

# Sights and Sounds

By Pat Spanjer

## At Work in Life's Garden



Edited by **Sarah Conover** ('98 MFA) and **Tracy Springberry** (EWU associate of grant development and communication), Eastern Washington University Press

Living with children in life's garden, watching them grow and growing with them is a spiritual journey filled with sunny days, passing storms, occasional rain, gentle breezes, dirt and fertilizer – all necessary for healthy growth.

This collection of essays speaks to all parents, as the authors describe the joy, pain, fear, comfort and spiritual enrichment that comes from parent-child experiences. The stories will evoke smiles, laughter, tears, acknowledgment of what readers already know or spontaneous hugs for the children who bloom in their own gardens.

The book includes essays written by **Nadine Chapman** ('96 MFA), **Jonathan Johnson**, (creative writing faculty member), **Gina Mikel Petrie** (English as a second language teacher at EWU), **Laura Read** ('97 MFA) and **Jess Walter** ('87 BA journalism), among other widely published authors.

## Holding Common Ground



Edited by **Paul Lindholdt** (EWU professor of English) and **Derrick Knowles** ('97, BA international affairs and '00, MA technical communications), Eastern Washington University Press

From the first day Europeans landed their ships on the eastern shores of the North American continent, there has been a desire to capture, tame and manage the land to the west. Still less populated and polluted than the East and Midwest, much of the West clings to deep, old-growth forests, scenic deserts, raging rivers and breathtaking mountain ranges. And as throngs of new dwellers move in for the quality of life, they unwittingly change it.

The narrative essays in *Holding Common Ground* come from the authors' hearts to passionately illustrate their love of nature and the need to protect the land, plants and animals that make the West special. While acknowledging America's need to produce crops, raise livestock, generate hydropower, drill oil, mine minerals and build homes, the authors pose questions and suggest answers. Their belief that lands of the West can be spared from further destruction and returned to nature by undoing past "indiscretions" is evident as they describe the natural beauty and political ugliness they've encountered.

## The Remains of War



By **Thomas Hawley** (EWU assistant professor of government), Duke University Press

Ten years ago, Thomas Hawley read a newspaper story about U.S. efforts to account for soldiers still missing in Southeast Asia.

His research led him to seek answers to his list of complex and controversial questions. Why is the government still so intent on accounting for the missing soldiers? Is the quest political? Cultural? Does the government believe that, when every missing soldier is accounted for, a sense of closure will come for those who opposed the Vietnam War? Is the government doing more for the missing than it is for the war's veterans?

*The Remains of War* is the result of Hawley's decade of extensive research. He found that in the years since the 1975 collapse of South Vietnam and withdrawal of U.S. troops, the Defense Department's force of archival researchers, forensic anthropologists and archaeologists in Southeast Asia are working to recover and positively identify the remains of missing American soldiers. He sees contradictions and questionable ethics in the recovery efforts.

Hawley redefines "bodies" in the Vietnam era and compares that war's legacy to past wars, as well as the present war on terrorism. He asks the reader to wonder if the U.S. will learn from its remains of war.

## Memory, Community, and Activism



Edited by **Jerry Garcia** ('87 BA liberal studies and '93 MA history) and **Gilberto Garcia** (EWU professor of Chicano Studies), Michigan State University Press

Jerry Garcia and Gilberto Garcia have collaborated on their second co-editorial effort with this collection of 11 essays. While many books detail Chicano history in the American Southwest, this is the first book-length study that critically examines the Mexican experience in the Pacific Northwest.

The essays encompass ways in which Mexican immigration, the Bracero program, the Catholic Church, race, Mexican culture, unionization and Chicana feminism have impacted the Pacific Northwest and the Mexican experience from the early 20th century to the present.

EWU Chicano Education Department Director **Carlos Maldonado** contributed an essay to the book, and Associate Dean of Graduate Studies **Larry Briggs** read drafts of Garcia's research on Othello, Wash., and lent suggestions on his chapter on the Catholic Church.

If you are an Eastern or Cheney Normal School alum or faculty member and have written a general interest book or have a music CD on the market (no self-published works, please) and would like to have it considered for inclusion in *Eastern* magazine's Sights and Sounds section, please send it (along with your contact information) to: Eastern Magazine, 300 Showalter Hall, Cheney, WA 99004-2445.