“When I was awarded the Prim Scholarship, it really took the financial burden off of me so I didn’t have to worry as much about balancing work and school and how my family would support me.”

— Soha Pourpirali
Psychology Major (‘19)
**ADVANCEMENT UPDATE**

**JULY 1 THROUGH AUGUST 31**

**FAST FACTS**

- **Total Alumni Event Attendance:** 593
- **Get Your Blue On BBQ:** 259
- **Paint B’Ham Blue for WWU**: 72
- **Western Engaged Marketing Alumni Event:** 62
- **Graduation Celebration:** 200

**Gifts to WWU**

- **482 Donors**
- **1,147 Gifts**
- **Totaling $919,380**

**Alumni Members Who Joined/Renewed**

- **291 Annual Members**
- **11 Life Members**
- **2 Sapphire Members**
Summer Lakewood Membership Campaign

University Advancement Marketing and Communications promoted WWU Alumni Association memberships with an advertising campaign focused on access to Lakewood as a membership benefit during the summer months.

Growing Awareness
July 1 Through August 31

Become a Western Alumni Association member and gain access to Western’s exclusive Lake Whatcom waterfront property and these amenities:

- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Sailing
- Windsurfing
- Paddleboarding

Didn’t attend Western? No problem, you can still be part of the Western community. Join the Alumni Association today at wwualumni.com

Beat the Heat

Private beach and picnic area
Safe swim area
Sailboat, row boat, canoe, kayak, windsurf and SUP (stand-up paddle board) rentals

This resulted in 69 WWU Alumni Online Memberships
ART WALKS
On July 6, Art Walk at the Western City Center showcased the work of some very special Vikings; paintings from WWU Alumna and WWU Alumni Program Director Susan Bakse (‘88) and photographs from her husband, Michael, a buyer for the Western A.S. Bookstore since 1998. On August 3, Vikings and friends celebrated the work of Whatcom landscape and figure painter Ron Pattern, whose bold paintings in bright colors capture the natural beauty of Whatcom County. On September 7, Art Walk at the Western City Center featured the works of photographer Mark Bergsma (‘71).

ANNUAL PRESIDENTS BARBECUES A SUCCESS
We had near-record level attendance at both the Seattle and Bellingham President’s Society barbecues (at the Nordic Museum in Ballard and BelleWood Acres in Bellingham, respectively). Attendees enjoyed a delicious salmon dinner and appreciated a video highlighting the beauty and importance of the recent gift to Western of Sculpture Woods on Lummi Island.

ROOFTOP VIP LUNCHEON KICKS OFF PAINT B’HAM BLUE FOR WWU
On July 17, 72 Western alumni supporters, friends, and community leaders gathered on the rooftop of the Bellingham Herald to hear about our plans for 2018 Paint B’ham Blue for WWU and recognize this year’s sponsors.
ENGAGEMENT
CONTINUED

GET YOUR BLUE ON BBQ & LEGACY LUNCH
Celebrating the Western Community and strengthening our pride, Vikings packed the Wade King Recreation Center for the 11th Annual Get Your Blue on BBQ. Baby Cakes played to a crowd of 259, who enjoyed hot-off-the-grill treats and some very special sweets. The Legacy Lunch for retired faculty and staff also formed a part of the festivities.

WWU ALUMNUS AWARDED TEACHER OF THE YEAR
WWU alumnus Robert Hand (’07) won Washington State Teacher of the Year for 2018. Hand teaches in Mount Vernon and majored in Communication at WWU.

INTERNS HONORED AT BOEING
On August 16, WWU alumnus and Director of Quality at Boeing Kendall Nolan (’90) hosted a WWU Intern Appreciation Event at Boeing. Also on hand were WWU Alumni Association Executive Director Deborah DeWees and Board Emeritus and Boeing Senior Manager Kay Hovde (’84). Boeing leadership attended and supported the interns through networking, professional advice, and encouragement.
HONORING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION: SOHA POURPIRALI

Soha Pourpirali’s journey at Western has been a rocky one. In 2017, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer and her father passed away shortly thereafter. In addition to keeping up academically, Soha faced tremendous financial uncertainty. So it is with particular gratitude she received the Merle Prim Scholarship for Diversity and Inclusion, a scholarship established in the memory of one of Western’s most legendary professors. The Merle Prim Scholarship for Diversity and Inclusion has been supported by 34 donors contributing $123,345.84 so far.

“We weren’t sure we could keep our house—this loss was very difficult on our family. All of my financial aid was based on my father’s income, which we had lost. My job could only cover basics like textbooks and food. When I was awarded the Prim Scholarship, it really took the financial burden off of me so I didn’t have to worry as much about balancing work and school and how my family would support me.”

Dr. Prim taught at Western for 42 years. He was a gay black professor in psychology at a time when being either one of those things was unusual for university faculty. The scholarship honors his legacy by encouraging students of color and LGBTQ students to enter the field of psychology with the goal of making psychology a more inclusive and diverse field. Soha is a perfect student to honor such an important legacy. In the vision of Dr. Prim’s scholarship, Soha is a first generation student of Iranian descent and a strong voice for students of nontraditional backgrounds.

The scholarship has been essential for Soha, who not only needed the financial support, but also has a desire to see more diversity in psychology. A 2000 Surgeon General’s report “Mental Health: Culture, Race, Ethnicity” described the barriers underrepresented groups face as “clinician’s lack of awareness of cultural issues, bias, or inability to speak the client’s language, and the clients’ fear and mistrust of treatment. More broadly, disparities also stem from minorities’ historical and present day struggles with racism and discrimination, which affect their mental health and contribute to their lower economic, social, and political status.”

Soha echoes the report’s findings. “When you’re a person of color, it’s important to see psychologists and researchers of color working in the field. It makes a big difference.”

She works as a research assistant in Dr. Ira Hyman’s cognitive psychology lab, mentors school-aged students in the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program, and serves as a peer mentor to fellow students through WWU Student Outreach Services.

“Dr. Hyman’s support has helped me overcome challenges and remain a dedicated student here at Western.”

Soha has applied herself in psychology. Her favorite class so far at Western is developmental psychology, and her favorite part of being in psychology at Western has been traveling to conferences and presenting work. Already a researcher, she is taking a leadership role in a few projects this year.
WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO...

IMPACT STORIES

MICROSOFT SPONSORS CYBERSECURITY SUMMER CAMP

Microsoft awarded WWU $44,000 for a Cybersecurity Summer Camp to provide training for underserved populations. From July 16 to July 31, the day camp in Poulsbo, WA served members of the S’Klallam and Squamish tribes, disadvantaged youth, and residents of traditionally underserved rural communities on the Olympic Peninsula. The camp provided 30 hours of instruction in cybersecurity and information about career development.

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT STAFF UPDATE

Alysse Normoyle, Intern for Marketing and Communications in University Advancement

Alysse is a senior majoring in Communication Studies and minoring in Political Science. She is originally from Olympia, and chose to come to Western because of the strong sense of community and unique culture. In her free time she enjoys hiking, camping, and running—always trying to find a way to spend time outside! She is excited for the experience she is gaining from her Marketing and Communications internship, and hopes that post-college she can pursue a career focused on social media marketing.
## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER 2018 THROUGH DECEMBER 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER 25</td>
<td>Bellingham Leadership Forum with keynote speaker Alan Mulally, Hotel Bellwether, Bellingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER 28</td>
<td>WWU Day at the Sounders vs. San Jose Earthquakes, Seattle</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER 1</td>
<td>WWU Night at Enchant, Seattle</td>
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<td>DECEMBER 6</td>
<td>Western Engaged Marketing Alumni Celebration, Seattle</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER 13</td>
<td>President’s Holiday Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER 13</td>
<td>Graduation Celebration, Bellingham</td>
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<tr>
<td>DECEMBER 15</td>
<td>Commencement, Bellingham</td>
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To request this document in an alternate format, please contact Frances Badgett, Assistant Director of Advancement Marketing & Communications; 360.650.2190 (voice); frances.badgett@wwu.edu.