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125 Ways You Know You're a Wildcat 2017

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Central Connections Magazine

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125 Ways You Know You're a Wildcat

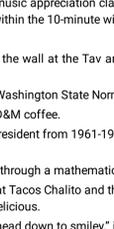
By Richard Moreno

125 years. Let it sink in.

That's the age of the Washington State Normal School, now known as Central Washington University. During the past century-and-a-quarter, CWU has grown from a tiny teaching academy with 51 students and borrowed classroom space to the fastest growing public university in the state of Washington with nearly 12,000 students.

Along the way, the school has acquired certain traditions—things that only a true Wildcat would know. You know you're a Wildcat if you ...

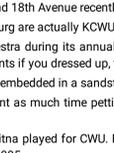
- Spent an afternoon studying in the Japanese Garden because it's so peaceful and Zen.
- Knew that the Medieval-looking apartment building on the corner of Third and Chestnut is known as the Castle and was originally built in 1889 to be the governor's mansion when Ellensburg unsuccessfully sought to be Washington's capital city.
- Accomplished the Mad Dash from your music appreciation class in the McIntyre Music Building to your intro to business class in Shaw-Smyser within the 10-minute window.
- Have figured out what SURC stands for.
- Found your Uncle Bud's name carved on the wall at the Tav and realized you're not the first member in your family to have discovered the Tav.
- Knew that CWU's original name was the Washington State Normal School.
- Started out your day with a giant cup of D&M coffee.
- Knew that James E. Brooks was CWU's president from 1961-1978 and is the only president to have graduated from Central.
- Watched Professor Dominic Klyve juggle through a mathematics class.
- Ordered something called a lengua taco at Tacos Chalito and then, when you finished it, realized you had just eaten beef tongue—and it was delicious.
- Knew that when your friends said, "Let's head down to smiley," it meant you were going cliff jumping in the canyon and you should brace for a cool plunge in the Yakima River.
- Finished a Dagwood Burger at Campus U-Tote-Em. Every. Single. Bite.



CWU's Japanese Garden



CWU class ring



Wildcat Way was formerly named D Street

- Bought a CWU class ring because not only does it look good on your hand, it reminds you of your alma mater.
- Went on a field trip to Manastash Ridge with Professor Nick Zentner and learned what an asymmetrical anticline is.
- Attended all of the home football games at Tomlinson Stadium—and didn't once sit on the visiting team's side. OK, maybe just once—but it was an accident.
- Knew D Street between University Way and 18th Avenue recently became Wildcat Way.
- Discovered the call letters for 88.1 The Burg are actually KCWU.
- Danced along with the Symphony Orchestra during its annual Halloween concert. The musicians take their costumes quite seriously. Bonus points if you dressed up, too.
- Found the National Geodetic Survey disk embedded in a sandstone block beside Shaw-Smyser Hall.
- Stopped by Central City Comics and spent as much time petting MODOK the cute pug as perusing the shelves.
- Learned former NFL quarterback John Kitna played for CWU. Bonus if you knew he led the school to a NAIA football national championship in 1995.
- Learned that CWU's motto, "Docendo, Discimus," is Latin for "by teaching, we learn."
- Found something you absolutely had to have at the annual Ware Fair—and then purchased all your holiday gifts there.
- Have fallen asleep in an overstuffed chair in the lounge of your residence hall and woke up to find someone had written your name on your face with a Sharpie.
- Memorized all of the words to the CWU Fight Song including the part about setting "the earth re-ver-berating with a mighty cheer."
- Viewed the music building's impressive glass and metal sculpture, the Octaves of Light, and wondered if it would fit in your apartment.
- Have been told at least once that "hooker" is a rugby position that refers to the person who serves as one of the team's forwards in a scrum..
- Know what a scrum is.
- Have eaten an entire baguette of sourdough bread while walking back to your apartment from Vinmar's Bakery because it's just that good.
- Visited the Museum of Culture and Environment in Dean Hall because you wanted to see a cool exhibit and not because you had to go there for a class.
- Signed up for an industrial technology class so you could play with all the amazing equipment in the Hogue Technology Building.
- Knew that women's basketball legend Cathy Benedetto was the first woman inducted into the CWU Athletic Hall of Fame when it was created in 1983.



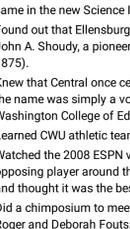
Climbing the 50-foot wall

- Snapped a selfie with CWU President Gaudino at the Grocery Outlet store because you were there and he was there, and that's just so extraordinary (OK, maybe not the fact you were there).
- Discovered where Bowers Field Airport is located—or that the Ellensburg airport is actually called Bowers Field Airport.
- Knew that the Bowers Field Airport is named in honor of Ensign Keith Bowers, the first man from Kittitas County killed in World War II. Bowers was at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked on December 7, 1941. The field became a training base for military pilots during the war.
- Ridden on the Central Transit bus system and realized you can pretty much get to anywhere you need to go in Ellensburg.
- Reached the top of the 50-foot climbing wall in the SURC and felt you'd accomplished something big.
- Went fishing in the Yakima River and panicked when you actually hooked something.
- Learned not only that there's a planetarium on the CWU campus, but where it's located.



Wildcat statue in front of the SURC

- Had your picture taken in front of the big bronze Wildcat statue in front of the SURC.
- Asked for "hot" at the Sugar Thai restaurant because, you know, you can handle heat—and regretted the decision after the first bite.
- Accepted a \$20 dare to jump over Town Ditch and then realized how truly wide it is.
- Lived in Courson or Muzzall halls before they were demolished.
- Learned that Grammy-winning rapper "the Wanz" (Michael Wansley) attended CWU in the 1980s, when he studied jazz and probably checked out the local thrift shops.
- Stumbled onto the ABC Donut shop and discovered the chocolate old-fashioned donuts are so good you'll never eat packaged donuts again.
- Found out Kamola Hall was named to honor the daughter of Chief Owhi, a legendary Kittitas tribal leader.
- Encountered Snorkel, the tortoise who lives in the campus greenhouse behind Dean Hall.



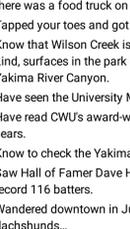
High-fiving Wellington

- High-fived Wellington C. Wildcat.
- Took the beginning circus arts class and learned how to juggle, ride a unicycle, and other fall-back job skills in case your major doesn't work out.
- Camped out with your friends at Fred Meyer Night to save big and load up on Top Ramen.
- Enjoyed a Belgian waffle smothered in maple syrup during finals week Waffle Night at the Brooks Library.
- Learned that CWU has its own official Scottish tartan pattern listed on the Scottish Register of Tartans. Surprise! It's crimson and black.
- Hit the jackpot when you discovered Winegar's ice cream has a dollar scoop night.
- Knew that Jerrol's bookstore used to be a gas station when University Way was the old Spokane Highway.
- Picked up a copy of Hype and realized there is a lot of stuff happening at CWU.
- Listened to longtime Voice of the Wildcats, Rob Lowery, announce a CWU football game (he did it for more than 29 years!).
- Aced all your craft brewing classes because you really, really know your beer.
- Figured out what COTS and CAH mean (not to mention CEPS and COB).
- Contemplated taking off your shoes and running through the fountains in the Barge Hall courtyard.
- Discovered all the best places to study (and take a nap) in Brooks Library.
- Knew that the president's crib is across Wildcat Way from the main campus because you once attended an event there.
- Knew that Craig T. Nelson, star of the TV show Coach, attended CWU.
- Found out that CWU math students hold the world record for finding the largest weird number and know what the heck a weird number is.
- Know why all the trees in Ellensburg lean east.
- Discovered where Wing Central is located and know that a Hell Wing is not something you order for a quick lunch bite.
- Knew that Central once had a yearbook named Hyakem (previously called Kooitoo) and that Hyakem is a Chinook word for "quick to tell."
- Discovered Craig Hill offers the best view of campus, is the best snow sledding hill, and is the best place to star-gaze in Ellensburg.



McIntyre hall

- Thought that the sloping roof of the giant round glass atrium in the front of McIntyre hall looks like the world's biggest lipstick tube.
- Uncovered the fact that the Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park near Vantage was discovered in 1931 by George F. Beck, a CWU geology professor.
- Noticed Wickup, a cast bronze (it looks like it's made of wood!) sculpture of a horse that stands on the south lawn of Hebeler Hall.
- Heard of timothy hay and know what it is.
- Traveled to the nearby historic mining town of Roslyn (about 28 miles) after reading that it was the location for the TV show Northern Exposure.
- Tuned into the "Burg campus radio station (88.1 FM) because it's the best college radio station in the country (according to the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System).
- Learned that the unusual folk art is "Dick and Jane's Spot."
- Viewed the heavens through the telescope in the Lind Hall observatory—and looked forward to doing the same in the new Science II observatory, which has an even larger telescope.
- Found out that Ellensburg (originally spelled "Elen's Burgh") is named after Mary Ellen Shoudy, wife of John A. Shoudy, a pioneer who established the first post office in the area and platted the town site (in 1875).
- Knew that Central once celebrated "Sweezy" Day, which included a dance and winter carnival, and that the name was simply a vocalization of CWCE, the school's initials before it was a university (Central Washington College of Education and later, CWSC, Central Washington State College).
- Learned CWU athletic teams were known as the "Normalites" prior to 1925.
- Watched the 2008 ESPN video of CWU softball players Mallory Holtman and Liz Wallace carrying an opposing player around the bases for a home run after an injury prevented her from running on her own and thought it was the best show of sportsmanship you had ever seen.
- Did a chimpusium to meet Washoe, the famous signing chimpanzee cared for by famed researchers Roger and Deborah Fouts.
- Strolled through the Leah Polacek Butterfly Garden on campus and wondered why you never noticed it before.



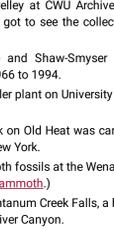
Foucault pendulum in Lind Hall

- Discovered the two-story Foucault pendulum in Lind Hall.
- Watched Wildcat QB Mike Relly break the school's career touchdown record (previously held by Jon Kitna) during the 2008 Battle in Seattle.
- Know who and where Kitt Coyote is. (Hint, hint—and know what all of that means.)
- Heard cowboy poetry at the annual Spirit of the West celebration in Ellensburg.
- Enjoyed watching CWU aviators fly overhead as they complete their training courses at the only fully accredited public university aviation program in the Pacific Northwest.
- Discovered the two Corinthian-style columns in the hallway on the top floor of Shaw-Smyser. They bracketed the original south entrance to the building.
- Actually polished off, in one sitting, a triple-patty Ultimate Trip burger, giant basket of fries, and a chocolate shake at Rossow's U-Tote-Em.



Handcrafted tiles surrounding the fireplace in the old Hebeler Hall library

- Noticed the handcrafted tiles surrounding the fireplace in the old Hebeler Hall library, made by longtime CWU art professor Sarah Spurgeon.
- Met the giant snapping turtle swimming in the aquarium tucked inside the Science building—and saw the various snakes, bugs, and other creatures living there on purpose.
- Looked down at the ground in the plaza behind Barge Hall and noticed there are names engraved in the bricks—part of the famed Alumni Walk, which started in 1981 and still has room for your name.
- Entered Black Hall and saw a student patting the head of the large bronze goat sculpture near the west entrance. According to legend, rubbing the goat, created by Walla Walla sculptor Brad Rude, before a test brings good luck. Of course, so does studying.
- Studied the life-sized, carved wooden elephant on the second floor of Science for a time before realizing why it's called Elephant Desk.
- Realized there's more to putting on a show than memorizing lines and delivering them in front of an audience after visiting the costume shop on the second floor of McConnell Hall, which is filled with wigs, sewing machines, and rolls of fabric.
- Tracked the wily Columbia spotted frog or hummed along with the Pacific chorus frog at Engelhorn Pond, just north of campus.
- Have eaten a pulled pork sandwich from the food truck on campus and thought it was pretty awesome there was a food truck on campus.
- Tapped your toes and got funky at the annual Jazz in the Valley festival in July.
- Know that Wilson Creek is waterway that runs under the SURC, bubbles up through the grate in front of Lind, surfaces in the park by Munson, and continues through and sometimes under Ellensburg to the Yakima River Canyon.
- Have seen the University Mace, know what it is, and would really like to hold it yourself.
- Have read CWU's award-winning poetry journal, Manastash, and know it's just beginning its second 25 years.
- Know to check the Yakima River highway report to avoid the January cattle drive.
- Saw Hall of Famer Dave Heaverlo pitch for Central during the 1972 season, when he struck out a school record 116 batters.
- Wandered downtown in June and stumbled upon the annual Dachshunds on Parade event. So many dachshunds...
- Danced in the dirt Behind the Chutes at the famous Ellensburg Rodeo, one of the biggest rodeos in the nation.
- Joined the CWU fencing club and attacked your roommate with an empty paper towel tube in preparation for your first lesson.
- Enrolled at CWU because you wanted to find the mysterious Mel's Hole, a legendary bottomless pit on Manastash Ridge. Plus, radio host Art Bell says it's real so it must be true.
- Went into the Wildcat Shop to buy a pencil and left with \$247.98 in Wildcat gear.
- Sat next to the life-sized statue of an anthropomorphized bull sitting on a park bench in the Rotary Pavilion and knew this was your kind of town. Extra points if you remember the controversy when the statue was first proposed and why the hat was added later.



Tsuangani Totem pole in the Brooks Library

- Admired the colorful Tsuangani Totem pole in the Brooks Library. Installed in 1999, it was made by Tsuangani (Fearon Smith Jr.), chief of the Wiummasgum Clan of the House of Lelooska and the House of Sewiane.
- Made it to every single Monday Movie Madness night at the SURC Theatre and somehow avoided seeing any Adam Sandler flicks.
- Signed up to compete in the Indoor Ironman before you realized it wasn't a superhero movie marathon.
- Once studied in the Pit in the original SUB—and know what all of that means.
- Knew that Leo Nicholson and his son, Dean Nicholson, who both coached at Central, hold the college basketball record for most career wins by a father-and-son coaching duo (1,114 wins).
- Attended the Battle in Seattle football games once played at CenturyLink Field (home of the Seahawks) between CWU and Western Washington University and later CWU and Western Oregon University.
- Struck up a conversation with Carlos Pelley at CWU Archives and Special Collections regarding the school's coolest (and oldest) books and got to see the collection's very rare Lutheran Bible, printed in Nuremberg, Germany in 1686.
- Know the rose garden between Barge and Shaw-Smyser Halls is named for Gloria J. Craig, a distinguished CWU administrator from 1966 to 1994.
- Know Old Heat is the name of the old boiler plant on University Way and is not the nickname of a former professor.
- Know that the towering brick smokestack on Old Heat was carted to Ellensburg in 1925 from the M. W. Kellogg Chimney Building Company in New York.
- Helped excavate 16,000-year-old mammoth fossils at the Wenas Creek Mammoth Project. (Watch the virtual tour of the dig at www.cwu.edu/mammoth.)
- Picked wildflowers or hiked trails near Umtanum Creek Falls, a hidden waterfall in the desert hills and basalt cliffs that rise above the Yakima River Canyon.
- Cheered for UFC world-champion Miesha Tate, because she attended CWU (where she first took up mixed martial arts).
- Knew that the size of CWU's campus is 380 acres and felt sometimes you had walked all 380 acres of it going from the only open parking space to your classes.
- Know what a busker is—and have enjoyed the live music and entertainment during Ellensburg's annual Buskers in the Burg event.
- Fondly remember the bakery, particularly the French bread, in the old Albertson's grocery store on Ruby Street (now the Grocery Outlet).
- Knew that Ellensburg's original name was "Robber's Roost."

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