

1-12-2017

## Observer

Central Washington University

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# CWU sets foundation for future

## Master plan details the university's next 20 years of campus development

**Maria Harr**

news@cwuobserver.com | @CWUObserver

Take a short hop into the future and the Central campus will be even fuller than it is now with buildings and – more importantly – parking opportunities.

In the near future, Central will be opening the new and remodeled Samuelson Building, renovating two existing buildings, demolishing Hertz Hall and constructing two new buildings.

Even further down the road, Central is hoping to add a whole slew of new athletics buildings, including an indoor basketball stadium that could double as a convocation center for large-scale events, such as graduation ceremonies.

Currently Samuelson is the only building under construction, but the school has plans and aspirations that reach into the future as far as 20 years.

Returning alumni are liable to see a very different campus than the one they left.

### Funding Sources

The budget for each building is unique, and not all buildings are built with state dollars.

Administrative and academic buildings are funded by the state, while housing buildings are paid for by rent and fees charged to students living on-campus. Bonds paid off by student fees fund “auxiliary”

buildings, including dining and recreation buildings, such as the SURC.

Academic and administrative buildings are mostly state funded, but if a department, such as athletics, can't get all of its funding from the state, they may seek funding elsewhere, such as from alumni donations or ticket sales.

Patrick Stanton, a financial manager at Central, calls the bonds paid for by students a “good debt.”

“A working asset that students can enjoy is good debt,” Stanton said.

Long-term maintenance costs are also factored into the fees students pay for auxiliary buildings.

Maintenance could be considered as simple as fixing a broken light or as complicated as replacing a roof.

However, money from student auxiliary fees cannot be used on remodeling or renovation, Stanton said.

The upcoming Samuelson Building used to be the former Student Union Building (SUB) until it was closed and replaced with the SURC.

The SUB had been completely paid off by students, so when it was closed, students voted to give the building to the university. This saved students the cost of having the building demolished.

- Full story on pages 6-7



McKenzie Lakey/The Observer



Jack Lambert/The Observer

Top: Construction on Samuelson started over summer break with the demolition of older sections of the building. (June 2016)  
Below: The new structure for the Samuelson renovation takes form in the same lot just seven months later. (January 2017)

## Coming soon to the SURC Theatre

**By Sarah Hoot**

scene@cwuobserver.edu | @SarahHoot3

From the studio that brought the world “Coraline” and the “Boxtrolls” comes a new stop-motion feature film, “Kubo and the Two Strings.”

Set in Ancient Japan the story follows Kubo (Art Parkinson), a young musician with one eye, as he searches for his father's Samurai armor to try and stop his grandfather, the Moon King (Ralph Fiennes), from taking his other eye.

When his mother (Charlize Theron) dies while protecting him from her evil sisters (Rooney Mara), Kubo sets off on an adventure with his former-statue-turned-real-monkey Monkey (Charlize Theron) and a small origami Samurai (who also came to life) to find the

different pieces of armor.

Along the way they meet Beetle (Matthew McConaughey), a Samurai who doesn't remember much about his past but does remember that he knew the famous Hanzo — a Samurai who is also Kubo's missing father.

The four of them journey to the “Hall of Bones” to find the “Sword Unbreakable” and the “Garden of Eyes” for the “Breastplate Impenetrable.”

As Kubo tries to obtain the “Helmet Invulnerable” he is attacked by the Moon King. Now Kubo must use his magic, along with the magic of his mother and father to defeat the Moon King, a feat that is easier said than done.

- See “Movies” page 9

## Men's B-ball shoots for top spot

**By Mitchell Johnson**

sports@cwuobserver.edu | @SportsWithMitch

After six GNAC games, the CWU men's basketball team is tied for second place in a cluttered race for the top team in the conference.

The Wildcats (4-2 GNAC, 9-3 overall) are tied with Alaska Anchorage (UAA), Montana State Billings and Western Oregon (WOU). With Western Washington sitting atop of the GNAC with a 5-1 record.

“It's difficult, you have to be ready to play against everybody,” junior center Fuquan Niles said. “[People] think because it's the Northwest... it's not tough, but there's a lot of good teams in our conference.”

The Wildcats success has come from their second in the GNAC 89.5 points per game. The UAA transfer senior guard Dom Hunter leads the CWU averaging 26 points per game.

“It's just coming to me,” Hunter said. “I let the ballgame come to me naturally.”

With Hunter's experience in the GNAC before and his success with CWU this year, teams have made adjustments.

“Dom's figured out that he's getting double, triple teamed now,” head coach Greg Sparling said. “He's giving up the ball and other guys are starting to score.”

Sophomore guard Naim Ladd also has 15.2 points per game.

- See “Ballin'” page 10



NEWS

EDITOR: KAILAN MANANDIC | news@cwuobserver.com

EVERGREEN SCENE



Derrick Clarrit/The Observer

The past few years have been a boom for legal weed as the industry topped at over \$1 billion in Washington according to the Seattle Post-Intelligence.

By Ray Payne  
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The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board reported that taxes collected from marijuana retail sales have been going up on the monthly basis.

As of Jan 4, \$148,504,445 has been collected for the past fiscal year.

According to the Sequim Gazette, reports indicate that there is also a growth in state retailers, producers and processors.

Medical marijuana sales have taken a hit in the state supposedly due to rising prices caused by the Cannabis Patient Protection Act. This act eliminated collect gardens and a large amount of medical marijuana dispensaries, leaving patients to look toward retailers for their needs.

According to the Sequim Gazette, Wendy Bentley, co-owner and business manager of Canna Organix, a local cannabis grower, manufacturer and distributor, said they have a high de-

mand for flowers and sales have definitely grown from 2015.

Tim Humiston, co-owner of Canna Organix, also said, in an interview with the Sequim Gazette, that they haven't gotten into the medical marijuana business because of the costs associated with operation.

"We already meet all the medical regulations, if we signed up for medical, we wouldn't be doing anything different," Humiston said in the interview. "It would cost us more and the final product would have an elevated price."

According to the Seattle Post-Intelligence, the revenue produced by the marijuana industry in Washington State as a whole has topped at over \$1 billion in the past few years.

There has been a recent discussion with state lawmakers over whether or not funds obtained from marijuana tax revenue should go toward K-12 education.

According to the Seattle Post-Intelligence, Governor Jay

Inslee argued that the revenue would not be nearly enough to fully pay for K-12 education and meet the needs of things such as adequate teacher pay and resources for mental health.

Sen Ann Rivers, R-La Center stated in an interview with the Seattle Post-Intelligence that she believes marijuana dollars should go into education.

"That's one idea: We put [pot revenue] into a pot and then we use it for one purpose," she said in the interview.

Another State Senator, Democrat Christine Rolfes said in an interview with the Seattle Post-Intelligence that she was interested in this proposal.

"If we need to dedicate marijuana (income) then I think we are open to that option," Rolfes said in the interview.

According to the Seattle Post-Intelligence, some of the money goes into the general fund, some of it also goes toward treatment programs and research.

The state is currently studying the long-term effects of marijuana after legalization.

The governor has suggested a different plan for funding K-12, but the legislation can still choose to act upon the marijuana plan.



Observation  
Deck

Welcome back, Wildcats. Not only are we returning to a new quarter, but we are returning to a new year filled with new opportunities—and way too much snow.

As we leave 2016 in the dust, I can only hope that we can strive to also leave behind the hatred, pain and dramatic losses (mainly of childhood heroes) that so many of us have attributed to the last year.

2016 was somewhat of a roller coaster. There were incredible highs and terrifying lows that we have endured as both a local and national community. But hey, we made it.

The year was also the end of an era. As of Jan. 10, Obama gave his final farewell as the President of the United States, and soon we will watch as the Trump administration moves into the White House.

Whether you fall on the left, right, or stand stubbornly with one foot planted on each side of the aisle, this could be a year that defines us. This could be a turning point in American history.

Or it might not.

It could just be another year, with another round of political disputes and the usual playground name-calling that American politics has devolved into.

While the actions of the president are (for the most part) out of our control, we can still determine how to react to what will come our way.

We can choose to stand together, united as a nation that refuses to allow intolerance and hatred of any kind to infiltrate our lives, or we can sit back and watch our republic crumble. That's up to you.

Politics aside, as I reflect on this past year I'd have to say some pretty great moments came from it.

The majority of my time last year revolved around the Observer (and continues to this day), and I think just about anyone in student media would say the same for their work.

Simply being able to work on this newspaper for as long as I

have and watching this editorial staff grow leaps and bounds over a single quarter has made me incredibly proud to be called the editor of this paper.

We've traveled together, spent too many hours in the newsroom together and we achieved things I never believed possible all as a team.

I've even (somewhat) enjoyed the failures that I have managed to stumble my way through while figuring out how to "lead" this staff.

I firmly believe that difficult moments tend to reveal our true self and show our character. And even through life's challenges we can learn how to react to situations in the future and learn more about ourselves and those around us in the process.

You can choose to look at this year as a new beginning, a major overhaul in all of our systems and a way to start over with a clean slate. But I also believe that you can choose to look at each day as a new beginning.

There are opportunities everywhere. You're on a campus where your fellow classmates may not only be the best networking connections you can have, but will likely become some of your closest friends.

So while a new year may signify a new beginning, it doesn't mean you have to wait another 300+ days in order to set goals for yourself.

Branch out, talk to someone new, take a course outside of your major and dive into other areas of knowledge. Immerse yourself in the opportunities and experiences available to you.

I know that this quarter may not seem like it will end soon, but trust me, graduation and/or summer break will be knocking before you know it.

But most importantly, remember that you get to choose how you impact this campus and the lives around you. Your choices will affect your future, so make them count.

Happy New Year and good luck Wildcats!

-McKenzie Lakey, EIC

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# NEWS

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## ITAM studies abroad in Central Europe

**Kailan Manandic**  
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Fresh off of the airplane in the small city of Trenčín, Slovakia, CWU students will carry out the first assignment of their study abroad trip; find the mall and come back.

The supervising professors send about 20 students out to navigate downtown Trenčín nearly every year as a part of the Information Technology and Administrative Management (ITAM) department's annual study abroad program in Central Europe.

According to ITAM online programs director Laurie Stehle, the study abroad program immerses students in Central European culture as they travel throughout Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Austria.

"It gives them a chance to gain confidence," Stehle said. "They have no idea what an international experience would be like and there's usually a lot of fear in that."

This is one of the goals of the first assignment, to bring students out of their comfort zone. ITAM professor Lori Braunstein said one of the main goals of the trip is too have students learn how to navigate in a foreign country on their own.



Courtesy of David Douglas

CWU professors guide ITAM students through numerous Central European countries such as Slovakia, Poland and Austria.

"That's the kind of thing we do," she said. "We don't take them [there], we try to give them the skills so they can do it themselves."

This year, attending students will travel from June 18 to July 12 and have opportunities to tour the Volkswagen factory in Slovakia, and potentially the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland.

The visit to Auschwitz is technically optional but the students

make it a priority of the trip, Braunstein said. Students have cut a day out of the program to take a 10-hour round trip bus ride to Auschwitz.

Applications for the trip close after Jan. 20 and, while the program is run through ITAM, the study abroad program is open to all students.

Stehle, Braunstein and ITAM lecturer David Douglas will supervise the students on this trip. Each have experience with the

area through past study abroad trips.

Some students who participated in previous programs have found jobs because of the study abroad according to Douglas.

One recently graduated student who attended the 2015 ITAM study abroad has found work in Slovakia under an AT&T branch where she toured during her trip.

"All of [these experiences]

translate into their futures as professionals," Douglas said. "Companies tell us again and again that they want someone who understands a global economy."

ITAM began hosting these study abroad trips in 2001 and have hosted about 10 trips since then. According to Braunstein they have skipped years due to a lack of applicants.

The study abroad is offered annually and gives students 10 credits which can go towards required internships. Students pay for these credits and expenses themselves, either through financial aid or out-of-pocket.

The overall costs of the trip, including airfare, tuition, room and board, amount to about \$7,000 according to Braunstein. Additionally students bring anywhere from \$500 to \$1,000 to use as spending money.

Money is the main hurdle for interested students, Braunstein said. All three supervising professors encourage students to make ends meet despite potential hurdles.

The opportunities offered are invaluable according to Douglas who spent time in Germany at 17-years-old.

"Travel now, travel while you're young, because life is going to change and you're going to get busy," Douglas said.

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CAMPUS ACTIVITIES



# Milo Yiannopoulos tours the West Coast

**Ray Payne**  
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Over the past year, college campuses across the country have seen protests against controversial speakers such as Milo Yiannopoulos.

Those who welcome these speakers may see these protests as the and the potential rejection of controversial figures as censorship or a denial of First Amendment rights.

Those who protest and oppose the presence of certain speakers on their campus see this as a way to prevent the spread of racism and hate throughout their university.

Yiannopoulos is an example of one of these speakers as he is a British journalist who has a history of speaking at campuses with heavy opposition.

He will speak at the University of Washington (UW) on Jan. 20 during his event titled “Make UW Fabulous Again.”

The event happens to also be scheduled for the same day of president-elect Donald Trump’s inauguration.

This will be part of Yiannopoulos’ “Dangerous F---t Tour,” which has made its way around the U.S. and has caused

**Milo’s controversial tour**

Milo Yiannopoulos is a British journalist and public speaker who is touring several West Coast and Mid-West universities including the University of Washington on Jan. 20.

- UC Davis - Jan. 13
- UC Santa Barbara - Jan. 17
- University of Colorado, Boulder - Jan. 25
- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs - Jan. 26



Photo by @Kmeron on Flickr for LeWeb13

controversy at other universities.

The University of Washington College Republicans (UWCR) have not released any statement about what he will be speaking about, but there is a clear opposition of his presence.

Fliers were seen on the campus of UW urging students to stop Yiannopoulos from being able to visit.

Some fliers had statements like “Cancel Milo Yiannopoulos or we will...Make racists

afraid again.”

Others were printed with the personal information of the UWCR’s president, Jessie Gamble and her father, referring to her as “The Racist in Your Class.”

Despite all of the opposition and discouragement from some community members, the UWCRs are moving along with their event.

“Make UW Fabulous Again,” already has a surplus of attendees and have released a statement outlining the order of whom they will give seats to in the event that they have extra space.

Approximately 440 people are expected to attend the event, warranting the need for security on-campus.

To handle the costs of securi-

ty, a Go Fund Me account was set up by the UWCRs with a \$7,000 goal by Jan. 9.

The community blew through their goal by raising over \$11,000.

Members of the community who donated \$100 or over were guaranteed seats, but there is still an opportunity for people to access the event if there is space.

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A photograph of a pregnant woman sitting on a concrete bench outdoors. She is wearing a dark jacket, a black beanie, and purple leggings. She is looking down at a laptop on her lap. The background shows a park-like setting with trees and a building in the distance.

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## OPINION

EDITOR: McKenzie Lakey | editor@cwuobserver.com

## Am I qualified or am I just black?



By Ray Payne

Ray.Payne@cwu.edu | @TheRayPayne

Am I actually skilled, or is my only valuable quality the fact that I'm black?

You might already be thinking to yourself, "Not another race article," but I'll stop writing about it when it stops being relevant to my life.

The issue that I'm going to tackle here is the struggle of dealing with "Impostor Syndrome."

This is where an individual feels like a fraud—or an impostor—and that they are undeserving of my accomplishments and achievements.

"That newsroom is primarily white, you should apply there because they need diversity and would probably hire you," no, I don't want that job, I'm not your "diversity hire." When I apply for a job, I apply to serve a purpose. Being there so that you can check the "inclusive" box was never the purpose.

Race and diversity are both

handled badly on both sides of the political spectrum.

The left bothers me with how they seem to want to make life so much easier for minorities, but in their effort to feel like they're on the moral high ground, they make those of us who are able to make achievements feel like we didn't earn them.

I can't explain how many times someone who is white tried explaining to me how I can "take advantage of the system," because I'm black. That's not my style. I want to earn everything, not be given a handout.

It's insulting to suggest that someone should have the bar lowered because they're a minority.

We don't all come from the same situation, but receiving jobs and awards

and being granted opportunities should remain merit-based.

It's a struggle feeling like a fraud in your field. Your accomplishments are diminished and your failures are amplified. Some people worry that one day the people around them might realize their fraud and vastly underqualified for what their doing.

Students may worry that they're not actually successful or that when they do well in classes,

it doesn't count because it was probably just handed to them.

Now here comes my criticism of the other side, when people say "Of course you got that job, they needed a woman on staff," or when a group or person uses your association to "prove" that they're not racist, sexist, homophobic, etc.

At this point, you are either erasing my qualities or using my race to your advantage.

I have also witnessed this.

I was a member of a club on campus last year, and after an event where they were accused of being racist, I was informed by one of the members that they wished I was there in order to prove they were inclusive.

I will not be the token black person. When I do choose to be apart of a group or organization that is primarily white, never assume that I'm just there for their diversity. Never assume anyone is somewhere just to fill a requirement.

The purpose of this opinion piece is to make it known that the language used by people and actions that are intended to be helpful or positive, can have negative effects on people.

I can't speak for all black people, but I can speak for myself. I don't need any favors or handouts. If you see me, know that I am working hard everyday to get somewhere. I got nothing by taking advantage of the system.



## Tweets from the streets



**Makayla** @MakaylaReigh · 22h  
I am now officially a Wildcat 🐾 #CWU

2



41



**Chandler Woolley** @ChandlerWoolley · Jan 9  
I'm so blessed and thankful to say that I've received my first #D2 offer from Central Washington University 🐾 #GoCats #CWU



1





47



**CWU Arts&Humanities** @CWUCAH · 8h  
What a gorgeous view outside of Hebel Hall, home to the CAH Dean's Office! Are you loving the snow? #cwucah #cwu #winter



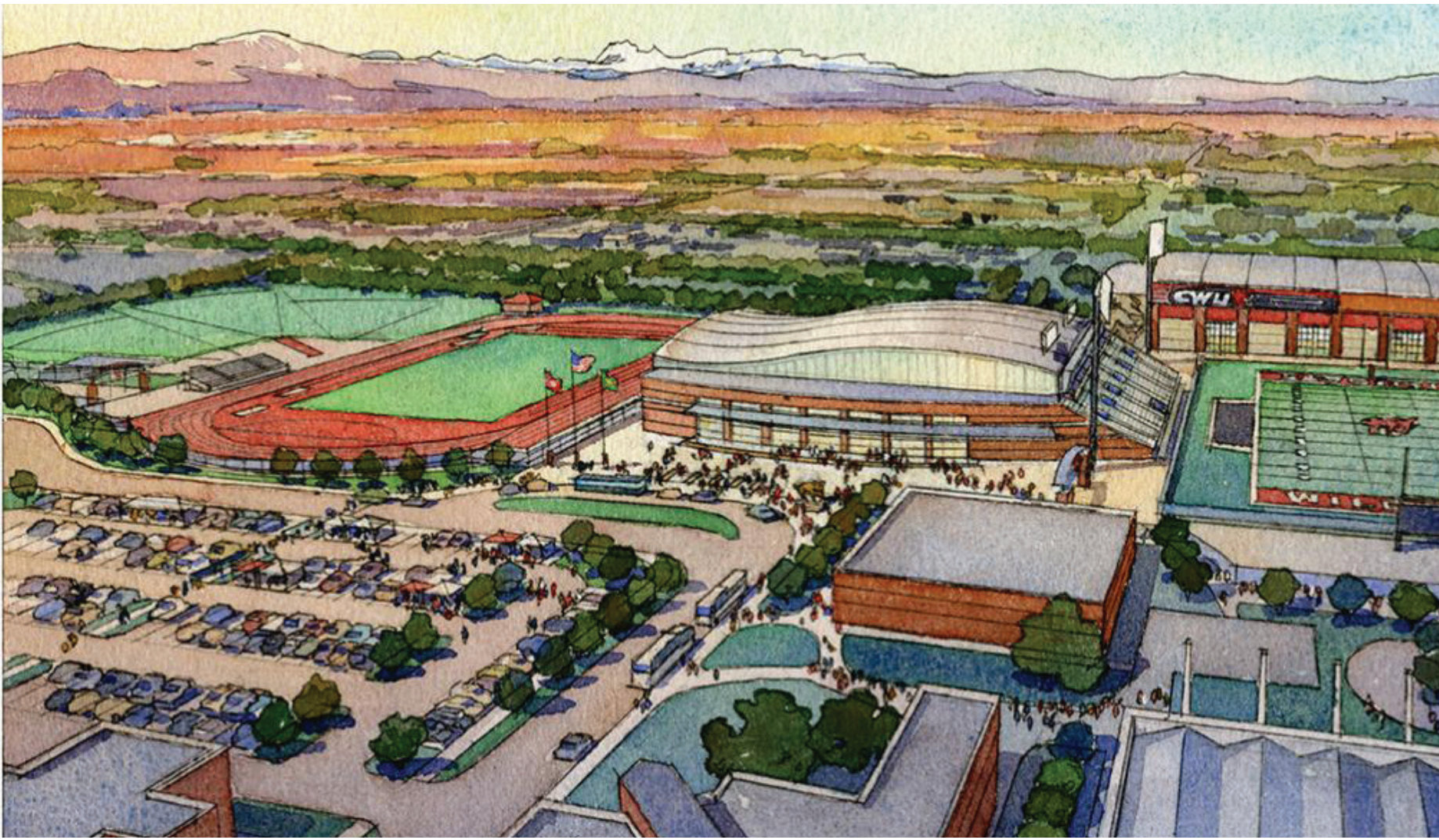
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Artist rendering of proposed campus development.

-Continued from page 1

### REVITALIZING SAMUELSON

After being closed for 10 years, Samuelson will finally hold students again.

The boarded up building, located right in the heart of campus, will be the new home of the Computer Science, Information Technology (IT) and Administrative Management (ITAM), and Mathematics departments.

Construction began May 2016 and Facilities anticipates the building will be complete and moved into by August 2018.

The original building, first opened in 1926, had several extensions built between 1928 and 1967, according to the Facilities website.

Instead of demolishing the abandoned building, Facilities decided to gut and remodel the newer portion of the building and demolish the entire south wing, said Lathan Wedin, the project's manager.

Keith Jones, construction project coordinator, called it a "good use of the facility," as keeping part of the structure intact is much more cost effective than tearing the entire thing down and building from scratch.

"It's no more a solid, big box building," Wedin said. "It's going to be a lot more inviting from the outside."

The front entrance of the building will feature a two-story, glass-walled atrium past an open courtyard flanked by wide-windowed rooms.

Samuelson will feature many new computer labs, ITAM and security labs, collaboration rooms for students, a satellite of the IT help-desk and a café, among other things, Wedin said.

Wedin said he thinks students will be particularly excited about the building's high-tech capabilities. As a whole, Wedin described the space as a hi-tech Science Technology Engineering & Math STEM building.

Despite it not being an entirely new building, Samuelson's construction still must adhere to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

LEED certification requires buildings reach at least a minimum level of environmental friendliness. University buildings need to fulfill several green criteria to receive a LEED certification, which is required by the state.

Wedin said a particularly interesting feature will be that chilled beams will help keep the building cool.

Dark, run-down and boarded up no more – the heart of campus will have students in it once again.

### OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

The next big construction project on Central's agenda is the new Health Sciences building, which can't go up until Hertz Hall comes down.

Health Sciences will be the new home of the Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Health Sciences, moving from its current residence in Purser Hall.

The new building will sit in half in the footprint of Hertz Hall, once the building is demolished.

The design phase of Health Sciences has already been funded in the 2015-2017 biennium and Facilities is hoping to have the building in use by Fall 2020.

The date for Hertz's demo is unclear, considering there's nowhere to transfer the current inhabitants of Hertz.

"It's all a domino thing," said Sara Swager, dean of Student Success. When Samuelson opens, they'll move out of other buildings, and so on and so forth until there's room somewhere for Hertz's current occupants to be moved to.

Swager said Hertz was "not great," noting that no one is putting up any sort of fuss that it's coming down.

### FUTURE PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS

Beyond Samuelson and Health Sciences, other long awaited changes to campus stretch far into the future.

The biggest of these unset plans are for Farrell Hall and an Arts Education Center building. Beyond even those are aspirations for a new athletics complex and a slew of new recreation facilities.

William Yarwood, executive director of Capital Planning and Projects, said that the university is focusing on expanding the "Science Neighborhood,"

so the Farrell Hall renovation.

Along with the renovation of Farrell Hall that Yarwood said is the size of the building.

The pre-design portion of the condition is being self-funded to speed up the building process.

As far as the Arts Education Center more than the location of the building for. The new building will be in Building, in what is currently being used by Wedin there are no other features of the building.

Funds for the pre-design of the Center were requested in the 2015-2017 biennium. Design is anticipated for summer/fall of 2017 and construction beginning in summer/fall of 2018, according to the Facilities website.

Plans are also in the works for a new facility, known as "Old Hertz Hall," the southernmost portion of campus on University Way. The old health sciences building functions as a storage area and will be made into a new university building. It would also be home to the new Health Sciences building.

Pre-design requests are being submitted for the 2019 biennium.

Far off in the unforeseen future are aspirations that one day Central will have a new

2015

Health sciences building design phase funded





possible plans to the Nicholson facilities.

on is next in line for action. on would be an addition to said would almost double of the renovation and ad- l by the university in order process, he said. ation Center goes, nothing of the building is planned ould sit next to the Music ntly a grassy lawn. Accord- o plans for the appearance g at. gn of the Arts Education n the current, 2015-2017, icipated to begin in sum- nstruction is anticipated to 2019, according to the Fa- works for the old heating Heat,” which is located in of campus south of Uni- ting plant, which current- and archive facility, would ersity welcome center and e Brewing Program. e scheduled for the 2017- eable future, there are as- entral may be able to offer

New Building Process

Going from a need to a completed building can be a long process that takes years to complete.

step ONE

**Capital Requests**  
The Biennium Call for Capital surveys departments and colleges on what they need

step TWO

**The Committee**  
Requests go through the Enterprise Facilities Committee and Board of Trustees before going to the state

step THREE

**Pre-Design**  
Analysis data to come up with the best options for the new building, then goes to the state for approval and design funding

step FOUR

**Design**  
The team at Facilities Management actually begins designing the building. Once the design is complete it and a price estimate return to the state for approval and funding

step FIVE

**Construction**  
The design is posted online for construction companies to bid on. Lowest bid wins and construction can begin

graduates a place where they could throw their caps in the air without worrying that Ellensburg’s wind would carry them off.

An indoor basketball court that would double as a convocation center is just one of the many features of the aspirational athletics complex.

At this time no requests have been made by the athletics department for this new complex, but it remains on the map of aspirational additions to campus nonetheless, and with good reason, according to Swager.

“Right now our [athletics] facilities aren’t putting us in a competitive position,” Swager said.

She noted that currently there is a space conflict between athletics and recreation that is not good for either group.

Swager also said that the exercise science department and athletics having to share the Nicholson facilities is “not optimal.”

Despite the need, Swager thinks it unlikely to be funded by the state. Wedin and Yarwood seem to agree, noting that the state has been focusing much more on STEM-centered funding.

If the complex ever were to come off of the “aspirations” list and onto the campus master plan, it would include an indoor basketball stadium, areas for discus, javelin and shot-put, new track and field facilities as well as ample parking around the complex.

**THE PARKING PROBLEM**

It’s a widely known fact that students aren’t happy with the parking on campus.

Last May, the Observer ran a survey on Twitter asking students how they felt about parking. Out of 38 participants, 80% said parking was a “dark pit of despair.”

Despite that, there are spots on campus. They just aren’t where students need them to be.

In the same Observer article, Eric Twaites, head of parking services, also said it was a matter of convenience, noting that while south campus lots fill up, there are vacant spots in north campus.

An analysis of parking performed in 2013 by the Transpo Group does show that there are two general parking lots next to Tomlinson stadium that are under 25 percent full at 10 a.m.

However, these spots are furthest from the central-campus neighborhood, where the high density of buildings, as well as the SURC, draw the most students. It can take more than 15-20 minutes to walk from north campus to lower campus.

“Parking is tight,” Swager said, “It’s a convenience thing.”

It’s not just students that are inconvenienced by a lack of parking, though. Faculty and staff also have to contend with a lack of parking in high traffic areas, often having to park outside of “staff only” parking, because those lots are already full.

In order to add Science Phase II to the busy heart of campus, it was built over the old J-8 lot, which had 107 stalls and was over 90 percent full in the morning and afternoon, according to the Transpo Group analysis.

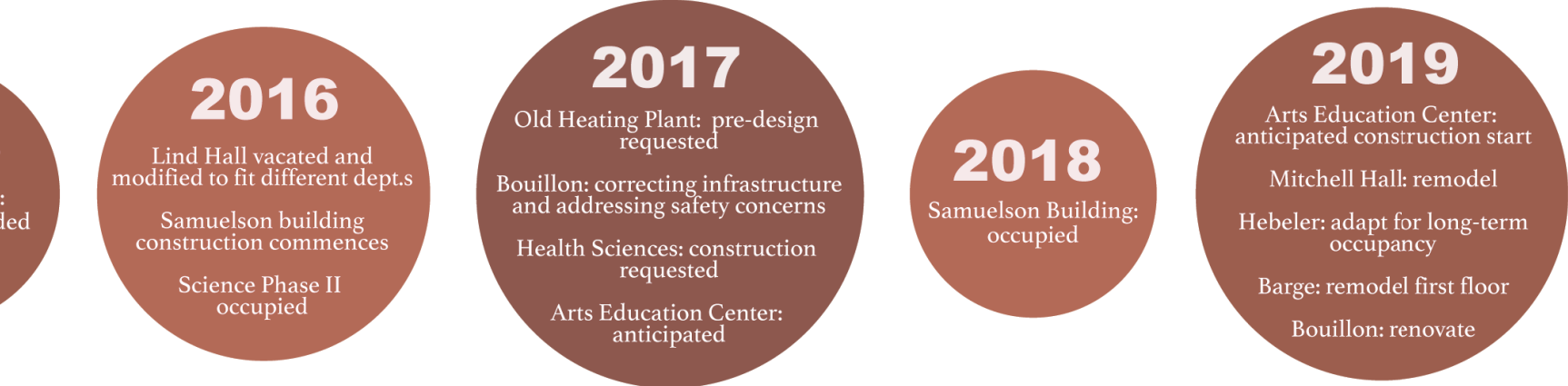
Over the summer, a new lot with 93 spaces was constructed at the corner of University Way and Wildcat Way, on land Central purchased back in 2010 for \$1.03 million, according to the Daily Record. The parking lot at Brooks Library was also boosted to 222 spaces from 97.

Facilities’ interactive map shows many more possible parking locations; either for entirely new lots or by updating older lots to fit more spaces.

The two new parking lots constructed over summer are essentially attached to the building of Science Phase II, Wedin said, because the state doesn’t pay for parking lot construction unless it is attached to a large building project.

The rest of the parking lots and their maintenance are funded through parking passes, Wedin said.

Students want more parking lots, but Wedin asks of whether they are willing to pay for them?





## Scene

EDITOR: Sarah Hoot | scene@cwuobserver.com



Photo courtesy of Alchetrone

Regie Cabico uses his background in theatre to help boost his performance and connect to the audience on a deeper level.

## The one-man show stopper

Spoken word poet Regie Cabico will perform his art here at CWU

By Lindsey Powers

powersli@cwu.edu

By speaking freely on stage about the type of men that find him attractive, and the struggles of being “the perfect combination of boy and man,” spoken word poet Regie Cabico, who will perform Jan. 31, creates his own unique performance style.

Cabico perfected his craft by going to open mic nights all over New York City and began winning large scale competitions, such as “The Nuyorican Poets Cafe Grand Slam,” all of which in turn led to his long-term career in the field.

Xavier Cavazos, CWU professor of English and Africana and Black Studies, is one of the faculty members who helped bring Cabico from the “Big Apple” to Ellensburg. Cavazos says he’s excited to see Cabico perform because “not only is he a slice of the Big Apple NYC, he is also a slice of the world, a slice of sexual possibilities and discoveries.”

As an openly gay man, Regie Cabico has shed light on subjects previously considered inappropriate to discuss in such an open and casual manner.

“Mr. Cabico brings an awareness of identity that is rooted in celebrating one’s own beauty and validating one’s own struggle, pathways and migration,” Cavazos said.

After graduating from New York University’s (NYU) Tisch School of the Arts with a Bachelor’s of Fine Arts, Cabico found himself growing into his gay identity and navigating through

it using spoken word.

“To me, slam poetry is a Broadway showstopper. It is YOUR Broadway showstopper—it is your three-minute play,” Cabico explained.

It was with that attitude and his background in theatre that he took the poetry world by storm and built up his skills in the spoken word craft.

“I was one of the first slam poets to really memorize my work,” Cabico said. “I treated it just like an actor would memorize his work.”

Cabico came into slam poetry when he was in a position in life in which he did not know if he was ever going to have a career in theatre arts.

“I was at the bottom of what I was going to do with my life,” elaborated Cabico.

With slam, performers speak and get scored, and the judges give their opinions. This gave Cabico input he could use to help benefit his artistry. “I knew how to perform,” Cabico

said. “But I didn’t know if what I was writing were good poems or not.”

According to Cabico, he approaches his work with an incredible sense of realism. His views on poetry are simple—that it has to mean something and that it does not require the use of “pretty language.”

Cabico believes that his work should be less centered around strict word craft, but instead focus more heavily on if he is able to connect and push the line with his audiences. He does this by identifying what he wants to illustrate to listeners.

### Performance Info

**When:** Jan. 31, 7 p.m.

**Where:** SURC Ballroom

**Price:** Free

“Where is the line and how do we all connect?” Cabico asked.

It is important for him to think over before a performance, and he believes not many other poets think that way. Cabico wants to deliver a quality product that pushes the envelope for people listening, without crossing the line and making people feel uncomfortable or alienated.

“As a poet, why do I care? With poetry slam, you have three minutes to say something—what do you want to say?” Cabico asked.

Cabico says his ultimate goal is to remain true to himself and illustrate his own values and opinions in such a way that his listeners can relate.

He continues to explain how everyone has their own interpretation of the definition of poetry, but for him, it is “strong emotion, plus images.” Within this definition, he fills the voids in his listeners’ minds with incredible descriptions and details, while wrapping them with a much deeper overlying theme.

Cabico connects with his listeners on a number of notes, but part of his lasting success has been his method of combining humor and sadness together.

“Sometimes I’ll go flamboyant, in terms of my clothes,” Cabico said. “But I won’t go too far. I like to push it a little.”



## OBSERVER HEALTH

## Ask Dr. H

Dear Dr. H,

*My boyfriend and I have been experimenting with fingering instead of having sex. I want to make sure we are being safe and I am not at risk for anything. Am I?*

Dear Student,

Mutual masturbation is a great, low-risk, sexual activity to explore with your partner. So often, young people – or people at any age, really – start to engage in sexual activity and don’t know how to communicate what brings them pleasure.

This is a good way to for you and your partner to get to know what you both like. And different than using his penis as the exclusive method to bring you pleasure, your boyfriend is likely better to stimulate your clitoris, often overlooked with exclusive penis-and-vagina sex.

The fact that you cannot get pregnant from mutual masturbation just makes it that much better, right?

Believe me, I scoured the internet for some story about someone getting pregnant from their boyfriend fingering them. And alas, I didn’t find one.

As for risk for STIs, mutual masturbation is relatively low-risk. However, if fluids are exchanged – from someone’s hand to another’s genitals – there is some risk for acquiring an STI... If, and only if, someone in the pair has an STI. The best way to know your STI risk for sure is to talk to your partner about their testing and STI history. If you or your partner has never been tested, I encourage you do so. You say you’re experimenting with this instead of having sex, but if sex is looming in your future, it’s best to get tested prior to that.

If you’re engaging in oral sex, there is risk for contracting an STI that way.... Again, if, and only if, one of you has an STI. So, talk to your partner about getting tested. That way, you will know for sure that whatever sex you’re engaging is in risk-free.

I’m psyched that you’re experimenting with your boyfriend and that you’re concerned about your risk – that is a major step in your path to sexual health. Visit the good people at CWU Student Medical and Counseling Clinic or Ellensburg Planned Parenthood for STI testing, contraception and a medical provider who can thoroughly review STI prevention.

*How does weed affect sex?*

Dear Student,

Great question! So often we talk about the effects of alcohol on sex but pot often gets neglected in the discussion of “sex under the influence.” Many people report an increase in sexual interest after smoking/eating pot, as well as an increase in sensitivity.

Basically, users want sex more and enjoy it more. Of course, people have been found to report the same when drinking alcohol—and it makes sense.

We’re somewhat inhibited when it comes to sex, so if drugs or alcohol lowers your inhibition and relaxes you, you might enjoy sex more than if you were feeling awkward and tense.

But the dose—response relationship is worth noting: just like alcohol, if you’re super stoned, your sexual experience will be negatively impacted and decision-making can be altered.

People may have sex with people they wouldn’t if they were sober and they may not use condoms.

Research also shows that smoking pot can lower men’s sperm count and reduce a woman’s natural lubrication system, the latter of which can certainly negatively impact their sexual experience.

If you’re a male user who would like to get someone pregnant one day, keeping pot use to a minimum appears to support fertility.

If you’re in an otherwise safe and healthy sexual relationship, I think moderate and occasional pot use can be a safe and healthy aspect of that.

So while pot can enhance your sexual experience, just bear in mind it does not come risk free.

**Dr. Jill Hoxmeier is a public health professor at CWU. Send anonymous public health and sex related questions to askdrh@cwuobserver.com and have them answered here.**



Scene

EDITOR: Sarah Hoot | scene@cwuobserver.com

# CWU kicks off Monday Movie Madness

“Movies” from page 01

“Moana”

With all of the snow falling here in Ellensburg it may be a good thing that CWU’s Campus Activities Staff are showing Disney’s new hit movie “Moana,” a movie that takes place around the sunny Polynesian islands.

This 2016 film focuses on a young Polynesian girl named Moana (Auli’i Cravalho) and her quest to help save the world from darkness.

Years after being chosen by the sea to be the next bearer of the Heart of Te Fiti (a goddess who created life and the islands), Moana finds out that her island’s resources are running out fast.

She asks her father, Chief Tui (Temeura Morrison) if she can leave to find more fish but he denies her request. Gramma Tala (Rachel House), Moana’s grandmother, tells her that this is because of the lava demon Te Kā, who creates a darkness that makes the ships disappear.

However, in true Disney fashion the head-strong girl goes out anyway to try and find the demi-god Maui (Dwayne Johnson) — who stole the heart and released the demon in the first place.

Moana eventually manages to find Maui but returning the Heart to Te Fiti is no easy task. The team (made up of one hu-

man, a demi-god, a pig and a chicken) encounter pirates, a giant coconut crab and finally the lava demon Te Kā.

Moana must discover her purpose in order to figure out how to defeat Te Kā and restore her island.

“Dr. Strange”

Marvel’s latest creation “Dr. Strange,” ventures away from its main heroes to feature a different comic book legend, Dr. Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch).

Once a gifted neurosurgeon, Dr. Strange loses the use of his hands in an accident and tries everything to get them to work again but to no avail.

After meeting Jonathan Pangborn (Benjamin Bratt), a man who was able to walk again after being a paraplegic, he learns that the cure for his hands may be in a place called Kamar-Taj. There he meets Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a sorcerer who teaches Strange about the mystical arts and the powers that protect the Earth.

He must use these newly gained powers to stop Kaecilius (Mads Mikkelsen) from releasing Dormammu from the Dark Dimension. To do that he may have to go against the wishes of his teacher and against the very fabric of nature.

“Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them”

Return to the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, with Warner Brothers and J.K. Rowlings’ new movie “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them.”

This film takes place in New York City in the Roaring ‘20s when Magizoologist Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) arrives on a trip to Arizona.

However, the trip gets a little delayed when he is distracted by No-Maj (the American equivalent of a Muggle) Mary Lou Barebone (Samantha Morton) —the head of the New Salem Philanthropic Society—he accidentally switches briefcases with No-Maj Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler).

Unfortunately for Scamander, his briefcase was full of magical creatures. When Jacob opens the case, several of the creatures escape.

Scamander, who was already in trouble with the Magical Congress of the United States, now has his hands full with trying to wrangle the creatures before they can expose the magical world.

For the rest of the movies being shown this quarter check out cwuobserver.com

\*Major plot points provided by the movies’ Wikipedia pages



Photo courtesy of Laika Entertainment, LLC.



Photo courtesy of Disney

Monday Movie Madness Schedule

Title: “Kubo and the Two Strings”	Rating: 7.7/10 stars*
When: Jan. 23, 7 & 9:30	Title: “Edge of Seventeen”
Rating: 8/10 stars*	When: Feb. 27, 7 & 9:30
	Rating: 7.9/10 stars*
Title: “Moana”	Title: “Passengers”
When: Jan. 30, 7 & 9:30	When: March 6, 7 & 9:30
Rating: 8/10 stars*	Rating: 7.1/10 stars*
Title: “Dr. Strange”	Title: “Sing”
When: Feb. 6, 7 & 9:30	When: March 13, 7 & 9:30
Rating: 7.9/10 stars*	Rating: 7.3/10 stars*
Title: “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them”	* Ratings provided by IMDB.com
When: Feb. 13, 7 & 9:30	

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SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

# CWU heads to Alaska for roadtrip

By Mitchell Johnson  
Mitchell.Johnson@cwu.edu | @SportsWithMitch

Alaska is called the “Last Frontier” for many reasons. The distance away from the lower 48 states, extreme cold and rugged landscape make visiting Alaska one of the most difficult places to travel.

Over the weekend the CWU women’s basketball team will make their yearly trip to Alaska Anchorage and Fairbanks.

When CWU (1-5 GNAC, 6-8 overall) plays Alaska Anchorage on Thursday Jan. 12, the high will be eight degrees before wind chill.

The weather won’t be the only problem for CWU as they face the seventh ranked Alaska Anchorage on Thursday.

“It’s always harder play away from home, but we’re ready for it, we prepare for it [and] we do it all the time,” junior Forward Taylor Baird said.

The Wildcats will have to stop the best defense in the country where the Seawolves average 51 points allowed per game.

Scoring has been an issue for CWU where they are second to last in the GNAC averaging 61.8 points per game.

“We’re getting the shots we want, we’re just not knocking them down right now,” Baird said. “Once we are consistently hitting the shots our offenses are opening up for us our scoring will change tremendously.”

Baird, the transfer from Southern Utah has led the offense. She averages nearly a double-double with 13.4 points per game and 8.9 rebounds per game.

“I’m doing the best I can, I’m trying to get the most out of myself as possibly I can, to scrape by and get some wins. I’m happy with it, but there’s definitely more that I could be doing.”

Teams have started zeroing in on post players like Baird



Courtesy of CWU Athletics

Led by junior guard Jasmin Edwards (pictured) and junior forward Taylor Baird CWU looks to upset seventh ranked in the NCAA D-II Alaska Anchorage.

though.

“Right now we’re relying a lot on our post players,” head coach Jeff Harada said. “Taylor Baird is our leading scorer and teams know when she gets [the ball] she’s tough to stop, so they send a double-team at her. Forces us to make shots from the perimeter.”

CWU will also have to deal with Alaska Anchorage’s full-court pressing the entire game.

Something the Wildcats have been working on in practice all week.

“It’s like a game on steroids,” junior Guard Jasmin Edwards said.

The Seawolves high pressure offense has led them to 17.2

steals a game, six more than the next closest team.

“They try to get you uncomfortable, they try to get you to speed up to play a little chaotic,” Harada said. “They hope if they don’t get steals per se, they want you to make their own mistakes and turn the ball over. Ultimately if they don’t get a turnover they want you to take a quick shot, move the ball around in their press and think you have an open shot, when you are actually shooting a deep three with 15- seconds still on the shot clock.”

Alaska Anchorage’s seventh ranked offense is led by senior Forward Autumnn Williams

with an average of 17.9 points per game.

“She’s tough, she’s really athletic,” Harada said. She “gets to the rim, good pull-up shooter. We’re going to have a focused effort on her.”

Saturday, CWU travels to Alaska Fairbanks (2-4 GNAC, 6-7 overall) where the high will be -18 degrees.

Three players are averaging double-figures for the Nooks in senior forwards Jordan Wilson, Kaillee Skjold and senior guard Jaylee Mays.

“I’m excited to just get out there and play through the adversity of traveling all the way out there and being in the negative degree weather,” Baird said.

## ‘Cats vs. Seawolves

**Team:** Alaska Anchorage

**Ranking:** #8 in NCAA D-II

**Where:** Anchorage, Alaska

**Place:** Alaska Airlines Center

**Time:** 8 p.m.

**Stream:** Wildcatsports.com

## “Ballin’” from page 1

Sparling said that Hunter and Ladd get the most attention by opposing defenses.

Junior guard Jawan Stepney is the final Wildcat in double-figures scoring-wise with 11.7 points per game.

Sparling said they have the depth for any player to have a big scoring night.

“We know how to put it in the basket ... Naim Ladd, Fuquan Niles and Juwan Stepney, those guys can light it up in any given night ... It’s amazing to have a team like this score that many points,” Hunter said.

Running a high intensity offense leads to many chances on the other end for their opponent.

CWU is second worst in scoring defense, averaging 84.1 points per game.

“If you put up that many points on the board you’ll give up some easy ones, we’re a fast paced team,” Sparling said.

Hunter said that their biggest defensive adjustments are ball pressure and help defense.

“Our help defense is key,” Hunter said. “We’ll get beat off the ball and there’s no help. I feel like in college basketball, that’s key.”

Niles leads the CWU interior averaging six rebounds per game and 3.3 blocks per game. For the 6-foot-11 “big guy” he takes the lead on defense.

“It starts with me, I like to reinforce inside,” Niles said.

The Wildcats two GNAC losses have come from other 4-2 teams with a 98-92 loss to UAA and 98-77 defeat to WOU.

CWU is currently on a three game winning streak with two straight home games against Seattle Pacific (3-3 GNAC, 7-7 overall) and Saint Martin’s (3-3 GNAC, 3-3 overall).



Jack Lambert/The Observer

Scoring the basketball has not been an issue for the Wildcats averaging 89.5 points per game during their 9-3 overall start.



## SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

## CWU soccer continues to grow

By Ryan Kinker

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Since the creation of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference in 2001, women's soccer has been controlled by CWU's rivals, Seattle Pacific University (SPU) and Western Washington University (WWU). Both schools have won a Division II National Championship in the last decade (2008 for SPU and 2016 for WWU) and have been the only two teams in the conference to win over 100 conference matches.

This season, CWU women's soccer bucked the trend by placing second in the conference with a 14-6-1 record, which tied the school record for wins in a season. The team also made the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time in school history.

[Playing in the tournament] "was so cool," said senior midfielder Keilin Farrand, daughter of head coach Michael Farrand. "Especially since we missed it last year by one game."

Despite playing in a conference with a clear hierarchy, Michael Farrand has stuck with the team through rough seasons. After posting a 12-6-1 record in 2000, at the time tying the school record for wins in a season, the Wildcats did not post a winning season until 2008. From 2001 to 2007, the Wildcats went 39-91-11, averaging less than six

victories per season.

"I've seen the whole progress of a who we were as a program in 2000 to who we are in 2017," Michael Farrand said. "The journey through Division II regional play is just brutal."

Since 2008, the team has gone 77-73-18 and has placed fourth or better in the conference six times.

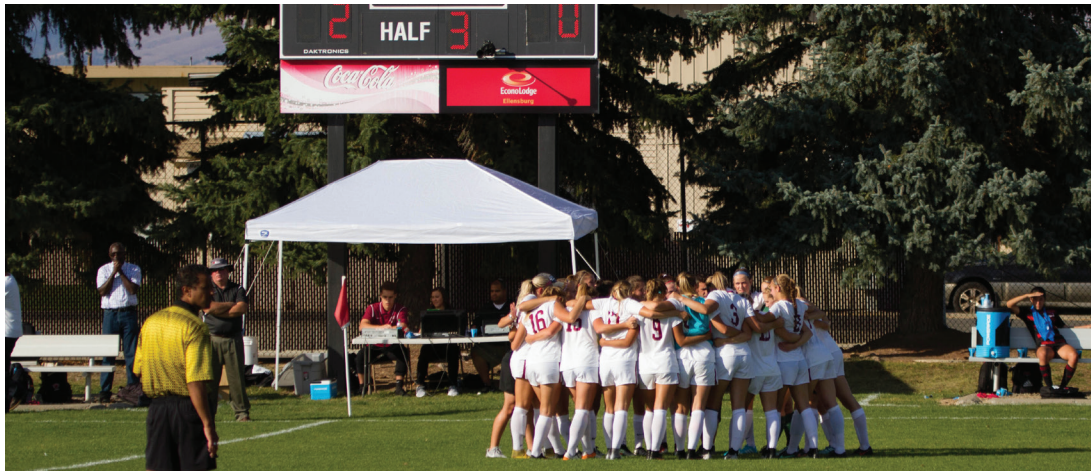
"We couldn't do what we do without him," junior midfielder Mackenzie Nolte said. "It's been cool to be part of something that's growing into something we can see how we're making an impact. He doesn't get the credit he deserves... because the outcomes don't show what goes on."

Nolte, who is among the 71 student-athletes honored on an all-conference team during Farrand's tenure, is also among the 100 student-athletes who have made the academic all-conference team since 2001, with a 3.61 GPA as a psychology major.

"Basically everyone strives to get good grades and you don't want to be the one that's not," Nolte said. "You also want to succeed. You really have to stay on top of everything so it's tough but doable."

Farrand credits the Athletic Department and its support for leading to academic success.

"With Mal Stewman at the Academic Success Center, the foundation our athletes get as



Jack Lambert/The Observer

Head coach Michael Farrand has overseen the transition from NAIA to D-II where he has turned CWU into a constant threat.

freshman, nobody does it better than us," Michael Farrand said. "Our girls are motivated, they want to be successful in the classroom and they know a lot of them will be doing post-bac work and their grades matter now."

Senior midfielder Keilin Farrand and her older sister, former CWU forward Hadli Farrand, have both made all-conference and academic all-conference while playing under their father, including making first-team all-conference as seniors.

"There's been kind of pressure being the coach's daughter and a lot of pressure on him to stay impartial," Keilin Farrand said. "It's been great learning from him, all my life. Any success I had is probably because of

him and the team and the culture he has made."

The Wildcats will lose many seniors, including all-conference defenders Allie Bohnett and Jessica Haga, midfielder Reilly Retz and Farrand's daughter Keilin Farrand, but the coach expects many of the younger players to step up next season.

"I tease this group a little bit about starting 11 of the same core of girls as last year," Michael Farrand said. "Probably the biggest key in this year's turnaround has been the depth of our roster. We played 18 field players all year, and that allowed us to rest most of our key girls and take some mileage off their legs. In years past, when we got to postseason we were playing with 13 or 14 girls. We're not

built that way anymore, we have a great deep roster of girls, a lot of underclassmen who contributed to us this last year."

Coach Farrand believes that the level of success that CWU women's soccer has attained is still only the launching pad for future success.

"It was a super year," Farrand said. "The hard part is getting here, that's the hardest part. That battle has now been won, so now the hardest part is 'can we stay here'. Hopefully we're not one and done and this group can stay here and does even better and we get to Western and we beat them twice and then we're on our way to regionals and nationals. We're excited and we're honored and grateful for the university and our support."

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SPORTS

EDITOR: MITCHELL JOHNSON | sports@cwuobserver.com

Who should win the NFL MVP?

Matt Ryan, Quarterback, Atlanta Falcons, 11-5 record

By Ryan Kinker  
Ryan.Kinker@cwu.edu | @RKinker94

In recent years, the NFL MVP race has had a clear-cut winner, such as Peyton Manning’s 55-touchdown 2013 campaign or Adrian Peterson’s 2,097 rushing yards in the 2012 season. I believe this trend continues this year, as Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan win should the 2016 MVP award by a landslide.

In Kyle Shanahan’s second year as the Atlanta Falcons’ offensive coordinator, Ryan threw for a career-high 4,944 yards (second in the NFL), career-high 38 touchdowns (second in the NFL), career-high 9.26 yards per passing attempt (first in the NFL) and career-high 117.1 QB rating (first in the NFL) while also completing a career-high 69.9 percent of his passes (third in the NFL) and throwing for a career-low 7 interceptions. He hit an astounding 13 different receivers for touchdowns in 2016.

Ryan led to Falcons to a 11-5 record and the #2 seed in the NFC, and his elevated play is one of the biggest reasons for the team’s ability to stay relevant. Ryan has thrown for over 200 passing yards in every regular season game since November 10, 2013 (a total of 55 games), while the Falcons offense scored 540 points, easily the highest total in the league this year, as well tied for the seventh-highest total in NFL history.

The biggest arguments against have been New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (who missed 4 games due to a



Courtesy of Flickr

suspension), Oakland Raiders quarterback Derek Carr (who missed a game due to a broken leg), Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (whose best season was in 2011), and the Dallas Cowboys’ rookie sensations, quarterback Dak Prescott and running back Ezekiel Elliott.

While Brady set the record for best touchdown to interception ratio in NFL history while leading New England to the best record in the league, he only played in 12 games and the team went 3-1 without him. Their defense was third against

the run and were number 12 against the pass, and Brady’s stats don’t touch Ryan’s in terms of QB rating, touchdowns and passing yards, and completion percentage even when projected across a full 16-game season.

Derek Carr, while leading the Oakland Raiders to the playoffs for the first time since 2002, did not statistically perform at the level of quarterbacks like Drew Brees of the New Orleans Saints, Aaron Rodgers, and Matt Ryan. Carr was 15th in the NFL in completion percentage (63.8), 14th in passing yards (3,937) and tied for sev-

enth in passing touchdowns (28). While his quarterback play was the best Oakland has had since Rich Gannon, he simply did not perform at the level Ryan did.

While Aaron Rodgers paced the league in passing touchdowns (40), he was ninth in completion percentage (65.7), fourth in passing yards (4,428) and 14th in yards per passing attempt (7.26). There were games that Rodgers simply didn’t show up in this year, much like Drew Brees despite elite stats. Ryan was more consistent and had career numbers that Rodgers hasn’t touched in years.

Derek Carr, Quarterback, Oakland Raiders, 12-4 record

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During week 16 of the NFL, Derek Carr was laying down on the field yelling, “It’s broke, it’s broke.”

After the game, it was revealed that he had broken his leg.

In the final game of the season, the Raiders scored six points in a 24-6 loss to the Denver Broncos, a team already eliminated from playoff contention.

The next week in the Raiders first playoff game in 15 years ,they lost 27-14 in another day, where the offense could not do much.

Carr’s impact this season did more than just break a playoff-less streak. He changed aculture that has not even had a winning season since its last playoff appearance in 2002.

The Most Valuable Player (MVP) award can be translated in many different ways. In my eyes the MVP award should be given to the player who would be missed the most by their



Courtesy of Bleacher Report

team.

Carr lead the Raiders to a 12-4 record, completing 63.8 percent of his passes for 3,937 yards and averaging 7.03 yards per passing attempt. Turn-over-wise, Carr cut his interception count in half with his first two seasons of 12 and 13 inter-

ceptions, while this season he only had six.

The most key stat that stands out for Carr is seven game-winning drives.

Carr did not rely on a good defense like many of the elite NFL teams. Oakland ranked tenth in the NFL in most points allowed.

The only player who could be argued as a player that their team could-not live without, would be Green Bay Packers’ quarterback Aaron Rodgers. Rodgers struggled this season going 4-6 during their first 10 games, but predicted Green Bay would run the table and that is exactly what they did finishing

While Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott of the Cowboys both performed extraordinarily, Prescott was not asked to do much and only passed for 3,667 yards and 23 touchdowns even though he was fourth in completion percentage (67.8) and threw the second-fewest interceptions among quarterbacks who started more than 75 percent of the season (4). Despite going 13-3 as the starter, Prescott had a ton of support from his stellar offensive line and running back.

Elliott posted incredible stats (1,631 yards, 5.1 average per carry, 15 rushing touchdowns), but he didn’t lead the league in rushing touchdowns, average per carry, and he fumbled five times. He also has the best offensive line in the league blocking for him in an offense that allowed Darren McFadden to rush for over 1,000 yards last season. In addition to this, the last four non-quarterbacks to win the MVP were Adrian Peterson (who rushed for over 2,000 yards in 2012), Shaun Alexander (who broke the rushing touchdowns record while rushing for 1,880 yards) LaDainian Tomlinson (who broke the rushing touchdowns record the year after Alexander while rushing for 1,815 yards) and Marshall Faulk who had 2,189 total yards and 26 total touchdowns in 2000. Elliott’s number simply don’t touch those.

With all that being said, Matt Ryan should win the race pretty significantly. The Falcons offense was one of the best all time in 2016, and Ryan was the single biggest reason for it.

10-6 and winning their NFC Wildcard game last weekend.

The New England Patriots proved during MVP candidate quarterback Tom Brady’s four-game suspension they could win without Brady by winning with not just a backup quarterback but also a third-string quarterback.

Dallas Cowboy MVP candidates Quarterback Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott have the best offensive line in the game making their quarterback-running back combination look better than it is.

Pittsburgh Steelers, running back, Le’Veon Bell is probably the best running back in the NFL this season, putting up league-high stats while missing three games from a suspension. Pittsburgh also has a great quarterback in Ben Roethlisberger and the best wide receiver in the game in Antonio Brown.

Carr is not going to win the NFL MVP and has not really been thought of as a top candidate but no team has missed a player from an injury or suspension more than Carr.