How long has the Geography department been active at CWU?
Although our department was not formally established until 1962, geography has been taught at Central since 1935, making our program one of the oldest in the western United States.

How many faculty, staff, students? New faculty? Recently retired faculty?
We currently have eleven tenured and tenure-track faculty and four non-tenure track faculty. The real heart of department is Marilyn Mason, our one-of-a-kind, tell-it-like-it-is senior secretary. And we have two very able technical support staff members who keep the department running smoothly and contribute vitally to our instructional and research activities. [note: Marilyn Mason recently retired]

Our newest faculty members are Kevin Archer and Elvin Delgado, both of whom started in fall 2012. Dr. Archer was recruited from the University of South Florida to become our new chair (following the retirement of Jim Huckabay) but before his first year in that position was complete, Kevin was “called up to the majors” to become interim dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Dr. Delgado recently earned his PhD at Syracuse University and has expertise in energy resources, Latin America, and political ecology.

We are very fortunate to have a group of active, concerned emeritus faculty. In addition to Jim Huckabay, the newest retirees include Nancy Hultquist and Morris Uebelacker—each of whom was a beloved and inspirational teacher. Many of our emeritus faculty members meet monthly at the Copper Kettle Restaurant to socialize and discuss departmental and university developments. Currently, there are 56 geography majors and 13 minors. Additionally, the department is a key factor in the Resource Management graduate program which has about 60 active students. ....Continued on page 2
Beyond students majoring in our programs, each year hundreds of CWU students takes courses such as World Regional Geography and Introduction to Physical Geography. The popularity of these introductory courses reflects the importance of geography to CWU’s curriculum.

Share a little-known fact about your department.
The amazing scholarship productivity of the tenured and tenure-track faculty. Over the last five years, five faculty published 76 Category A (nationally and/or internationally recognized) books, journal articles, and conference papers. That’s an average of three publications per faculty member per year—truly outstanding for a teaching university.

What are your growth plans for your department?
In addition to the growth mentioned above for the undergraduate program, the department will expand its masters program to the Puget Sound area within two years.

If you were stopped in the airport by someone you don’t know and asked about CWU and your department, what would you share?
- Senior capstone projects featuring real projects for real clients
- Top Internships: Microsoft, Boeing, PNNL, NSA, Google
- Scholarships
- Faculty mentored undergraduate research
Tell us about you…where were you born and raised, and how did you arrive at CWU?
I was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio. I came to CWU from the California State University system.

How long have you worked in your role at CWU? What other positions have you held here, or at other institutions?
I have been based in the anthropology department at CWU for 12 years. For the past six years I have also been director of the Primate Behavior and Ecology program. I was a professor of anthropology at California State University-Fullerton and was a lecturer at University of Southern California and the Ohio State University.

What do you most enjoy about teaching?
I love putting together an interesting lecture. This gives me an opportunity to indulge my academic and my creative sides. When I first started teaching, all teachers used acetate sheets and overhead projectors! New technology has made the teaching process so much more dynamic, engaging, and wide-ranging. I also enjoy research in the development of lecture material and helping students assess the quality of information marshalled in support of an idea.

If you are involved in research, what is the most rewarding and/or challenged aspect of your research?
The monkeys that I study (Tibetan macaques) have become very accustomed to humans watching them, so they often approach and initiate interactions with us researchers. This is both a challenge and a reward. It is a challenge in the sense that close human contact is not at all good for the monkeys and means that we are disrupting their normal behavior. However, one of my peak experiences occurred while I was sitting on a tree root and watching the monkey group, which was lounging, playing, and grooming nearby. Suddenly, an adult female monkey looked into my eyes while cautiously approaching me, then ever-so-gently put her crossed hands on my knee, and promptly fell asleep with her head resting in my lap. I felt that I had been accepted as a member of the group—or at least I made a good pillow!

What did you think you were going to do “when you grew up”?
My parents say that I planned to travel to Africa to find a diamond mine . . . all kinds of horrifically faulty assumptions in that idea! Apparently, I always wanted to travel around the World.

When you’re not on campus, what are some favorite things you do to relax and unwind?
I enjoy hiking, reading, and horseback riding.

If you were to describe CWU in a sentence to a prospective student, what would you say?
CWU faculty care about your intellectual development and will work with you to help you achieve your goals.

What is something that most folks at CWU don’t know about you?
I was a ninja in a past life (difficult to disprove that one, right?!)

What inspires you about CWU?
CWU is unique in the state for continuing to value small class sizes and providing opportunities for faculty to closely mentor undergraduate students in the work on internships, performances, and research projects. It is inspiring to see students go through the process of developing a project and seeing it through to presentation or publication. No other Washington state campus provides CWU’s level of faculty-student collaboration.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Here!
FACULTY AWARDS AND ACCOLADES:
Timothy Sorey, CWU science education and chemistry professor was honored at the May 29 Honoring Our Professors’ Excellence (HOPE) event. Every year, the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) hosts HOPE. Students nominate the professors for the award, and only 10 are selected to represent the best in being committed to their students’ success. • Martha Kurtz, science education and chemistry; and JoAnn Peters and Jeff Wilcox, chemistry, along with other faculty and staff comprising the Science Phase II Planning Team were awarded the first annual College of the Sciences Collaboration Award at the Celebration of the Sciences 2014 Honors Banquet. The Collaboration Award recognizes interdisciplinary and interdepartmental collaboration that enhances the College of the Sciences. Kurtz is the COTS 2014 recipient of the Crystal Apple Award. The Crystal Apple award is given to an outstanding faculty member in teacher preparation in each of the three colleges in the CTL. The award is given by CWU’s Professional Education Advisory Board. Kurtz has accepted the position of associate dean for Inter-Science Support. Her principle areas of assigned responsibility are: student recruiting and advising; undergraduate research experiences; outreach to the general public, government agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations; and faculty professional development. She is also charged with planning, implementing, coordinating, and managing college-level support of cross-disciplinary efforts with regard to natural, social and computational science initiatives; fostering awareness of the quality and breadth of science programs at Central; and securing external funding for transformative programs. • Chemistry professor Steve Chamberland’s abstract titled “Total synthesis of terminal-guanidine-containing marine natural products,” has been accepted for an oral presentation at the 2014 Northwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, which was held June 22-25 at the University of Montana in Missoula. • Gil Belofsky and Yingbin Ge, chemistry, were granted tenure and promoted to associate professor. • Levente Fabry-Asztalos, chemistry, was promoted to full professor. • On May 27, Anthony Diaz, chemistry, presented “Characterizing Electron Migration and Trapping in Luminescent Materials” to the chemistry department at Eastern Washington University. • Anne Egger, professor, geological sciences and science education, was selected as an EarthScope distinguished speaker for 2014-15, and their only speaker focused on geoscience education. Egger was elected second vice president of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers. This is a three-year track that leads to president in the third year.

STUDENT ACCOLADES AND AWARDS:
Anna Yost, resource management, was awarded best student paper in the Dick Thomas 2014 Washington GIS Conference Student Paper Competition at the Washington State Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association conference. Her paper was “GIS Modeling of Elk Habitat Suitability in the North Cascades of Washington State.” • Graduate student Sandra Winters, primates behavior, now at New York University, received the student award at the American Association of Physical Anthropologists for her presentation on predator visual systems and protective coloration in primates. • Justin Poole, anthropology and museum studies, has received start-up support for his small business plan to develop museum exhibition soundscapes, audio tours, and audio conservation for archival projects through the Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. The business, called Curative Sounds, will serve museums, zoos, aquariums, and other institutions with soundscape projects. • Hannah Person, anthropology major and museum studies minor, was awarded a prestigious paid internship in collections management at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in the Washington D.C. area. This summer she will be based at the Smithsonian's Museum Support Center helping to register and accession the museum’s noted collection of global Rastafarian material culture, working under the noted scholar of Rastafarianism, Jake Homiak, director of the Department of Anthropology's Archives and Collections program. • Anne Parfitt, anthropology, was selected as the 2014 SOURCE scholar of the year. • On May 14, chemistry graduate student Max Wallace gave an oral presentation, “Investigation of Surface Loss in Nanoscale YPO4:Eu using VUV Spectroscopy” at the 225th meeting of the Electrochemical Society in Orlando, Florida. This is an international conference covering a variety of topics in solid-state device technology. Wallace conducts research with Anthony Diaz. • Chemistry student Jacob Buchanan’s poster presentation “Concise Total Synthesis of Phididiadine A and B” was selected with only 10 other posters for one of the “College of the Sciences Best Poster Presentations Awards” at SOURCE. He conducts research with Steve Chamberland. • Chemistry student Nick Treich’s oral presentation “Towards the Synthesis of 1,3-Azaborines as Potential HIV-1 Protease Inhibitors” was selected for a “College of the Sciences Best Oral Presentations Award” at SOURCE. He conducts research with Levente Fabry-Asztalos.
Tell us about you . . . where were you born and raised, and how did you arrive at CWU?
I was born and raised in St. Paul, MN, spent 4 years in Germany in the army. I returned to St. Paul and got my BA in Biology from Macalester College. I went to the University of California at Davis and received my PhD in Anthropology. After UC Davis I spent two years as a postdoc at a forensics/paternity testing lab in Denver, CO, then almost three years as a postdoc at the National Institutes of Health before spending eight years, first as a postdoc then as a faculty member, at the Coriell Institute for Medical Research in Camden, NJ. I came to CWU in fall 2008 since the Anthropology Department was looking for a molecular anthropologist.

How long have you worked in your role at CWU? What other positions have you held here, or at other institutions?
I have been here since 2008, I received tenure spring of 2013.

What do you most enjoy about teaching?
I enjoy engaging with in discussion with students about the nature of humans, how we are an evolved part of nature and not a separate entity from the rest of life on earth.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your research?
I enjoy using DNA to address questions of anthropological and evolutionary significance. Doing research you can be the first person to discover something about the universe. For example I worked with Primate Behavior students Amanda Carner, Ricky Fernandes and Savannah Schulze analyzing the mitochondrial DNA of Dar, one of the chimpanzees that lived at CHCI. The students discovered that Dar belonged to the Central African subspecies of chimpanzees, most chimpanzees in captivity are West African chimpanzees.

What did you think you were going to do “when you grew up”?
I have always been interested in science especially biology.

When you’re not on campus, what are some favorite things you do to relax and unwind?
I used to play soccer, canoe, and raft but I am much more sedate now, Netflix and Hulu are a big part of my down time.

If you were to describe CWU in a sentence to a prospective student, what would you say?
Come! Enjoy the shrub steppe!

What is something that most folks at CWU don’t know about you?
I am pretty transparent I don’t know if I have any hidden dimensions!

What inspires you about CWU?
The friendly and easy-going interactions among faculty, staff, and students.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
I hope to be working in an expanded Molecular Anthropology Laboratory complete with the ability to do whole genome sequencing so that we can compare the genomes of related primate species allowing us to unravel the skein of evolutionary history that has produced such an astounding array of diversity between our campus and the world. I’d also like to be able to ride my unicycle by then.