

Alumna Attributes Teaching Success to MIT Program

Teacher, nationally certified mentor, and recipient of the Washington State Excellence in Education award—alumna **Kathleen Wolfley**—attributes much of her success as a teacher to her Master's in Teaching (MIT) degree from Washington State University Vancouver.

Kathleen headed back to school in 1989, at the age of 37, to finish her Bachelor of Arts in Social Science. When her youngest child started school she decided it was her time to go back as well. She then went on to become one of WSU Vancouver's first graduates in 1990 and one of the first MIT graduates in 1992.

"WSU Vancouver made it easy to get my education. I wanted to finish school and was ready to go to Portland State University when my husband said 'Let's see what WSU has going.' They had enough here in Vancouver to get me started," she said. "I also had a husband and children who were very supportive. Most of our kids were in high school, so we did homework together on the kitchen table. I think it helped them and me."

Kathleen has made great strides in her teaching career. After finishing her MIT degree she became a substitute teacher. After one day at Sarah J. Elementary school and only a half day at McLoughlin Middle School, she was hired to teach full-time at McLoughlin the next fall. She's now been there nine years.

Her first assignment was seventh grade social studies and the implementation of a pilot program named "It's Your Future." She taught students career, life, and money management skills—how to rent an apartment, the correlation between grades and car insurance rates, and a number of other important life skills. This program has been in place as a mandatory requirement for eighth graders ever since.

What does Kathleen like and dislike about teaching?

"You can have a lot of fun with kids and they can still learn things," she said. "However, it's also frustrating, because there is a lot of pressure on teachers these days. Teachers are responsible for students' scores on the state's standardized tests. In middle school, the ability levels are developing at different rates. In my classroom I have second grade to twelfth grade reading levels. The great part is when a student says 'I get it!'"



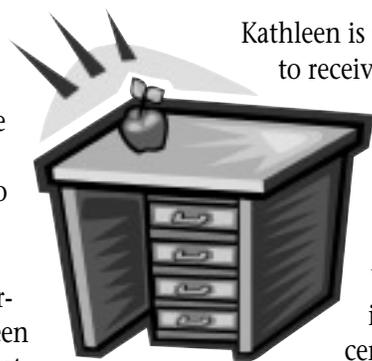
Last year a fellow teacher encouraged Kathleen to try for certification through the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

"It's equivalent to an advanced degree," she said. "There are 200 hours of work in addition to your full-time work. You document all of your teaching practices using video and written papers and in the summer sit for a six-hour written essay exam. Only 50 percent achieve it the first year. I was notified last November that I had made it."

Kathleen is one of 67 Washington teachers to receive this certification and out of the three million teachers nationwide, less than 10,000 have national certification. Her certificate is in early adolescent social studies/history. Although Washington has not officially implemented a program for these certified teachers, the hope is that they will serve as mentors to other teachers and work with colleges and universities with teaching programs on teacher training.

What advice does Kathleen offer for aspiring teachers?

"WSU Vancouver is a great place to learn to be a teacher. The small campus atmosphere is comfortable and supportive," she said. "If someone wants to be a teacher, they'd better be patient and they'd better like kids."



FACTS

Name: Kathleen Wolfley

Job Title: Seventh Grade Teacher, McLoughlin Middle School

Hometown: Vancouver, WA

Where from: Born and raised in Wyoming. Did three years of undergraduate work at University of Wyoming.

Degrees: '90 B.A. Social Sciences, '92 Master's in Teaching

Cougar Family: Husband Blair Wolfley is district director of the 11 counties in the Cooperative Extension's Southwest district and also manages the WSU Vancouver Research and Extension Unit.

Kathleen and Blair have five children (three married) and three grandchildren with a fourth on the way.

- James Wolfley is currently enrolled in the Electronic Media and Culture degree program at WSU Vancouver
- Jill (Wolfley) Allen graduated from WSU Vancouver with a B.A. in Human Development. Her husband, Jeremy, is studying for a business degree at WSU Vancouver
- Daniel Wolfley is studying geography at Brigham Young University
- Megan Wolfley is also at Brigham Young University studying media arts
- Kelly is at Prairie High School

Lori Irving—A Tribute to Our Professor and Friend

Washington State University and the community recently lost one of their most beloved shining stars. Dr. Lori Irving, associate professor of psychology at WSU Vancouver, died Sunday, April 29 of a torn aorta.

Irving and Dr. Mike Morgan joined the WSU Vancouver psychology faculty in 1993. The two were married the next year. The couple were expecting their first child in mid-May. Their daughter, Mackenzie Morgan Irving, died April 30 at Legacy Emanuel Hospital and Health Center.

More than 300 people gathered to celebrate Irving's life with stories, pictures, and song at a May 4 memorial service in the WSU Vancouver lecture hall. Gratitude, pride, humor, inspiration, love, and Irving's passion for life were the themes as colleagues, students, and alumni remembered their friend and colleague. Many spoke of Irving's laughter and the calming and uplifting effect it had on them. Others spoke of her abilities to make every person she interacted with feel noticed and special. Irving's passion for the prevention and treatment of eating disorders was also a recurring topic as was her reckless abandon while dancing.

Irving touched the lives of many at WSU and in the community at large. She consistently gave 150 percent as a professor, colleague, friend, adviser, helper, researcher, advocate, and family member.

Many gifts have been made in Lori and Mackenzie's memories to the Gurney Fund for Eating Disorders Prevention and to a general memorial fund in Irving's name whose use is yet to be decided. A drinking fountain in Mackenzie's memory will be dedicated on the WSU Vancouver Child Development Program playground.

Gifts in memory of Lori and Mackenzie Irving can be made to the WSU Foundation, 360-546-9600 or 14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue, Vancouver, WA 98686.

Lori Irving's passion was educating people on eating disorders. Below are excerpts from a 1997 article by Nella Letizia, who interviewed Irving for WSU Week, a weekly newsletter for University employees.

Where It All Began

Lori Irving grew up in southern California in the late 1970s-early 1980s, when the San Fernando Valley reigned as the mecca of sun, surf, and size-four, beautiful, blond women who looked good in bikinis. Heather Locklear, the size-three actress who plays businesswoman-cat Amanda Woodward of Fox TV's "Melrose Place," graduated a year before Irving from the same high school. It was the perfect environment to cultivate a future researcher exploring the roots and prevention of eating disorders.

"I was very aware of how media images affected women's opinions of themselves," Irving said. "I hated that. What was more important to me was that I had a brain. Aren't there other ways to be powerful?"

Irving has been studying eating disorders—including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and compulsive overeating—since her graduate school days at the University of Kansas in 1985. She also is a coordinator for the Southwest Washington chapter of the national organization Eating Disorders Awareness and Prevention Inc. (EDAP).

Prevention In Schools

Irving is particularly interested in prevention aimed at media literacy and teaching young people about the messages they are exposed to. She worked with Julie DuPen, a junior at Columbia River High School in Vancouver, on a senior project about media images.

The project involved 25 girls from the high school who were asked to describe their feelings about their bodies, the believability of media images, and the extent to which they applied those images to themselves. They also watched a video outlining ways the media presents an unrealistic body image. After seeing the video, the girls reported that media images were less realistic than they originally thought, and they internalized those images less.

"We actually got the intended effect," Irving said. "I was so happy. Most primary prevention programs have not been effective at changing negative attitudes."

Irving has also been active in the EDAP Puppet Prevention Project, aimed at a K-5 audience to positively reinforce a healthy self-concept, normal attitudes about eating, and acceptance of diverse body shapes. According to EDAP board member Mary Pabst, the puppets demonstrate how teasing and discrimination about certain body shapes and sizes can cause pain and obsessive thinking. "The characters illustrate how sharing thoughts and feelings with caring



and listening adults can bring emotional release and hope. In turn, the new understanding that the puppets acquire influences the belief systems and behaviors of children about attractiveness, dieting, thinness, and ultimately their self-worth," she added.

Consumer Responsibility

The key to combating media images that glorify thinness lies with the consumer primarily, Irving said. Consumers have more power than they acknowledge—they can become educated to the unrealistic messages of ideal body type propagated by advertising and send a clear message by not buying magazines or products that encourage emphasis on weight. She cites cases like the cigarette industry, which has changed considerably in the last decade with the advent of nonsmoking workplaces and literature about the adverse health effects of cigarette smoking.

"We can ask advertisers and media to be more responsible, but let's face it, they won't do it voluntarily if they're going to lose money," she said.

Treating Eating Disorders

Treating eating disorders requires multidisciplinary intervention, Irving said. "We (EDAP) try to educate professionals to provide the best, most comprehensive treatment by teaming up with (other) professionals and look at the person as a whole."

Positive steps are taking place. Irving looks to her niece, a high school sophomore active in volleyball, theater, and college plans who has a healthy self-esteem. A far cry from the Southern California mentality Irving was raised by that thin is in.

"She likes her body," Irving said. "She derives her self-esteem from a number of factors beyond appearance. She enjoys the fact that her body is strong. I think that's really cool."

Send us your suggestions for Faculty in Focus by e-mailing wsuvnews@vancouver.wsu.edu or by calling 360-546-9600.



ALUMNI

Spotlight

TERRI (WILLIAMS) BREWER, '97
ROBERT BREWER, '97

BOTH GRADUATED: 1997 with Bachelor of Arts in Social Science.

CURRENTLY: Robert is a deputy sheriff for the Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office. Terri is a legal administrator for Holmes and Rickles in Portland.



TERRI'S BEST MEMORY FROM WSU VANCOUVER: "I started at WSU Vancouver when we had one room at Clark College. My best memory is to see the campus grow from an idea to what it is now."

ROBERT'S BEST MEMORY FROM WSU VANCOUVER: "I came to WSU as an adult with a family so I was there to go to school. Something that sticks out in my mind is the first time I turned in a paper to Barbara Hort. When it was returned it was covered in red ink and literally cut and pasted together. She chastised the class on their writing skills. I visited her after class to ask if mine was that bad and she said that my writing was excellent, but the organization of ideas needed work. I learned a lot from that experience."

TERRI'S FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR: "Lori Irving—she motivates students and you can tell that she is very enthusiastic about what she teaches."

ROBERT'S FAVORITE INSTRUCTOR: "Barbara Hort, an adjunct faculty member in psychology who taught Abnormal Psychology and Psychology of Women. She started a private practice in counseling psychology in Vancouver and left as the demands of her practice grew."

PERSONAL: Terri and Robert met indirectly through WSU Vancouver. There was a core group of five students who were all taking Spanish at Lower Columbia College to fulfill their foreign language requirement—four women and Robert. Through their interest in school they became friends and took two additional years of Spanish and a couple of other classes together for fun. Terri also joined Robert's softball team. They married April 5, 2000. Both enjoy golf, softball, and attending wine festivals in Oregon and Washington.

HOW HAS LIFE CHANGED SINCE GRADUATION? Terri—"I miss school. I think Bob and I are the type of people that would like to take a course all the time. We may open a Caribbean restaurant in Longview. Bob is a wonderful chef and has a passion for the Caribbean and reggae. We complement each other. I can't cook, but I can run a business."

Robert—"I've worked in domestic violence for the last three years, which has broadened my area of expertise a bit. I was also accepted into the Master of Social Work program at Portland State University, but will wait a year."

PARTING THOUGHTS: Terri—"I think people go to school because they think they're going to end up with a high profile, high-paying career. They need to see that school gives you discipline—strengthening the stuff that comes from inside of you."

Know of an alumnus we should spotlight? Send your suggestion to <wsuvnews@vancouver.wsu.edu> or call 546-9602. Or, complete the form on page 4 and send it to us at the address provided.

Class Notes

News from WSU Vancouver alumni

1990

Lorinda Sue Schaeffer is now associate principal for Covington Middle School in Vancouver. (Social Science '90, Master's in Teaching '92)

1991

Carol Bietsch is an administrator for the Vancouver School District. (Teaching Certificate '91)

1993

Nancy A. Golden is a teacher for the Ridgefield School District. (Master of Education '93)

Shaun Hymas gave birth to a baby boy June 5, 1999. (Social Science '93)

1995

Robert Pagliarini is president and CEO of Seeking-Capital, Inc., a company he started to help entrepreneurs find venture capital via the Internet. (Psychology '95)

Nancy Lou Shank is an English teacher in Spokane. (Humanities '95, Master's in Teaching '96)

1997

Dave Erickson currently is an anchor for WB11 News in St. Louis, Missouri. Since hosting and producing "Homework Helpline" for the Evergreen School District, he has worked as an anchor in Indianapolis, Arkansas, and Kennewick, WA. (Social Science '97)

Anthony Natale has been accepted to the University of Denver's doctoral program in social work. (Social Science '97)

1998

Jon Andrew Burger works for juvenile detention in Cowlitz County. (Human Development '98)

Becky Larson recently opened her own CPA office in Vancouver. (Business '98)

Karen and Jeff Olsen are anticipating the birth of a baby boy in July. Congratulations! (Master's in Teaching '98)

1999

Debra M. Gale is an acute nurse practitioner for the Pacific International Maritime Medical. (Master's of Nursing '99)

Donald E. Janoff is self-employed with his own practice, Periodontics Limited. (Master's in Business '99)

Marci Lynn Murphy recently married and lives in California. (Master's in Teaching '99)

Michelle Musso recently accepted a position at Lower Columbia College as program coordinator of business and industry. She also is working on her Master's in Public Affairs at WSU Vancouver. (Social Science '99)

2000

Michael John Bixby is a fourth grade teacher in the Longview School District. (Master's in Teaching '00)

Lisa Ileene Murphy just completed a six-month operating room course at Mount Hood Community College. (Nursing, '00)

Share Your News with Classmates!

E-mail wsuvnews@vancouver.wsu.edu or send the form below to WSU Vista, Campus Advancement, 14204 NE Salmon Creek Avenue Vancouver, WA 98686-9600.

Let your former classmates know about your current activities. Complete and return this form and we will print your news in the next issue of *WSUVista*.

Name _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Class Year _____ Major _____
Current Employer and Title _____
News _____

Story Suggestions (Faculty in Focus, Alumni Spotlight, Other) _____



Salmon Creek Digest



Landmark Additions Completed

The start of this year saw the completion of three new landmarks on campus. The 60,000 gross square foot Engineering Life Sciences building opened for classes and was formally dedicated in January. The Firstenburg Family Fountain, a \$500,000 donation from Ed and Mary Firstenburg, welcomes students and visitors to the heart of campus. A new entrance road off of 50th Avenue adds access for residents coming from the north and east.

Engineering Adds Master's

WSU Vancouver is now accepting applications for a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering program. Designed for working engineers, the program begins this fall.

Commencement Wrap-up

WSU Vancouver awarded 496 degrees this year. Graduates were honored May 19 at an outdoor commencement ceremony on the campus lawn. President V. Lane Rawlins was the keynote speaker. The total number of WSU Vancouver alumni is now more than 3,600.

Thanks

Our annual Call-a-Coug fundraising campaign took place in April. Thanks to all of you who donated needed funds to support scholarships, research, new programs, and much more. If you missed our call and would like to give a tax deductible donation, you may fill out the pledge envelope in this newsletter or call the Office of Campus Advancement at 546-9600 for more information or giving ideas.

Faculty Research Activities

Carol Siegel, associate professor of English, released her third book in December. "New Millennial Sexstyles," published by Indiana University Press, explores concepts of love and sexuality in contemporary American culture.

Ed Brook, assistant professor of geology and environmental science, published an article on climate change in *Science* magazine in February titled "Timing of Millennial-Scale Climate Change in Antarctica and Greenland During the Last Glacial Period." He co-authored the piece with Thomas Blunier, a visiting research fellow in the Department of Geosciences at Princeton University.

Tahira Probst, assistant professor of psychology, was popular among the media in April. Probst was interviewed by several media regarding her research on the effects of corporate layoffs and connecting job insecurity with employee safety outcomes. These interviews were the result of an article Probst wrote for the April issue of the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*.

Did You Know?

Over the years, a number of wildlife species have been sighted on the WSU Vancouver campus. In 1992, observers counted 28 bird species, eight mammal species, two amphibian species, and one reptile species.

WSUVista

WSUVista is published by the WSU Vancouver Office of Campus Advancement twice a year for the alumni of WSU Vancouver. Comments and questions can be sent to:

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