“We know that the interdependence of cultures and economies around the globe will grow. We do a disservice to our students if we fail to prepare them to excel in a global workplace.”

CWU President James L. Gaudino
State of the University address
Greetings from Ellensburg!

It’s an honor and privilege to be serving as CWU’s new Director of University Advancement. I am excited about the tremendous opportunities that exist to connect alumni to one another and to this wonderful university. My wife Jill and I are delighted to be back in our home state of Washington and have appreciated the warm welcome we have received from both the Ellensburg and CWU communities.

One of my first and most important assignments here at Central was to find an energetic and knowledgeable new leader for Alumni Relations. After a national search I’m pleased to welcome Grace Greenwich as the Executive Officer for Alumni. Prior to coming to CWU Grace was the Director of Alumni Relations for the School of Law at Seattle University. She also brings experience as the Director of Development and External Relations for the Teachers College at Columbia University. Her first day of work was May 1, but she’s been winning over alumni and staff since we first met her in March. I am excited about the energy and expertise that she will bring to this important position as we look to build a comprehensive alumni engagement program here at Central.

I knew that Central would be a good fit for me when I learned about the passion Wildcats have for teaching, discovery, and student learning both inside and outside the classroom. Earlier this year, we met with alumni and asked you to share your insight about engaging graduates in the life of CWU and about how we can serve you with greater purpose and intention. Thank you for your feedback. You are one of Central’s greatest resources and I was honored to meet you.

Scott Wade, Director of University Advancement

CWU Alumni Welcome New Executive Officer

We’re delighted to welcome Grace Greenwich as the Executive Officer for Alumni. Grace comes to Ellensburg from Seattle University, where she was the Director of Alumni Relations for the School of Law. Celebrating more than 19 years of experience as an advancement officer, Greenwich has managed and restructured alumni and development operations at Teachers College, Columbia University, and New York University’s School of Continuing and Professional Studies. Grace earned her bachelor’s degree in history at New York University and has continued her studies at both Georgetown and Harvard. Welcome Grace!

Please contact her to find out how you can get involved at alumni@cwu.edu.

The CWU Alumni Association is an independent nonprofit organization that exists to advance the interests of alumni and the university. CWU Alumni is published semiannually for alumni and friends of CWU. Persons with disabilities may request reasonable accommodation by calling the Center for Disability Services at 509-963-2171.
Internationally acclaimed entrepreneur and CWU alumna Christine Day is one of North America’s hottest CEOs. The 1984 business administration major has been hailed this year in Forbes and Fortune Magazine. Last year Day, also a graduate of the Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program, became the first woman named CEO of the Year by the Toronto Globe and Mail. The Canadian Marketing Association named Day Canada’s 2011 Marketer of the Year.

It’s no wonder the CEO of lululemon athletica is attracting so much attention. The company’s anticipated first-quarter revenue jumped 45 percent over the previous year and stock is trading at 67 times earnings. The personal philosophy driving this success? Day summarized her approach to challenges with an Ayn Rand quote: “The question isn’t who is going to let me, it’s who is going to stop me!”

Day, the former president of the Asia Pacific Group of Starbucks Coffee International, is an active alumna who chaired the CWU Foundation board for two years. She addressed graduates at CWU’s 121st commencement ceremonies on Saturday, June 9, at Tomlinson Stadium in Ellensburg.

Read more about Christine in the Globe and Mail.
CWU faculty and students are conducting ground-breaking research that is essential both to the expansion of Interstate-90 on Snoqualmie Pass and preservation of critical wildlife habitat and biodiversity. The findings of Central’s team already are influencing environmental considerations in roadway construction across the globe.

The Washington State Department of Transportation is expanding the Interstate-90 corridor east of Snoqualmie Pass into a six-lane freeway. The 50-percent increase in the freeway’s capacity will improve traffic flow, while new snow sheds will reduce the risk of avalanche-related closures.

It’s great news for travelers, but could pose severe threats for the Cascades ecosystem. A wider freeway increases the dangers associated with wildlife freeway crossings. I-90 also divides animal populations, limiting genetic diversity and making species more susceptible to disease and extinction.

Since 2008, the WSDOT has funded research by faculty and students from the Department of Biological Sciences. The research involves 14 animal-crossing zones divided by a 15-mile stretch of highway east of the pass. Faculty and students are determining what species inhabit the area, identifying their migratory patterns, and defining how the freeway affects animal behavior and survival.

The I-90 Snoqualmie East Project Wildlife Monitoring is the largest-scale study of the kind ever conducted in the United States, involving 10 state and federal agencies and several coalitions. What makes the project unique is that the monitoring is occurring before the project has been completed, according to biological sciences professor Paul James.
“Right now, I-90 can prevent animals moving from the north to south Cascades,” said professor Paul James. “It’s a lot easier to be preemptive now than to look back when there’s a threat of extinction and wish we’d done something differently.”

“The hope is that our research will help highway engineers and builders construct highways that present less of a barrier to wildlife dispersal, and that help maintain the genetic diversity of wildlife around the I-90 corridor,” added professor Dan Beck.

The team’s research is focused on fish, reptiles, amphibians, and the pika, a small, hare-like animal. James says each species is crucial to the ecosystem, adding, “Even the smallest animal plays a part. A beetle might be very important for a plant’s pollination, which in turn is another animal’s food source.”

These seldom-seen creatures include the Pacific giant salamander of the Cascades, which can grow up to twelve inches in length. It’s the largest of all terrestrial salamanders. Unlike most salamanders, this species has vocal abilities and emits a bark-like croak when alarmed.

This summer the CWU researchers will trap and track these small animals. Once captured, they’re fitted with electronic tracking devices and released. The team can then observe the survival rates and movement patterns of the species.

Though research and data analysis will continue for years to come, the team already has made surprising discoveries. They’ve found 10 species of amphibians in the area, far more than expected in mountainous conditions, according to assistant professor Jason Irwin. The creatures also are much more perceptive than expected. Observation has determined that amphibians commonly cross quiet service roads, but almost none attempts to negotiate the busy traffic of I-90.

“The amphibians choose to cross at a safer area, or really not at all,” Irwin says. “This demonstrates that I-90 really is acting as a barrier.”

The team also is investigating specific habitat requirements of some low-mobility species. Pikas, which normally inhabit high-elevation and other remote areas, have been found living in human-created rock piles along the highway and even underneath highway bridges. Some species may be found to have specific habitat needs, such as rock cover or a certain mix of plant species. Those habitat features then will be incorporated into wildlife highway-crossing structures that are part of the I-90 project.

CWU’s close collaboration with WSDOT allows study findings to be implemented as construction progresses. Currently, concrete culverts conduct the flow of streams under I-90. These culverts allow fish to travel along the stream, but restrict the movement of other animals like otters and raccoons. The culverts will be replaced by traffic overpasses, allowing stream access for animals that depend on the water supply for survival.

With additional funding, a 400-foot-long wildlife bridge will be constructed over the freeway at Keechelus Dam. The overpass will incorporate elements of the natural habitat, and will provide wildlife with a safe crossing point. Similar structures over the Trans-Canada Highway have proven effective in improving ecosystem preservation and reducing wildlife-related accidents.

“This study could have important ramifications for other highway projects,” James said. “A group of road ecologists in Europe are watching this project, and if our plans work out, these ideas likely will be implemented in highways across Germany, France, and Spain. We hope this project can really change the way environmental considerations are approached in the future.”

See the animals and meet the CWU researchers involved in the I-90 East Expansion project. Scan the QR code below, or go to: www.youtube.com/user/CentralWashU/featured.
CAMPUS ENCOUNTER CREATES

Chinese Connection
Susie Robinson received a serendipitous course in international relations when she was in graduate school. It began when she accepted a one-year graduate assistantship with CWU’s Accounting Department while in the Master of Professional Accountancy (MPA) program. “When I came in the first day to get my duties, I learned I would be working with the Chinese students in our MPA program,” Robinson recalled. Two of them were among the first group of 23 students that came to CWU from Liuzhou, China and one other was from Shenzhen. “I met with them on school days and I would guide them with assignments and help them with English,” Robinson said. “It was a perfect graduate assistant position for me.”

Yulan Li was one of the Liuzhou students. She would later move in with Robinson, in part, to further her English mastery for her job back in China. Through her, Robinson went on to become acquainted with other Chinese students studying at CWU. “I became close friends with many of the students from Liuzhou,” Robinson acknowledges—but, none closer than Yulan. After returning to China, Yulan called Robinson with a surprising offer. “She invited me to come to China,” Robinson recalled. “I didn’t know how it would all happen or how I could afford it. She told me ‘don’t worry about that.’ Through her kindness and graciousness, she purchased my ticket, and the doors opened for me to go.”

Liuzhou, in southern China, has a population of 1.6 million people, most living in high-rise apartments and condos. It’s a long way—in a lot of ways—from Rodeo City. Even so, the people are more alike that you may think. “People are in many ways the same—they love their families and like to have good times with friends,” said Susie Robinson, who spent two months in China, from December 2011 through January 2012.

Yet, “I was such an anomaly with my hair and eye color and just being a foreigner,” Robinson acknowledges. “Everywhere I went, I was a draw for people to see. Students there are learning English in the elementary schools, and many elementary students would flock around me as I waited for my friend’s daughter after school and say ‘Hello’ or ask ‘How are you?’ It was exciting for them to come up to me and practice what they had been learning in school.”

Robinson received two opportunities to work in classrooms in China. She volunteered twice a week as a teacher’s aide in a private English school. In addition, she got the chance to help with English language training at Jing Hang Primary School, which had a student body of more than 4,500 students.

“I taught two sessions of English for about 20-30 minutes each,” she added. “That was a great opportunity for the 60 students in the class to see someone who speaks English as their first language.” Robinson also had the opportunity to sing (in English) twice at a Christian church in Liuzhou, at the private English school’s theatre production on Christmas day, and also was invited to sing at another Liuzhou’s CWU master student’s Chinese government New Year’s party. Additionally, once on a Li River cruise with the impromptu urging of Chinese passengers on the cruise to sing to them, Robinson sang them “Amazing Grace.”

Robinson appreciated seeing various sites in China, including several river cruises, the Karst Mountains of southern China, Hong Kong, and the Great Wall near Beijing.

Back in the United States, Robinson says she’s uncertain whether she will return to China, but says she hopes to maintain lasting connections to her friends there. “I enjoyed getting to see my Chinese classmate friends again and to meet more friends,” she said. “They were very generous and kind to me. I have respect for the Chinese people. I hope I reflected in a positive way as an American to them. Even though I knew only a few words in Chinese, a smile is universal.”
Hogue addition and renovation was completed in April and is now the region’s premier collegiate engineering technology facility. The renovation and addition to the 42-year-old Hogue Technology was a state-funded, $27-million project. It created a spacious multi-disciplinary lab and industrial shop areas and green features such as solar panels and wind turbines. Students can peer through sections of walls to see how pipes, wires, and other infrastructure actually fit into the building.

Hogue is also a “green” building. It’s super energy efficient. Carpet, cabinets, steel, and other elements use recycled products. And the metal and wood from the old building were recycled instead of ending up in a landfill. The facility is designed to earn the highest certification of the US Green Building Council: the platinum designation for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).

A new residence hall will open this fall with twice as much space on the same footprint. Under construction for the past 18 months, the building has doubled in capacity, offering 368 beds in 116,000 square feet of space. The new residence hall will house Residence Life Offices as well as students. About 92 percent of the old building will be recycled. The $34.5-million project is CWU’s first LEED-registered residence hall and, like the Hogue addition and renovation, is targeted to earn LEED Platinum designation.
CWU will go to the legislature next year to seek state funding for two projects. Science Phase II is a $66-million construction project that would finish a project begun in 1994. Science II will sit in what is now a parking lot just south of the Japanese Garden. It will bring together in one facility the departments of geological sciences and physics, as well as the interdisciplinary Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education. Science II is CWU's top priority for construction funding in the 2013-15 biennium, and if funded, would be completed by August 2015.

The 85-year-old Samuelson Union Building will undergo a dramatic transformation if the state provides $65 million for the renovation and construction needed to create the Samuelson Communication and Technology Center. The state did fund design of the new facility, which will be completed by this fall. The $65-million project will house the Department of Communication, Information Technology Services, Undergraduate Studies, and Public Affairs in more than 100,000 square-feet of space.

CWU will request funding to design a facility for the Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Health Sciences. This relatively new department encompasses programs in Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics; Clinical Physiology and Exercise Science; Emergency Medical Services and Paramedicine along with a multidisciplinary Health Careers Resource function. It will also serve students in areas of biology, chemistry, and those students preparing for medical careers requiring specialized graduate and professional degrees. The demand for health care professionals has caused enrollment in these programs to skyrocket.
The careers of most college football players end with the last game of their senior season. CWU alumnus Chris James had to face that fact. From 2004 to 2008, he played linebacker for the Wildcats, but he wanted to keep playing. And he got that chance in an unusual place—Europe. Though overshadowed by soccer, American football is popular there, particularly in Austria and Germany.

With the help of former CWU assistant football coach Stacy Collins, James made contact with several European football teams. Several highlight tapes and interviews later, Austria’s Vienna Vikings signed him.

Collins had worked with the Vikings from 1999 to 2001. When James expressed his desire to keep playing, Collins called the head coach there to introduce James.

“I knew from my time in Europe that James would be a great fit,” Collins said.

James added, “A lot of American players think that they can just go to Europe and play with ease.”
However, that’s not necessarily the case. Talent isn’t the only criterion. Out of necessity, European recruiters must be very selective. Depending on the league, teams can have only two to six American players.

“I was lucky,” James acknowledges. “I didn’t have a long list of accomplishments, just my personality and my work ethic.”

It was a work ethic that James displayed at CWU, where he started his career as a walk-on. His athleticism, speed, and agility impressed the coaches. With those gifts and exceptional diligence, he was a starter and a Wildcat team captain by the time he was a senior.

Beau Baldwin, former CWU assistant and head football coach, described James as “a hard worker, a great leader—the kind of guy who came to practice with a smile on his face—fun to coach.”

James graduated from CWU double majoring in law and justice, and sociology. His education—and the help of his teammates—enabled him to adapt quickly to Austrian culture.

“They take care of their own. As soon as a player arrives, the team shows you around and gets you involved in the community,” he said.

James said English is widely spoken, but Austrians appreciate efforts to learn German. Learning a greeting here or there goes a long way, according to James, who took a class in German.

Not to be confused with the National Football League, the European fan base is smaller, though extremely loyal. Also, unlike the NFL, many European teams rely on donations from sponsors rather than corporate earnings. That’s why sponsor logos are common on the football uniforms. In many cases, American players may be the only ones getting paid.

“There is a lot of pressure on American players,” James acknowledges. “If an Austrian [player] back isn’t getting anywhere, an American is expected to come in and make something happen.”

For that reason, most Americans play only at key positions: quarterback, running back, and linebacker. James has played both linebacker and running back, a position he never played at CWU.

Collins pointed out, “He’s a tremendous athlete, and he has position flexibility, meaning that he can play multiple key positions.”

Along with their playing ability, American players are also expected to provide mentorship. European teams want leaders, and James is a leader. And, he says there’s room for fellow leaders overseas, adding, “I want others to know that there are other opportunities for American players.”

Money isn’t James’s prime motivation for playing football.

“I think a lot of players in the United States lose sight of what matters most. Sometimes they forget why they started playing in the first place,” said James, who plays for the love of the game.

James is playing with the Swarco Raiders of Innsbruck, Austria this season. James’s brother is former CWU student body president Keith James.
CWU Athletic Director Inducted into Utah Sports Hall of Fame

A remarkable coaching career has earned CWU Athletic Director Jack Bishop a ticket into the Utah Sports Hall of Fame in Salt Lake City, Utah.

From 1969-76, Bishop was one of Utah’s most successful high school football, wrestling, and track coaches. At Cedar High School (CHS) in Cedar City, Utah, he coached the football team to a regional championship in 1976. He coached two CHS teams to state track titles and won one state wrestling championship at Heber City’s Wasatch High. Bishop also is the winningest football coach in history at his alma mater, Southern Utah University, where he was instrumental in the construction of the 5,300-seat Centrum Arena.

“I’ve always been blessed to be around great people,” Bishop said. “It’s amazing what a group of people can do when they don’t care who gets the credit!”