

Inside Myanmar: A Student's Journey ~
See story 6 & 7



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Looking into campus on an early spring day.

Photo by Scott Thompson.

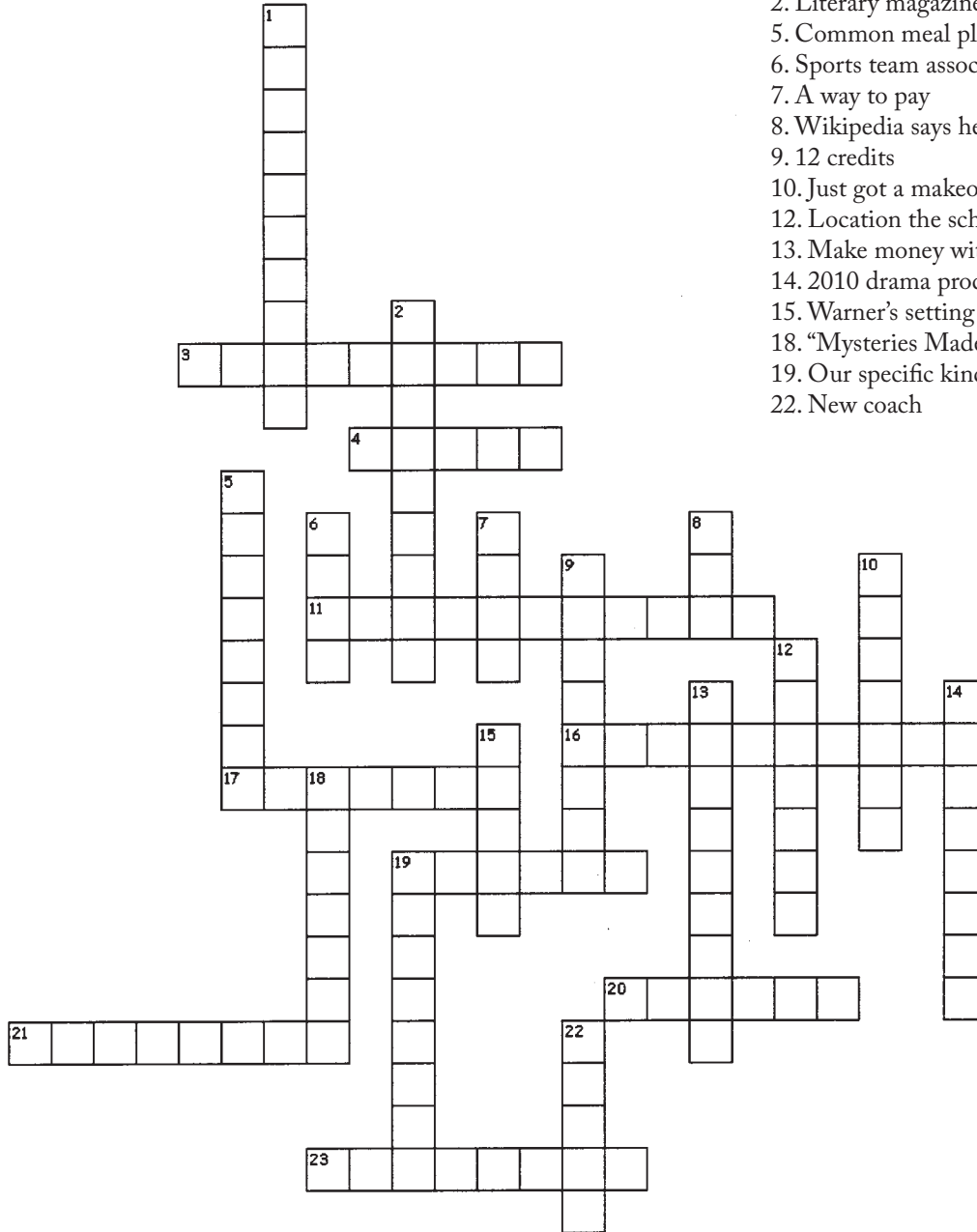
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Warner Words

By Inge Pe'a

Down

1. Dirty word bathroom reader
2. Literary magazine
5. Common meal plan
6. Sports team association
7. A way to pay
8. Wikipedia says he's a notable alumnus
9. 12 credits
10. Just got a makeover
12. Location the school was originally founded in
13. Make money with this
14. 2010 drama production
15. Warner's setting
18. "Mysteries Made Known"
19. Our specific kind of blue
22. New coach



Across

3. Student-led worship service
4. Application fee
11. Night sports for all
16. Dr. Trentaz is one
17. Volcanic cinder cone
19. Attendance highly recommended
20. They provide your meals
21. 3.5-3.74
23. Students who came to find something better

No Definite Plan

By Inge Pe'a

Aurora Dillon, a 2008 Warner Pacific graduate and women's basketball team alumna, worked all over the Portland area during her time in college and after, exploring different opportunities or just trying to pay the bills. She might have shown up at your house delivering a pizza, attached a VIP bracelet to your arm at a downtown night club, or you may have seen her refereeing a three on three basketball game at the Blazer's Street Jam while raising money for Special Olympics. Aurora may have even been your cashier for those kicks you're wearing from the Adidas store in Portland. After she graduated, "there was literally no job market," Aurora said. "Thankfully I had a part-time job at both Adidas and Special Olympics, or I would have been really hurting for money." As the new owner of a business administration degree, she found there wasn't much work available in the field so she took jobs that were available and called them learning experiences. "When there aren't a lot of choices, you just have to go with what's available." Aurora took her own advice and jumped on a job opening in Nantucket, MA as a server in a yacht club. "I thought I'd better take it because I've always wanted to travel." She continued taking various server positions in Key Largo and Miami Beach, FL but did not forget her dream job of community outreach with an organization involving kids and sports. "If I could go back in time, I would have done more internships while in school and I definitely would have traveled more," Aurora said.

The job market is getting tougher and the Masters degree is the new Bachelors. Even after graduation, finding a career can be very difficult. Along with Aurora, Roy Adams '09 and Erica Dobbins '08 reflect on their preparation for the real world, and share their career plans for the future.

Roy Adams earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. "I had four ideas of what I wanted to do, but no definite plan," Roy said about his plans following graduation. After an internship teaching English to ESL parents at Atkinson Middle School, his first job after graduation was an Instructional Assistant for the Special Needs Department at Oregon City High School (OCHS) where he went on to be a supervisor, taking a group of developmentally challenged students around the community for on the job training. Roy was headed in the right direction for his dream job of teaching Critical Thinking and Humanities at the high school level; however, he applied for the only full-time job open at OCHS and didn't get it. Two months later Roy decided to try out a different field and joined the United States Army.

Erica Dobbins was a psychology major until she took a mission trip with some friends from the college to San Francisco. "That's where I fell in love with working with kids on the street," she said. Erica changed her major to Social Work as soon as she came home. She completed her internship mentoring teenaged girls with mental illnesses, criminal backgrounds, and behavioral and emotional problems through the Youth Guidance Association. After graduating, Erica found a problem. "I ran into a lot of jobs that were impressed with my knowledge and education but required a mini-

mum of 1-2 years experience. My only experience was with my internship, which apparently does not always count." She started working for US Bank and L.A. Fitness while volunteering in the community to gain experience. After racking up a year of volunteering experience, Erica proceeded with her plan to work with youth. Two months and 20 applications later she landed the job working at Trillium as an In-Home Skills Trainer for children with serious behavior problems. "This is my first job where I am able to put my degree to use. I found this position and when the door opened, I walked right in and everything fell into place perfectly." Erica said her supervisors admired and trusted her education from WPC and didn't expect a lot of experience on top of her degree.

These former students all had ideas of what they wanted to do after graduation. Even though their post-grad plans didn't work out exactly as planned, they made adjustments and worked with what was available. "Don't be too prideful to take a lower-paying job just to get your foot in the door of a good employer," Roy advises.

Aurora is currently working as an executive assistant to a realtor at a new condominium in South Beach, FL, focusing on development, marketing, advertising and the sales of the building. "It's not exactly in my career field, but it is a learning experience and I have been able to use my business knowledge in several aspects of the job." Aurora never pictured herself in the real estate field, but she is happy to be networking and expanding her work experience. Her advice to current students is to try seasonal work: "It's a great way to make money while traveling, and you get to meet new people along the way. Never be afraid to try something out of your comfort zone—that's how you learn!"

After joining the army, Roy Adams quickly completed Combat Medic training and Airborne School. He is now working in a Combat Support Hospital in western Afghanistan. Roy admits he didn't really take any classes that have to do with medicine or physiology, but "when you have a degree in general studies, life is your major," he says. Roy enjoys his steady pay check and the many different career opportunities he now has. "I'm very happy right now," Roy says about his current situation. Roy's advice to current students is to enjoy their time in college, balance work and play, and experience new things. "Take as many Terry Baker classes as possible," he said.

Erica Dobbins boasts that she got so much more than she ever expected out of her education at WPC, crediting her professors for their encouragement and support. She is happy with her current career path. "I love the job I have right now, but I am ready to move up and on to a better position with more experience." She plans on returning to school for a masters program. "If I could go back in time, I would have started looking for social work jobs right after graduation and I would have never waited a year. "I would have also listened to John Fazio and Sandy Ahlquist's advice on career choices." Erica's advice for students is to "follow God, listen to your heart, work hard, and trust your advisors."

In the Race

By Larry Lee

Turning the corner to the final stretch come five runners in a single file line. They carry different colored batons that have been passed off to them from a previous teammate. Out in front is a familiar blue jersey that we all love to see. Warner Pacific leads the pack with only 100 meters left in the 4x400 meter relay. If you were at the February Icebreaker meet that kicked off the season at Linfield College, you wouldn't hear the ferocious footsteps or the big breaths the runners were taking, but rather the intense roar of every athlete, spectator, and coach in the stadium. In the corner where the runners turn to come down the final stretch stands a collective of Warner Pacific athletes, screaming so loud as they raise their cheer that the voices of the opposing teams are drowned out. This pride the Warner Pacific track team has is growing, and people are really starting to notice.

At practice after the Icebreaker my dad, and Warner Pacific's track coach, David Lee, stood above the bowl at Franklin High School and interrupted the warm-up to share an encouraging story: A recruit and her mother came to our meet last week at Linfield, and the first thing the mother said was that our team stands out among all others. She said every time a Warner Pacific athlete was competing in a race and passed in front of the grandstands you could hear their name being chanted. She was amazed by this, and felt that Warner Pacific would be a great place for her daughter--not only to compete in track but also a great place for her to go to school. This story was no surprise to any of us on the track team because we all feel this pride at meets, at practice, or anywhere blue jerseys gather.

But what is a surprise to many of us on the team is that one of the tightest parts of this track club seems to run away from us and each other every practice. The long distance runners take off on multi-mile runs and cannot be confined to a track except on meet days. So how can a group of athletes who run in twos or threes come together as a brigade and act like they know each other on a personal level? It's because they do. In the summer some of the distance runners train with each other to get ready for the fall, when multi-milers compete in Cross Country. They are led throughout the year by Coach Grove who is well liked and appreciated even outside of this inspiring, ineffable team of runners.

At whole team warm-ups last Tuesday, I was running around the track with school record holder Tyeson Wood and chatting about the sprint crew he is a part of. "The sprint crew is just a super tight

knit group. I think that is one reason why all of us are doing so well this year because we feed off of each other and make each other stronger. Track is like 80% mental and our team is confident in themselves and each other, which makes it easier to love the sport even more and just get out there and run."



Cameron Hamilton hands off the baton to Tyeson Wood in the Men's 4x400. Photo by Cody Harrod

The sprint crew is shattering past records. Tyeson Wood has conquered the school record in the 100, 200, and 60 meter dashes, hoping to qualify for nationals in the open 400. As a well-oiled machine, the women's 4x100 meter relay team consisting of Maticce Dameron, Christi Avery, Danielle Ricco, and Erin Adams broke the school record this year. Individually, Christi Avery set the school record for the women in the 60 meter dash. While the sprinters are dominating their events, the fielders are making just as much noise. Adrian Weber has set a new standard, breaking the school discus record. Nathan Stecker is competing in both field and running events and set a new school record in the indoor heptathlon. Many more records are expected to be broken this spring season.

Even after losing athletes to graduation, the track team still increased their team population by about ten this year. There is a need for more chairs at team meetings, more food to be consumed at

meets, and bigger buses to transport the growing number of athletic achievers. When the Track and Field program first started here at the college, the team didn't have the same issues. The official beginning of NAIA track at Warner Pacific was in 2004 when scholarships began to be offered. Coach Lee keeps tight records of all things related to track and field on his computer, and he gave me an exact number of athletes in 2004: 13 men and four women. The program has grown exponentially, from seventeen athletes in 2004 to a 2011 total of 43 strong. Coach Lee has dedicated an incredible amount of time to Warner Pacific to see this program exceed. I asked Coach Lee why he thinks the track team has grown so much over the last couple years, and he said: "It really didn't gain a foothold until 2009, the first year that the team had one person in every event. In 2010 we grew about ten people, and this year we grew about ten people. The team is snow balling and gaining momentum. Word is getting around and people are starting to see our numbers at meets. Athletes are following the website and calling me to be on the team. And, we have had some success."

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Time for Track

By *Alicia Cruz*

Track and Field is a special sport. It's a team atmosphere, but a big portion of the work is individual. For example, the sprinters have their workouts, the throwers are in the ring, and the long distance squad leaves the track altogether. Even within these sub-groups, team members have different workouts because everyone is training for a different event. The only times the whole team comes together are Mondays for team meetings, Tuesdays for team warm ups, and weekends for meets. It is during these times that team members challenge each other, cheer for each other, and celebrate together. I've been inspired by all the track and field athletes, but I have especially grown close with the long distance squad since I joined the team. I can still remember my first track experience. I'd never thought that watching people run around the track would be exciting, but I was completely wrong. I got to stand on the infield where I could see the sweat rolling off the runners' bodies.

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All the teams in the NAIA conference are starting to recognize the "blue wave" as a threat. There are three state institutions in our conference--Eastern Oregon, Southern Oregon, and OIT--who have always had programs. "All of the rest of the schools in the conference are kind of the new kids on the block." Warner Pacific is usually 4th or 5th in the conference in the competitiveness ranking. Concordia, who joined in 2006, has promoted the sport more than Warner has--poured more money into it, more scholarships, and is actually number one in the conference overall. But Warner Pacific is climbing the ladder and knocking off others on their way up. While our track team is working to become more competitive as a whole, there are some individuals who are putting the blue jerseys on the map. Nationals are the pinnacle and goal of many athletes competing in NAIA track. The largest number of athletes ever taken to nationals from Warner Pacific is six, and Coach Lee's goal is seven this year. At NAIA nationals, Warner Pacific has placed in the top sixteen in forty-nine events. The total number of athletes taken to nationals by Warner is 26 different students in 71 events. Seven different athletes have placed in the Top 6 fifteen times at NAIA Nationals. Achieving the Top 6 at Nationals earns the athlete All American status. "My goal is to make this year the first year we take a relay team to Nationals," Coach Lee states. Nationals are held this year at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. Off the track, our athletes are making strides in the classroom; nine athletes have earned Academic All American awards seventeen times since the program's official start.

Warner Pacific's Track and Field team looks to the future with their heads held high. With all the great achievements, friendships being strengthened, and pride being brought home, Warner Pacific as an institution is being put on the map as a positive place for growth, community, and opportunity.

If you want to see your Warner Pacific Track Team competing at their best, come to the Cascade Collegiate Conference Championships May 12th-14th at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Oregon!

Tuesday afternoon, 3:55: I'm at the Franklin Track. My stomach turns as I remember doing "The Mile" on this track years before as a Franklin High School freshman. Do I know what I am getting myself into? I'll probably have to re-live my high school experience all over again--which consisted of running a lap, walking a lap, and so on. NO! I can't do that. I make up my mind right there and then; I'm not going to stop. That's the key to distance running; run slowly, but don't stop.

Days before I had casually asked Leah Ballard about running. She responded by saying that I should join track. To my surprise, I found myself smiling and saying yes. I thought nothing of the conversation until the end of class Monday afternoon, when Leah said she'd made an appointment with coach after team meeting. So now, here I am, waiting for the rest of the team. I managed to catch a ride with Caitlin (a heptathlete, whatever that means). I'm anxious. I had no idea this would all turn out this way.

4:00: I start team warm ups. Oh, boy. I am definitely not ready for "the ballerina shuffle," "the skip, hop, lunge" (makes your quads sore for days), "high knee grapevines" (tricky little exercises that sound harmless but are not), or "the backward jump-fling (be sure to stretch your hips flexors). Coach Van Asch kept yelling out ways to improve the exercises, but all I could hear was my loud breathing and my heart pounding. (Brett is a WPC graduate who went to Nationals in the decathlon, an amazing athlete, but a terrifying coach.) Oh, did I forget to mention these were just warm ups? Yes, warm ups last a whole hour!

5:00: Warm ups finally end, and real workout begins. Great time for rain too. I make my way to Clinton Park next to Franklin, where the long distance girls and I say our goodbyes. They are running longer and faster than me today. I start my watch and hope that the time will fly by. Nope, it's the longest 30 minutes of my life.

5:45: I'm drenched from head to toe. I stand in Leah's living room with a tissue in one hand saying that I feel something coming on. Leah rushes into the kitchen and comes back with a magical concoction. I take a sip... yes, it's water, the magical liquid that athletes drink to make them faster. "Hydrate," is all Leah says. Coach Grove says, "drink 'til you pee clear."

It's only been five weeks since that first practice. I no longer cringe at the sound of "Tuesday Team Warm Ups." I have to admit it's been tough but I love it! I love the feeling of accomplishment after a workout. I love that I was able to sleep for 13 hours after the first practice. I love the camaraderie that sweating together creates. I love the awkward conversations on van rides that breaks up the monotony of running up and down Mount Tabor. I love that my teammates reach out for my arm to stop me from getting hit by a car on our way to the track. I love the way my quads feel. If you get a chance touch them, they're amazing. And most of all, I love that a mile no longer seems like an endless distance, but a measly four laps around the track.

Rich in Love and Servanthood

By *Lauren Murtidjaja*

“Cezupyubi, ma’am,” cried a small voice coming from outside our van. Turning, I saw two, tiny brown hands reaching in through our windows. Long strings of white, fragrant jasmine blossoms dangled from the dirty fingers. Behind those fingers stood a young girl, maybe ten or eleven. Her eyes peered sadly into mine as she repeated, “Cezupyubi, ma’am?” The sweet aroma of the flowers spread throughout our musty van.

Wow, we’ve been in this country for less than an hour and we’re already surrounded by beggars. My heart broke as I stared back into those dark, sad eyes. “They will go away if you just ignore them,” our hosts had warned us when we were making our way out of the small airport of Yangon, Myanmar. I wanted to turn my eyes away, but for some reason I could not break contact with this young beggar girl. I looked down and saw that her arms were half the size of mine and her shoulder blades were practically breaking through her thin skin. “Cezupyubi,” she cried a little louder as the traffic began clearing and our car slowly moved forward. As we rolled away, my professor’s voice broke through my thoughts, “Are you ok, Lauren?” I smiled at him and looked back out the window, lost in all the new sights and sounds of the bustling city around me.

Myanmar is a mysterious land that is often forgotten by the rest of the world. Locked between India, China, Thailand, and the Indian Ocean, the small country of Myanmar is easy to miss. Those who are invested in jewels and drugs know the rich treasures that the jungles hide. However, that area of the country is closed to citizens and unfortunately the majority of the population is in desperate poverty. The people of Myanmar are very devout in their religion so there is an odd dichotomy of poverty and wealth throughout the country. It is quite typical to see every Burmese person malnourished and destitute while the country is covered in Buddhist temples overlaid with pure gold. I studied these facts on the long flight to Myanmar, which only increased my curiosity of this mysterious nation.

We had arrived in Myanmar on a humid, overcast day in early May. College finals had just ended four days prior, and we had begun our three-week summer adventure. Our professor, Dr. John, led our four student motley crew— Ruby, Drew, Becca, and I. We had come to Myanmar to lead a leadership and missions conference. Dr. John and Ruby had been in Myanmar before, Drew and Becca had volunteered to go, and I like to say that I was pushed into it. I had just finished an intense semester of 19 credits while working part-time. The day before we took off, I had been in a wedding in Ohio. My mind was not focused on Myanmar, and I had definitely not prepared. I had heard that Myanmar was a third world country, but I doubted that it would have any effect on me.

As soon as our van drove up to the church, we were surrounded by children with wide smiles. “Mingalaba! Mingalaba!” they all yelled with high-pitched squeals. One by one we stumbled out of the van and were greeted with handshakes and hugs.

“Mingalaba! Welcome friends!” exclaimed one of the young church leaders, Daniel. “Please, come! We will take your bags!”

We watched as several young men ran in to take our bags with joy written across their faces. We were led to the office where a few young girls rushed to bring us tea, juice, and fruit. I watched, astounded by the overt enthusiasm that these people had to serve us. I can’t accept this. I can take care of my own stuff. I don’t want them to feel like we’re anything special. Daniel walked into the office with a giant electrical fan and placed it in front of us. Within the hour, we had memorized and perfected the Burmese thank you, “Cezu tinbadeh.” But I couldn’t stop the troubling thoughts of these poor, sweet people treating us like celebrities. How can we show them Jesus’ upside-down teachings of the first being last and the master becoming the servant if they won’t stop serving us?

“Did you guys see the cops back there? I feel like we keep seeing them everywhere!” Drew asked as we all sat around a coffee table in the hotel lobby. I thought about the reading I had done about Myanmar before the trip. In 1962, a military coup overthrew the government and created an oppressive military regime. Ever since, the people of Myanmar have been treated poorly as the majority of the population has been put into poverty while those in power have soaked up all of Myanmar’s rich resources.

“Yes, Drew,” our host explained, “the Myanmar government is following us because you are Americans.” We all sat quietly and attempted to sneakily look over at the police. “The Myanmar government does not allow many outsiders to enter the country. They are suspicious and are watching every move we make.”

“But the past three days we’ve driven all throughout the country! How could they keep such close tabs on us?” I asked bewildered.

“They’ve been watching from the beginning. Every hotel we’ve stayed at, they have been in with us. Every restaurant we’ve eaten at, they’ve seen. There are probably less than ten white people in the country right now, and five of them are in this room. You can be certain that they are watching you.” Our host continued, “They want to make sure that you don’t go anywhere you’re not supposed to go. They want to make sure they know everything you do.”

“Wow, well that sure isn’t something my mom and dad would want to hear!” Becca joked. The rest of us chimed in our agreements— all feeling a little scared and a little violated.

We were halfway through the conference when everybody informed us that there would be a talent show the next night. Not only were our Burmese brothers and sisters taking part, but apparently we were supposed to as well! When the evening finally came, we sat and watched three hours of singing, dancing, and acting. But the highlight of the night was watching everybody’s interactions with one another. Up to this point, I had experienced the love and service of the Burmese, but all of a sudden I started to

realize that we were not so special. Outside the church, a torrent of rain was pouring. A tarp had been set up for the children to play under to keep dry. However, the rain was pouring so heavily that the tarp was falling through. Several young men ran back and forth outside, working on the tarp, completely drenched in water. During the entire talent show, these men ran back and forth, soaked to the bone with smiles on their faces! Inside the church, heat filled the room from all the actions taking place on stage. As the room steamed up the fans were moved away from us “white folk” and toward the sweating performers on stage.

“So sorry,” apologized one young leader, “You can sit by the door. Air will come in.” I smiled, a little shocked but pleased to see the attention finally being taken off of us.

Every day the sun hid behind the clouds, but its heat soaked through. We awakened to steamy mornings and cold showers before we left for the day. Our driver picked us up and we entered the crowded, city streets. There was no structure on the busy roads. Cars pulled out in front of each other without warning, and there were no clear lanes visible. How do people do this? I wondered as I imagined driving my dusty white ‘98 Chevy Cavalier through the combustion. Not only were the streets filled with vehicles, but people kept running in front of the cars. “Cezupyubi, ma’am!” Two little beggar boys rushed up to the van windows. “They sure know who to go to!” Dr. John joked as I tried to tear my eyes away. We made our way to our destination and immediately rushed over to the shade.

“I think today is the worst day yet!” declared Becca. “No matter how much fanning I do, I keep on sweating! This is disgusting!” We all dabbed our faces with Kleenex, as the Burmese women had taught us to do to stay dry. Myanmar is primarily a Buddhist country and we were always surrounded by Buddhist monks with shaved heads and deep, red robes. We followed the monks up stairs leading to the temple. The higher we climbed the closer we felt to the sun that was pushing through the clouds.



Rebecca Shrou, Andrew Mugford, Lauren Murtidjaja, and Ruby Mitchell pose with Buddhist monks at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon, Myanmar. Photo courtesy of Andrew Mugford

No more than an hour went by before Drew exclaimed, “Look at me!” He lifted his arms to reveal that his dark pit stains matched most the rest of his shirt. He was completely covered in his own sweat! “Lauren, come here!” said Drew. I walked over toward him, noticing that his lavender shirt now matched my bright purple shirt. Then I looked down and saw that my own bright purple shirt was now blotched with dark stains. I smiled, realizing that it was time for a photo shoot. “Alright you two, lift those arms!” Ruby joked, “Say, ‘Sweaty pits!’”

“Sweaty pits!” we both burst out with big smiles.

I was so concerned and overwhelmed by all the poverty and chaos I saw around me. I wanted to be the one to help. I wanted to be the one to empathize. I was even good at it, as I was clearly marked the one who all the beggars targeted. In reality, though Myanmar was full of the most severe cases of physical poverty and even danger, they were richer in spirit, love, and servanthood than anyone I’ve ever come across. I will never forget watching them take care of each other, realizing that they got it. In fact, they got it more than I got it. Not only did they serve, but they did it with love, joy, and nothing else.



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Tales From the Frantic Writing Front

By *Shawna Downes*

On any given Friday afternoon in April or November, you'll find them in the Smith Hall Conference Room—six to nine students armed with laptops, USB keyboards, notebooks, loose paper, or journals and ready to do the impossible. When cryptic Facebook statuses such as “I hit 15k!” or “12 pages!” begin to appear, when “I'M WRITING” signs suddenly show up on doors, when your seemingly innocuous friends one day start to talk like serial killers (“I've killed three people today!”), then you know it's writing season.

The recently formed Writing & Literature Club (WLC) took the initiative to promote two not-so-long-standing literary traditions on campus this year: National Novel Writing Month (nanowrimo.org) and Script Frenzy (scriptfrenzy.org), two free international writing events that take place in November and April respectively. The events were created by Chris Baty, founder of The Office of Letters and Light, a non-profit organization. During these months, club members and other writers on campus are encouraged to join in the literary extravaganza and take on the challenge of writing a novel or a screenplay, a stage play, a TV show, or a graphic novel in a month. The prize? Eternal glory, a manuscript or script in some stage of completion, major bragging rights, plentiful sleep debt, loads of candy, gold stars, participant pins and maybe a few merit badges, some sweet stickers, or the big prize this April: an official Script Frenzy mug.

For most people, the idea of writing a novel in a month sounds insane. No one who attempted it this past November would argue. But the immense appeal of such a ridiculous undertaking is that it is incredibly freeing. “I like the idea of being able to write fiction without worrying about how it sounds or how good it is. It is like having no boundaries on your creative writing for a month. It was very freeing, but also very hard for someone who is very critical of her own work,” said Diedre Lett, who is a sophomore psychology major and also an officer in the WLC. Before this year, she had never written a story longer than five pages. By the time November was over, she had over 25,000 words, which amounts to around 100 pages. Her original goal had been 20,000.

Writing a novel was a new experience for many of Warner Pacific's participants last November. “I have had next-to-no creative writ-

ing experience,” Jessica Prouty said. As a business major, it had not been part of her education so far. That changed quickly when her friends convinced her to try NaNoWriMo. Initially, she intended to write a short story, but she soon found that she was able to meet her daily goal of 1,700 words (a minimum if you want

to reach 50,000 in 30 days) easily and consistently every single day. Jessica finished the month with over 50,000 words and the most consistent progress chart out of the group.



Zachary Kabler and Jessica Prouty hard at work in the lounge during one of the Writing and Literature Club's Friday workdays. Photo courtesy of Shawna Downes

Consistency was also key for Kyler Scott-Subsits. His suggestion to students considering taking part next year is, “Don't stop writing.” By writing daily at a constant pace, he was able to reach his goal of 40,000 words. But it's possible to achieve high word counts even if your consistency is sporadic at best. When asked whether she wrote daily or in spurts, Diedre said, “Spurts. Definitely spurts. I would have days when I would write for two hours at a time and then days where I would write nothing.” Everyone would agree that consistency is best, but even a week long lapse in writing won't ruin your chances at finishing. In 2009, I had a 12,000 word weekend during a power outage. It was incredible and also exhausting.

But I finished my novel two days early after 10 days of writing nothing.

When asked how much planning he or she did for the novel before November, most participants said not much. Everyone seemed to start with one initial spark of inspiration, which they took and then hit the ground running. “I started with an idea/setting I already had in my mind,” Kyler said. “I got my ideas from everywhere, and I did absolutely no planning and just went with it.” Diedre started with characters, not setting. “I started with about five characters who I knew reasonably well, and an antagonist, but no real plot,” she said. “I get an idea of the genre direction I want to go in, and then I decide what culture,” Jessica said. A few people, such as myself, tried to map out a basic plot arc ahead of time. Samantha Halverson even started her novel early. Planning, like consistency, seems to be advisable, but not essential to succeeding in or enjoying the experience.

For most students, the thought of adding seven pages of writing per day to an already overcrowded schedule sounds like an abso-

lute nightmare, if not impossible. Some students set lower goals that were more manageable with their schedules. But the evidence shows that it can be done. Some of the students interviewed were taking 17, 18, or even 19 credits. Some were also working or juggling other responsibilities. They didn't have a time machine, and they aren't superhero students. So the Knight Times asked: What's their secret?

"You just have to prioritize," Jessica said, adding that if she can do it while balancing her schedule and still earning good grades, anyone can. "I found my time by not sleeping," Kyler said. Others cut out less essential things, such as television or hanging out a lot. Instead of spending time with friends in the dorms, groups of WriMos would meet up in the Smith study lounge, in empty classrooms in the library, or late at night in the music lounge to write together. "I tried to write some before I went to bed at night. I updated my word count every night before I went to bed to make sure that I was on track to reach my word count goal," Diedre said. Finding little pockets of time during which to write (like writing in between classes, during dinner, while waiting for friends to get ready to go somewhere, etc.) also seemed to be helpful.

We also asked this year's WriMos what they would say to those considering taking part next year. "I would tell someone who was thinking of participating to go for it, because you might find out you enjoy it, or you may be good at it. It never hurts to try," Jessica said. Most agreed that you have nothing to lose by testing your mettle with NaNoWriMo. You don't have to show anyone your novel. "Winning" is entirely on the honor system. If your novel is garbage at the end of the month, you can always delete it or burn it. But generally participants found that their novel turned out better than they expected, not worse. Kyler added that one of the requisites for participating in NaNoWriMo was to "be crazy." The rest agreed: it definitely helps.

The students also had some advice for next year's novelists. "If you do decide to do NaNo/Script Frenzy, do it with a group that will do it with you," said Diedre. For her, the benefits of writing in a group are, "the motivation and the camaraderie. The fact that we are all working towards the same goal and have the same issues: trying to find time to write, trying not to get behind in school, etc." Jessica also got a lot of help from her fellow writers. "I sought Sam and Diedre's advice when attempting to name numerous weapons because I was drawing a blank," she said. For her, continuing to read fiction during the month was also important. "At times in the story I would be floundering for what to write next, and I would take a break and read a book, and then I would be inspired to get back to my own novel," Jessica said.

The biggest suggestion from the novelists was to get as much of your homework and other work out of the way ahead of time as you can. "Be prepared for a very hectic month," Diedre said. "Take care of everything that you can in advance...so you don't have stuff backed up during your writing time." The WLC reminded students from day one: NaNoWriMo is a fun hobby. It should never come before homework. For the most part, it seems that the students agreed. During many of the writing meetings, several students would be working on homework instead of his or her novel.

Everyone interviewed said that they would do it again. In fact, many of November's WriMos have now taken on NaNoWriMo's sister challenge, Script Frenzy, for which participants write 100 page scripts. "I would definitely do it again. In fact I'm tackling the next insane project (Script Frenzy) in like two days," Diedre said in March. "It was fun, and it was an interesting exercise for a writer." She started a graphic novel this April and then switched to a new idea mid-way through the month. Jessica is writing a superhero screenplay. Samantha Halverson's screenplay, "Maximum Chances" is about a serial killer—and clocked in at about 71 pages over Easter weekend. Her goal is 100 pages. Zachary Kahler is currently working on a musical, including sheet music.

None of these students have ever written a script before. But that won't stop them. It's not about writing the next great American novel—or next summer's blockbuster. To paraphrase Hemingway, the first draft of anything is crap anyway. It's about unleashing your imagination to go where it pleases. It's about telling a story. It's about having a great time with friends. But most of all, it's about earning the right to call yourself a novelist, a screenwriter, or a playwright.

How to Write a Script in 30 Days

1. Choose your genre. Movie? TV? Play? Musical? Radio drama? Comic book?
2. Come up with a working title and a logline, a short summary of your plot.
3. Read up on formatting for scripts.
4. Write 3.33 pages per day.
5. Realize you're filling in way too much detail.
6. Decide to wing it as far as formatting goes and fix it all later on day six.
7. Discover that you do not control your characters.
8. Stay up all night writing on day seventeen because you've reached the really exciting part.
9. Hit 100 pages by the 30th.
10. Ignore your script for a month out of fear that it is awful. Finally read it and shock the heck out of yourself with your own writing.

Community Building and Service

By Leah Ballard

I opened the door to a loud welcome. Taking off my sunglasses I saw a group of very young men learning the toughest lesson in life: sharing. I walked through to the back patio and set my things down. The boys, happier now, followed me outside, and my company was suddenly joyous laughter and monster truck stomping, as if the mystery of sharing had evaporated completely. Ah, the woes of childhood.

I watched the boys play as I enjoyed my turkey pesto wrap. It was closing in on 1:00 in the afternoon as I moved inside. The café started to empty out, and the baristas began sweeping the floor. Finally opening my lap top and balancing my textbook on my lap, I worried I'd have to find another study spot. "You guys aren't closing, are you?" I asked. Kristin Heying, the director of Café Au Play was picking up toys from the floor, and she responded that the place always got quiet right around nap time. Nap time, coincidentally, is about the same as homework time. How handy for me!

Always looking for an excuse to procrastinate on my homework, I asked more about this new coffee shop so close to home. Kristin explained that the entire project was done through volunteer work. She began listing all her personal accounts of how this coffee shop came to be. "My father built those cabinets in the back, and a big group of us helped lay that counter, that's about an 800 pound slab of concrete."

Service credits loomed in the back of my mind as I explained that I was a student at Warner Pacific College, just down the road. Kristin nodded and mentioned her relationship with Katie Doran, our service coordinator. It turned out that a group of students had worked a bunch of hours this past weekend. Ah, yes of course, just a month left in the semester, of course we'd sniffed out such a convenient service opportunity!

Kristin mentioned a lot of different ways to help out at the café. "I just love when the Warner students come down, because they're such hard workers," she said. The most obvious need in these coming sunny months is landscaping maintenance. Later in the week I saw Rosemary Baylee hard at work in the back play area. (Yes, weeding, not monster-trucking.) Rosemary, an experienced gardener, explained why the landscaping requires so much upkeep. She was collecting fallen pine needles and maple leaves from neighboring trees. "Some of the shrubs lining the back wall can't handle the acidic debris that collects," Rosemary said.

A number of Warner Pacific students are already familiar with the grunt work needed. Katie Doran told me the Pacific Islander Club has returned to help out several times. The club is responsible for the tree painting on the back shed, their hand prints serving as the leaves. Sounds like a messy job! Club member Joni Das commented: "The people at Café Au Play are amazing—as well as their tasty soups! I enjoyed doing community service there." The WPC student body has become a part of the success of Café Au Play. Every time I mention the coffee shop on campus, somebody smiles and tells me of their time volunteering there.

When I commented on what a swell homework spot Café Au Play became mid afternoon, Kristin told me about their new hours. "We used to be open late some evenings, but when only a few people stopped in, it just wasn't worth it." With finals coming up, we brainstormed about organizing study sessions at the café.

Another way for Warner Pacific students to get involved is with the volunteer barista program. Volunteers receive on the job training and learn how to make all the different coffee drinks. In exchange, students commit to three to four hours a week working behind the counter at Café Au Play. My eyes lit up. Of course! The only way to get a job around here is by already having experience. This is problematic for students entering the workforce for the first time. What better way to get a hip Portland job and knock out some service credits all at the same time?

Kristin motioned behind the counter to the barista on duty, Troy Michean, who is currently working with a few Franklin High School students. The deal is Troy teaches you everything you need to know about coffee, in exchange for five months of volunteer barista work at the café. Katie Doran told me she was also spreading the word about this opportunity. To get involved in the barista training program, email Troy at troydivision@hotmail.com, or for more service opportunities, contact Kristin at Kheyng@gmail.com.

It all made me feel like getting up and sweeping the floor, or scooping up the toy trains for a window display anything! Instead, I closed my book and began clicking away on my keyboard, writing



Kendall Byars, Victor Estrada, and John McGuire pause for a quick picture during a workday at Café Au Play. Photo courtesy of Kristin Heying

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United Image: Common Learning Experiences

By Josh Gaunt

It has long been a goal of Warner Pacific College to develop the student body into a close group of people who embrace each other's differences and grow together through common learning experiences. United Image, a multicultural club at WPC, encompasses that goal with events, dinners, and outings that help students learn about different cultures, embrace the differences, and take that knowledge with them in their lives. This year, the club went from just doing dinners about a certain culture to celebrating cultures by holding events to get students involved in learning about the differences. United Image President Garret South and Multicultural Director Rachel Dixon have planned events that are more intentional than before. United Image is bringing people on campus who are a part of certain cultures, and able to teach students to experience and enjoy that culture through various activities--food, dances, traditions, and crafts.

On September 29, during Hispanic Heritage month, the United Image held an event where students ate authentic Hispanic food, learned about Hispanic heritage, and then broke out with salsa dancing that helped them enjoy and understand the culture. Nia Whitfield, a club member, talked about the event: "It was cool to see how everyone was dancing together, how everyone was involved with the culture."

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an article to get Warner Pacific students involved. One of the ways Katie Doran saw a need was in organizing volunteer groups: "Kristin is a visionary, but is lacking the time and resources to get a fully functioning volunteer program developed." Katie plans on spending more time at the café once school is out. Adam Brown works at the café every Monday afternoon in preparation for a tutoring program that hasn't quite gotten off the ground yet--another potential opportunity for students to get involved. "I start around 2:45 and stay until track practice, but the students aren't coming in," he said. This is exactly the kind of word that needs to get out around the community. Other WPC volunteers, Sara McClellan and Samantha Laws, worked at the café earlier in the semester, handing out flyers around the neighborhood about some upcoming events. "Kristin was always really nice, really appreciative of the work we did," Sara said.

"We're looking for a more diverse customer base," Kristin told me. Currently, young families are the biggest group coming in, but why not get WPC students involved indoors, in addition to their hard work out back? Kristin explained that if there was more going on in the evenings, they could stay open longer. Café Au Play is non-profit, but since their customer base isn't large enough yet, they sustain themselves with fundraisers like the annual Christmas tree sales. "The sales are necessary to provide funding for the café's operational expenses and overhead," she said. The volunteer barista program can also get the coffee shop closer to its goals of self sufficiency. Café Au Play was built by the community, for the community, and now we just need to let it thrive in our community.

The United Image club is open to anyone who wants to join, and encourages people to get involved because of the friendships, experiences, and knowledge students can get from joining the club. Director Rachel Dixon talked about the purpose of United Image events: "Events are a learning opportunity, but also an opportunity to taste and experience the traditions of other cultures. By creating fun and informative events, we can learn about other cultures together." The purpose of the club is to represent and speak for minority voices in the community. By bringing students together from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures, students are able to learn from one another and develop friendships. Garret South outlined the goals of the United Image club: "Get the Warner Pacific community tighter, by embracing the differences and similarities between different cultures, and bring in the surrounding community."

Many United Image gatherings in 2010 and 2011 celebrated a cultural month with an event that related to that culture or ethnicity. Last fall United Image held a Native American- Alaskan Native event on Wednesday, November 17th. The Native American Youth Family Center shared traditional performances, and students made traditional beads with members of the NAYA. Black History Month is in February, so United Image sponsored an after party for the students who served on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. It was United Image's way to say thank you to the people who served in the community on their day off by celebrating with games, activities, food, and fellowship to help people reflect and connect about the meaning of their service. On Monday, February 28th, the club held a gospel celebration in a coffee house style event where students were involved in singing and reflecting on the impact that they have on one another in the community.

Another recent event United Image put on was the WPC Love Connection. It was a speed dating event that helped students get to know new people. At three minute intervals, student pairs asked each other questions to gain knowledge about that person, including "What is one quality that you look for in a person you are interested in?" Dashawntae Webster talked about the love connection: "It helped me get to know people better who I didn't know, who I saw around campus." Jaques Montgomery added his thoughts on the event: "I was impressed by the amount of people who came out and also impressed by the individuals who decided to show up who I wasn't expecting. It was definitely an icebreaker for friendships around campus."

Getting to know new people can be a slow process especially since everyone is different. Celebrating these differences helps students embrace people for who they are. The club encourages students to take what they learn and the friendships they make with them into their lives in the Warner Pacific community. The club is currently interviewing candidates for next year's president. If anyone is interested, they should contact president Garret South at gsouth@warnerpacific.edu or Director Rachel Dixon at rdixon@warnerpacific.edu.

Steps to a Fabulous Summer Job

By *Alicia Cruz*

Time is ticking away! The key to a fabulous summer job is to apply early. Most employers hire for summer positions before summer begins, which means that this is the perfect time to start printing those resumes or posting them online. Once you've decided if you're staying in Portland, going back home, or trying something completely new, you can start your search.

Take advantage of the resources offered on campus.

☞ Attend as many career fairs as possible, even those off campus that are advertised through the Warner email.

☞ Attend resume seminars—SIFE works hard to bring outside speakers to these seminars.

☞ Check Warner email for job opportunities. I can't stress this enough. A number of students have summer jobs lined up thanks the email postings.

☞ Talk to your advisor. Professors have a number of contacts and might even be able to set something up for you.

☞ Check out summer work-study opportunities. The maintenance staff needs help revamping all the housing on campus.

☞ Ask other students about their summer plans, they may be able to refer you to their employers.



The view from the highway driving up to the Denali Wilderness Lodge where Caitlin Morgan will be working this summer. Photo courtesy of Princess Lodges

Fabulous Summer Job Success Story

Caitlin Morgan, a junior here at WPC, has a fabulous summer job. She is spending four months in Alaska, working for the Denali Wilderness Lodge. The lodge is part of the Princess Cruise lines, which means that Caitlin will be taking a cruise at the end of her time there at a great price. Did I mention that the Denali Lodge is right by the Denali Wild Forest, which is 6,000,000 acres of wild, crisp, untouched land! Other benefits include: 40 hours + of work guaranteed, buffet style lunch and dinner, a cash bonus of \$1 for every hour worked and \$1.50 for every hour overtime and the end of the summer season. When I asked about how Caitlin found her summer job she responded, "I checked my Warner email. The description looked interesting so I replied immediately. The interviews were even here on campus. And, the best part about this job is that my best friend is going to be working there as well."

Go online. If you want to go away for the summer this is the best resource available. Sites like www.summerjobfinder.com, and www.jobdoggy.com list different types of job postings.

☞ Look at federal jobs. The best part about federal jobs is the pay—most positions start at about \$10. At jobsearch.studentjobs.gov you can look for federal jobs by city and state. This site is rad. It explains different hiring programs. It even allows you to search for federal jobs by college major.

☞ Contact past employers if you've worked at a wonderful place before. You would be saving them training time plus they already know how wonderful you are.

☞ Tweak your resume and cover letter to fit the places you found, post them online, and wait anxiously for a callback.

When you get a callback.

☞ Hang up the phone and scream or dance. Research the company once more to get ready for the interview.

☞ Arrive to the interview on time. It's okay to be nervous—it shows that you're interested. Ask questions. If your mind goes blank, just ask one of these: What is like to work here? How are candidates evaluated for this position? What happens next?

☞ Don't be discouraged if the employer is looking for previous experience or for workers who will commit to work after summer break is over. Make sure you let your prospective employer know about your volunteer experience, web skills, and completely flexible summer schedule. And don't worry—employers are always looking for cheap and flexible workers.