



WOU Public Relations Office:

What They Can Do for You!

By Lisa Catto

Designs, photographs and logos, news and events: located in The Cottage, the Public Relations Office staff, Denise Visuano, Betty Orwick and Lisa Catto, exists to serve and promote you and your department.

Graphic design is a major component of our mighty office; brochures, flyers, posters, large publications, forms, advertising, and much more. Recently, Denise worked closely with University Computing Services staff on the new Web site design. Lisa writes and distributes news releases to the media, tracks media coverage, submits events to regional event calendars, manages

the campus event calendar, and writes features for the Web site and alumni magazine.

We work with you to brainstorm publication, logo and design options. Additionally we amass a great collection of photography of WOU's physical campus, campus events and people for campus use.

There is no such thing as a minor or insignificant campus news, person or event. Include our office during your planning stage so we can include the event on our WOU campus event calendar as many local reporters use the campus event calendar for story ideas and to populate their own media calendars.

This calendar is also widely used by prospective students and their families, to get a sense of what campus life is like. Currently, PR and UCS are working together to improve the calendar functionality.

WOU Campus Event Calendar: http://www.wou.edu/press_release/calendar_newsrelease/

Public Relations Office: 8-8208

PR website: http://www.wou.edu/president/public_relations/

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:Meeting Dates:

- ♥ Feb. 18, 3 p.m. Library room 301A
- ♥ Mar. 4, 3:00 p.m. Library room 107
- ♥ Mar. 18, 3:00 p.m. Library room 107
- ♥ April 1, 3:00 p.m. Library 107
- ♥ April 15, 3:00 p.m. Library room 107



Critical Incident Response Team

(CIRT) was established at the request of WOU students to form an official administrative group to respond to episodes that occur on our WOU campus involving disruptive and distressed student behavior. Team members include Jay Carey, Gary Dukes, Luis Rosa and Judy Vanderburg. Each team member has received 12 hours of extensive CIRT training. It is important to note that CIRT is *not* a SWAT team brandishing weapons and wired ear pieces, they are a *crisis intervention team*.

CIRT's mission is to ensure safe Western campus environments, strengthen relationships, and educate WOU staff and faculty on how to prevent, identify, and appropriately respond and refer disruptive and distressed student behavior and events. Previous events have included medical and non-medical emergencies, issues of bias and student death. The team responds by evaluating each incident as they occur by discussing all possible perspectives and intervention options with the best intervention plan put into action.

CIRT team members provide training to all Western departments and staff and faculty as groups and individuals. Training includes Early Intervention, Tips for Working with Distressed Students, Identifying Disruptive and / or Distressed Behavior, and The Role and Purpose of CIRT. Be prepared and learn preventative measures for yourself and your department; schedule your training today by calling 838-8547.



What does Art, Library Science, Massage Therapy and a quest for better health all have in common?



Follow your bliss by Jerrie Lee Parpart

WORLD TRAVEL!

Come to the Staff Senate meeting on February 18 to see how exploring the outer edges of diverse careers lead to travel and better health. Learn a few tips for reducing stress and relaxation techniques.

- Work, travel, study, volunteer, relax, live, improve health
- **A career student of life ~ Life-Long-Learning**

- Turning travel into learning opportunities and continuing education into travel.

- Career student of life, culture,
- Turn life long learning onto career opportunities to travel
- If the world is your sandbox - play in every corner
- Combining lifelong

learning and making lemonade into travel opportunities

- Using all of life long learning experiences to work and study around the world

• **Countries –**

- Europe including Amsterdam, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany - general travel to visit art & history museums
- Israel & Palestine – history and pilgrimage
- Jordan – Fulbright-Hayes study of the Arab culture using Jordan as a case study
- Greece – volunteer

cataloging artifacts at the Mochlos archaeology dig on Crete

Thailand – continuing education in traditional Thai massage with Master Pichest Boonthamme



Yuliya's Art

Yuliya Kharitonova is currently working at the Multicultural Student Services & Programs office as an Office Specialist and has been employed with Western since Fall 2006. Originally from Russia, Yuliya came to the United States in 1998 as an international student and pursued her degrees at the Salt Lake Community College and Utah Valley State College.

Yuliya enjoys working on her art projects utilizing many forms of media such as pencil, pastel, charcoal, watercolor and oil paint. She has also created many posters, flyers and other digital art work for her department and other organizations.



Did you know?

Art and Thai massage can provide healing for your total being.

Welcome New WOU Staff

Barnard, Luke	Physical Plant	Dec 2009
Jones, Whitney	Registrar	Dec 2009
Verant, William	UCS	Jan 2010
Sexton, William	Human Resources	Dec 2009
Polinder IV, Frederick	ISS International Students/Scholars	Nov 2009
Killip, Scott	University Advancement	Nov 2009
Swain, Yokiko	Multictrl Student Svc & Program	Oct 2009
Holmes, Heather	Reg Resource Cntr For Deafness	Dec 2009
Banwarth, Donna	Career Services	Jan 2010
Lowry, Michael	Athletics	Oct 2009
Carlson, Dvenna	University Advancement	Jan 2010

Open Doors: An ADA Refresher

All WOU employees received a mandated refresher course on the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 (ADA) a Civil Rights Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. On September 22nd we learned how ADA applies to us, WOU and, in particular, our interactions with our students.

Ryan Hagemann, OUS and Secretary, State Board of Higher Education legal counsel, summarized that our compliance with ADA is a series of Doors that need to be "opened" in proper sequence for us to be in compliance with these laws. This sequence ensures effective documentation and accommodations that provide equal access to students and employees that otherwise qualify...for academic admittance or employment.

Our interactions related to accommodations with students begin with, and final determinations are made by the Office of Disability Services (ODS), which is

located in APSC 405, 503-838-8250, ods@wou.edu. The goal is to give students with disabilities the opportunity to succeed and ensure that we, WOU discharge our legal obligations correctly.

First and foremost we are not to assume nor treat anyone as disabled, inferior or special. It is the students' responsibility to contact the ODS who will walk them through this series of *doors*.

Door #1: ODS requires current, detailed and professional documentation. A disability consists of two (2) parts: first, the existence of impairment and secondly, that substantially limits one or more major life activities. ODS works collaboratively with the student to make determination of reasonable accommodations.

Door #2: Does the student meet WOU's fundamental academic requirements. In

other words, not taking into account the student's disability, would the student meet WOU's academic requirements for admission?

Door #3: When ODS has determined that a student has a documented disability the process of communication begins to determine, coordinate and implement reasonable and effective accommodations for each student to provide them equal access on a case by case basis. Umbrella or blanket policies / accommodations are not permitted. It is important to keep in mind that "it is the student's obligation to request an accommodation" "Both federal and state laws[s] require equal access to higher education by persons with disabilities and academic freedom, as a concept, does not preempt federal or state civil rights statutes."

Lastly, at WOU we need to "...be respectful of students' privacy concerns and the need to maintain confidentiality" and not to inhibit an accommodation from occurring.

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Check out our Campus In Bloom website

<http://www.wou.edu/president/staffsenate/campus/campus-in-bloom.php>



www.girlbehindthelens.com

STAFF SENATORS

Lori Grondin-Davidson.....Classified - 8-8884—davidsol@wou.edu
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Angie Barry



Barry McBeth



Lori Grondin-Davidson

A message from the Staff Senate President

Spring is quickly approaching. I'm sure you, like me, cannot wait for the Sun to start shining. Some really cool things are happening "behind the scenes" with your Staff Senate. We are working on sponsoring a staff softball team to compete with the other spring teams on campus. Signups will be open to all staff on campus! Another new staff welcome event is going to happen soon (watch for an invite). February 18th Staff Senators Yuliya Kharitonova will be sharing her art projects and Jerrie Lee Parpart will be sharing tips on reducing stress and relaxation techniques. March 18th the CIRT team from campus will be discussing CIRT's role on campus. Many other things are being discussed by your fellow Staff Senators. I invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings, held the first and third Thursday of the month.

Regards,
Joe Hutchinson



Malissa Larson



Sarah McConnel

Staff Senate Mission Statement

Staff Senate seeks to promote dialogue and works to complement the Faculty and Student Senates in an effort to influence positive and progressive change to the WOU community.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://www.wou.edu/president/staffsenate/>