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- Undergraduate Classroom building
- Witkiewitz’s research
- MBA transforms alumnus’ business
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Dear Friends of WSU Vancouver,

I was recently asked what the trends in higher education will be for the 2011/2012 academic year. At Washington State University Vancouver we will continue to focus on providing the high-quality education, world-class research and partnership with our community as we always have despite budget cuts and a bleak economy. In addition, we are stepping up efforts to make it possible for students who want to earn a degree to accomplish their goal even as tuition rises.

Washington State University publicly announced its boldest fundraising campaign ever on Dec. 2—$1 billion. WSU Vancouver is committed to raising $20 million of that goal, and our first fundraising priority is student scholarships.

More than 70 percent of our students are financial-aid eligible and face very real unmet financial needs. Already leaders in our community have stepped forward to offer new scholarships to our students. You'll learn about two of those within the pages of this magazine. Seventy-five percent of WSU Vancouver’s graduates remain in our community to work, raise their families and volunteer their time. An investment in our students is a tangible investment in Southwest Washington and our local economy.

Turn to page 19 to learn more about WSU’s campaign and how you can get involved. The world needs big ideas. What’s yours?

H.A. (Hal) Dengerink
Chancellor
Washington State University Vancouver’s Undergraduate Classroom building has gone gold—LEED Gold that is. The Undergraduate Classroom building is WSU Vancouver’s first LEED-certified building. LEED—Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—is an internationally recognized green building certification system that provides third-party verification that a building was designed and built using strategies aimed at improving performance across all the metrics that matter most: energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality, and stewardship of resources and sensitivity to their impacts.

Originally designed to be certified at the Silver level, a rating prescribed for most public facilities developed by state agencies and institutions, the Undergraduate Classroom building has exceeded expectations. ✤
What gets middle and high school students excited about science? Apparently, putting a scientist from Washington State University Vancouver in their classrooms does the trick.

The Partners in Discovery of the Columbia River Watershed GK-12 Project establishes year-long, one-on-one partnerships between WSU Vancouver environmental science graduate student fellows and sixth – ninth-grade science teachers and their students from the Battle Ground, Camas, La Center and Vancouver school districts. The objective is to bring scientific research and inquiry into the classrooms. Together the fellows, teachers and students investigate the natural world. This is the third year of a five-year project funded by a $2.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

“The GK-12 Project has been a great opportunity for my professional development. Working with students can be challenging, but that’s the fun! Some students have misconceptions about how the world works, and it’s fun for me, as a scientist, to teach the students real scientific concepts and correct their misconceptions,” said Sarah Whitley, a GK-12 Project fellow and graduate student in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at WSU Vancouver.

The Partners in Discovery GK-12 Project focuses on the implications of growth and change on the Columbia River and its watershed. Existing curricula are built upon and supplemented with inquiry-based activities and lessons specifically related to the Columbia River Watershed. Everything the WSU Vancouver fellows bring into the classrooms aligns with both Washington state and national science standards.

“Kids are natural scientists. They ask questions and come to school with ideas about how the world works. To hear the teachers rave about how excited their kids are for science this year compared to past years, due entirely to
having a scientist in their room, is wonderful,” said Gretchen Rollwagen-Bollens, WSU Vancouver’s Partners in Discovery GK-12 Project director.

For the fellows, Partners in Discovery provides an opportunity to learn how to implement inquiry-based instruction, hone their communication skills and gain awareness and appreciation for issues K-12 teachers face. Each of the 10 fellows participating this year brings a relevant expertise to the classroom. Each fellow is a graduate student at WSU Vancouver studying aquatic ecology, biochemistry, conservation ecology, ecology, marine ecology or plankton ecology.

“I am very thankful for the time, energy and heart my fellows put into their work. Having a real-life scientist in the classroom creates a memorable experience. The stories they are able to share about working in the environment makes science more meaningful and real to my students. Through a strong partnership the teacher and fellow grow individually as well as together creating a memorable experience for students. I love the GK12 Project. I feel so lucky to be a part of it,” said Meagan Graves, a sixth-grade earth science teacher at Gaiser Middle School in the Vancouver School District.

To learn more about the Partners in Discovery GK-12 Project visit www.vancouver.wsu.edu/programs/sci/gk12/GK12_home.html.

You’re invited to learn from junior scientists

Students participating in the Partners in Discovery of the Columbia River Watershed GK-12 Project will showcase their work at WSU Vancouver from 6 - 8 p.m. May 24 in the Firstenburg Student Commons. The GK-12 Showcase will feature kid-designed displays that demonstrate how what they have learned in science this year connects to the Columbia River Watershed. Tours of WSU Vancouver science labs and the campus will also be available. This event is free and open to the public.
Washington State University Vancouver is my fourth, and hopefully last, higher education experience. After graduating from high school, I received a scholarship to a local university, but quickly dropped out.

I spent the next five years traveling back and forth across the country trying to find my role in this world while testing my tolerance for academia at various colleges and universities. Sometimes I actually enrolled, took classes and did homework, and sometimes I just stayed in friends’ dorms, hanging out and dreaming until I got kicked out.

Whether or not I was a “real” student, I have always been drawn to the music department. Typically it’s the building where students can be found at all hours of the day and night making beautiful, and sometimes not so beautiful, sounds on stringed wooden boxes, curvy brass sculptures, wiry electronic gadgets and other noise-making devices.

This is the department where studying never stops. Students don’t close their books at 5 p.m. and go off to pursue their “fun” activities. In the music department, work and play are intertwined, the way learning is meant to be.

So upon entering WSU Vancouver, I set out to find the music department, only to find... there is none. I was surprised, shocked and yes, slightly devastated. Where was I supposed to practice, meet fellow musicians and exchange ideas until the northwest sun sneakily rises behind sheets of gray?

After my initial horror, I calmed down a bit. Just because there is no music department, doesn’t mean there are no musicians, right? They must be somewhere, and I was determined to find them.
The first musical sounds I came across were those of the University Singers, a.k.a. the choir. My spirits began to rise. I discovered that student singers can sign up for MUS432, earn one credit, sing classic choral compositions twice a week and perform in a fabulous, end-of-semester concert. Community members round out the 42-voice choir that sings a mix of popular, folk, classical and sacred pieces.

While I enjoy singing, I’m not so sure others enjoy my singing. I’m an instrumental musician at heart and by training. I started on piano at age 5, cello at 7 and guitar at 12, and certainly have no intentions of stopping anytime soon. While I was dismayed by the absence of opportunities for instrumental performers like me, I was not debilitated. With renewed vigor, I set out to create an instrumental musician’s community, which started with a club.

In its first year, the Orchestra & Performing Arts Club gathered members and distributed sheet music. I made fliers, collected e-mails and started signing students up. Musicians were overjoyed at the thought of picking up their dusty instruments, working out their rusty fingers and making music once again.

By the end of fall 2010, we decided the time had come for a recital to showcase the talents of WSU Vancouver’s student musicians. The Orchestra & Performing Arts Club Winter Recital was a huge success thanks to the tireless efforts of club members and the support of ASWSUV, our student government.

The recital included performances by students on instruments ranging from trombones to violins to classical guitar. The grand finale included a set of holiday songs played by the Prince of Peace Bell Choir. Twelve middle and high school students form the stunning ensemble where each member plays a single note bell to create memorable compositions.

In the meantime, I had secretly been planning a groundbreaking, new musical opportunity: the first instrumental performance class in the history of WSU Vancouver. MUS435, “Chamber Ensemble” launched in spring 2011, offers students one credit in exchange for practicing their instrument in a group and performing at an end-of-semester concert.

While we may not have a fancy music building with pianos in every practice room, or a music department with various music majors, or even a music minor, we’ve got the beginnings of something great. The options for musicians are limited, but the potential for growth is not. Just as everything in life starts small, weaves around a bit before finding its place in this world, and grows with wisdom and patience, the music classes here at WSU Vancouver will too.

Time is a hot-commodity for Christian Latham, 30, who, like a growing number of veterans, juggles work, school and family commitments. A Washington State University Vancouver biology student by day, Latham works nights as a security officer to support his growing family.

With two sons under the age of 3, Latham feels pressure to be a superhero.

“My life is broken down into 15-minute increments in order to survive,” said Latham on his way home after working the night shift and attending day classes. He doesn’t want to make compromises at work, at school or at home.

While Latham seems to have figured out the organizational key to success, he knows first-hand the difficulties that arise when making the transition from military to civilian to academic life. At the beginning of his academic career, he struggled with deciding on a major, figuring out requirements and signing up for classes. While advising sessions were helpful, what Latham really wanted was a quick, laid-back conversation with a fellow student who had already been through the process.

“When I first started attending WSU Vancouver, I found that a lot of times I didn’t need to make an appointment with an adviser to get answers to my questions. What I needed was brief, informal advice from a peer about what classes to take and what order I should take them in,” said Latham.

Latham soon realized that many veterans on campus were having similar issues and, despite his busy schedule, his passion for serving others was re-fueled. He became the president of the Veteran’s Education Interest Group, a club open to all students and dedicated to supporting student
veterans in achieving their educational goals, fostering networking opportunities and bringing awareness to challenges associated with veterans’ transition into higher education.

“When soldiers are on active duty, every day is a risk. They survive by sticking together and following directions to carry out a mission. The Veteran’s Education Interest Group shares those bonds as we are a tight network of students who help veterans survive academically,” said Latham.

To ensure student veterans don’t simply survive but also flourish, the Veteran’s Education Interest Group works closely with various on- and off-campus veterans organizations and keeps their members up to date on available resources and the latest veterans news and events.

For many student veterans, finding educational benefit information can be a maze of websites, e-mails and phone numbers. If student veterans need help navigating the process, the club can direct them to the WSU Vancouver Veteran’s Affairs Representative, Diane Binder, who makes sure they are getting what they deserve.

When student veterans need help in day-to-day operations, the club can send them to Vet CORPS, an AmeriCorps program focused on helping veterans navigate college and university campuses. The WSU Vancouver Vet CORPS representative, Nick Ortiz, serves as a guide, resource and safety net for recent service members turned college students.

But the most in-demand opportunities the Veteran’s Education Interest Group offers are service projects and community outreach events. Wade Enos, founder of the Veteran’s Education Interest Group and current club secretary, has seen these types of events quickly fill with veterans looking to use their skills in meaningful ways.

“Community projects are by far the most popular thing we do. Veterans want to continue to serve long after they cease being in the military,” said Enos.

Past projects include stream bank restoration with Clark Public Utilities Stream Team, a campus food drive for the North County Food Bank, participation in the Interservice Walk and Knock Food Drive and Veterans Day card signing, a monumental task that involves having students sign cards for every veteran in the Vancouver and Portland Veterans Affairs hospitals.

As Latham leaves to spend some quality time with his wife and kids before heading off to the graveyard shift, he gives one last insight into the lives of veterans.

“Veterans are not looking for a crutch or excuses. We just want people to know what we’ve done and what we’re up against. The Veteran’s Education Interest Group creates awareness while providing veterans with the opportunity to serve,” said Latham. ❖

WSU Vancouver certified veteran-friendly

Washington State University Vancouver was recognized as a veteran-friendly campus and welcomed as a new partner with the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs at a ceremony on Nov. 30.

To formally establish the partnership, a Memo of Understanding was signed by Mike Gregoire, husband to Gov. Chris Gregoire and friend to veterans; John Lee, director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs; and Hal Dengerink, chancellor, WSU Vancouver.

WSU Vancouver helps veterans succeed in higher education by increasing awareness of veteran’s programs on and off campus, implementing policies that foster social support and promoting a welcoming environment that meaningfully acknowledges the contributions of veterans.

In addition, the partnership ensures that WSU Vancouver student veterans are offered access to the Washington State Department of Veteran Affairs for a review of their individual needs, potential benefits and assistance in obtaining benefits and care.
Bola Majekobaje has a friendly smile and more buzz than a liter of Mountain Dew. It’s this perfect combination of warmth and effervescence that makes her the ideal assistant director of student diversity at Washington State University Vancouver. One of the things Bola does well is help students feel welcome when they arrive on campus. She has spent the last four years promoting and supporting diversity among students at WSU Vancouver.

Although Bola earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from the University of Oregon, she always had a passion for diversity and interacting with people.

“People who knew me in college wouldn’t be surprised to hear I work supporting diversity,” she said. “I worked in student affairs when I was in school and had roles in diversity that gave me an opportunity to develop and grow as a person. Biology never really worked out; the mosquitoes don’t talk back.”

Out with the mosquitoes and in with the students. Bola is never at a lack for conversation in this job. Her desk is smack in the middle of the beehive that is the Associated Students of Washington State University Vancouver. Students rush in and out all day long, and Bola is there to support them.
She devotes much of her time to planning events, collaborating with other departments and supporting students and diversity clubs or programs.

“I’m fortunate to be in a position where I can help create programs and be a part of them,” said Bola. “The great thing about WSU Vancouver is that it is a young campus so students have an opportunity to form new diversity organizations.”

Last year, students founded the Black Student Union of WSU Vancouver. The group helps create awareness and support for the black community, while celebrating and respecting people from other ethnic or cultural backgrounds.

Bola said that engaging students through clubs and events is an important aspect of keeping them enrolled. “Since we don’t have student housing, it makes it easy for some students to be on campus without interacting with other students. Clubs often help students make friends, relate to each other and feel welcome,” she said.

Bola also plays an important role in recruitment. She oversees the MOSAIC program which brings low-income, first-generation students to WSU Vancouver twice a year to help them understand what college has to offer and get them thinking about their futures. She also helps organize admission events, including one that is entirely in Spanish.

“Connecting students to the resources they need and helping them relate to each other helps students enjoy their experience at WSU Vancouver,” said Bola. She is always happy to be a resource on campus from her office in the Firstenburg Student Commons. She can be reached at 360-546-9568 or majekoba@vancouver.wsu.edu.

After a full day on campus interacting with students, you might think Bola would be drained of energy. Not so. She takes her warmth and effervescence with her at the end of the day and applies them to karaoke in her off hours. Look out Cher. Look out Madonna. Here comes BOLA!

WSU Vancouver campus is a gem thanks to Dave Smith

Next time you’re on campus strolling up the Mount St. Helens Corridor and the mountain looks like you could reach out and touch it, or you glance down the Mount Hood Corridor and catch the mountain bathed in light, think of Dave Smith.

Smith, director of capital planning and development and campus architect, has been involved with the planning and design of the Washington State University Vancouver campus since before it was a campus. He is passionate about insuring the appropriate balance of functionality and aesthetics with each addition to the university. In fact, the Campus Master Plan was recognized with a national planning award for its integration of campus development with its native surroundings under Smith’s watch.

“WSU Vancouver is widely regarded as a gem of a campus, due in many ways to Dave’s contributions to planning and his long-term guidance that emphasizes natural beauty while developing buildings and grounds to serve the WSU Vancouver community,” said Lynn Valenter, interim chancellor and vice chancellor of finance and operations.

Smith started his career with Washington State University in 1985 as a senior architect in Pullman. After serving in many roles there, including director of facilities development for all of WSU, he moved to Vancouver in 1997. Smith plans to retire in July. He recognizes that the WSU Vancouver campus will always be a tangible reminder of a career he has truly enjoyed.
Over the past several months the Associated Students of Washington State University Vancouver has been busy planning and providing various events and activities for students. As vice president of ASWSUV, I am eager to share some of the projects we are currently engaged in.

One area of focus in our mission statement is to bring leadership opportunities to students. We have successfully delivered on this through our Leadership Series in partnership with the Office of Student Involvement (OSI). This four-part series provides students with an opportunity to gain valuable skills they can use in the classroom today and in their future careers.

One event WSU Vancouver students look forward to each year is the Mount Bachelor trip through OSI’s recreation program. This year we are excited to partner with OSI to offer the trip at a lower cost and add to the programming by providing additional activities and dinner. We hope to make this an annual tradition.

Our Senate Campus Affairs Committee has been busy drafting a plan to bring a community bulletin board to campus. The bulletin board would offer students an opportunity to swap services and materials such as housing, textbooks, carpooling and electronics. Currently there is no dedicated space for these types of exchanges so we are proud to have identified a need on campus, and we are working toward a solution.

Last semester was successful in several ways, and ASWSUV looks forward to providing students with new and innovative ways to get involved throughout spring semester.

—Tiffany Moore
Vice President, ASWSUV
The proper way to enjoy one’s soup was one of many topics covered at Washington State University Vancouver’s annual Etiquette Dinner in October.

Lori Hennessy of Hennessy and Associates taught 50 WSU Vancouver students aged 18 to 58 the fine art of business etiquette from networking through dessert in her presentation, “Outclass the Competition Business Etiquette.”

Hennessy was trained and certified by the Protocol School of Washington in the area of Business Etiquette and as a Protocol Officer. Her objective was to teach students how to make a positive impression at business networking events and lunches that may follow an interview. If the goal is landing a job, it takes more than a degree to achieve it.

After covering a thorough list of topics including firm handshakes, introducing yourself, introducing others in your group and politely excusing yourself from the conversation, students were set free to practice.

“No wet-fish handshakes,” Hennessy reminded the group. After networking it was back to the tables to enjoy a business dinner.

“Just remember BMW,” said Hennessy, “Bread on the left, meal in the middle, water on the right.”

Chicken on the bone and penne with red sauce were two of the more challenging items served for dinner. Hennessy asked students who normally eat American style (fork in the right hand tines up) to eat Continental style (knife in the right hand; fork in the left hand tines down) and vice versa to increase the challenge.

David Ferris, a management and information services major in the College of Business grew up thinking etiquette was just sort of common sense.

“This was eye opening for me. I didn’t know etiquette to this level. I probably didn’t know 50 percent of what I was exposed to tonight,” said Ferris.

The Etiquette Dinner is one of many value-added services WSU Vancouver offers students in an effort to help them transition from the academic environment to the work environment.

Christine Lundeen, career counselor in the Student Resource Center, plans events throughout the year with transition in mind—Job Searching Strategies workshops, Résumé Writing workshops, Interviewing Skills practice, Making the Most of the Career Fair workshops and finally a two-day Career and Internship Fair.

“The Etiquette Dinner and other career workshops increase students’ awareness of all the different aspects of marketing themselves to potential employers,” said Lundeen.

“They don’t teach etiquette much anymore, but if you ever have to choose between Incredibly Advanced Accounting for Over Achievers and Remedial Knife and Fork, head for the silverware.”

—Harvey Mackay
Businessman, columnist, author and motivational speaker
Simply stated, we are changing the world

Washington State University Vancouver is a nationally recognized research university with a dynamic and growing faculty conducting research and pursuing scholarship of regional, national and international impact. The most complex and difficult issues of the modern world are tackled in laboratories and classrooms on our campus. The strength, independence and innovations of university research propels progress—making life better for us all.

Get a glimpse of what great minds are thinking at WSU Vancouver by attending the eighth annual Research Showcase. Students and faculty at WSU Vancouver will present a showcase of their research, scholarship and artwork April 14 in the Firstenburg Student Commons. More than 100 posters and exhibits of research projects, digital artwork and scholarly publications will be on display throughout the day. Community members are encouraged to attend.

“The Research Showcase allows faculty, graduate and undergraduate students to share their collaborative research which emanates from the programs and laboratories of the campus and from partnerships throughout Southwest Washington. Exciting new findings and advances in fields including: environmental sciences, neurosciences, engineering, anthropology and education, among many others, will be presented,” said Bob Bates, director of research and graduate education.

Anne Balsamo, professor of interactive media in the University of California’s School of Cinematic Arts, will give the keynote address, “Designing Culture: The Technological Imagination at Work.” Balsamo’s work focuses on the relationship between the culture and technology. This focus informs her practice as a scholar, researcher, new media designer and entrepreneur.

The Research Showcase will publicly recognize the 2011 Chancellor’s Award for Research Excellence award winner, Stephen B. Kucer, associate professor of language and literacy education in the College of Education. The purpose of this award is to recognize exceptional scholarly activity. Nominees are selected for their research quality, quantity and impact on the community. Kucer will also have an opportunity to give an address, “What is the Link Between Discourse Processing and Discourse Comprehension? Or, Do Reading Mistakes Really Interfere With Understanding?”

Research Showcase 2011 Schedule of Events April 14

Poster and Exhibit Viewing
9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Firstenburg Student Commons

History Research Symposium
10 a.m. – noon
Multimedia Classroom building, room 22

Keynote Address, Anne Balsamo
Noon – 1 p.m.
Administration building, room 129

Research Excellence Awardee Address
Stephen B. Kucer
3:15 – 4 p.m.
Firstenburg Student Commons

Awards Ceremony and Reception
4:15 – 5:30 p.m.
Firstenburg Student Commons
Professor aims to stop substance abuse relapse

Katie Witkiewitz radiates sunshine. Based on her engaging smile and sparkling blue eyes, you might not guess she spends her days researching one of the darker sides of human behavior—addiction.
The big picture
Witkiewitz holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is an assistant professor of psychology at Washington State University Vancouver. She is also a researcher and a licensed clinical psychologist. The underlying theme of her research has been the empirically based models of substance use, with an emphasis on applying advanced quantitative research methods such as growth mixture models, latent Markov models and dynamical systems theory to better understand the idiosyncrasies of addictive behavior.

Theories and models aside, Witkiewitz is looking for a way to prevent substance use relapse.

Relapse is a problem. It’s the most common outcome of substance abuse treatment.

Witkiewitz wants to figure out how to make treatment stick. And other people want to help her. In fact, since 2003 Witkiewitz has received nearly $4 million in grants funded to support her research. She has received most of her grant money from the big guys including the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Mental Health and the National Cancer Institute.

“The fundamental goal of my research and what I hope to achieve in my lifetime is to gain a precise understanding of why people return to a problematic behavior such as substance use, heavy drinking or poor diet, after a period of successful behavior change such as abstinence, moderate drinking, healthy diet and physical activity. I have proposed that the process of health behavior change might be relatively constant across different health behaviors and that if we could understand why people fail at one behavior, then we might be able to understand why people fail to change health behaviors in general. Ultimately if we understood why people fail, then we could develop interventions that greatly improve the likelihood of successful behavior change,” said Witkiewitz.

The passion
Witkiewitz’s work can be disheartening. Through her research and clinical work she has interacted with many people struggling with addiction and she admits it can be a downer when someone she’s working with uses again after they successfully quit using or goes to jail on a possession charge or injures themselves or someone else. But it is also the case that a majority of people (greater than 60 percent) who receive substance abuse treatment do have a good outcome in the long run.

“The stories of people who have turned their lives around and their treatment successes keep me motivated and help me get through the heartbreaking cases,” said Witkiewitz. “The treatment successes that I have observed and the opportunity to continue refining and improving treatments for addiction keeps me incredibly motivated to continue my research.”

The path to WSU Vancouver
Witkiewitz didn’t set out to become a psychologist.

“Immediately following high school I attended an art school in Detroit to pursue a degree in automotive design. I found the subjective nature of art school to be terribly overwhelming and I dropped out of school after only two weeks,” said Witkiewitz.

After leaving art school, Witkiewitz transferred to the State University of New York at Potsdam, a small state school about the size of WSU Vancouver, where she took Introduction to Psychology and was immediately drawn to the notion that human behavior could be described and quantified.

“It was incredibly powerful to learn that personality, thoughts and behavior could be explained and even predicted,” said Witkiewitz.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree, Witkiewitz discovered she had a passion for research and statistics—particularly the application of statistical models to understand human behavior.

At graduate school at the University of Montana, Dr. Michael Hufford, who was doing research on substance abuse treatment, invited Witkiewitz to be a member of his lab.

“Given my interest in statistics, Dr. Hufford suggested I do my Master’s thesis research on the application of dynamical systems theory to predicting alcohol use and suicide. In preparing my thesis proposal I realized that it would be pretty difficult to measure the reasons for suicide after the act was committed, but that dynamical systems theory could be very useful for studying alcohol relapse. Shortly before I completed my Master’s thesis I presented my dynamical systems model of alcohol relapse at a national conference and my presentation drew the attention of Dr. Alan Marlatt, a pre-eminent alcohol researcher. Dr. Marlatt subsequently invited me to finish my Ph.D. working with him at the University of Washington.

Witkiewitz characterizes her move to WSU Vancouver in 2010 as the best decision of her professional career.

“At WSU Vancouver I have found that my colleagues work incredibly hard, they are extremely talented, and their egos are not over-inflated. It is a good fit for my personality and professional style,” said Witkiewitz.

As inspiration to others
Witkiewitz doesn’t come with a fancy pedigree. She didn’t grow up
privileged. She worked hard and she leveraged opportunities.

“My advice to students is to never turn down an opportunity to learn and grow and to work hard with the belief hard work and persistence will eventually be rewarded,” said Witkiewitz.

**Latest grants**

Recently Witkiewitz has focused on a group of people close to home—adolescents and college students. Last fall she was awarded four grants totaling more than $275,000 to support her research on behavioral treatments for smoking and alcohol use disorders. These are two of the leading causes of preventable death and together amount to 520,000 deaths per year in the United States.

“Emergence of Adolescent Substance Use Problems from the Externalizing Spectrum,” was awarded $72,725 by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The goal of the grant is to study the onset of substance use and the transition from experimental use to substance use problems in adolescents.

“BASICS-ED: A Momentary Intervention for Concurrent Smoking and Heavy Drinking,” was awarded $77,656 by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. The goal of this project is to gain a better understanding of the alcohol relapse process and to identify potential targets for relapse prevention interventions.

“Technology-Enhanced Quitline Services to Prevent Smoking Relapse,” was awarded $96,300 by the National Cancer Institute. This study aims to improve tobacco telephone counseling to prevent smoking relapse and achieve abstinence.

While the results from these research projects will be presented at conferences and published in journals around the world, Witkiewitz is confident the grants will benefit the WSU Vancouver campus and the surrounding community.

“I am hopeful that my research will lead to the development and dissemination of better behavioral treatments for alcohol dependence and smoking cessation. There is potential for expanding treatment programs to residents of the greater Vancouver-Portland metropolitan area and for providing hands-on training to WSU Vancouver students who are interested in learning more about the prevention and treatment of addictive behaviors,” said Witkiewitz.

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**Glossary**

**Dynamical Systems Theory** – An area of mathematics in which differential and difference equations are used to describe the behavior of a complex system.

**Growth Mixture Modeling** – A statistical modeling tool that can be used to characterize individual differences in longitudinal change in a measured behavior (e.g., drinking) over time.

**Latent Markov Modeling** – A statistical modeling tool that can be used to examine discontinuous change over time, such as when a person suffers a substance use relapse.

**Substance use relapse** – The return to problematic substance use after a period of abstention or moderate use.
Women of Distinction

HONOR WOMEN WHO INSPIRE, MENTOR AND EMPOWER YOUNG WOMEN

Paying it forward is the idea behind the theme for this year's Women of Distinction program—Empowering Young Women. The event will recognize women who in turn empower young women in our community.

The theme will be exemplified by keynote speaker Nichole Maher, executive director of the Native American Youth and Family Center. Under her leadership, NAYA works to enrich the lives of native youth and families through education, community involvement and culturally specific programming. For more than 30 years, NAYA has provided educational services, cultural arts programming, and direct support to reduce poverty to the Portland metropolitan area’s American Indian and Alaska Native community.

One of the ways NAYA empowers young women is by supporting and encouraging education. NAYA is very proud of its school—the NAYA Early College Academy. Established in 2008, the school is committed to creating a positive education emphasizing student empowerment, academic excellence and the integrity of core American Indian and Alaska Native values. The Academy offers a blended high school and postsecondary curriculum for 9th - 12th graders aged 14 to 20. Students attending the academy have the unique opportunity to earn a high school diploma and can earn college credit.

NAYA also provides Middle School Advocates who work closely with youth to help them complete their academic programs and/or to return to school. Advocates help students access available resources and navigate the educational system.

The purpose of Washington State University Vancouver’s annual event is to provide a venue for the celebration of Women’s History Month, observed each year in March, and to recognize women who have inspired, mentored and empowered others.

The capstone of the evening will be the presentation of the Distinguished Woman of the Year award. The annual award honors women who have made a difference in the lives of others and will be bestowed upon one WSU Vancouver student and one non-student. Award recipients are selected by a committee after review of nominations.

Women of Distinction is a free event and is open to students, staff, faculty and community members. Reservations are recommended.

CELEBRATE INCREDIBLE WOMEN WITH INCREDIBLE WOMEN

6 p.m. March 31
Firstenburg Student Commons
RSVP by March 29 to
www.vancouver.wsu.edu/distinction
For information, please call 360-546-9530
Public Affairs Lecture Series puts a face on the immigration issue

It started with a question.

One morning while pouring a cup of coffee in her kitchen, Sonia Nazario asked the woman who cleaned her house every-other week, and who often brought her young child along with her, “Do you plan to have more children?”

The cleaning woman cried. She told Nazario she had four other children she hadn’t seen in 12 years. She left them behind in Guatemala to come to the United States to make money to feed them and send them to school. She dreamed of earning enough money to bring her children to be with her in the U.S. She had never been able to save enough money.

That conversation spurred Nazario, a special-projects reporter for the Los Angeles Times, to dig a little deeper into the issue of immigration—specifically children being separated from their parents. That digging eventually led Nazario to ride on the tops of trains through Mexico just as thousands of immigrant children do every year on their dangerous and illegal treks up the length of Mexico.

“The tops of the trains are like beehives,” said Nazario. “Sometimes there are 600 children on the top of a train.”

Nazario said the conditions are horrifying. Some children fall from the train and are killed or lose limbs. They have little money—maybe just a few coins. They go without food and water sometimes for days. They have nowhere to sleep. And there are bandits waiting for them to disembark to rob them and sometimes rape them. Corrupt cops are out to fleece them and deport them.

None of this stops them. Their longing to be reunited with their mothers will not be tamed. Nazario met children as young as seven who had tried more than 20 times to get into the U.S.

Nazario reported on a 17-year-old boy, Enrique, who left Honduras and the only life he knew to find his mother who was working in South Carolina. The story of Enrique’s quest to find his mom was first published in the Los Angeles Times. Nazario won a Pulitzer Prize in 2003 for her series “Enrique’s Journey,” which she later expanded into a book that became a national best seller.

Nazario was the keynote speaker at Washington State University Vancouver’s ninth annual Public Affairs Lecture Series on Jan. 26. Her lecture, “Enrique's Journey and America’s Immigration Dilemma” got people thinking.

Immigration is one of the most challenging and divisive issues facing our country today. With a reporter’s eye to the truth, Nazario humanized the issue of immigration, posing new perspectives from multiple points of view, while offering solutions destined to change the national dialogue on the influx of immigrants and the effect they will have on the state of the nation.

“Nazario doesn’t offer black-and-white or simple answers. She doesn’t turn one group of people into heroes and another into villains. Instead, she opens up a complicated topic and allows for a variety of positions to be expressed,” said Dana Baker, co-chair of the Public Affairs Lecture Series and assistant professor and director of the public affairs program.

“By putting a face on the issue, Nazario humanizes immigration,” said Melissa Boles, student member of the Public Affairs Lecture Series Committee. “This lecture challenged students to think critically and understand that there are real-life experiences behind the legislation and media arguments.”

The Public Affairs Lecture Series provides a public forum for students, alumni and community members to engage in matters of public affairs. Guest speakers are selected based on their commitment to and involvement with public affairs and their ability to expand our thinking.
Southwest Washington is among the fastest growing regions in the Pacific Northwest and has come into its own as an economic powerhouse in the state. Vancouver and Clark County in particular offer the ideal climate, tax rates, utility costs and skilled workforce to attract companies and develop new jobs in high-tech, health care, environmental and other types of industries. Because growing industries rely on an educated workforce, Washington State University Vancouver opened in 1989 to answer the call of the region’s residents and businesses to offer higher education closer to home.

Roughly 90 percent of WSU Vancouver students come from within a 50-mile radius of campus, and the university’s transition to a four-year undergraduate university in 2006 reinforced the commitment to educate the future leadership of this dynamic region. Today, more than 8,000 WSU Vancouver alumni live, work and volunteer their time in Southwest Washington, making significant contributions to our community and ensuring that Southwest Washington maintains its reputation as a vibrant region of innovation and invention.

More than 8,000 WSU Vancouver alumni live, work and volunteer their time in Southwest Washington.
Yet the need for higher education in Southwest Washington remains great. According to the 2000 census data, fewer than 28 percent of the state’s residents hold a bachelor’s degree or higher. In Southwest Washington that number is only 20 percent. The median income level in Southwest Washington is also below the state average. So, while the need for an educated workforce is great, the inability to pay for higher education is even greater. Through the Campaign for Washington State University, we seek to raise private contributions to support and secure opportunities for our students, faculty, high-tech facilities and learning tools that encourage creativity and applied knowledge.

**Investing in our future**
Because the economic success of a community relies on a well-educated workforce, WSU Vancouver’s top priority is to competitively recruit talented and diverse students. More than 75 percent of our students require financial aid and an equal percentage remain in Southwest Washington after graduation. This means contributions to scholarships result in graduates who command higher-paying jobs in Southwest Washington and are often those who create industry and jobs for our region.

Scholarships provide opportunities at WSU Vancouver for thousands of students who otherwise could not afford a college education. Increasing scholarship support will make a positive impact on the recruitment and retention of our student body, particularly for those students who are the first in their families to attend college. Often many of the brightest and most gifted students are unable to develop their full potential because of financial burdens. Private support also increases research assistantships opportunities essential for a strong academic program and internships which further connect theory with hands-on applications.

**Premier faculty and research**
As a research university, WSU Vancouver’s investigations and discoveries contribute to the products, innovations and intellectual economy in Southwest Washington. To make an even more meaningful impact, private support for research and endowed faculty positions is essential. Endowed faculty chairs and distinguished professorships enable faculty to engage in longer-term scholarship and research that extends far beyond the classroom or laboratory to benefit communities and industries.

Endowed faculty positions also will help make WSU Vancouver more competitive by attracting professors who will, in turn, bring new vigor to our academic programs, classrooms and laboratories. Visionary teachers and researchers increase WSU Vancouver’s leadership in Southwest Washington and raise the prestige of the university and our community. The fact that WSU Vancouver currently has no endowed faculty positions represents a unique opportunity to create a strong foundation and enduring legacy at WSU Vancouver through the Campaign for WSU.

**Building a university campus**
Over the last two decades, WSU Vancouver has been fortunate to receive funding from the state capital budget. However, for our growth to continue at the rate necessary to educate the residents of Southwest Washington, we will need the help of both state capital dollars and private funds to transform programs and create student enrichment experiences that state dollars cannot fund alone.

The heart of every university is the campus. As WSU Vancouver continues to mature as a four-year institution, it is essential that we create a secure, vibrant and engaging place for the academic and personal growth of our students. Currently, students commute from outlying areas or rely on mass transit and carpooling to attend classes, adding significant time to their days and distancing them from the collegiate experience. The overall student experience will

**Students’ tuition costs, then and now**
In 1989 students paid 33% of the cost of their education, in 2011 students pay more than 70% of their higher education expenses.
be enhanced with the construction of the core campus facilities that most campuses take for granted, such as student housing, a recreation center and a student union. State funding is not available for the construction of these facilities. To meet the needs of the students, it is important that on-campus student housing be constructed within the next five years.

Private funding will also help support new or remodeled facilities critical to the growth of the Vancouver campus and our community. Constructing an Innovation Research Park will complement the mission of WSU Vancouver to create an innovation zone where a world-class research park is strengthened by a robust research university. This high-priority project will support Southwest Washington’s technology cluster and create long-term economic advantages for this region. Through the Campaign for WSU, private support will play an important role in making these visions a reality.

An invitation to give

WSU Vancouver applies excellence to issues facing our region, our state and beyond. Through the Campaign for WSU, we seek to expand the capabilities of the region’s workforce, to develop and enhance challenging academic programs, and to recruit and retain high-achieving students and faculty. We will also enhance our growing campus with student life facilities, develop a state-of-the-art research park and expand the Early Learning Leadership Center.

We invite you to join us in advancing this important vision through the Campaign for Washington State University. With your enthusiastic support of WSU Vancouver’s $20 million goal, the university will emerge as one of the region’s prominent intellectual, social and cultural leaders and will continue to drive the economic prosperity and future development of Southwest Washington.

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Southwest Washington

The Campaign for WSU Vancouver—Because the World Needs Big Ideas

The Campaign for WSU is a $1 billion comprehensive fundraising effort to increase support for students, faculty, research and outreach programs and to leverage the university’s impact across our state, nation and world. Following a silent phase that began on July 1, 2006, the public phase of the campaign launched on Dec. 2, 2010 and is scheduled to conclude in 2015, coinciding with WSU’s 125th anniversary celebration and WSU Vancouver’s 25th anniversary.

Total WSU Vancouver Campaign Goal = $20 MILLION

- Student Scholarships = $8 MILLION
- Premier Faculty and Research = $6.75 MILLION
- Facility Development and Enhancements = $5.25 MILLION

Progress to Date

$20 MILLION GOAL

$1 BILLION GOAL

“Scholarship support will make the difference to a student struggling to make ends meet. I am asking you to consider helping students by investing in scholarships.”

–Hal Dengerink, WSU Vancouver Chancellor
When we were married in May 1980, Joe was a Ph.D. student at the University of Arizona. His Ph.D. committee told him Washington State University would be a perfect fit for his first faculty position.

With that tip in our back pockets, we set out on a summer-long honey-moon trip. We drove from Maine to Seattle and back to Tucson. On our way to Seattle over the Fourth of July holiday, we decided to take a detour to Pullman “just to see.”

When we pulled into town it was a dry, lonely place. Mt. St. Helens had erupted just six weeks earlier leaving a fine dusting of ash on the ground that cast a gray tinge on everything. We drove the loop from Stadium Way to Grand a few times and saw only two people. It was a ghost town! We stopped at a tavern next to Dismores for lunch, and we were the only customers. As we drove out of Pullman on Highway 195 we saw a handful of people holding signs that read, “Need Ride to Seattle,” “Need Ride to Spokane” and “Will take Ride to ANYWHERE.” At that point Joe was crushed, and I was adamant I would never set foot in that town again.

**Fast forward to 1982**

Joe was in the job market waiting for the offers from universities when Hal Kerr from the WSU College of Business called to invite him for an interview. I said, “Go ahead. It can be our ‘back-up plan.’”

Joe went on the interview and called me from Pullman all excited. “It’s such a great place, everyone is so nice, and Rom Markin (the dean at the time) is someone I would love to work for,” Joe shouted into the phone. “They made me the offer on the spot—what do you think?”

Flashbacks to an ash-covered Palouse flooded my mind. “YIKES!” I said. Then I asked Joe not to sign anything and to please come home where we could talk about it.

We did talk long and hard and finally decided to give WSU a try. I left a corporate job behind and started graduate school when we got to Pullman. It took one semester to convert me from an Arizona Wildcat to a Coug! The faculty at WSU were unlike any I had encountered at U of A. Every professor I had that semester had a zeal for teaching and a true commitment to students. They challenged me to think in ways I had not been challenged to think before. Their passion for teaching fueled my enthusiasm for learning.

**Fast forward to 1992**

I was finishing my Ph.D. and an opportunity for both Joe and I to come west to WSU Vancouver presented itself. We loved our life in Pullman, ironic I know, but this seemed like an opportunity too good to pass up. We’d help start a new campus and still be part of WSU.

Our Pullman colleagues thought we were crazy. They said things like, “We’ll never hear from you again,” “You’ll be back” and “That’s the end of the earth!”—it’s funny to hear someone from Pullman utter those words. Now we know what Lewis and Clark’s colleagues must have said to them!

When we got to WSU Vancouver we found faculty with a pioneer spirit...
and a commitment to building a quality institution focused on the areas of research and teaching.

Today that pioneer spirit is part of the culture of the business program that Joe, I and others have helped establish. We’ve created programs that lead the college in innovation. What has been inspiring and transforming for Joe and me is to see how committed this faculty is to student education, research excellence and supporting the success of colleagues.

People say you never want to know how the sausage is made. But being on the inside and seeing how the business faculty come together to collaborate on best practices for building a meaningful curriculum and how they mentor each other in research—I’m witness to the sausage-making and it’s high-quality, organic and healthy.

So when it came time to decide where we wanted to direct our final gifts, we chose to become Legacy Associates to support future faculty at WSU Vancouver. We believe that investing in high-quality faculty is critical to insuring all students continue to have a transformational experience at WSU Vancouver.

Just as we were pioneers coming west to help build the campus, we decided we wanted to be pioneers in helping build a tradition of giving to WSU Vancouver that will create a lasting impact. This is our Big Idea… what’s yours? ❖

Jane Cote (’85, ’94) is director of the College of Business and an accounting professor at Washington State University Vancouver. Her husband Joe Cote is a marketing professor in the College of Business. They are annual donors who became Legacy Associates in 2010.

WSU Vancouver
Programs and Degrees >>

Bachelor’s degrees
Anthropology, BA
Biology, BS
Business Administration, BA
Computer Science, BS
Digital Technology and Culture, BA
Education, BA
Electrical Engineering, BS
English, BA
Environmental Science, BS
History, BA
Human Development, BA
Humanities, BA
Mechanical Engineering, BS
Nursing, BS
Psychology, BS
Public Affairs, BA
Social Sciences, BA
Sociology, BA

Master’s degrees
Accounting, MAcc
Business Administration, MBA
Computer Science, MS
Education, EdM
Environmental Science, MS
History, MA
Mechanical Engineering, MS
Nursing, MN
Public Affairs, MPA
Teaching, MIT

Doctorate degree
Education, EdD

Certificates
Aging
eBusiness MIS
Management Accounting
Professional Sales
Professional Writing
Public Accounting
Social and Environmental Justice

Call. Visit. Apply.
www.vancouver.wsu.edu
360-546-WSUV
Mike Seely is a third-generation mint grower and a Washington State University alumnus. It is this combination that forms the root of Seely’s being.

Seely’s parents raised five children on a farm nine miles north of Battle Ground. He said the farm taught him about responsibility and sometimes required the family to work 48 hours straight through.

“Nothing ever broke down at harvest during normal weather conditions. It was always way too hot or pouring rain,” said Seely.

One summer during a hot spell, the shaft on the chopper twisted bringing harvest to a halt. Seely’s father and a brother made a 2 a.m. trip to Portland, and with the permission of the owner, busted into a business and used a cutting torch to take a shaft out of another chopper. By the time they got back with the part, the family’s chopper was running and harvest was back on track. Another brother and a hired farm hand called in an old-time machinist who fixed the shaft and reinstalled it on the chopper.

At 14, Seely started farming on his own. He leased a small plot of land not far from the Washington State University Vancouver campus and raised enough mint over the next seven years to pay for his degree at WSU.

Attending WSU was a family affair. Seely’s sister Marion was the first to head to Pullman. She started the trend by graduating with a master’s degree in speech therapy in 1969. Brother Steve was next with a degree in industrial engineering. Warren was third with a degree in electrical engineering. Dan was fourth with a degree in mechanical engineering. Seely brought up the rear with a degree in electrical engineering in 1984.

Some Cougars never get enough. Seely came back to school at WSU Vancouver and received his MBA in 2009.

“Coming back to school at WSU Vancouver, changed everything about the way we do business,” said Seely, who today operates a 600-acre mint farm in Clatskanie, Ore. “It has changed everything for the better and was one of the best decisions I have made. Not only was
it a great learning experience, but I took something from every class and used it on the farm. Our cost accounting system helps us understand how the farm is performing and where we can improve. Stakeholder Theory helped us look at and evaluate who has a vested interest in a particular issue and why. Once we understand that, we can work with everyone to ensure great results. ‘Niche Market and Quality Aspects’ helped us launch our new product lines.”

“I used my MIS class to evaluate technology for our farm. Today we are on the leading edge of technology for mint farms,” said Seely.

He uses infrared (IR) and near infrared reflectance (NIR) technology to monitor pests. Aerial imaging helps manage the farm’s water and can even detect if an individual irrigation nozzle is plugged. GPS units on self-propelled farm implements remove overlap and reduce energy usage and the farm’s carbon footprint.

“We, as mint growers, need to embrace technology as much as possible. It will help us remain competitive from a production/cost standpoint as well as show the world who we are,” said Seely.

Today Seely is a member of the Cougar Business Alliance, which gathers Cougar alumni from all Washington State University campuses who own or operate a business in Southwest Washington or the Portland metropolitan area. The Cougar Business Alliance looks for ways alumni businesses can work together, refer one another and form partnerships.

“Being a member has been great. Ideas shared by other members have really helped our business. We have picked up valued customers. One member even took the time to find us a piece of farming equipment we were having a hard time finding on our own,” said Seely.

The root of the next generation

Mike Seely’s son, Warren, is demonstrating his family’s aptitude for both farming and engineering. He builds working farm equipment using Legos—from scratch and to scale. In December Warren visited WSU Pullman to demonstrate his equipment in an irrigation lab class. Warren’s 14-foot, three-tower irrigation pivot is a crowd pleaser among his 20-piece collection. Pullman is just one of many places Warren has been invited to exhibit his work. Seely said in the farming community it is now easier for him to introduce himself as the “father of the young man with the Lego farm equipment.”

See Warren in action on WSU’s YouTube site. Click on “The Lego Kid.”
Learn more about the Seely farm by visiting www.seelyfamilyfarm.com
More on mint

It takes 23 cubic feet of mint to produce one pint of mint oil. One pint of mint oil flavors 45,000 sticks of chewing gum. One pound of tea leaf makes 252 tea bags.

Mike Seely’s mint oil is steam-distilled and food-grade. His teas are naturally sundried and the leaves are separated from everything else. They raise nothing but single-cut, premium-quality mint.

Twenty years ago the U.S. dominated the mint oil industry and almost all mint products such as toothpaste, chewing gum, mouth wash, Altoids, etc. were flavored with 100 percent U.S. mint oil. According to Seely, U.S.-produced mint oil is the safest, highest quality mint oil in the world.

Today the U.S. mint industry has about 50 percent of the worldwide market share. Washington is the number one producer of mint in the U.S. and Oregon is number two. Mint production in the U.S. has dropped from nearly 10 million pounds to less than 70 percent of that today. Less expensive, different-quality mint oils from other countries are competing with mint oil produced in the U.S.

“I cannot think of a commercially produced toothpaste or chewing gum today that uses a pure, single-cut, premium-quality mentha piperita produced in the U.S. Everything is blended with the less expensive, different-quality oils now. Mint products used to have a smooth, creamy taste that was a reflection of how U.S. growers raised single-cut, premium-quality mint to produce their oils. Now those same mint products have a bitter after-taste that frankly makes me wonder why I bought the product in the first place!” said Seely.

“I believe the U.S. mint industry needs to continuously evolve to remain competitive worldwide. We, as a group, need to develop a sustainable strategy and market it through a carefully thought out branding and imaging campaign. We need to take our history, i.e. the highest quality, safest mint products in the world, together with how we produce a sustainable mint to show the world why people should prefer our product,” said Seely.
The Cougar Business Alliance is a NEW service of WSU Vancouver that is designed to help facilitate “Cougars doing business with Cougars.” Whether you are looking for a specific Cougar-owned business in Southwest Washington or the Portland metropolitan area, wish to promote your business to other Cougars and friends of WSU, or refer one another and form partnerships, the CBA can help.

Membership is free for Cougar-owned and operated businesses. Quarterly meetings provide an opportunity to meet area Cougars and learn ways to improve your business and build camaraderie with other Coug owners and/or managers. Join the Cougar Business Alliance and let fellow alumni work for you, van.alumni@vancouver.wsu.edu.

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D’Alene White

Washington State University Vancouver alumna D’Alene White, B.A. public affairs ’04, recently moved to a condominium in downtown Portland and enjoys photography, reading, yoga, walking and cooking. She mostly takes in television shows like “60 Minutes” and “Dateline” but admits “The Bachelor” is her guilty pleasure.

NW Crimson & Gray sat down with White to find out about her life after college and reflect on why she chose WSU Vancouver.

Q. Why WSU Vancouver?
I was at a crossroads in my life—I was stuck doing the same types of jobs, and I had no passion for them. I had not finished my college degree and believed if I wanted a career change I needed to finish college. I had college credits from several schools including Clark College, Portland Community College and De Anza Community College in California. I gathered my credits and met with a WSU Vancouver counselor who informed me that many of my accumulated credits would count towards a degree. She helped me figure out what it would take to earn my bachelor’s degree and what degree would be a good fit for me. WSU Vancouver was a natural choice since it was in Vancouver, where my family lived at the time, and set on the most beautiful campus, with the most excellent professors and staff!

Q. What have you been doing since graduation?
While I was in school I completed two internships for college credit; one at Educational Service District 112 and the other at Clark County Juvenile Court. They were both great experiences. At the end of my internship at CCJC, they offered me a temporary position as a victim impact education class facilitator and theft diversion class facilitator. I jumped in with both feet and loved every minute of my work. I did that for almost two years before becoming a probation counselor. I’ve now been a probation counselor for almost six years. My job is to help youth on probation follow their court order to keep the community safe and help them be successful citizens by holding them accountable and building on their strengths.

Q. How do you show Cougar Pride?
I encourage anyone thinking of either going back to school to finish their degree or just starting out to strongly consider WSU Vancouver. I tell them about the wonderful experience I had while attending including the excellent courses, degrees offered, professors and the beautiful campus.

Q. If you could have dinner with anyone in the world, who would it be?
President Obama. I’d have so many questions for him! I’d love to discuss unemployment and job creation, health care, China, the Middle East Crisis, North Korea, bi-partisanship—the list would be endless.
March 26
**Cougs in the Community**
Oregon Food Bank Volunteer Action Center
7900 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR
1 – 3 p.m.

March 31
**Women of Distinction**
Firstenburg Student Commons
6 p.m.

April 4
**Health Professions Graduate School Fair**
Firstenburg Student Commons
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

April 8
**Preview Day**
9:30 a.m.

April 8 – 9
**Cougar Pride Days**
WSU Vancouver

April 23
**Cougar Community Run**
WSU Vancouver
9 a.m.

April 29
**Chancellor’s Seminar Series**
“Economic Stress and Job Insecurity: Implications for Employees and Organizations”
Tahira Probst, professor of psychology, WSU Vancouver
Firstenburg Student Commons
11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

May 14
**2011 WSU Vancouver Commencement**
Sleep Country Amphitheater
1 p.m.

May 24
**GK-12 Showcase**
Firstenburg Student Commons
6 – 8 p.m.

June 5
**Cougs and Coffee**
Tully’s, 1801 S.E. 164th Ave., Vancouver, WA
9 – 11 a.m.

For details visit events.vancouver.wsu.edu

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“The WSU Vancouver campus is beautiful, the people are wonderful and the coursework is fascinating. I’ve had the opportunity to become involved with campus organizations such as the Salmon Creek Journal and KOUG Radio that have allowed me to put my degree objectives into practice. My time spent here is so enjoyable.”

- Christina Broussard-Pearson, creative media and digital culture major