Gaudino’s pay jumps with raise, retention bonuses

By Annika Lynch

President James Gaudino is now the highest paid president of the four regional, master’s-granting universities, thanks to a raise this summer by the Board of Trustees. Gaudino will now make $375,000 annually.

In 2011, the Board of Trustees decided that they would use a financial incentive to serve through July 31, 2016. His first compensation contract in 2011 required Gaudino to continue as president of public affairs, the changes in the five-year contract.

Gaudino also collected a $500,000 retention bonus this summer that he was contractually promised in 2011 if he stayed for another five years. The Board of Trustees also agreed to give him additional annual cash payments for each year he stays after Aug. 1, 2016. He’d first get $25,000 next August, then each payment over the next four years would increase by $25,000, for a total of $375,000 in cash bonuses over the five-year contract.

His first compensation contract in 2009 included an annual base salary of $300,000 and a monthly allowance of $1,000. According to Linda Schactler, chief of staff to the president and vice president of public affairs, the changes in the contract in 2011 required Gaudino to serve through July 31, 2016.

In 2011, the Board of Trustees decided that they would use a financial incentive program that was designed to retain Gaudino.

Observer Staff

There’s a reason that University 101 exists, and it isn’t just to torture freshman. Unless they skipped a grade or two, college students are adults and are expected to act as such. This can come as a bit of a culture shock after the handholding and rigid structure of high school.

Sarah Swager, dean of student success, described University 101 classes as designed to provide students with important information regarding the rules and policies that they’ll be expected to follow for the next four years of their life.

But... they may not include all of the information. Listed inside are five things that CWU students typically aren’t aware of on campus.

You can find the complete list with three additional hacks online at cwuobserver.com.

By Mitchell Johnson

When CWU head coach Mike Larabee received an email from BeyondSportsTours.com asking for talented softball players willing to travel halfway across the world, he knew exactly the duo to relay the message to.

According to Beyond Sports Tours website, they are an international education and service-learning organization that uses sports to create cross-cultural relationships.

The organization brought in softball players to create four separate teams.

The two players were senior first baseman Kailyn Campbell and senior outfielder Sammy Morris. Campbell and Morris’ friendship started before playing softball at CWU. Their companionship went as far back as going on a select softball team, the Washington Hustle.

When Campbell and Morris talked about the decision it was pretty easy. They both agreed on going, as long as the other went too.

“It was just more about asking our parents,” Morris said. The two players left on June 19, traveling for over 27 hours to Cape Town, South Africa.

When they got off the plane and traveled by bus to their hotel, they got a big glimpse of how different South Africa was compared to the United States.

“A lot of it was pretty impoverished, there wasn’t a lot of great rich, thriving communities there so it was pretty eye opening to see the townships that we got to tour in,” Morris said.

Morris and Campbell were on Team Cheetah. The four teams played three games against the Cape Town Softball Association. The games they played were competitive, but playful in nature.

“Just playing them they were just so excited,” Morris said. “Kailyn hit a homerun and [the opposing team] were giving high fives and they were like ‘nice hit.’”

Team Cheetah won all three games they played in South Africa, one of the games being against the South African National team, but this trip was more than just about winning games.
Vapers beware

By Kailan Manandic
Manandic@cwu.edu / @Kailan_M

Last month, Kittitas County prohibited vaping and electronic cigarette use in public places, such as bars and restaurants. The Kittitas Board of Health and County Commissioners added vaping products and e-cigarettes to the No Smoking Ordinance passed in 2009. The ordinance now bans both smoking and vaping in public places.

As defined by the ordinance, the term “public places” refers to nearly any building open to the public. However, the ordinance excludes open areas more than 25 feet away from building entrances.

“Vaping is no longer allowed in public in Kittitas County, unless the public place is a licensed vape retail outlet where access by minors is prohibited and where vape product sales generate at least 51% of the business’ income,” said the Kittitas County Public Health Department in a press release.

It is, in my opinion, getting thousands of thousands of people off cigarettes.

—Dr. Rodney Bransdorfer, professor of world languages

Dr. Rodney Bransdorfer, professor of world languages at CWU, said the ordinance will have little effect on him and others who vape. "I, like most people who vape," Bransdorfer said, "were former smokers who couldn’t smoke indoors either, so I always assumed that I couldn’t vape indoors unless you’re in a vape shop.”

The county encourages businesses with “No Smoking” signs to also include “No Vaping” and have offered to provide them with proper signage.

Kittitas County isn’t the first to implement vaping regulations; local organizations and other Washington counties have already implemented no-vaping regulations, said a press release from the county.

According to Bransdorfer, this is why the ordinance is “small potatoes” compared to recent national regulations.

“Restaurants and bars banned it way before,” he said, "so you couldn’t vape in those places because they said you couldn’t, not because of a city ordinance.

Having been a smoker for decades, Bransdorfer said he is pro-vaping as a method of quitting cigarettes.

"I am so much healthier than I was," he said, "it’s in my opinion, getting thousands and thousands of people off of cigarettes... while we may find out there is some danger in it... there are just so many benefits to it, I just see it helping a lot of people quit smoking.”

While Bransdorfer described vaping as a positive alternative to cigarettes, Kittitas County will now enforce them the same way in public places regardless of nicotine content.

Some vapers don’t use nicotine in their devices but are treated just the same, “it’s a little weird,” Bransdorfer said.

Part of the county’s goal with the amended ordinance is to keep e-cigarettes out of the hands of younger crowds.

“We want the increased regulation on these products to decrease the message that these products are ‘normal’ or ‘safe’ for our young people to be using,” said Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson in a press release.

Well, Wildcats, you’ve found your way to CWU’s only newspaper written by the students for the students.

That’s right, this paper is produced by students who sit in a relatively quiet newsroom (lack of windows or any form of natural light) for several hours to create the weekly newspaper that you are holding.

We share your 8 a.m. class struggles, the same glaring tickets for parking 35 minutes in the 30-minute zone and all agree that having coffee pumped into us intravenously would be cheaper and more efficient than constantly going to ESP Bistro.

Since this is a new school year and you may not know exactly who I am, I guess I should probably introduce myself. I’m McKenzie Lakey, the editor-in-chief of the Observer. I’m a senior here at CWU, and going into my second year in student media.

For the majority of my first year in college I’ve worked with the Observer in various positions before settling in as a photographer and editor for the paper.

While the Observer has managed to hang me for the long haul, I found my start in student media as a staff writer and photographer for Pulse, CWU’s lifestyle magazine. Recently they have been nominated for ACP’s Magazine Pacemaker Award, so keep an eye on them for their upcoming issues as well.

I do happen to be involved in activities outside of the Observer, which is where some of you may know me from. For the past year I have had the pleasure of working with the Street Team at CWU’s Hypo within the Publicity Center.

The staff over at Hypo has provided several incredible opportunities for me as both a student employee and current intern. If I hadn’t started working for Hypo when I first came to campus last fall as a transfer, I wouldn’t have met the Observer’s previous editor-in-chief, Jonathan Glenn, who asked me to join the newspaper.

So basically, I wouldn’t be in this position, writing to you today without.

Although Jonathan has since graduated, along with the majority of our past group of editors, the Observer’s brand new editorial staff is incredibly talented. Behind every decent editor-in-chief is a team of excellent editors and reporters, and I’m happy to say I have one of the best groups of people to work with.

We are all excited to be a part of this paper and the slightly new direction that we hope to take this quarter. As we cut down on the amount of paper that we are using, we are expanding our online presence to provide you updated daily content.

Brief recaps of the day’s top events will also be posted online to give you a rundown of what is going on both on and off campus.

We also want to interact and collaborate with all of you to ensure that this is a two-way form of communication. For this paper to be beneficial to everyone, we need to work together. That means in addition to us constantly being on the lookout for breaking stories, you’re also doing your part as a member of this community to be actively engaged and aware of what is occurring around you. By doing that, we can all be a little more aware of what is impacting our community. I hope that you take the stories that we produce weekly and use them as a way to interact with others on campus. Share the stories with your peers. Offer us feedback and insight on what you’re reading. Tell us what you’d like to see covered. Write an opinion or a “Letter to the Editor” and send it to us. Be involved.

We may have a short amount of time on this campus to be as involved as possible, and an even shorter amount of time to encapsulate it all in a single paper. So make the most of your moments at CWU and help us do our best at capturing them.

After all, there’s only 252 days left until summer break. And to all you seniors, that means only 253 days until graduation… Here’s to a good quarter and an even better year. Good luck and Goodspeed.

—McKenzie Lakey
Editor-in-Chief
After Washington legislators moved forward on tuition cuts in 2015, CWU’s largest incoming class is paying the least for in-state tuition since 2009.

The Legislature required CWU, along with the other state regional universities, to lower in-state undergraduate tuition by 20 percent from the 2014 academic year. Washington is the only state to make these changes to higher education.

According to Matt Manweller, CWU associate professor of political science and the state representative for the 13th Legislative District, these cuts are already having an impact.

“We have the single largest enrollment in the history of Central,” Manweller said. “The law of demand works ... If you make things less expensive, people will buy more of it and we’re seeing that play out.”

For the 2016 academic year, CWU tuition for 10 to 18 credits is $5,907. This is down from about $7,900 in 2014.

“I think [lower tuition] is opening doors for students who really would not have been able to consider higher ed,” said Linda Schactler, vice president of public affairs.

Additionally, the Legislature limited future tuition increases to no more than the average annual percentage growth in Washington’s median hourly wage, which has averaged about 2.1 percent per year since 2001. The most recent increase is now estimated to be 2.2 percent per year in that time period, according to the WSIPP.

Washington tuition rates ranked higher, with an average increase of 14.7 percent per year. The WSIPP reported in 2015 that tuition fees more than doubled between 2001 and 2012 for in-state students at Washington’s public universities.

According to Manweller, the trend and decision to “reverse course” began with the recession in 2007.

At regional universities, tuition rates increased from an average of $5,051 in 2008 to $8,582, before the legislature froze it in 2012, the Washington Student Achievement Council reported.

“We [increased tuition] for about six years and then pretty soon the cost of tuition had skyrocketed,” Manweller said, “so we tried to change that course.”

Unique cuts

While tuition is rising nationally, these types of cuts are exclusive to Washington. Maine was the only state to cut tuition between 2010 and 2015, lowering in-state undergraduate tuition by an average of 2.2 percent a year in that time period, according to the WSIPP.

Washington will have cut nearly 10 times that in two years. “This is the biggest policy success in the past decade,” Manweller said. “We were absolute national leaders.”

Tuition lowest since Great Recession

By Kailan Manandic
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While tuition cost is down for students, CWU is still receiving the same amount of total funding through state Legislature.
CWU migrant programs receive $5 million

By Kailan Manandic

Over the next five years CWU will receive nearly $5.4 million through the U.S. Education Department for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) and High School Equivalency Program (HEP). CAMP and HEP are fully funded by the federal Office of Migrant Education U.S. and operate through CWU. The two programs have been consecutively funded four times since their launch in 2001 and together help 170 migrant students annually.

The grant is awarded in five-year cycles and this is the first year of the fourth cycle that will end June 2021. According to Ramon Cardenas, director of HEP, the program will receive about $2,100,000 from migrant and seasonal farm workers annually.

According to the program’s goals, participants need to have worked 75 days in seasonal agriculture within the last two years. Both programs use the granted funds to move participants toward higher education and a career.

This year CWU students will be able to work 20 full hours a week as a student employee, rather than 19 hours as in previous years. The change applies to regular full-time students who do not receive any work-study funds.

The previous rule about the length of times employees can work is on par with other universities, such as: Eastern Washington University, Western Washington University, University of Washington and Washington State University.

Students who have previously participated in a migrant education program previously qualify for the program according to Mirena Bocchetti, director of CAMP.

HEP is a “sister program” to CAMP according to Bocchetti, but serves migrant and seasonal farm workers by providing free GED instruction.

To qualify, participants need to have worked 75 days in seasonal agriculture within the last two years. Both programs use the granted funds to move participants toward higher education and a career.

The process to apply for funding is “vigorous” Cardenas said. Many other universities apply and approximately one-third of applications are accepted. After receiving funding, the programs also have to maintain a certain graduation rate. Of the 110 students CAMP serves per year, 60 percent need to graduate and 84 percent of graduates need to move on to higher education, a career or military.

“If we do not perform and meet the grant’s goals the grant will be or can be taken away at anytime for non-performance,” Cardenas said.

CAMP is required to meet similar goals for the 60 students they serve annually. “It’s hard to anticipate the students that will finish the year and continue on,” Bocchetti said. “We’ve had really good retention years, 90 or 100 percent and then some years 80 percent lower, but we haven’t had many lower years.”

The incentive: the $500,000 from Gaudino’s base salary to then increase to $304,674.52. Schaeftler also says that the money is coming from vendor rebates as well. This means that when businesses provide their products to CWU, they can receive rebates. If more products are sold than expected, some of the proceeds are returned to the university as rebates.

According to Keith Thompson, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, one of the rebates is coming from Coca-Cola. Co- Cola provides the soft drink products for campus and has been paying a rebate for a number of years that they choose to pay from their profits from products sold on campus.

According to charts provided by Schaeftler, Gaudino’s yearly salary this past year was $304,674, compared to Eastern Washington University’s current yearly salary of $312,090. In comparison, Ev- ergreen State College, which is not a university based on the fact that it only has 5,000 students the current annual salary is $300,000. Western Washington University’s new president has a yearly salary is $365,000.

According to Thompson, President Gaudino had been one of the lowest paid university presidents in the state of Washing-ton. According to the same charts provided by Schaeftler, when it comes to comparing retention incentives and deferred compensation back in 2012, CWU had a retention incentive of $100,000. Since 2013 it has increased $25,000 a year until 2016 when it reached $150,000, with a lump sum of $500,000 at 3 percent interest.

In comparison, EWU’s deferred compensation was $5,000, while Evergreen State College provides an annual con-trIBUTION to a 401 (K) plan in the amount of $50,000. Western Washington University is going to have a $3,000 increase (start-ing at $20,000) over the next five years, with a 3 percent interest per annum.

According to Thompson, the reasons for keeping Gaudino and raising his pay are because of what he has done to improve Central. In regards to whether or not President Gaudino intends to stay after his five-year term, Thompson has stated that President Gaudino would love to stay and continue to work at Central for now.
BRIAN REGAN

STUDENT UNION BALLROOM
OCTOBER 15, 2016

TWO SHOWS: 7 & 9:30 PM

Tickets online www.cwu.edu/tickets
or at the CWU Wildcat Shop
$45 reserved | $35 GA | $20 CWU student w/ID

AA/EO/Title IX Institution. For accommodation, contact Wildcat Tickets at 509-963-1429 or email DS@cwu.edu
Think of the most prep-y, non-threatening, looking black person possible and that was me. On this day I went to a scholarship interview, from there I picked up my older sister and took her to her dentist appointment.

I needed to kill some time, and Lowes was nearby, so I decided to go explore there. Because I’m weird, I decided to look at various things for my future house.

Most of my friends at the time couldn’t fathom planning out farther than the next week, and here I was looking at appliances and cabinets.

I’m always harassed when I go to stores. I never thought it was because I was black, but because I was young and couldn’t afford what I was looking at.

Today was different, something was off and I couldn’t quite figure it out at the beginning.

I didn’t understand why it took two different employees to ensure that I was fine while looking at plants, or why I literally had the same employee ask me “Can I help you with anything?” in three different aisles.

These employees were coming from everywhere it seemed. I just wanted to look at appliances in peace.

At one point I was looking at electric water heaters thinking to myself, “Oh, this will be energy efficient and will go great in my house,” when two employees came up and asked me what I was doing. So, I told them that I was just checking out the water heaters—it’s not like I could steal something like that even if I wanted to.

But that wasn’t a good enough answer I guess, because right as I thought they were going to walk away, they took a few steps back and watched me. Noticing this, I said aloud “Okay then,” and moved to a different side of the store.

At this point I was thinking to myself, “No way is this happening.” I was looking at doorknobs when they decided to confront me about their suspicions.

First a young white employee came up and asked me what I was looking at, if I needed help, and if I was intending to buy any. After telling her no she walked away but never took her eyes off me and I asked “Is there a problem?”

Then here comes this man who was a manager. He was much larger than me and quite intimidating. He put his hand on my shoulder and gripped tight and said, “Now I can’t let you take any of this product today, this is my section, you will not steal from my section, boy.”

I told him I had no intention of stealing, but he ignored that and responded with “Why are you doing this? Don’t bullshit me. You don’t need to live this kind of life boy. What are you on? What drugs are you on?”

I contemplated listing off all of my prescribed medications just to be a smartass. But held back, realizing this was getting serious. What happens next amazed me. A black woman with two kids walked by and he pointed at them saying, “Are you with them?”

They looked nothing like me and had an extremely lighter skin tone than me. This shocked me, because at this point I realized that this was true profiling.

The worst part was that this man, the one accusing me of theft, was also black. I expected him to be understanding.

I once had thought that you can’t be racist and prejudiced against your own race, but now I’ve seen different. He looked at my shocked face and said, “Listen now you need to just get out, we already called the police, you’re not stealing any of our product and you won’t buy any either, just leave.”

The angry employees surrounded me, none of them were on my side. They all proceeded to escort me out of the store.

I’ve seen a lot of racism and I’ve been places where I wasn’t welcomed, but this was one experience I’ll never forget.
Wildcat Welcome
Students get a taste of life in E’burg

Sarah Hoot
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The day before school starts is always a mix of emotions: excitement, anticipation, fear, and maybe some boredom (primarily from upperclassmen). Luckily, CWU has some great pre-quarter traditions to help students prepare for the year.

One of the continually popular events is Bite of the ‘Burg, an annual street fair organized by the Kittitas Chamber of Commerce that takes place in historic downtown Ellensburg. While Bite of the ‘Burg blasted tunes, students and community members walked up and down the street gathering swag and sampling food.

With around 90 vendors at the fair, there was plenty to do: entering drawings for gift baskets, picking out comics from Central City Comics’ free comic bins and trying to win a Betta fish from the Ellensburg Pet Center.

“We want to introduce Ellensburg businesses and what Ellensburg has to offer to new students,” Chamber of Commerce Membership Coordinator Amy Kaiser said.

Though the event is catered toward welcoming new students to the area, all types of people come out for the festivities. From people who enjoy street fairs, like senior film production major Austin Michl, to those who love getting free stuff such as Megan Shaw, a freshman early childhood education major.

“My dad used to say that if something is free, get it. So now I just compulsively get free stuff,” Shaw said.

While all the businesses get their share of attention, there were some local favorites. Win- sgar’s gave out samples of their top ice cream flavors and Utopia handed out various types of smoothies.

“I love all of it,” Sammy Moes, a 7-year-old community member, said.

However, Bite of the ‘Burg is not just about welcoming the incoming students; it is also about promoting local businesses and gaining new customers.

“Last year didn’t affect us too much but we are hoping for a better turn out,” Ashley Fahlen, senior elementary education major and employee at Village Café, said.

The other big tradition that took place on the night before school starts is Fred Meyer Night: this annual event is CWU’s version of “Black Friday.”

“If I want to see if I can find [things] I forgot to bring,” Garrett Barns, an undeclared freshman, said. With coupons for all departments and sales prices throughout the store, it is no surprise that Fred Meyer Night draws in a large crowd.

“We saw a great flyer and it got handed out to us like five times,” Corinne Welander, a freshman with an interest in social work, said.

The event officially kicked off at 11 p.m.; however, some students lined up hours in advance. Students huddled in blankets or lounged in shopping carts, while chatting with their friends as the line slowly stretched around the building.

CWU even provides a shuttle bus for those students who do not have cars, or those who did not want to circle around the parking lot to try and find a spot. Once the doors opened, students made a dash to get in, but CWU staff guarded the door and checked everyone’s student ID before they could go in.

As students entered, they were given a grand welcome by members of the CWU Cheer- leading Squad and music from the Kittitas Radio Crew. In addition to shopping, students could also enjoy free food, snack. Monster energy drinks and small giveaways courtesy of the ‘Burg.

As the clock struck 1 a.m., the store emptied and the stu- dents returned to their homes, eager for the next Fred Meyer Night. When they would once again raid the entire section of Top Ramen to prepare for the college experience.

Dr. Jill Hoxmeir is a public health professor at CWU.

Send anonymous public health and sex related questions to askdrh@cwuobserver.com and have them answered here.

This column sponsored by:
B.A. language requirement is more flexible than you might think

Most people on campus believe that you are required to take one full year of a world language at the college level, or two years at the high school level, of a single language in order to fulfill the language requirement for a B.A. Most people are wrong.

Despite what it says on the registrar’s website, according to Karen Malella, a credentials evaluator for the College of Arts and Humanities, if you petition the registrar, you can use up to three different language 151 classes to fulfill the requirement.

“There are other avenues to go,” Malella said. “It just has to be petitioned to the registrar.”

Rose Spodobalski-Brower, associate registrar, said that petitions are considered on a case-by-case basis.

“Any exception to [the language] policy requires a petition,” Spodobalski-Brower said. “Any exception to requirements in general education, major or minors has had committee and/or dean approval to make it an exception for all students.”

Many students have wasted a lot of time, money and sanity trying to get proficient in a single language but little do they know that they do not have to sign their lives to that language.

You can’t just pick a major, it has to pick you too

One of the hardest things to do for students is picking a major. Or picking another major after they decide their first one wasn’t for them.

Regardless, deciding what to get a degree in isn’t easy, especially since you also have to consider whether you’ll even be accepted into the program. At CWU, most majors have some sort of pre-requisite, from writing exams to entry classes to essays.

“If [majors] have a requirement, there’s a reason for it,” Scott Carlton, director of advising at CWU, said.

Jessie Rosenow, a junior psychology major, had previously attempted to enter the environmental studies major. However, the requirements eventually led to her switching her major.

“The classes [the environmental studies major] required did not work together in the schedule I tried to build,” Rosenow said. “It was very stressful at the time, so I decided to change my major because I knew it was only becoming a vicious cycle of stress.”

According to Carlton, pre-requisites are designed to not only make sure a student will be able to succeed in the major, but to also give students a taste of what their future major will have in store for them.
Working on campus

Money doesn’t usually buy happiness, but it certainly buys food, clothing and toiletries — all of which are pretty essential for the average college student.

For many students, a job on campus is used to help support themselves and supplement whatever funds they get from grants, loans, or (if they’re lucky) their parents.

However, whether you’re wiping tables in the SURC or working as an office assistant in a dean’s office, there are a few basic rules all student employees must follow.

One of the most important, and often overlooked, rules relates to the number of hours a student can work.

“If you’re a full-time student, you can work 19 [20] hours a week, and once your last final is over, on a break, you can work 40 hours a week,” Kathy Johnson, an HR partner who oversees student employment at CWU, said. “You have to have ‘student status,’ is what we call it.”

The number of hours a non-work study student employee can work was recently extended to 20 hours a week, according to a press release from the office of student employment.

However, if a student drops below 12 credits, which is the minimum to be considered full time, the hours you’re allowed to work drop down to 15. If you drop below six credits, you aren’t considered to have ‘student status’ and are ineligible to work.

“The less you’re going to school, the less hours you can work,” Johnson said.

According to Johnson, these policies are based upon Washington Administrative Codes for work study, and no exceptions are made.

However, students can be hired by departments on campus as temporary employees if they are unable to work as student employees.

“Sometimes students are great employees, and [the department] doesn’t want to lose you,” Johnson said. “What you can do to keep that student is turn them into a temp employee.”

Deadlines, deadlines, deadlines

Have you ever woken up and felt like you’ve forgotten something?

The life of a college student is full of endless deadlines. Deadlines for financial aid, deadlines for housing, deadlines for dropping classes. According to Brianne Kreppein, an enrollment assistant from the registrar’s office, students frequently miss deadlines when trying to drop or add classes. However, most information regarding these deadlines can be found online.

“Look at the calendar,” Kreppein said, referring to the quarterly, finals, and yearly academic calendars that can be found on the registrar’s website. Financial aid deadlines can be found on the CWU website.

Important dates include the CWU general scholarship application for the following academic year which are due on Feb. 1, and the FAFSA priority deadline which is on March 15.

“Financial aid doesn’t advertise the deadline,” Haley Curl, senior digital journalism major, said. “The scholarship application deadline in February is way earlier than what I would have expected.”

Weed might be legal in Washington, but it isn’t on campus

When marijuana was legalized in Washington in 2012, a specific portion of CWU’s population celebrated. In the years following, students 21 and older have enjoyed the freedom of legal weed, but knowingly or not, some have been doing it illegally.

According to Richard DeShields, associate dean of student living, despite marijuana being legal in Washington, CWU is required to abide by federal laws, under which marijuana is still outlawed.

The second a student steps foot on campus with any sort of a cannabis product, they’re breaking the law.

“Students think, ‘Well, I can just go off campus, and I’ll smoke off campus, or I’ll inhale off campus’ or that they’ll vape off campus and then they’ll come back on,” DeShields said. “If a student is over 21, and they’re off campus and they’re smoking marijuana, as long as they’re following all the other rules and laws that are required, there wouldn’t necessarily be a problem.”

See the following hacks online at CWUObserver.com:

- Rec. Center fees
- Credit double-dipping
- Summer Classes
Central football finally on the attack

By Ryan Kinker

While expectations were high to start the season, CWU football has gotten off to a rocky start. The Wildcats (2-2) began the season with a tough matchup against Portland State and left with a 33-26 loss. Portland State won the game 2-1 in the Football Championship Subdivision at the time.

Coach Ian Shoomaker was quoted after the game by Wildcat Sports as crediting the defense with keeping the game close, while the offense worked out their problems.

“Our defense was rock solid today and gave us time to find our groove on offense,” Shoomaker said. “Once we got things together we started to move the ball and put up points, and our [defense] stepped it up even more in the second half.” This victory gave CWU a 1-1 record heading into its first home game against Azusa Pacific, ranked No. 16 in Division II at the time. CWU lost 27-17, blowing a 17-13 lead with 10:12 left in the fourth quarter. Their 17 points against Azusa is the season low for points scored with a poor third-down conversion rate (20 of 61) suffering from defensive pressure. Shoemaker believes that it’s really anybody’s race, and expected bumps in the road.

Shoemaker said. “But I think if you look at average points across the country [points allowed] are going up in general.”

CWU gave up 13 sacks in three contests while only sacking opposing quarterbacks twice. Quarterback Justin Lane doesn’t believe that the number of times he’s been brought down is indicative of his offensive line this year.

“I’ll take credit for some of those sacks,” Lane said. “I don’t think that statistic is true to being on them. They’re doing a good job.”

This sentiment was echoed by Coach Shoomaker, who believes the entire offense is to blame for sacks.

“We have to do a better job protecting the quarterback,” Shoomaker said. “But also making better decisions at quarterback, receiver, and running back.”

The Wildcats appeared to take their next matchup against Dixie State seriously after their rough loss to Azusa, with quarterback Justin Lane calling it a “must-win.”

The Wildcats took control on both offense and defense against Dixie State on Sept. 24, taking a 27-13 lead with 5:58 left in the second quarter, eventually winning 40-10. The Trailblazers wanted to ruin the ball frequently, rushing 38 times for only 86 yards on the day (22 yards per rush). The defense finally flipped the script on the quarterback pressure, accruing seven sacks and nine tackles for losses.

CWU’s offense racked up 275 rushing yards, including the first college carry for redshirt freshman running back Hasan Childs, freshman running back Sam Richmond, and junior running back Jacob Yordy, who transferred from South Dakota School of Mines.

Quarterback Justin Lane had an efficient game throwing the ball, going nine of 14 for 215 and two touchdowns. The offensive line improved their performance against Dixie State, only giving up one sack. Coach Shoomaker was quoted after the game as liking the product the Wildcats showed on the field.

“We started out fast and kept things rolling on both sides of the ball,” Shoomaker said. “I am proud of how our team re- bounded from last week.”

Now with a 2-2 record and a dominating performance on both sides of the ball under their belt, the Wildcats look to get another victory against Simon Fraser University (4-0) in Burnaby, B.C., on Saturday. Simon Fraser has only won two GNAC games in the past two seasons, while giving up 58 points per game on defense this season.

 thirteen last year's front-runner for the starting setter position Kelly McChing no longer on the roster, three freshmen were the only outside hitters.

Instead of having one freshman be the lone setter on the court this year, Alhara said that she decided to change their formation to a 6-2 system in order to have two setters playing at the same time. The job was won by Nikki Cook and Gaby Alhara.

“Jim’s been an amazing experience for me, too,” Alhara said. “I’ve really enjoyed being[for me]because I’ve always wanted to do it,” Alhara said. “It’s definitely a lot more demanding than I thought, but I like the challenge.”

For Alhara, some of the challenges she has faced have been managing a practice schedule, workouts and balancing a class schedule.

“As a freshman, there’s a lot of pressure and I’m thinking, ‘I’ve gotta keep this up,’ Alhara said. “On the court, the transition from high school to D-II volleyball can also be an adjustment. ‘College volleyball is a lot faster, a lot stronger girls and everyone is passionate about what they’re doing,’ Alhara said. “Alhara has 254 assists for an average of 5.52 assists per set while her partner Cook has 229 assists for an average of 4.50 assists per set.

“I think [Cook] is an awesome setter,” Alhara said. “I like her as a teammate she trains hard, I respect that.”

Another freshman making a big impact is defensive specialist and libero Kyla Morgan. She leads the team with 206 digs.

“From the start of the pre-season I knew she was going to be a big help for us,” senior outside hitter Kiah Jones said. “Jones calls Morgan, “lightning quick,” a great passer and defender while having an overall knowledge of the game.

“Her ability just to play the game has really helped her feel more comfortable out on the court as a true freshman. She came in with a lot of innate type of abilities,” head coach Mario Andaya said.

The Wildcats’ strength is blocking the ball; they lead the GNAC with an average of 2.72 blocks per set.

“We feed off our block, we’re physically built that way. We can really disrupt teams and get the ball back if not block the ball,” Andaya said.

Jones believes that the advantage the blockers have is players who can jump over 10 feet.

After traveling to Reno, Nevada, for the Flyer Festi- val for the team’s first competition of the year, the Wildcats left with zero wins and four losses.

For the 0-4 start, the Wild- cats went to San Diego, Cali- fornia. Five days later, they played four teams — three from Cali- fornia and one Hawaii school, locations that have been called “hot beds” for volleyball. The Wildcats won all four games, winning 12 sets while their opponents won two.

“We definitely feel like we found what we are as a team now that we are really playing well together,” Jones said. After playing in California, the Wildcats started conference play and won the first three of four games. The Wildcats beat Concordia University 3-2, Northwest Nazarene University 3-1 and Montana State University Billings 3-0, with their only loss coming to Western Oregon University 3-2.

You saw right away from the first game, Simon Fraser beating Western Washington, that it’s really anybody’s race,” Jones said.

Andaya’s focus for CWU play is to make sure his team is a difficult opponent to handle.

With the Wildcats sitting at 7-3 overall the Wildcats are cur- rently tied for second place in the GNAC with a 3-1 record.

Wildcats GNAC Ranking

| Blocks Per Set | 1st (2.72) |
| Blocks | Hit Percentage |
|----------|----------------|----------------|
| 7th (.192) | Assists Per Set: | 5th (.11.61) |
| 12th (7.70) | Killa Per Set: | 7th (16.93) |

Sports

SPORTS

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Soccer kicks off with historical start

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In the best sports stories, it is not how you start but how you finish that defines a season. However, that doesn’t take away from CWU women’s soccer’s 5-0 start to the 2016 season. The best in school history.

After an unsatisfying 7-9-1 campaign with a new coaching staff, head Coach Michael Farrand is not surprised by the hot start of his team this year, while currently sits with a 6-2 record.

“We changed our entire coaching staff after four years of continuity,” Farrand said. “The system we run is fairly complicated, and the learning curve was pretty big. Now [the team] is more confident and comfortable in what we do.”

While the great start by the Wildcats can be attributed to great team play, with eight different players scoring goals in their five-game win streak, the play of freshman goalkeeper Emily Holt has been a huge factor.

Holt had three shutouts in the first five games, and gave up only one goal in each 2-1 victory over San Francisco State and Hawaii-Hilo during the five-game win streak. Her save percentage through eight games was 88.5 percent, and her 46 saves are tied for the highest number among goalkeepers in the GNAC.

Holt does not take all the credit for her stats, as the play of her veteran teammates has made her job much easier. From the Wildcats that have started at least five games this season, Holt is the only one who is not a junior or senior.

“All the upperclassmen have been super nice and encouraging and I’m just blessed to be here,” Holt said. “I don’t think there’s a better situation I could come into being a freshman with my spot being open and returning a whole back line that knows what they’re doing. I got placed in a real good spot.”

After starting 5-0 on the road, the Wildcats dropped two straight games at home, a 2-1 loss to UC San Diego (ranked No. 6 in Division II at the time) and a 2-0 loss to Simon Fraser. The four goals scored by their opponents were equal to the amount given up through their five wins.

The team rebounded in a 1-0 win against Seattle Pacific. Junior midfielder Mackenzie Nolte scored her second goal of the season in the game. Nolte and senior midfielder Keilin Farrand have combined for 38 percent of the team’s shot attempts, being used as the focal points of the offense.

Whitney Lowe, junior forward who has a goal and two assists this year, says that the fast start for the team, comes from the team’s view of playing one game at a time.

“We’re not really looking at [the season] as where we’re at, our stats or anything,” Lowe said. “We’re looking at [the season] as the next game and moving forward, working on each game. I think that’s something that we didn’t do as well last year. We’re stepping up and taking each game seriously.”

Coach Farrand believes that the team’s experience is what is needed to make it out of the West Region of Division II soccer as well as the GNAC. Seattle Pacific won the Division II Women’s Soccer Championship in 2008, and Western Washington made the final four in 2013 and 2015.

“The West Region is probably the toughest region in Division II soccer,” Farrand said. “Being able to survive the west region is a big accomplishment. Our conference has had two teams make the final four, one won the national championship. We’re fortunate, we play in a conference that’s tough.”

The Wildcats face Western Oregon on Thursday, MSU-Billings on Saturday, and Seattle Pacific on Tuesday, all of which will be home games. CWU currently has one victory at home this season.
Another big part of the trip was helping out the area with softball clinics in order to teach the sport to players who do not necessarily have their own resources to play the game.

“Far as men’s and women’s fastpitch [in South Africa] they have a ways to go, but I know that Sammy and Kailyn were able to put on clinics and I think that’s the way you are going to grow the game,” Larabee said. “[He likes] Being able to go into a country that’s not as quite up to par as United States and share some new ideas.”

During their off-time from softball, the pair also got to do some sightseeing while learning about South African history. They went on a big-game safari, visited Robben Island (the site of the prison that held Nelson Mandela for 18 years) and hiked up Table Mountain.

The entire experience left both players thankful for what they have back home and gave them an eye-opening experience about how people live in another culture.

“Every single person there is so thankful, if not more than we are,” Campbell said.

Campbell and Morris arrived back in the United States on July 2 following another 27-hour travel day.

“Kailyn did an outstanding job on Facebook and Twitter, so I was keeping up with her the whole time,” Larabee said. “I could tell they were having an incredible experience.”

In 2000, Larabee made the United States Men’s Softball Team when the World Championshipships were held in East London, South Africa. When Larabee was there, he experienced the same difference in culture that Campbell and Morris did.

Larabee had heard of the program a little before getting the email, and liked how these types of programs were growing the game.

Another point Larabee made about the growth of the game is softball coming back to the Olympics in 2020 after a 12-year absence.

“I think it’s a very popular sport worldwide and you still have five or six nations that are heads-and-tails above the rest,” Larabee said. “Long as the United States and other countries are going out still doing clinics and trying to grow the game, People in other nations take it seriously and they can finance it. It can be really cool. Maybe 10 years from now, there could be instead of five or six powers maybe there’s 15 or 20.”