Involving Students in Public Life

American Democracy Project continues on campus

This fall, Western will continue its involvement with the national, multi-campus American Democracy Project (ADP) initiative, dedicated to fostering the involvement of undergraduates in public life.

This year’s ADP program will be kicked off with a visit from educator and author, Jonathan Kozol, Sept. 29 at the PAC Mainstage (See accompanying story).

Other fall events include a New York Times Readership Program, co-sponsored with Associated Students and University Residences. A limited number of free copies of the Times will be available at busy campus venues, including VU Market, Wilson Library north entrance, and Viking Commons.

The ADP is sponsored jointly by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and The New York Times. More than 200 regional universities have now joined ADP, and are building a variety of curricular and co-curricular programs for students aimed at encouraging civil discourse and civic engagement.

For a complete and up-to-date listing of ADP news, events, campus partners, and how to get involved, go to the ADP website: http://www.wwu.edu/depts/adp/

From the VPUE

Our relationships, new and old, forge our rich campus culture

Kris Bulcroft, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE)

Welcome to the academic year of 2005-06. At the beginning of each Fall quarter at WWU, I never fail to experience a mingling of anticipation, apprehension, and appreciation. What will the year hold for our campus community? What challenges and triumphs lie ahead?

In what ways will the lives of the more than 750 faculty, 12,500 students, and 1,500 staff members of the campus community intersect and align?

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ADP Kick-off: Jonathan Kozol at WWU, Sept. 29

Educator, activist, and award-winning author Jonathan Kozol will launch Western’s ADP Program for 2005-06, in a free lecture on Western’s campus on Thursday, Sept. 29, at 7 PM on the PAC Mainstage.

Kozol’s visit is co-sponsored by Woodring College’s Center for Educational Pluralism and the Teaching-Learning Academy. Funding was made possible through a grant from the Cold Beverage Fund.

Kozol has been a passionate voice for more than 20 years. His latest book, Night, was named the best book of the year by the Washington Post. His other books include: Death at an Early Age, Savage Inequalities, Punished, and American Province.

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Internet Talk Show with Johnpaul Jones

Friday, Oct. 7, from Noon-1 PM. Streamed “live” from the web: http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/johnpaul_jones/

Johnpaul Jones, award-winning architect and WWU’s Distinguished Lecturer for Fall Quarter, will talk online about his life and work, direct from the Center for Instructional Innovation, hosted by Art Dept. Professor Linda Smeins. Faculty and students are encouraged to go to the Talk show website before the show and post their questions. (Tickets to the evening lecture are available at the WWU Box Office.)

The Chance for Change service-learning community service fair

Tuesday, Oct. 18, from 11 AM-2 PM, in the Viking Union

Community agencies will share ways in which WWU students and others can become involved with local community service projects. The event will also promote student, faculty and staff participation in the Oct. 22, Make a Difference Day. Sponsored by New Student Services, Residence Life and the Center for Service-Learning. For more info, contact Marie Eschenfelder, x/7520.

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**Inside: “First Thursdays” workshops for 2005-'06, Western Reads & more**
Western Reads designed to promote intellectual engagement, conversation and community

Donna Qualley
English Department & Director, Western Reads

The Western Reads book for 2005–2006 is *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon. The purpose of the Western Reads Program is to promote intellectual engagement, conversation and community around texts, activities that lie at the core of the university’s liberal arts tradition. We hope to introduce new students (both first-year and transfer students) to the idea that faculty and students at Western are interested and curious about ideas, especially the ideas found in texts. When we take time to think seriously about what we read, when we consider what other people have to say, we often discover questions and problems that are worth pondering and talking about with others.

All new students for 2005–2006 (first year and transfer students) have been given a copy of the book and asked to read it before coming to campus. A number of instructors in different departments plan to use or draw upon ideas from this book in their courses this year (for example, English 101, Fairhaven College and courses in education, communication, psychology, communication science disorders, and English).

During Fall Orientation (Sept. 19 and 20), all new students will participate in informal book group discussions with faculty, administrators, and staff. During fall and winter quarters, there will be a series of cross-disciplinary faculty panels, designed to provide students in the process of exploring their academic interests with a glimpse of how experts in different fields think.

In November, Dawn Prince-Hughes, an adjunct professor in Western’s Anthropology Department, will speak at the Turning Points Lecture Series. Dr. Prince-Hughes, who went undiagnosed with autism until the age of 36, will talk about her life and her eventual success in academia, focusing on how autistic/highly sensitive students can either excel or fail in the academic world.

Kozol, cont. from pg. 1

three decades on the issues of race, poverty and education. At Western, he will discuss his new book, *Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America*, which targets the recent and very rapid re-segregation of our public schools, the profound inequities minority children face, and the unhealthy “testing mania” that has overtaken inner-city schools and schools in general. Kozol will sign copies of *Shame of the Nation* in the PAC Lobby immediately following his lecture. Books will be available there and at the AS Bookstore after Sept. 20. Kozol’s other books include *Death at an Early Age* (winner of the 1968 National Book Award), *Savage Inequalities*, and *Amazing Grace*.

Tickets are free but required for the evening lecture and are available through the PAC Box Office, Mon. – Fri., Noon – 6 PM, 650-6146. If you would like to bring one of your classes to the lecture and want a block of tickets, contact Ann Carlson, x/2345, ann.carlson@wwu.edu

For more details go to: http://www.wwu.edu/depts/adc/kozol
Mark your calendars now for these energizing and useful faculty development workshops, happening as usual the first Thursday of each month during the academic year.

The theme for 2005-'06 is Developing & Sustaining Learning, and the workshops are designed to give busy faculty practical pedagogies, simple strategies, and opportunities to discuss ideas with colleagues. Best of all, they are free and no registration is required! “First Thursdays” are sponsored by the Center for Instructional Innovation and The Teaching-Learning Academy, with support from the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Updates and additions will be posted online at: http://pandora.cii.wwu.edu/cii/events/default.asp

FALL QUARTER 2005

Beginning the Intellectual Journey
THURSDAY, Oct. 6, at 4-5PM
ROOM TBA

Through our choice of class activities, assignments, and evaluations we create a path that guides first-year students in their transition to Western, shaping their approach to learning throughout their general education. Learn about optimal pedagogies and developing learning outcomes for first-year experience courses.

Diffusing Difficult Classroom Situations
THURSDAY, Nov. 3, at 4-5 PM
ROOM TBA

Contention in the classroom—be it day-to-day classroom management issues, disruptive behavior, or difficult subject matter—can greatly impact the learning environment. Join this panel of veteran faculty for their strategies for diffusing such potentially negative situations, discuss your own classroom issues, and learn about campus resources that can help.

Time Out!
THURSDAY, Dec. 1, at 4-5 PM
Room TBA

Your email inbox is full, students are lined up for your office hours, and there are still dozens of exams to grade...where, and how, do overloaded faculty find time to reflect, connect, and create the space necessary for both attending to their work as instructors and their lives as scholars? Take the time to attend this workshop, and learn how to incorporate reflective practice into your daily work life as well as use it effectively with your students the classroom.

WINTER QUARTER 2006

Writing Effective Exams
THURSDAY, Jan. 12, at 4 – 5 PM
ROOM TBA

Writing exams that effectively evaluate students’ learning can be a difficult task. Yet tests can inform instructors whether their students are achieving their learning goals. During this hands-on workshop, faculty from Western will discuss test construction, specifically focusing on the creation of objective tests containing multiple choice, true-false, matching, or fill-in-the-blank items.

Successful Strategies for the Large Classroom
THURSDAY, Feb. 2, at 4 – 5 PM
ROOM TBA

A big class isn’t just a small class with more people in it—it instead, it requires different teaching methods and different organizational techniques to make it an inclusive learning environment for all students. Join Carol Edwards, Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, to discuss what you can—and can’t—expect from your large courses, gain successful strategies to teach and involve your student “audience,” and simple things you can do, regardless of discipline, that both enhance learning and streamline your workload.

Writing Syllabi that Engage and Motivate Students
THURSDAY, March 2 at 4-5 PM, ROOM TBA

A course syllabus gives a positive first impression of your course, and makes explicit to students your learning objectives and expectations. During this workshop, best practices for syllabus creation will be explored, and a new on-line syllabus creation tool created by the Center for Instructional Innovation at WWU will be demonstrated. (“First Thursdays” continued on back page)

Join a Teaching-Learning Academy Study Group for 2005-06

The Teaching-Learning Academy will reconvene its bi-weekly study groups, beginning the second week of fall quarter. This year the study groups—comprising faculty, students, and staff—will discuss the over-arching questions: What do we mean by an ‘educated’ person? And how might we structure WWU to honor and sustain that kind of education? A list of sub-questions will also be generated for quarterly discussion.

Study Groups meet in the Canada House Fireplace Room and all interested faculty and staff are encouraged to join. Fall meetings are the weeks of Oct. 3, 17, 31; and Nov. 7 and 28. Study group times are: Wednesdays, 3 or 4 PM; Thursdays, Noon or 3 PM.

For more information or to sign up for a time, contact TLA Director Carmen Werder, x/7329, carmen.werder@wwu.edu Or visit the TLA website: http://www.wwu.edu/depts/tla/
“First Thursdays” workshops, con. ’t from pg. 3

SPRING QUARTER 2006

Using Humor and Play for Learning

THURSDAY, April 6, at 4-5 PM, ROOM TBA

“Humor is also a way of saying something serious.” -T.S. Eliot

Taking advantage of a humorous situation —and having fun—in class can be great ways to create “teachable moments.” Appropriate and intentional use of humor in the classroom can also create a learning environment that boosts cognition, eases student anxiety, facilitates group cohesion, and enhances instructor appeal. At this interactive workshop, you will hear how humor heightens “funderstanding.” Come laugh and learn with us!

Beyond the Classroom: service learning, internships, international experiences

THURSDAY, May 4, 4-5 PM ROOM TBA

Preparing students as active participants in the global community requires a variety of innovative pedagogies, as well as forging explicit connections between the in and out of classroom experience. Join the Center for Service Learning and Office of Undergraduate Education to explore ways to deepen the “real world” learning experience of Western undergraduates through work experiences and international exchanges.

Innovative Teaching Showcase Open House (CII)

Thursday, June 1, from Noon – 2 PM ROOM TBA

Every year, the Center for Instructional Innovation creates a cutting-edge multimedia showcase, featuring the best practices of Western’s most dynamic instructors. At the open house, you can see it all, as well as meet the directors and staff of the CII, enjoy refreshments, learn more about the Innovative Teaching Showcase, and meet this year’s Showcase’s featured instructors.

From the VPUE, con. ’t from pg. 1

It is a vivid tapestry that is strong enough, fortunately, to mitigate any apprehensions.

With that in mind, the theme for the 2005-06 academic year in the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education’s office is “Celebrating and Building Relationships.”

I have come to understand that the apprehension and anticipation I feel at the “jumping off” point of a new academic year is, in large part, due to the uncertainty inherent when we embark on building new relationships. Like all aspects of postmodern life, relationships are more tenuous and more complex—and more important. Campuses throughout the world are addressing the needs of more diverse student bodies, meditating widely divergent perspectives, and striving to situate themselves for uncertain times ahead.

For our office, this means continuing to build our relationships on campus, locally, nationally, and internationally. We will continue to partner with departments and Student Affairs on creating programs for first-year students. We will continue to act as a resource for faculty in the development of classroom pedagogies, assessment, and instructional technology. And—in what we hope will become a long and rewarding relationship for Western—we are exploring possible exchange programs with universities in eastern Europe.

More so each academic year, I have come to appreciate the freedoms I have in my classroom teaching and academic research, and feel we stand at a point in history when we cannot afford to take such freedoms for granted. And I am ever more inspired, energized, and sustained by the relationships that have come to me by way of my work at Western.

So, let us begin this new academic year by celebrating our relationships and embarking on the journey that will lead us to new and fruitful connections.