TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: President Sabah Randhawa
DATE: October 13, 2017
SUBJECT: Recognitions and Introductions
PURPOSE: Information Item

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Brent Carbajal and Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, Melynda Huskey will recognize the following people at lunch for their outstanding achievements and service to the University.

- Gautam Pillay, Vice Provost for Research and Sponsored Programs and Dean of the Graduate School
- Gordon Chalmers, Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award Recipient
- AJ Barse, Outstanding Classified Staff Award Recipient
- Linda Norman, Professional Staff Organization Award Recipient
- Francisco Rios, Diversity Achievement Award Recipient
- Liz Partolan-Fray, Diversity Achievement Award Recipient
- Vicki Hsueh, Carl H. Simpson Bridging Award Recipient
- Emmanuel Camarillo, Philip E. Sharpe Jr., Community Engagement Award Recipient
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute Proposal Development Team

Gautam Pillay, PHD, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School.

Gautam Pillay earned a doctorate in chemical engineering from Texas A & M University and a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from New Mexico State University. Since 2013, Gautam served West Chester University of Pennsylvania as the chief research officer, facilitating the development and sustainability of research, scholarship and creativity in all academic colleges and schools to enhance undergraduate and graduate learning and faculty professional development. Previously, Gautam served as tenured professor of Chemical Engineering and associate provost for Research at Rowan University in New Jersey; vice president for Research and professor of Chemical Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; and executive director of the Inland Northwest Research Alliance, a non-profit consisting of eight western research universities. Additionally, he served for over 20 years as a U.S. Department of Energy national laboratory researcher, program manager, government relations manager, chief of staff and senior administrator, including at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Washington. His research interests include environmental remediation and restoration, societal impacts of science and engineering, and the instructional methods of technical communications. In addition, Gautam has
formal training in three languages, several musical instruments, multiple theatrical and dance genres, and has performed professionally in several states

Gordon Chalmers, Professor, Kinesiology and Physical Education - College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Gordon Chalmers joined the kinesiology program in Western's Health and Human Development Department in 1996. Gordon has been the program coordinator for the Kinesiology and Physical Education Program for eleven years, including during recent years of rapid growth and 70% faculty turnover. For a two year period, he was the major advisor for more than 200 kinesiology students at a time. His teaching and research focuses on human motor control, and his classes he emphasizes the use of research studies to prepare students for lifelong learning in their professions. Beyond his department, Gordon has chaired the Human Subjects Review Committee of the WWU Institutional Review Board for fourteen years and has been a grant reviewer for the National Association for Sport and Physical Education for five years. Gordon received his B.S. from Simon Fraser University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from UCLA. He carried out post-doctoral research at the UCLA Brain Research Institute, the Neurosciences Department of the School of Medicine at the University of California Dan Diego, and as a Medical Research Council of Canada Post-Doctoral Fellow at Simon Fraser University

AJ Barse, Instructional Technology Specialists, - Student Technology Center – Academic Technology & User Services (ATUS)

Described by his colleagues as a “thoughtful, knowledgeable teacher,” a “generous and attentive collaborator” and “my #techhero” for his just-in-time technology rescues, AJ Barse has worked as an Instructional Technology Specialist at the ATUS Student Technology Center since 2012. He specializes in the digital arts, and audio and visual production using related software tools. Last year, he helped expand the STC’s workshop offerings with an introductory workshop series on 3D Printing and Making for students of all majors. He is passionately committed to teaching students technology skills that will help them in their professional lives.

Linda Norman, Senior Systems Analyst – Enterprise Application Services – Academic Affaris

Linda Norman has worked as a Senior Systems Analyst at Western since 2000, developing and enhancing IT systems that support student success. She serves as a bridge between the institution’s complex technical systems and the departments interfacing directly with the students, faculty, and staff. Currently, she is the lead analyst assigned to the Degree Works Implementation Team, which is responsible for replacing Western’s current degree audit software with a new system designed to increase achievement by improving retention and graduation rates.

According to one of her colleagues, “If you can’t figure out how something works or the history of how it was developed, Linda either knows or she delves into the data until she finds out.” Another stated that Linda “has an encyclopedic understanding of the Banner Student Information System.”

When asked what she values most about her work at Western, Linda’s response makes it clear that for her, it’s all about the students. “The most important thing I’d like to say is how grateful I am for all the amazing people I have worked with at Western. I’ve supported a lot of users in a lot of departments over the years and have always considered it my job to make their jobs easier. Together we have been able to accomplish wonderful things for the students.”
Francisco Rios, Professor, Woodring College of Education

Francisco Rios came to Western in 2011 to serve as the Dean of the Woodring College of Education, a six year tenure that he completed this past summer when he returned to the faculty. As Dean of the College, he led numerous initiatives, including: recruitment of a Diversity Recruitment and Retention Specialist; the hiring of a more diverse faculty; the partnership program “Maestros Para el Pueblo”; the Fairhaven-Woodring Education and Social Justice minor; three alternate route to teaching programs with the Bellingham School District; and new international partnerships for Woodring College, most notably in Chile, China, Taiwan and Mongolia.

Liz Partolan-Fry 1948-2016, Director of International Programs & Exchange, Psychology Professor, Institute for Global Engagement

Liz Parton-Fray began her career at Western in 1980 at the Multicultural Services Center where she advised international students, students with disabilities, veterans, and mature returning students. From 1997 to 2016, Liz served as Director of International Programs & Exchanges (now Education Abroad). During her tenure, the number of Western students studying abroad annually more than doubled, and the number of international students at Western increased significantly as well. She was an outstanding advocate for increasing diversity on university campuses, receiving the Women of Color Empowerment Award in 2010, and being appointed to the NAFSA: Association on International Educators 2016-2017 Diversity Network Task Force.

Liz was a Fulbright grantee for International Education Administrators to both India and Japan. At Western she served on the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee on Ethnic and Cultural Pluralism, and on the Diversity Achievement Award Committee, among other similarly-focused groups. Her roles as a trainer and committee chair in NAFSA and with the Northwest Council of Study Abroad gave her a national reputation as a leader who cared about her students. Her work with colleagues on campus earned respect and admiration as a mentor who cared about them as people.

Liz spent a lifetime advocating for those who were underrepresented at the university. From developing policies to satisfy immigration regulations, to teaching a course designed for students preparing to study abroad, Liz brought leadership and dedication to Western’s services for international students and those leaving from Western to study abroad.

Liz passed away in the summer of 2016 and dearly missed by her family, friends, and former colleagues at Western and in the international field.

Vicki Hsueh, Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Humanities and Social Sciences – Director, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Vicki Hsueh has been a professor in the Department of Political Science since 2003 and has served as the Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) since 2013. She has been active to both the university and the Bellingham community, with a particular emphasis on projects that tackle issues of equality, justice, and violence prevention care.

Over the past couple of years, Dr. Hsueh has collaborated with a deeply engaged, wide-ranging group of students, staff, and faculty from across the university to make the WGSS program more inclusive, more comprehensive, and more visible. This growth, she believes, would not be possible without the heartfelt efforts and love of a passionate and committed community. They have truly built a program of vitality and vibrancy.

As an interdisciplinary program, WGSS emphasizes the theories and practices shaped by feminist, queer, postcolonial, multiracial, and multicultural context as it critically seeks to revise, re-envision,
and reimagine social change. Creating connections and building alliances across difference empowers us to more powerfully pursue the work of examining and challenging systems of oppression, inequality, and privilege from a variety of perspectives.

Vicki received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and her B.A. from Williams College. She is the author of Hybrid Constitutions: Making and Unmaking Power and Privilege in Colonial America and numerous articles and other publications.

**Emmanuel Camarillo, General Student Advisor and Undocumented Student Advisor – Academic Support Coordinator, Student Outreach Services – Enrollment & Student Services**

Emmanuel was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. He graduated from Truman State University in 2011 with a B.S. in Agriculture Science. In 2013 he graduated from Western Washington University with a M.Ed. in Environmental Education and earned a certificate in Leadership and Nonprofit Administration from the North Cascade Institute.

Emmanuel Camarillo has been a staff member at Western Washington University in Student Outreach Services since 2015. Emmanuel’s passion at Western is to help undocumented students succeed at Western, both as an academic advisor and as a volunteer club advisor for the WWU Blue Group, the student club for undocumented students and their allies. Emmanuel has given generously of his time and resources to support undocumented students by taking them to conferences and helping with DACA, WASFA and Know Your Rights workshops in Bellingham and Mt. Vernon. He is also former member of the Skagit Immigrant Rights Council. A colleague describes Emmanuel as having “a kind of dedication and determination that is admirable and inspiring”

**Howard Hughes Medical Institute Proposal Development Team – College of Science and Engineering**

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) Proposal Development Team originated as a group of faculty members from Biology, Chemistry and Geology concerned about climate, access and retention for underrepresented students in STEM majors. The group began to meet on a biweekly basis to identify barriers for these students, including enrollment limits on STEM courses, under-preparation for the Math Placement test, and the lack of faculty and graduate student awareness concerning equity and inclusion. When the HHMI, the world’s foremost biomedical research foundation, announced that it would be accepting proposals for $1 million in grants to increase minority inclusion and representation in STEM disciplines, the team’s conversations and shared understanding made it possible to prepare a proposal to address these issues at Western. From a field of 1500 eligible colleges and universities, and a 91 submitted proposals. Western was one of 24 to receive a $1M grant. Because of HHMI’s national prominence and resources, with this grant Western is positioned to become a national leader in STEM inclusion, which can in turn increase Western’s ability to recruit more diverse faculty and students.

**Individual Team Members:**

Spencer Anthony Cahill, Chemistry; Regina Barber-DeGraaff, Physics and Astronomy; Emily Borda, Chemistry; Jessica Cohen, Mathematics; Lina Dahlberg, Biology; Edward Geary; SMATE; Daniel Hanley, SMATE; Bernie Housen, Geology; Robin Kodner, Biology; Davis Leaf, Biology; Suzanne Lee, Biology; Joann Otto, Biology; Daniel Pollard, Biology; Jackie Rose, Biology; José Serrano-Moreno, Biology; Shannon Warren, SMATE.