

'00s

'06 **Denise Gabel**, BA interdisciplinary studies, is chief innovation officer at The Filene Research Institute in Madison, Wis., after 17 years with Spokane Teachers Credit Union.

'06 **David Schlegel**, BS computer information systems, is an application developer for Miller.Whiterunkle in Spokane.

'05 **Michelle Gale**, MS communication studies, previously an assistant director at EWU University Relations, is now director of communications at WSU Intercollegiate College of Nursing.

'05 **Matt Mire**, BA business, was promoted to branch manager of the Sandpoint, Idaho, office of Mountain West Bank.

'05 **Paula Silinger**, BA journalism, is studying at the London School of Economics and Political Science for a master's degree in gender and the media.

'05 **Randy Villanueva**, BS mechanical engineering, is employed at Heide & Cook, a mechanical engineering firm in Honolulu, Hawaii.

'04 **Sherwin Dela Cruz**, BS biology, is a first-year medical student at John A. Burns School of Medicine.

'04 **Nathan Edminster**, BA business, is a Web developer at Miller.Whiterunkle in Spokane.

'04 **Renee Huling**, BA communication studies, recently joined Century 21 Realty in Idaho.

'04 **Carrie Waco**, BA education, is a kindergarten teacher in Othello.

'02 **Shannon Morse-Freese**, BA communication studies, is a community relationship manager at the American Cancer Society in Spokane.

'01 **Steve Israel**, BA history, teaches special education in Huntington Beach, Calif., and recently welcomed first child, Grant Harrison Israel, with wife Christy.

'01 **Suzanne Metzger**, BA business, is senior accountant in tax services at Magnuson, McHugh & Co. in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Course of Study Leads to New Life

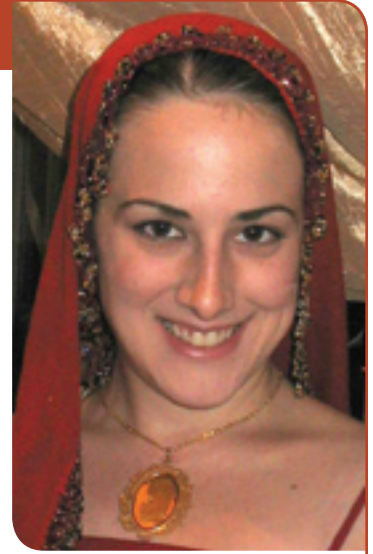
When **Christiane-Marie (Arnold) Sarah** graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2005, she wasted no time putting her newly earned BA in international affairs to work.

"During my senior year, I was awarded the Aimee Pierce Study Abroad Scholarship, which paid for me to come on a monthlong program to Israel and Palestine," says Sarah.

That monthlong program led to something much bigger when Sarah decided to stay in Jerusalem to live and work. She started with the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group, keeping track of human rights violations in the Israeli and Palestinian conflict and served as an international elections observer in the West Bank during the Palestinian elections in January 2006. From there, she went to work for the Civic Forum Institute of Jerusalem, which helps educate Palestinians about good governance and civics.

Sarah says her time in Cheney is what ultimately made it possible for her to succeed far from home, in a land mired in conflict. "My education at Eastern Washington University helped prepare me for on-the-ground work in human rights and civic education," she says. "More than that, Eastern gave me the opportunity I needed to travel abroad and find work in my field."

But Sarah found more than work. In July 2006, she was married in Bethlehem to a Palestinian Christian man, Aziz Sarah. The couple is living in East Jerusalem, where Sarah is working with European consulates in the area to create a new organization for political cooperation. She's also back in school, having enrolled at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where she's working on a master's in Middle Eastern politics and Islamic studies and learning Arabic.



'00 **Leslie Britz**, BA business, was hired by Northwest Farm Credit Services as manager of marketing and Web communications.

'90s

'99 **Pia Hansen**, BA journalism, has been promoted from the features and Home editor at *The Spokesman-Review* newspaper to columnist for the Northwest page.

'98 **Bryn (Murdock) Browning**, BA education, is superintendent/principal of the Lone School District in Lone, Ore. When hired in 2004, she was the youngest superintendent in Oregon. Her husband, '99 **Josh Browning**, BA education, teaches language arts at Heppner High School and coaches football for Lone Community School. They have two daughters, Leslie, 6, and Morgan, 3.

'98 **Wade Johnson**, BA psychology, previously the administrative director of Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, Pa., is the new administrator for Weiser Memorial Hospital.

'96 and '83 **Judy Lippman**, MSW and BA journalism, is now a community relationship manager for the American Cancer Society in Spokane.

'96 **Jason Vail**, BA business, is staff attorney with the Seattle office of Northwest Justice Project, a legal editor on Clearinghouse Review and editor of *De Novo*, the Washington Young Lawyers' Division official publication. He also teaches legal ethics and legal writing at Highline Community College, does pro bono work for Kitsap Legal Services and serves on the board of directors for the Wonderland Birth-to-Three Developmental Center.

Class Notes

'95 **Deborah Backman**, BA liberal studies, is the children's librarian at Hudson Public Library in Hudson, Mass.

'95 **Jennifer (Hixson) Boyce-Sauer**, BS community health education, with husband Chris Boyce, welcomed Evelyn Iris Boyce-Sauer, born on March 21, 2006. She joins sister Olivia Madelaine, 5.

'95 **Tanya (Adkins) Hill**, BA education, teaches kindergarten in a private Christian school in Selah, Wash. She has two children, Aron, 7, and Alexis, 3.

'95 **Shannon Muir**, BA radio-television, recently completed *Gardner's Guide to Writing and Producing Animation*, a book based on her experience in the industry and published by GGC Inc.

'95 **Beatrice Vansen-Saines**, BA business, after several years working in the area of international development in several countries, is living in Chicago and working for a small,

not-for-profit consulting agency. She is married to Steven Saines and has a son, James, 8.

'93 **Kevin Dull**, BA government, and his wife, Susan, welcomed Tyler Ames Dull, born on May 13, 2006. Tyler joins his brother, Bryce Aiden, 4.

'93 **Christian Strait**, BA English, is in Iraq on his second tour with the Raider Brigade, 1BCT, 4ID, out of Fort Hood, Texas.

'92 **Paul Schmidt**, MPA, previously the city administrator of Cheney, is now city administrator of Oak Harbor, Wash.

'91 **Joseph Faulkner**, MBA, works at the United Space Alliance, LLC, in Houston, Texas, the NASA contractor for the space shuttle program. He has been married to Jeanette for more than 25 years. His son, Jeff, completed his first year at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., and wants to be an Air Force pilot after graduation in 2009. One of his daughters works in Washington, D.C., for the Federal Department of Education.

'90 **John Shaw**, BA applied psychology, has been hired as a sales associate at Cheney Realty.

'80s

'88 **Kathy Hubbard**, MA college instruction in art, is coordinator of Art Education at Columbus State University, Columbus, Ga.

'87 **Jess Walter**, BA journalism, had his latest book, *The Zero*, named a finalist for the prestigious National Book Award. He is the author of four novels.

'86 **Constance Schlothauer**, MAE, is living in Gillette, Wyo., where she's received several honors over the past few years, including a listing in *Who's Who of America's Teachers* in 2000, 2002 and 2005. She was also named Woman of the Year in 2000 and was listed in *International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women* in 1999. In addition, she's been named Teacher of the Year at Lakeview



Ruen Digs Professional Career

A former Eastern Washington University multi-sport standout is digging into the professional world of sports.

Janelle Ruen ('03 BS health promotion and wellness) set records playing basketball and volleyball at EWU. Now she's gearing up for her second season of play in the AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour. Originally from Post Falls, Idaho, Ruen moved to Newport Beach, Calif. The idea of returning to organized sports didn't occur for nearly three years until a friend visited her there.

"After playing in a 'fun' local beach tourney last September with an old EWU teammate, **Jessi Wright** ('04 BS health promotion and wellness), I got the crazy idea that I wanted to start playing competitively again," says Ruen.

She started playing weekends during fall 2005 with "half-hearted hopes" of making it on the AVP tour. It wasn't until January she met future partner Jennifer Snyder who was also new to the beach volleyball scene. After training together for a couple weeks, they decided to try to compete in a few AVP qualifying tournaments.

"We headed to Fort Lauderdale at the end of March for our first AVP tournament, and although we didn't qualify for Main Draw (top 32 teams), we knew we were in it for the long haul," says Ruen. "We haven't looked back since."

Ruen says the highlight of her AVP career so far was playing Misty May and Kerri Walsh in Santa Barbara, Calif. Ruen and Snyder beat May and Walsh in the first game 23-21 before losing the next two. It was the first time May and Walsh had ever lost a game to a qualifier team.

"It would obviously be nice to make a living as a professional beach volleyball player," says Ruen. "Realistically, though, I am just going to live and play one day at a time and try to make the most out of the opportunities I am given."

Originally recruited by EWU for her basketball playing skills, volleyball seemed to come naturally to Ruen. The Spokane Sportswriters and Broadcasters honored her in 2001 and 2002 as the Inland Northwest Female Athlete of the Year. An all-state selection in both sports, Ruen earned Big Sky all-academic honors all four years. "I think about how much I miss college," says Ruen. "I feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to play both sports at such a high level. I was surrounded by great people and a great community and wouldn't trade my experiences at EWU for anything. They have gotten me where I am today."

Elementary in Gillette. Schlothauer is retired but keeps busy with substitute teaching and international traveling.

'85 Lori Dunn, BA education, played volleyball at EWU and was selected as the 2006 NASPE National High School Physical Education Teacher of the Year. She has taught for 22 years in the Renton School District at Hazen High School, is married to Edward Dunn and has three children, Tyler, 16; Tanner, 14; and Kiley, 13.

'86 Coni (Morgan) Carlquist, BA education, is a fourth-grade teacher at Columbia Ridge, Ephrata, Wash. Her daughter is a high school senior and is applying to EWU to earn an engineering degree.

'82 Brian Perry, BS chemistry, previously at Itron and Itronix, is now a senior software engineer at Telect.

'81 Paul Delaney, BA journalism, is publisher/editor of *Northwest Hockey*, a local ice hockey newspaper.

'80 Doug Veysey, BA physical education, was selected for the 2006 Oregon Business Educators Distinguished Service Award.

'70s

'78 Toby Hatley, BA radio-television, after several years as a reporter at KHQ-TV in Spokane, joined Desautel-Hege as an account executive in November 2006.

'78 and '76 Ralph (Rick Curtis) Nelson, MBA and BA theatre, became disabled after graduation and wrote more than 2,000 songs, 31 of which were Internet number ones. He designed more than 600 board games based on business/economic teachings and published 26 of them. He also ran a number one correspondence service as rated by WABC, New York. He is now retired.

'77 and '73, Rich Greb, MBA and BA operations management, has joined Sunrise Medical Technology, Inc., located in Waxahachie, Texas.

'77 Dan Robisch, BA education, recently obtained his MS in radiological science from the University of Cincinnati School of Medicine in Ohio and resides in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. His son, **'06 Jason Robisch**, BA business, started his own business, Timberland Pest Control, in Spokane.

High-tech Mentoring Leads to Success

An Eastern Washington University graduate is "doing the robot" and getting a lot of attention for it.

The Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce chose **Rick DeFord** ('04 BA physics, teaching certificate), a physics teacher at Saint George's School, for its 2006 Mentor of the Year Catalyst Award.

"It was uncomfortable winning the award at first," says DeFord, a self-described coach and old farmer. "It takes a lot of people to make these things happen."

In 2005, DeFord led the student-run and newly formed Robotics Club at SGS. With a \$6,000 grant from NASA and only six weeks to design, complete and ship the robot, the team won the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics' Northwest regional competition in Portland. That led to a place in the national Robotics Championship in Atlanta, where the team didn't win, but gained invaluable experience.

"As a teacher, it was horrible (not winning in Atlanta); as a mentor, it was wonderful," DeFord says. "The students learned time management and talked to groups of engineers and other professionals."

DeFord, who coached wrestling at Liberty, south of Spokane, says his coaching experience helped him create excitement about science. He spends a great deal of his time coming up with new ways to make science interesting – such as teaching physics by having students build miniature roller coasters.

DeFord says he earned his Eastern degree in physics "by default." He kept coming back to EWU and always found himself attracted to the science courses. "It was a good experience (at EWU)," DeFord says. "I had a farm and was going to school at the same time. It was convenient and provided me with the avenues to succeed and maintain my income."

Who knew those avenues would lead DeFord from farmer, coach and Eastern student to physics teacher and award-winning mentor in just a few short years?



'73 Dr. Susan Hollingsworth, BS biology, was recently awarded fellowship in the American College of Dentists, the oldest honorary organization for dentists. Only 3.5 percent of U.S. dentists can claim this honor.

'60s

'67 Harold (Hal) Braman, BA government, a first-generation college graduate, is retired and enjoying the warm climate and watching grandchildren grow in southern Utah with his wife, Pat. He is also volunteering in Christian humanitarian service.

'67 Ed Chandler, BA English, after 26 years in the U.S. Army, retired as a colonel in the Army Aviation Branch. He chaired a group that started Northwest Commercial Bank in Lakewood, Wash., and directed a Homeland Security grant to enhance Washington State Ferry security that served as a national model.

'67 Dave Pietz, BA business, is doing limited environmental work for former company Energizer and working a portable gardening program on Tohajulee (Navajo) Reservation near Albuquerque, N.M.

Class Notes

'65 **Gary Johnson**, BA social science, selected as Washington State's Teacher of the Year in 1978 and Washington State's Teacher of the Year in 1984, was awarded the Christa McAuliffe Award for excellence in 2000.

'65 **Yvonne Knuth**, BA education, is serving as Washington State Fairs Association president.

SEEKING ALUMNI AWARD NOMINEES



EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

As we celebrate Eastern's 125th birthday, we also take the time to recognize alumni who characterize the excellence of EWU. The Alumni Association is seeking nominations through Aug. 1, 2007, for the following awards:

- Service to Community and/or University
- Outstanding Achievement in Professional Endeavors

Recipients of the alumni awards will be honored at a ceremony held in October 2007. Complete descriptions, criteria and nomination forms are available at ewualumni.org or by calling 1 (888) EWU-ALUM.