

Changing Perspective

There was a moment this spring, a quiet celebration that was emblematic of all that is good about change. The first class of Washington Achievers graduated from Eastern.

In fall 2001, 30 Washington Achievers enrolled here. They were low-income students selected by the Washington Education Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to receive special financial and mentoring support at designated high schools, support which continued through college.

Six of these students graduated in June; most of the rest are set to do so within a year. One graduate is David Kazemba, a young musician raised by his grandparents in Spokane Valley – bright as all get out, but who had no higher education role models, prospects or means to pursue a degree. He now holds a baccalaureate degree from EWU and has formed Kazemba Records, his own fledgling record label, borne out of an entrepreneurship project he did for a class.

“This is probably the best opportunity I had to actually go to college, to actually do it, to put together amusic, which I love, with business, which I seem to be good at, and to make my grandparents proud,” David said.

There are currently 160 Washington Achievers changing their lives at Eastern.

As someone who has been here long enough to see five presidents preside at Eastern, experience some real breath-holding moments and witness some glorious rebirths as we’ve become the robust institution we are today – I know for certain that change is inevitable. And, most often, change is refreshing and life-giving, as it is proving to be for the Washington Achievers who are fulfilling their own dreams and stepping clearly and brightly into their own futures.

But it can be a little unsettling, just the same. Some of our University leaders have moved on. That comes with achieving highly visible success. For one, Angela Brown, that dynamo of an Alumni Relations director who taught us all to sing Eastern’s fight song loudly and proudly, has taken a new position in the private sector.

Those of us who have been around for a while will miss seeing some of our old friends, including all our newly minted alumni. But, it’s autumn now, and we are greeting a new incoming freshman class, expected to be a record-setting 1,600 strong. It is a time of renewal.

As we help change the lives of these new and returning students – they and the new programs, new faculty and new administrators who join the Eastern family this fall will do what those before them did – invigorate us, change us, change Eastern. All for the better.

Stefanie Pettit
Editor

Footnote: With this issue, EWU’s magazine for alumni and friends re-emerges as *Eastern* magazine. *Perspective*, its predecessor, served well – but it was time to refresh concept, design and name. Change and renewal are good for magazines, too.



Editor – Stefanie Pettit

Graphic Design – Ryan Gaard '02

Contributing Writers – Patrick F. McManus, Pat Spanjer '80, Stefanie Pettit

Photography – Eric Galey '84, Ryan Gaard '02, John Buchanan

Editorial Board – Doug Kelley '83, Jack Lucas '77, Trish McFarland, Pia Hansen '98, Barb Richey '92, Kory Kelly '98

Interim Director of Alumni Relations – Drew Rieder

EWU Alumni Association – Doug Kelley '83, chair

EWU Foundation – Kurt Orton, chair

Contact Us

Address Changes Alumni Correspondence Class Notes Submissions

E-mail: ewualum@mail.ewu.edu
Phone: (509) 235-5034 or (888) EWU-ALUM
Website: www.ewualumni.org
Write: Alumni Relations Office, 506 F Street
Cheney, WA 99004-2402
Fax: (509) 235-5032

EASTERN Magazine Letters, Comments, Queries

E-mail: easternmagazine@mail.ewu.edu
Phone: (509) 359-6422
Write: Eastern, 300 Showalter Hall
Cheney, WA 99004-2445
Fax: (509) 359-4701

Supporting EWU

For information about making a gift to Eastern, please contact the EWU Foundation

E-mail: erin.groucke@mail.ewu.edu
Phone: (509) 235-5016
Write: EWU Foundation, 127 Hargreaves Hall
Cheney, WA 99004-2413
Fax: (509) 359-4738

EASTERN, a magazine for alumni and friends of Eastern Washington University, is published in September, January and May by University Relations and mailed free in the U.S. to alumni of record.

A complete online version of this issue will be available at www.ewu.edu/easternmagazine

