WWU ADVANCEMENT ENGAGEMENT
18 events with 3,989 participants

Viking Night
Total attendees: 350

Athletic Scholarship Dinner
Total attendees: 70

Western Engaged: Huxley’s 50th in Seattle
Total attendees: 69

Western Engaged: Huxley’s Graduate Pizza Mixer
Total attendees: 51

Paint B’ham Blue for WWU
Total attendees: 2,409

Western Engaged: Alaska Send-Offs
Total attendees: 25

Western Engaged: Fairhaven Alumni Dinner
Total attendees: 30

12th Annual GYBO BBQ
Total attendees: 373

Western Engaged: Meet the Professionals
Total attendees: 124

Western Engaged: Huxley’s 50th in Bellingham
Total attendees: 118

Western Engaged: Huxley College on the Peninsulas 25th Celebration
Total attendees: 125

Western Engaged: Computer Science and Math Scholars Program Welcoming and Mentoring Event
Total attendees: 62

Western Engaged:
VIP Invite to Anthropocene: The Human Epoch
Total attendees: 17

Western Engaged:
Klipsun’s 50th Birthday Celebration
Total attendees: 32

Women’s Soccer Bunker Party (partner with Athletics)
Total attendees: 30

Men’s Soccer at SPU (partner with Athletics)
Total attendees: 68

WWU vs UW Men’s Basketball Event at UW (partner with Athletics)
Total attendees: 29

Western Engaged:
#HereToo Theatre Alumni event
Total attendees: 7

ANNUAL GIVING
This represents gifts to the university under $25,000

Cash donations
A total of 1,404 donors gave $873,911

MAJOR GIVING
Several gifts have come to the WWU Foundation for student-faculty research and creative exploration, scholarships, and travel abroad experiences.

The CLA Foundation gave $25,000 to BRIDGES in Woodring

David B Jones Foundation - $52,000 to Paleontology Undergrad Research

Pilchuk Learning Center has given a total of $295K since 2108 to support the Biology Department’s Botanical Research Fund

Costco has continued their $25,000 annual gift for scholarships.

MARKETING METRICS
Social media continues to be a growing channel for alumni and donors to connect and deepen their relationship with Western.

Twitter WWU Alumni Association
3,229 followers
1% increase
71 engagements

Twitter WWU Foundation
372 followers
1% increase
10 engagements

Facebook WWU Alumni Association
7,053 followers
1% increase
4,171 engagements

Facebook WWU Foundation
726 followers
0% increase
36 engagements

Website WWU Alumni Association
75,768 visitors

Website WWU Foundation
61,401 visitors
KeyBank Viking Night Supports Student-Athletes

September 13, 2019
Carver Gym, Bellingham

The 30th Annual Viking Night brought together 350 proud Vikings and community supporters who raised $95,000 in support for deserving student-athletes. WWU third-year and women’s basketball player Dani Iwami inspired the crowd with her remarks.

Paint B’ham Blue for WWU Biggest Year Yet

September 25, 2019
WWU Campus and Downtown Bellingham

In its fourth year, Paint B’ham Blue for WWU kicked off the fall semester with 2,409 students walking from campus to Depot Market Square. WWU alumnus R Squared (’19) entertained students who were crowd-surfing and dancing the night away. In addition to the public celebration, the Alumni Association also hosted a private reception in the Herald Building with more than 300 attendees.

Get Your Blue On BBQ Brings Vikings Together

September 16, 2019
WWU Campus, Bellingham

On September 16, 373 members of the Western community gathered to kick off the academic year with good fellowship. Guests enjoyed fresh, delicious barbecue, the sounds of bluegrass, and the good company of fellow Vikings. Wes Herman, CEO of Woods Coffee, presented a $3,000 check for the student scholarship proceeds that come from each sale of Viking Blend coffee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Private Reception with the Art Walk Artist
December 6, 2019
Bellingham, WA

Graduation Celebration
December 12, 2019
WWU Campus, Bellingham

Commencement
December 14, 2019
WWU Campus, Bellingham

January Art Walk
January 3, 2020
Bellingham, WA

Reception at the Governor’s Mansion
January 23, 2020
Olympia, WA

Private Reception with the Art Walk Artist
February 7, 2020
Bellingham, WA
Alumnus Reflects on Student Success

As an undergraduate at Western, Gabriel Alejandro Ibañez (‘17) traveled to Europe to study, an opportunity that he wouldn’t have had without donor support of the Education Abroad Office. One of the pillars of Western’s Student Success campaign—access to travel abroad—gives students like Alejandro fresh opportunities that would normally be beyond reach.

While in Europe, Alejandro created a multi-city, multifaceted business program in London, Berlin, and Rome with side adventures to Poland, Spain and other countries. Alejandro went to Europe seeking personal, professional, and academic development, and says, “This trip checked the box on all three.”

“I explored technology hotspots throughout the EU, how Italy was handling automation law, what the latest startups in Berlin are focusing their efforts on, and how established firms in London are handling Brexit and the impact on its communities.”

Alejandro learned a lot about himself and about cultural differences, and his experience overseas shifted his perspective. “The experience also prompted me to ask questions and dive deeper into finding out how I would later operate in the real world post graduation. I gained an interesting perspective of my own identity and level of privilege being from the United States and how my own identity plays into the global stage.”

After graduation, Alejandro got a job at a major tech firm and recently traveled to Hong Kong for business purposes. “I landed in a city I had never set foot in and immediately knew a routine from college: pick up a sim, search local cultural hotspots, alert the USA via Step, and start an adventure. I contacted some local alumni and was received with a warm WWU welcome.”

Grateful to the donors who made his undergraduate travel possible, Alejandro is now a confident world citizen with a rare asset among young business alumni—a global perspective.

WWU Foundation Receives Grant for Faculty-led Student Research

The WWU Foundation received a philanthropic grant from the David B. Jones Foundation to support rigorous field- and lab-based paleontology research for undergraduate geology majors. Students led by Dr. Brady Foster will study different aspects and patterns of fossilization of vertebrates in the Bighorn Basin of Wyoming. Their research will form the foundation of a new Stratigraphic Paleobiology course at WWU.

The goals and significance of the proposed project fall squarely within the mission of the David B. Jones Foundation and will support the goals of the current Student Success campaign (faculty-led student research, study abroad, and scholarship support). This project will directly fund intensive research faculty-led projects and the training of six, young, aspiring paleontologists, and will contribute substantially to the scientific community’s knowledge of the processes of fossilization. Results will be disseminated through publication of articles and lectures given at scientific conferences and to general audiences. Furthermore, this project will lay the groundwork for a sustainable, field-based paleontology course at WWU that will enhance paleontological training for future students in WWU’s Geology department.