories will be improved and equipped with modern technology.

"All classrooms will be completely renovated and will be fully digitally enabled," said Julie Feier, associate vice president for finance and administration. "There will also be a new lecture classroom on the second floor with similar technological improvements."

The renovation of Taylor Hall will also improve the energy efficiency of the building. The project will be seeking a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, as the College has with all renovations and new construction projects, beginning with the construction of the Borick Business Building in 2007.

Mechanical and electrical improvements to the building will improve the efficiency of Taylor Hall. Sustainable building practices, recycling of waste during construction and the use of sustainable materials in construction are all being implemented. Large, south-facing windows will be installed to take advantage of passive solar energy.

"With any construction project, we aim to achieve the highest level of energy efficiency that is possible and use sustainable products where practical," Baca said.

A new, energy efficient boiler system will be installed in the building. While this system will be a traditional gas-fired boiler, the infrastructure for a biomass boiler will be installed should this system become a viable source to heat the building.

Efforts have also been made to preserve the historic exterior of the building, most notably the brickwork. This has presented a unique challenge as the brickwork in the building comes from three separate time periods (Taylor Hall was constructed in three separate phases). Cracked bricks and stones have been fastened, cracks have been filled in and the mortar has received necessary fill-ins.

The construction is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2010, which means that doors will reopen for students in the fall of 2011 -- 100 years after the first students studied on the campus.

In the meantime, most of the faculty and administrative offices have been relocated on campus to Ute Hall, Keating Hall or the Leslie J. Savage Library. For a complete directory, visit the WSC website at [www.western.edu](http://www.western.edu).



## SAN JUAN MINING CAMPS: A HISTORICAL TOUR FROM WSC

Duane Vandebusch, Professor of History, and Bruce Bartleson, Emeritus Professor of Geology, will lead a special course in the San Juan Mountains this summer through the Extended Studies Program at Western State College.

The course runs June 20-24, 2011 and space is limited. Extended Studies Director Layne Nelson said the cost will be around \$800 and includes the course fee, travel, lodging, ticket on the Durango-Silverton Railroad, and all tours and museums. The final price will be set in November.

This course takes participants on a breathtaking tour of the great San Juan mining country with emphasis on Lake City, Silverton, Ouray, Telluride, Creede and Durango. Visit and learn about one of Colorado's most storied mining regions. Ride on the famous Durango-Silverton narrow gauge railroad, tour the Bachelor-Syracuse mine and stay at some of the most famous historic hotels in Colorado such as the Grand Imperial in Silverton.

The class will cross Red Mountain, Owl Creek, Slumgullion, and Ophir Passes and visit several historic mining museums. The mining frontier, narrow gauge railroads, geography, unique Victorian architecture, geology, and social history will be emphasized. The tour also includes a Melodrama at the Diamond Circle Theatre in Durango and a visit to the Box Canyon in Ouray.

For more information and to reserve a spot, contact Extended Studies (970) 943.2885, or email [lnelson@western.edu](mailto:lnelson@western.edu). Information will be available on the web at [www.western.edu/extendedstudies](http://www.western.edu/extendedstudies) as the trip details are finalized.




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## EARN YOUR M.A. OR M.F.A. ONLINE WITH WESTERN STATE COLLEGE OF COLORADO

Western now offers two graduate degree programs which began in the summer of 2010, a Masters in Education and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing.

The Master of Arts in Education offers three online tracks: Teacher Leadership, Reading Leadership, or Educational Administrator Leadership. The program is designed to meet the needs of candidates who may be seeking initial licensure or of licensed teachers wanting to further their education and/or career options in K-12 schools.

The low-residency Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing focuses on writing for larger audiences: concentrations in mainstream as well as genre fiction; poetry with an emphasis in form; and screenwriting for Indies, Hollywood, and television. Residencies occur the last two weeks of July on the Western campus, followed by online coursework throughout the year.

Learn more about these programs at [www.western.edu/extendedstudies](http://www.western.edu/extendedstudies).

## CLEAR CREEK MINING TOUR

Embark on a breathtaking tour, June 13-17, 2011 of the famed Clear Creek mining country and beyond. Visit and learn about Leadville and its famous National Mining Museum along with Central City, Black Hawk, Georgetown, Idaho Springs, Silver Plume, and Empire. Ride on the Georgetown Loop railroad, tour the Argo Mill, and experience the world-famous Central City Opera. Travel through Rocky Mountain National Park from Grand Lake to Estes Park. A drive on the Virginia Canyon road, a trip to the top of Mount Evans, and a visit to the Vail Ski Museum are other class highlights. The mining frontier, narrow gauge railroads, geography, and unique Victorian architecture will be emphasized. The tour also includes single night stays at a few of Colorado's most notable hotels such as the Oxford Hotel and the Stanley Hotel.

Price of the trip will be around \$900 which includes all transportation, lodging, and all museums and entrance fees. The final price will be set in November. For more information and to reserve a spot, contact Extended Studies (970) 943.2885, or email [lnelson@western.edu](mailto:lnelson@western.edu). Information will be available on the web at [www.western.edu/extendedstudies](http://www.western.edu/extendedstudies) as the trip details are finalized.

Fall 2010 schedule is available online at [www.western.edu/extendedstudies](http://www.western.edu/extendedstudies).



Josh and Josephine Tobey with Jim and Sue Oates

## WESTERN UNVEILS NEW SCULPTURES BY ALUMNUS JOSH TOBEY

Joshua Tobey may be a renowned sculptor, having been featured in art magazines and his work displayed in museums, but his latest project for his alma mater was a humbling – and gratifying – experience.

On Sept. 24, the Western State College of Colorado Foundation unveiled a pair of Tobey's sculptures at a dedication ceremony. Commissioned by Gunnison residents Jim and Sue Oates, the sculptures grace the south patio of the Borick Business Building. Comprised of a bronze bear and bull, "Western Challenge" represents an iconic symbol in the business world, befitting a building that houses the college's Business, Accounting and Economics Department (BAE).

"I am thrilled with how they turned out," said Monica Newman, BAE chair. "The faculty couldn't be happier with them, although some have quipped that maybe we should only have the one sculpture to represent the stock market."

The idea for the sculptures was born at the Borick Business Building's dedication in September 2007 when Jim Oates, a philanthropist and friend of the college, presented Foundation director Tom Burggraf with a check and a vision for artwork to adorn the building.

"Jim presented a check to me and said, 'Great buildings need great art to inspire the people within them to do great things,'" Burggraf recalled. "And here we have the birth of a Western icon with these sculptures."

While looking for inspiration for the project, the Oates turned to the elk and bear sculptures on the campus. Those sculptures were created by Tobey's father, Gene, and were used as tuition for Josh and his sister, Jami, also an accomplished artist, to attend Western. After years of planning, sketching, sculpting (300 hours spent on each), molding and firing, the sculptures were finally installed at their new home in front of the Borick Business Building. "We are fortunate to have Josh represent the Oates Family sculpture," Jim Oates remarked at the ceremony.

Mounted on a three-foot-high flank stone bench, the bear and

the bull are poised facing each other, in a charging stance. They have a smooth, patina finish with rich, brilliant tones of copper and bronze hues that invite touch and interaction. And that's exactly what Tobey wants people to do with the sculptures. At 400 pounds each and standing about 34 inches tall, the sculptures are constructed to withstand weight, as Tobey expects students will sit on them as his classmates did with his father's sculptures.

Tobey doesn't use models when he sculpts. Most of the images come to life straight from his memory and impression of the subject. For Tobey, his guiding principle when sculpting is not "does it look real," but "does it look right." Sculpting in this manner allows him freedom to create and add character to his art. It's a technique he started to develop while at Western, Tobey said.

Although his father was an accomplished artist and his sister was studying art at Western, Tobey had plans to pursue his passion for the outdoors by majoring in recreation with a minor in business. But after taking an art class with Al Caniff, professor and chair of the Art Department, Tobey was hooked and changed his degree track to a bachelor of fine arts with an emphasis in sculpture. He graduated in 2000.

Today Tobey runs his own studio and has foundries in Santa Fe, N.M. and Port Aransas, Texas. He also owns a gallery with his wife, Josephine, in Santa Fe called The Gallery at 822 Canyon Road. His sculptures are part of private and public collections, including Booth Western Art Museum and the Na'Aina Kai Botanical Garden in Hawaii.

For Tobey, the "Western Challenge" sculptures are especially meaningful as he adds to the collection of art at Western started by his late father.

"It's neat to share space with my dad, which is one of the reasons why this project is so special to me. It was a sweet project and I am grateful to the Oates Family for giving me this opportunity to give back this great school," Tobey said. "These sculptures also symbolize my WSC experience of challenge and acceptance of challenge by those who come to school here."

## WESTERN'S YEAR OF SUSTAINABILITY

Students, staff, and faculty have been working together to infuse sustainability themes during this, our "Year of Sustainability" or YOS for short. Partnerships have formed involving students and faculty from across the campus, including the academic disciplines of Communication and Theatre and Recreation and Outdoor Education (ROE), to develop unique initiatives. Some implemented during orientation were reducing paper waste through creating CD resource guides and moving to on-line payment, presenting student-run sustainability themed initiatives, creating skits and plays, and developing a freshmen water-bottle gift to reduce plastic water-bottle use on campus.

During the Week of Welcome, students working in the campus garden teamed with Sodexo staff members to provide a local food feast that was attended by over 100 students during the first week of classes. Events since were supported and advertised by the YOS student coordinators, these included presentations by speakers such as Erika Vohman from the Maya Nut Institute who discussed sustainable agricultural and Randy Udall who presented energy solutions for the 21st century.

As part of the Year of Sustainability, student leaders wrote and received a \$10,000 grant from the Student Government Association sustainability fund to distribute as mini-grants for events and activities associated with the thematic year. To date, successful grants have included support for speakers at Western's 21st Headwaters Conference; teaching the mathematics of sustainability; and the keynote speaker at a Colorado Straw Bale Conference, held for the first time at Western this past October. Further, grants have been approved to support a faculty member working with students on a local film about the history and sustainability of our community's ranching heritage; to develop residence-life educational materials on campus recycling; to support a play by the COTH Department about resilience and sustainability; and to provide containers for permanently reducing packaging associated with ROE field trips. In addition,



students have worked hard and in partnership with Sodexo and facilities to educate other students on reducing their food waste and sorting compostable material for the earth tub.

Faculty members have become engaged in a variety of ways, including attendance by more than 20 at a Center for Teaching Excellence event, "Teaching in the Year of Sustainability"; writing grant proposals for Professional Activity Funds to support travel to conferences to disseminate research on sustainability; developing class projects to implement principles of the environmental charter in various department actions; infusing readings into the curriculum about sustainability; creating campus-wide avenues to discuss what is meant philosophically by the term sustainability; and reading book selections within the Honors Program to critically examine the ideas behind sustainability.

Employees in a variety of offices are working to improve our use of resources and are utilizing the Year of Sustainability to implement electronic solutions to reduce paper, such as replacing the printed course schedule with an online version and providing online payment options for orientation. Across the campus, Facilities Services personnel are working with employees in individual buildings to determine ways to reduce the amount of recyclables in our waste stream. They continue to work on improving our understanding of the current use of resources, such as natural gas, electricity, and water, in addition to designing building projects that ensure we are maximizing our future resource efficiency. Facilities Services employees are also working on large scale-campus composting projects and continue to investigate how to best measure our use of resources.

While this is not a complete listing of activities associated with the Year of Sustainability, they provide a sense of where and how Western is working toward increasing its stewardship of resources and bringing important educational events to the campus and community.

### SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE, JUNE 6-18, 2011

The Summer Teacher Institute provides opportunities for educators to enhance content knowledge, share pedagogy, and network with educators from throughout Colorado and beyond.

The Summer Teacher Institute offers a variety of graduate level content courses designed specifically for K-12 educators who want to enrich their existing curricula. Courses range from one to three credits throughout the two-week institute and include hands-on activities, innovative classroom curriculum and materials to take home and use in the classroom.

Funds provided by the Ann Zugelder Endowment have allowed Western State College of Colorado to expand initiatives in offering graduate credit courses for teachers.

For more information visit  
[www.western.edu/extendedstudies](http://www.western.edu/extendedstudies).



Junior Ian Oster serves up fresh greens he harvested earlier that day from the campus community garden to sophomore Dakota Becker at the Sustainability Barbecue on Thursday. Sodexo Campus Services and the Year of Sustainability hosted the free barbecue, which featured locally produced food such as Palisade peaches, Rocky Ford cantaloupe, Olathe sweet corn and Paonia cherries. Sodexo manager Jon Coady designed the menu to "showcase what Sodexo is doing currently in local food sourcing which is very exciting, combined with the Year of Sustainability program and the various students that drive the local garden initiative."

This event was part of Western's Year of Sustainability, which aims to improve environmental awareness and resource efficiency on campus.



## NEW FIELD HOUSE ON THE WAY FOR WESTERN

After a week of voting that ended April 30, students at Western State College of Colorado approved a referendum for a new facility fee, which will fund new construction at the college, as well as provide money for deferred maintenance and financial aid. Included in the project is the construction of a new \$32 million student recreation center, which will include a six-lane, 200-meter track.

Approval of the fee required a vote by the student body, as outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution. The vote passed with more than 40 percent of the student body casting votes.

“This is one of the most pivotal moments in Western’s 108-year history,” said President Jay Helman. “The students’ approval of this fee demonstrates their commitment to investing in Western’s future.”

The facility fee will gradually increase over 10 years. It will enable the college to immediately address critical construction needs, which accounts for 70 percent of the fee, while 20 percent will provide an on-going revenue stream to address deferred maintenance projects. In addition, the remaining 10 percent will moderate the financial costs to students through need-based assistance provided by a financial aid fund.

As many states face budget shortfalls and cut higher education spending, numerous colleges have implemented student facility fees, as capital construction is typically the first expenditure cut during economic downturn, explained Brad Baca, vice president for finance and administration. Western’s capital investments mirror those at other Colorado colleges and universities; Adams State, Colorado School of Mines, Mesa State and Metro State have facility fees as part of their mandatory student fees.

The fee referendum was presented to the student body for

vote this semester in order to take advantage of current borrowing incentives, such as low interest rates and government programs. Thus, by passing the fee now, Western can get more value to the dollar in today’s construction market, Baca said.

“Interest rates for borrowing are at all time lows,” Baca said. “In addition, Build America Bonds and access to the State of Colorado Intercept Program provide further discounts on borrowing costs. These tools will not be available beyond the end of the fiscal and/or calendar year, and it is projected that interest rates will begin to climb in the coming years. In addition to low borrowing costs, construction costs are also at relatively low levels.

Slated among the projects are new student apartments that will replace the outdated Shavano Complex, a recreation center / multi-use field house and building improvements. According to Baca, the passage of the fee also boosts Western’s chances for state-supported capital projects, such as the renovation of Quigley Hall and Savage Library.

Construction of the new Shavano Complex, estimated to cost \$20 million, could begin in summer 2011 with occupation by fall 2012. The recreation center, scheduled to be complete in early 2014 at approximately \$32 million, will replace the current facility in the Escalante Complex with bouldering and climbing walls, cardio areas, an expanded High Altitude Performance Lab, locker rooms and multipurpose rooms. The field house will feature a regulation 200-meter track with ample space for a variety of recreational games and activities.

“This is an exciting day for all of Western State College,” Athletic Director Greg Waggoner said. “Specific to the intercollegiate athletic facilities, this is a giant step that will allow us to recruit, train and compete in the NCAA Division II.”

Check out the  
**TOP 100 ATHLETIC MOMENTS IN  
 WESTERN STATE COLLEGE HISTORY**  
 by visiting [wscathletics.com/100](http://wscathletics.com/100)



**Above:** Members of the 1954 WSC Football Team laugh as Bob Mears (top right) shares stories during the team's induction at the RMAC Hall of Fame this summer.



**Right:** 2003 RMAC Hall of Fame Inductee Elva Dryer serves as Master of Ceremonies at the induction banquet. The ceremony featured Shane Carwin, Regina Rhodes and the '54 football team.

## RMAC HALL OF FAME

Two individuals who combined for five national championships and the first conference championship team in any sport for Western State were among the inductees at the 2010 RMAC Hall of Fame Ceremony this summer at the Colorado Springs Marriott. Regina Rhodes, Shane Carwin and the 1954 football team were inducted for their accomplishments for the Mountaineers.

The 1954 football team went 10-0 to win the conference championship with two All-Americans: Bill Rhodes and Jim Richards. The team was inducted into the Mountaineer Sports Hall of Fame in 2003 and also features four individual inductees. The Mountaineers finished No. 11 in national statistics for total offense.

Carwin, the interim UFC Heavyweight Champion, was a two-time football All-American and three-time wrestling All-American, including the 1999 Division II wrestling championship. Because of obligations related to UFC 116 bout with Brock Lesnar, Carwin delivered his remarks to the crowd by video.

Rhodes earned three national track and field titles and another 21 conference championships for the Mountaineers from 1988-93. She also finished her career with the career record on the basketball court in steals and is listed in the top 10 records for scoring, field goals made and attempted and free throws made and attempted. Former head women's basketball coach James "Doc" Hahn accepted for Rhodes on her behalf.



## NEW TRACK

After three weeks of resurfacing and striping, the Community Track at Western State College is back open for practice, training and work outs to individuals in the Gunnison Valley. The project was completed by Renner Sports Surfaces of Denver, Colo., with striping provided by Line Design of Littleton, Colo.

"We're excited for the new surface and the difference it will make for our Mountaineer student-athletes," said Head Track and Field Coach Chris Bradford. "The surface will benefit all aspects of our training and provide another excellent recruitment tool for our prospective student-athletes."

The track is scheduled to host the RMAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships in 2013. The facility last hosted the championships in 2008, two years after the facility was reconstructed and expanded to eight lanes. The original project was funded in part by a number of grants from throughout the region and state.

The outdoor track comes ahead of construction for the indoor track, which is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2012. The facility, which will feature a six-lane, 200-meter track, is scheduled to be operational in early 2014.

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## 50's

..... **Edwin Arbar ('57)** was recently promoted to Chief Operating Officer and President of Pathfinder Mineral Services in Las Vegas, NV.

## 60's

..... **Frank Nails ('60)** whose 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award graces the Mountaineer Sports Hall of Fame Room, will have his Clark Country High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame honor displayed in a new location this season – Sam Boyd Stadium at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. A 22-foot wide by 12-foot high mural will contain the Hall of Fame classes and was brought to Sam Boyd Stadium in part by Nails who is currently the assistant coach for wide receivers at UNLV. He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2000 in the fifth induction class.

..... **Stayton Weldon ('61)** has written a children's book titled *Whitey on the Ranch*, a tale of both harrowing and heroic adventures on the ranch, from the point of view of a white 1997 ¾-ton heavy duty GMC truck who names his owner "Brilliant" at the start of the book, then "Somewhat Brilliant" and then "Average Intelligence" by the middle of the story, and then yet again renames his owner "Moron" before the conclusion of this tale. Weldon already has donated 10 percent of the sales to R-CALF USA and will continue to do so. Persons who wish to purchase the book, published by AuthorHouse, can call R-CALF USA headquarters, at 406/252-2516. The book also is available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

## 70's

..... **Christine (Cummings) Hall ('76)** just completed a cross-country cycling trip which she used to raise more than \$26,500 for the Semper Fi Injured Marines Fund. Joining her for several weeks of her journey was **Dr. Jyl Voss ('76)**. Jyl also serves on the WSC Foundation Board of Directors.

..... **Gerald Skaza ('75)** received the prestigious honor of receiving a Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award from the Harold Grinspoon Community Foundation. Skaza, a science teacher at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Massachusetts for the past 34 years, has recently retired.

..... **Tom Mingen ('71)** announced his



plans to retire from his position as the administrator at Delta County Memorial Hospital in 2012. Mingen has been working at the hospital since 2002.

..... **Tom Warren ('72)** started his teaching career in Grand Junction, moving to Moab, UT shortly thereafter. After 35 years of teaching, he and his wife, Linda, have both recently retired. The couple plans to continue living in Moab selling children's books at teacher conventions.

..... **Al Clough ('77)** was appointed by Governor Sean Parnell to Alaska's Redistricting Board which will redraw state legislative district boundaries based on the ongoing U.S. Census. Clough is a commercial pilot for Wings of Alaska in Juneau and a registered professional geologist. He has worked across Alaska in the mining industry, including as vice president of the Red Diamond Mining Company, deputy project manager for Kvaerner Environmental on the A-J Mine Project, and for the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

..... **Greg Liller ('77)** was appointed to the board of directors of Gold Hawk which has just recently acquired the Oracle Ridge Copper Mine near Tucson, Arizona. Liller has more than 30 years experience in exploration and mine development and has been involved in seven projects in which he played a key role in mine development.

..... **Doug Whitehead ('76)** producer of the popular Colorado Getaways show, a half-hour program that airs on CBS on Saturday evenings, travelled to Gunnison in early May to film a segment which showcased the hiking, mountain biking, motocross and rock climbing of the Hartman Rocks area. The piece featured several local alumni including, **Luke Mehall ('04)**, **Dave Wiens ('90)**, and **Joellen Fonken ('93)**.

..... **Ken Huff ('78)** recently became Loss Controls Officer for ULLICO Casualty Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of ULLICO Inc., labor's own insurance and financial services company. The company announced the opening of a new branch office in Burbank, California and named the members of a new Surety Team which included Huff.

..... **Mike Sirko ('76)** was inducted into the Center High School Alumni Hall of Fame and honored during a banquet on October 23, 2010. Mike is currently the dean of students and head football coach for Aspen High School and has won numerous coaching honors.

## 80's

..... **Mark Strakbein ('84)**, Principal at Eagle Valley High School, was named Colorado's High School Principal of the Year for 2010. He represented Colorado at the National Association of Secondary School Principals convention this past summer. Strakbein said he has had many role models during his career, including his Western State College wrestling coach, Tracey Borah. Strakbein feels privileged to have the chance to work with kids. "I get the chance to see what's right in the world every day I go to work. I've been very blessed."

..... **Trevor Chabinsky ('86)** has relocated to Bethel, Connecticut, in order to manage a brand new REI store which just opened in October in Norwalk, CT. Chabinsky comes to the position after managing an REI store for five years in Northridge, Calif. Trevor was a member of the mountain search and rescue team while attending Western.

..... **Kimberly (Kirby) Moyer ('89)** was recently hired by Saxum, a multi-dimensional creative, public relations and marketing firm as account supervisor. Moyer has received numerous awards for her reporting from the Oklahoma chapters of the Associated Press and Society of Professional Journalists, as well as from the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters. Kim lives in Edmond, Oklahoma and is an active volunteer with the Bill Teegins Memorial Golf Championship and the Oklahoma City Arts Council's Opening Night event.

..... **Kurt Weidler ('83)** was recently selected to be the General Manager for Pres-On, a company specializing in adhesives manufacturing. Kurt came from Midwest Jobbers, a distributor of wholesale millwork products where he

served from 1991 in several management positions of increasing responsibilities, most recently as purchasing manager overseeing procurement decisions and control over a multimillion dollar inventory system with more than 5000 SKU's.

..... **Elizabeth "Libby" (Lowe) Hiza ('81)** was named the new superintendent for the Swink School District in July, 2010. Hiza moved to the Swink School District from the Las Animas School District where she has been a principal since 2004.

## 90's

..... **Von Washington ('90)**, Principal of Kalamazoo Central High School, entered his high school in a contest in which the winning school would have the President of the United States, Barack Obama, as the graduation speaker. After winning the contest, Von introduced President Obama at his school's graduation ceremony in May. Von and his high school received National media attention for this event.

..... **Elva (Martinez) Dryer ('96)** was inducted into the Colorado Runners Hall of Fame on May 4, 2010. The Hall recognizes the best distance runners in the state.

..... **Chris Wilde ('97)** has become an accomplished runner and has completed many marathons, including the Boston Marathon as well as the Western States 100-mile Endurance Run completing this 100-mile run in 23:25:37. This past year, he finished third overall in the Delaware Trail Marathon, first in the male 30-39 division, with a finish time of 3:46.

..... **Jason G. White ('98)** was named the Vice President of Sales and Business Development for Ansaldo STS USA, a leading technology company listed on the Milan stock exchange. White joins the company with sales and management experience from General Electric, Lucent Technologies and General Dynamics. He has spent more than a decade in the global transportation industry, most recently as sales leader for GE Transit Intelligent Control Systems.

St.LouisToday.com posted an inspirational story about Normandy High School Coach, **Antoine Torrey ('95)** on August 27, 2010. Normandy High School has a large population of disadvantaged students from numerous municipalities and Torrey has brought them all together through the high school football program.

One of the readers commented about Coach Torrey: "Coach Torrey and his staff have done a masterful job of not only turning the Viking football program into a winner but improving academic achievement and most importantly, saving LIVES."

..... **Shannon "Flora" Bowley ('99)** has recently become one of Papaya's artists. Papaya is a company that manufactures an exciting spectrum of fine lifestyle, stationery, and gift items where urban boho chic meets art as inspiration. She has also started teaching workshops called, "Bloom True: Intuitive Painting with Soul!" In September, she taught in New Hampshire at an art retreat center called, SQUAM.

## 00's

..... **Michael Adamo ('04)** has just released a book/MP3 package called The Breakbeat Bible, published by Hudson Limited. The Breakbeat Bible provides the most in-depth study of breakbeat drumming in print. Michael is a member of the group Mama's Cookin, now based out of Lake Tahoe, California. Two other alumni are also in the band, **Zeb Early ('03)** and **Steve LaBella ('03)**. The band was originally based in Gunnison, and the members met while going to school at Western.

..... **Dan Gibbs ('02)**, Colorado representative for Senate District 16 and current candidate for Summit County Commissioner will be Western's commencement speaker for the December 18, 2010 graduation ceremony.

..... **Devin Hoeckel ('00)**, Air National Guard Airman 1st Class, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

..... **Kevin Stanley ('00)** left Western in June after spending 11 years working for the college. Stanley moved with his family to Texas in July where he will coach football for New Caney High School under Head Coach, Tim Hensley who coached at Western back in 1994.

..... **Josh Hotchkiss ('01)** was awarded his second gold medal at the "Toughest Competitor Alive" competition at the Western States Police and Fire Games in July. Hotchkiss held the best bench press for all divisions at 365 lbs. Josh has earned a Medal of Distinguished Service and multiple Commendations and other awards from the Arvada Police Department. He joined the S.W.A.T.

team in 2008 and holds the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office obstacle course record at 3 minutes and 47 seconds, more than a minute better than the next closest time.

..... **Michael Aish ('03)**, a two-time Olympian from New Zealand who competed at the 2000 Games in the 10,000 meters and 2004 Games in the 5,000 meters, will now represent the United States in international competition. Aish is married to U.S. distance runner **Nicole (Jefferson) Aish ('99)**. His transfer has been confirmed on the International Association of Athletics Federations website, and will take effect in July Of 2011.

..... **Dan Doehler ('04)** received his Masters Degree in School Administration from the University of Phoenix in June. Also in March Dan helped lead Holy Family High School to their 3rd consecutive 3A Girls Basketball State Championship.

..... **Lori (Hubbart) Walker ('04)** recently became the newest member of the Women's Adidas Boulder Running Company (BRC) Team. The team is managed by BRC owner **Cody Hill ('96)**. Other Westerner members include: **Scott Dahlberg ('08)**, **Jesse Chettle ('08)**, **Alisha Williams ('05)**, and **Nick Hirsch ('07)**. Lori is married and has a four year old girl and a two year old son. She took some time off after having kids and decided to get back into racing in May of 2009.

..... **David Aglar ('02)** has been named a vice president in the national digital communications practice of Weber Shandwick, a leading global public relations agency with offices in 76 countries around the world. Aglar, who is based in Weber Shandwick's Baltimore office, leads a team developing digital and social media marketing programs for national accounts, including PepsiCo, Hewlett Packard, GM, American Airlines and Unilever.

..... **Ryan D. Williams ('04)** and Sarah Ann Sterling were married on June 4, 2010 in Lahiana, HI.

..... **Jarrett Luttrell ('05)** became the first snowboarder to ride all 54 14ers in Colorado. Luttrell climbed and rode 33 of the mountains alone.

..... **Aaron Gray ('07)** was promoted to Senior Associate of BiggsKofford P.C., a premier certified public accounting firm in Colorado Springs, CO. **Chris Blees ('94)** is President and CEO of BiggsKofford.



**Christa (Tomei) Inzer ('91)** and her husband Jason announced the birth of their son, Jamison Everett Inzer, on October 4, 2009. Jamison weighed 7 lbs, 5 oz.

**Lance L. Smith ('92)** and Beth K. Price announced the birth of their son, Ander W. Smith, on July 27 in Missoula, Montana.

**Jennifer "Niffer" Grauer ('95)** and her husband Joshua Renkin announced the birth of their daughter, Adey Gene. Adey was born February 21, 2010. She weighed 7 lbs 10 oz and was 19 inches long.

**Andrew Gitin ('96)** and Tammi Gitin announced the birth of their son, Seth Logan Gitin, on August 12. Seth weighed 6lbs 13oz and was 19.5 inches tall.

**Corey Sterner ('00)** and **Jillian (Jackson) Sterner ('05)** announced the birth of their son, Locke Orion Sterner, on August 28. Locke weighed 7lbs 9oz and was 20.5 inches long.

**Jennifer Michel ('01)** and Bryan Wickenhauser announced the birth of their daughter, Gianna Lyn Wickenhauser, on August 6. Gianna weighed 8lbs 4oz and was 20.5 inches long.

**Ben Commerford ('01)** and **Kari (Nierling) Commerford ('02)** announced the birth of their daughter Maci Sha on October 14 at noon. Maci weighed 7lbs 10oz and was 19-3/4 inches long.

**Rob C. Wright ('00)** and wife, Wendy, announced the birth of their first child, daughter, Ella Jane Wright. Ella was born on June 15, 2010 and weighed 7lbs 3oz and was 19 inches long.



## OBITUARIES

Viola Marie (Humphry) Mulford ('29), March 24, 2010

Alice Rachel (Peck) Sardy ('32), March 2010

Allison (Huntley) Raish ('35), June 14, 2010

Anthony Lee Tovatt (BA '38, MA '41), April 7, 2010

Doris Lucile (Anderson) Marsh ('38), May 31, 2010

Mary Frances (Klingensmith) Lenox ('43), August 4, 2010

Dale Henry O'Rell ('50), August 2010

William Thomas Thorsen (BA '50, MA '54), September 13, 2010

Murnace Hiram "Hi" Clarke Neal (MA '51), May 10, 2010

Frederick E. Pearce ('53), June 23, 2010

James Jackson Matthews III (BA '53, MA '57), August 2010

Connie Orendorf ('58), July 11, 2010

James Sherman Waddill ('58), June 12, 2010

Mable Elaine (Littlefield) Abshire ('58), March 25, 2010

Lela Italene (Cullen) Willey ('60), September 2010

Richard Arthur Chavez ('60), June 3, 2010

Gary Frank Grubb ('61), August 15, 2010

Terry Tad Messick ('64), July 27, 2009

Gary Palmer Burke (BA '64, MA '67), March 18, 2010

James Frances Walton ('64), September 4, 2010

Leon Martin Prokuski ('67), June 6, 2010

Carl Lee Bishop ('71), June 2, 2010

Dale Karel Long ('72), July 27, 2010

Ralph Valentine Romero ('73), July 27, 2010

David Roehm ('77), April 9, 2010

Patricia Joan Ingalls (MA '85), June 23, 2010

Morgan Virginia (Lawhorn) Queal ('87), August 12, 2010

Mary Lou Huerkamp (Attendee), March 2010

Robert Lynn Carver (Attendee), July 31, 2010

Stephen C. Bluemel (Attendee), 2010

Marie Weber (Attendee), June 28, 2010

Lois Ann LaQuey (Attendee), April 13, 2010

James Ralph Reed (Emeritus Faculty), April 4, 2010

Geneva Marie Williams (Emeritus Faculty), August 30, 2010

Theodore Dean Violett (Emeritus Faculty), May 2, 2010



Western State alumni, fans and parents gather in Missoula, Mont., for a pre-game tailgate organized by Don Spritzer ('68) before the Mountaineers take on the Montana Grizzlies during Labor Day weekend.



Photo by Jason Dunning ('04)

# TOP 100 WESTERNERS OF ALL TIME:

## Nominate a fellow alumnus/a for this prestigious recognition

Western State College of Colorado alumni have been and still are reshaping the world through the work they do and through the organizations that they support. The Alumni Association of Western would like to recognize 100 of these top alumni for their inspiring and innovative contributions to their fields of employment, communities, the college and/or the greater good.

With over 30,000 alumni spanning the 100 years Western has been graduating students, the Alumni Association is going to have to depend on the alumni network, namely YOU, in identifying the most deserving candidates.

Contribute to the success of Western and recognize the accomplishments of your classmates and fellow alumni by nominating alumni whose successes are positively impacting Western and the world.

If you would like to nominate a qualified alum for the "Top 100 Westerners of all Time," please submit a nomination form via mail or email by January 31, 2011.

**Mail to:** Tonya Van Hee  
Alumni Relations Office  
600 N. Adams / Western State College  
Gunnison, CO 81231

The Top 100 Westerners will be recognized in the spring edition of the Westerner as well as at all "Heritage to Horizon" events during 2011.

### Eligibility Criteria for Nominees:

Must be a graduate of Western State College of Colorado or the Colorado State Normal School at Gunnison.

Must have achieved broad recognition for extraordinary advancement of knowledge, the welfare of the greater good, and/or of Western State College.

### Nomination Process:

Please submit your name and email address along with nominee's name and graduation year as well as a detailed listing of nominee's achievements and why you feel they should be selected for inclusion among Western's Top 100 Westerners of all Time. Feel free to submit any supporting materials such as a CV/Resume or media announcements.

**or email to:**  
tvanhee@western.edu

# HOMECOMING

## 2010



Photos on this page by: Nathan Bilow (top left and middle right), David Stremme ('76) and Philippe Tolme (WSC Junior).



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## **Dates to Remember**



**November 18** : Duane Vandebusch Slide Show - Gunnison

**January 2011** : Heritage to Horizon Celebration events begin – Happy New Year!

**February 18 - 21, 2011** : Alumni Ski Weekend

Saturday events at Crested Butte Ski Area

Sunday events at Monarch Ski Area

For details on lodging and lift ticket rates, go to **[westernalum.org/events](http://westernalum.org/events)**

**April 30, 2011** - Arbor Day 100-year Celebration – Western State College campus

**To find out more about these and other events, log onto [westernalum.org/events](http://westernalum.org/events).**