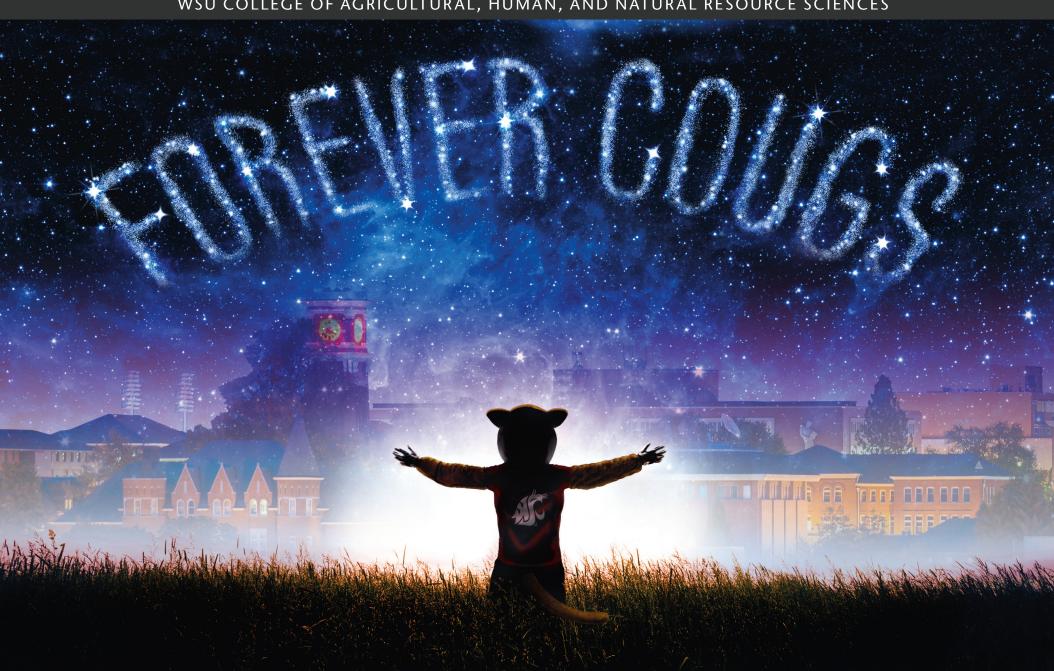
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WSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, HUMAN, AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES



Message from the **CAHNRS DEAN**

As I reflect on my first year as the 16th Dean of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, one word comes to mind: legacy. The CAHNRS legacy is one of leadership in both academics and industry. It is a legacy born of hard work and a commitment to the highest standards in teaching, scientific research, innovation, and Extension.

Every day, CAHNRS faculty, students, and alumni tackle the toughest challenges we face in agriculture, the human sciences, and beyond. Whether it is breeding plants to increase nutrition or pioneering technologies to increase global food security, CAHNRS is at the forefront of some of the most important research advancements of our time. It is this legacy of innovation, excellence, and leadership that brought me to WSU and to CAHNRS.

In this issue of ReConnect, you'll read the stories of CAHNRS Cougs who are applying their invincible Cougar spirit to make the world around them a better place. In ways both large and small, they are giving of their time, their talents, and their resources. They embody the CAHNRS legacy and remind us of the importance of giving back.

I hope that as you read their stories you will feel a sense of pride in belonging to such an incredible CAHNRS family. The CAHNRS legacy is our legacy. It is a charge to lead, to make our communities stronger, happier, healthier. It is a legacy that unites us, near and far, and reminds us that we are Forever Cougs.





reconnect

— 2019 —

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Share your ideas, stories, and photos by emailing:



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College of

Agricultural, Human, & Natural Resource Sciences

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

COUG SPIRIT LEADS COUPLE TO GIVE BACK TO WSU

n a bustling overpass in San Antonio, Texas, a few hundred people, including Josh and Holly Siler, belt out the refrain "Fight, Fight, Fight for Washington State." The group of loyal Cougar football fans sings the WSU fight song as they all march toward the Alamodome, the site of WSU's Alamo Bowl game in December 2018.

"That was such a special, memorable experience," Holly said. "Once the pregame party shut down, the chanting and singing started. It was so, so much fun."

The Silers, who met as students at WSU in 2000, celebrated the Cougs victory and their wedding anniversary in the historic Texas city.

"That whole trip will stick with us for a long time," Josh said. "It was a great display and reminder of Cougar camaraderie."

The passion the couple has for WSU goes well beyond traveling thousands of miles to watch WSU football. The 2002 WSU graduates met on the Pullman campus after they were set up by friends. They were engaged before graduation.

"WSU is just sort of who I am, and it aligns with my core values," Josh said.

Josh, who grew up on a farm in St. John, Wash., still helps his dad with harvest each summer. Holly, a native of Wilbur, Wash., also grew up on her family's farm. She participated in special events that involved her interest in fashion and raising food and supplies for people in need in Eastern Washington. This region is where they're from, and the place they love most.

Their life-changing experiences at WSU helped lead Josh and Holly to career success and solidified their desire to give back to the institution they love.

Now approaching their 40s, the couple has made it a priority to help current and future WSU students.



"We were exploring ways that we could have an impact right away," said Holly, who was an Apparel, Merchandising, Design, and Textiles major.

Helping students graduate

One way the Silers accomplished this goal was by establishing a fund to help students who may have unforeseen expenses, like family emergencies, that could keep them from crossing the finish line and earning their degrees.

"Removing relatively small hurdles, that are huge roadblocks to a student, is important to us," Holly said.

In addition to helping those students facing immediate need, the couple has also included a bequest to WSU in their estate plans.

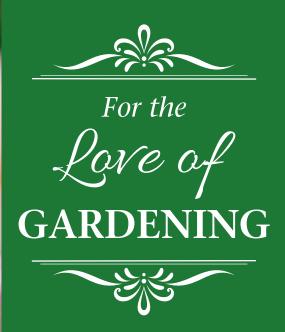
"It's really important to both of us to think about giving opportunities to those who may not otherwise have had them," said Holly, chief project officer with the non-profit hunger-fighting group Second Harvest. "We don't plan to have children ourselves, but we still want to have an impact on future generations. Giving to WSU is a great way to do that."

While estate planning may still be a few years off for many young couples, the Silers are also proof of how valuable the donation of one's time can be. Both Holly and Josh serve on the CAHNRS Student Experience Advisory Council (SEAC).

"We're at a stage in our careers where we're hiring recent graduates," Holly said. "We can contribute by seeing gaps between what employers need and what students may be learning in class. We can tell WSU about those gaps and help students have a leg up as they start their careers."

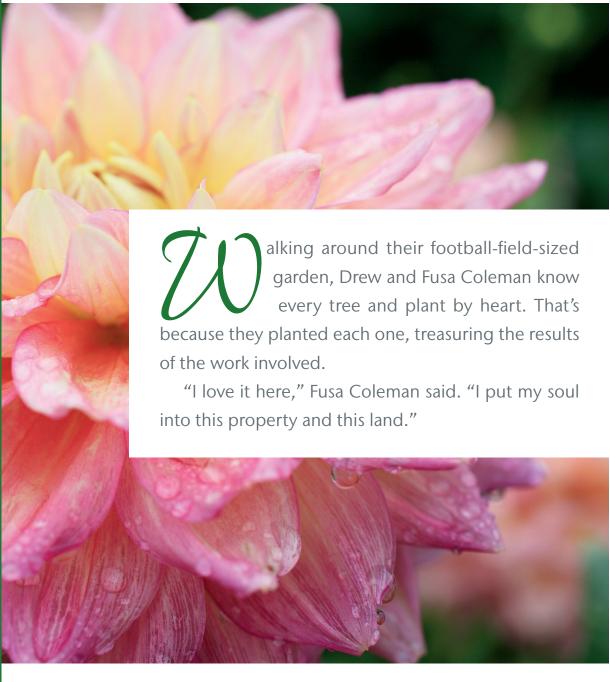
Josh, who earned a degree in Agribusiness, said he makes SEAC a priority on his calendar working as a senior vice president at Northwest Farm Credit Services. And he feels rewarded helping current students through SEAC and other mentoring in WSU classes.

"It's eye-opening how so little of my time can have such a big impact," Josh said. "And it's really brought back my commitment to WSU. There are so many ways to give back to this university and affect people's lives."



Donation of beloved land will benefit Master Gardener program





hat land is eight acres of beautiful forest just outside Port Townsend, Wash. In addition to their prodigious garden, they've cut walking trails amongst the native tree species they planted and built their home and workshops here, a labor of love that both continue to work on as much as possible. Any land not used for buildings or the garden is sheltered with beautiful Douglas firs on sloping, hilly terrain.

On a late fall day, the trees blaze with colors as flowers bloom all around and seem to soak up the light fog.

"We love it here," Drew Coleman said. "My wife spends up to 15 hours a day outside, tending to the garden or in the woods. She's attached to the land."

But the Colemans know they won't live forever, and they don't have children. So, they are leaving their estate to WSU to support the Master Gardener program, establishing a training center where peo-

ple can come to learn about gardening or new gardening techniques.

Amazingly, the Colemans are not, and never have been, involved with the Master Gardener program. And neither has any substantial ties to WSU. They heard about the program through a friend and felt like it fit perfectly with the legacy they hope to leave.

"Our friend Bob Bryan went through the Master Gardener program and teaches there now," Drew said. "It sounded like such a great program, so we looked into it a little more and thought our garden would be helpful for future generations."

They want the land preserved like it is, with most of the acreage untouched.

"We know we could sell the land or leave it to another organization that could sell it," said Drew, a San Francisco native. "But then it would be subdivided with houses on it. That's fine, but not what we want. We know the WSU Master Gardeners will take care of it and use it."







A gift from the heart

The Master Gardener Program, part of WSU Extension, will greatly benefit from the Colemans' generosity.

"The Master Gardener program has minimal funding from the state," said Mike Gaffney, acting director of WSU Extension. "It owes its success over the years to the efforts of volunteers and donations like this."

He said the Colemans' donation will create opportunities for the program that have never been available before anywhere in the state.

"This is a unique opportunity for events, training, and garden development," Gaffney said. "We have other demonstration gardens that are smaller. This is a whole different scale for the Master Gardener program. It will open up some amazing opportunities for future gardeners."

The Colemans bought the land 25 years ago, after it had been clear-cut. They have built every structure themselves,

and only just put it on the electrical grid about three years ago. They rarely need to tap into the grid, running everything off solar panels, Drew said.

He even milled all the wood for the house in his workshop. Everything on the property is a labor of love.

Fusa, a native of Japan, is a ceramics artist. She has her own workshop with a kiln and proudly displays her creations around their house.

"We both have lots of hobbies," said Drew, who still works as a biotechnology facilities consultant. "We'll never finish all the projects we have going on, or the plans we have for the property. But that's half the fun. We love working on it."

The couple, who met when they were both judo instructors, say that their property is home to eagles, cougars, deer, bobcats, and other wildlife.

"We want someone who will care for this land after we're gone," Fusa said. "We know the Master Gardeners will take great care with it."

Gifts of the Harvest

Family's donation of treasured farm sustains a legacy of support

Reinbold farm have fed and sustained Northwest families.

A third-generation farm passed down in the family since the 1930s, these thousand rolling acres near Davenport, Wash., dotted with groves of trees, sundappled ponds and a towering elevator, produced wheat crops every summer, harvested together by grandfather and grandson.

Now, as a family gift to Washington State University's Land Legacy program, these fields will continue to nourish student minds, growing a harvest of discoveries by CAHNRS Cougs.

Hard work and ingenuity

On his farm, in the buildings, tools and machines that he built by hand, and in the gifts and lessons that he gave to others, Simon Reinbold left his mark.

Born in 1899 in Egypt, Wash., Simon grew up on the family farm and marched off to World War I, barracking inside the unfinished Wilson Hall on the WSU campus. Long after, he would relate to family members how the winter wind whistled through fabric-covered windows in his top-floor dormer while he trained to be a soldier.

After the war, Simon promptly went home to Washington's grain country, farming with his family and eventually purchasing the Davenport property in 1939.

Farming in the last century required ingenuity and independence, and farmer Simon was a blacksmith, carpenter, engineer and mechanic rolled into one. He built windmills and elevators, along with an extensive shop and blacksmith's forge to craft whatever hardware



he needed. Unafraid to innovate, he benefited from WSU Extension discoveries in soil conservation and fertilizer use to get the most out of his ground.

Simon's wife, Marvel, was equally a pioneer. Growing up on a farm, she knew how to make a little go a long way. A great canner and an avid sewer, Marvel filled their farmhouse with her best and tastiest.

"My grandparents always believed in hard work, thrift and involvement," says current owner Jim Batch, Simon and Marvel's grandson. "They expected you to work for what you have, but they also gave back."

A place to grow

A Pasco native and Washington State University alumnus, Jim came of age on the farm, helping his grandfather bring in the harvest.

"As far back as I can remember, I would join my grandparents here every summer," he said.

Jim's mother, Donna, had been adopted by Simon and Marvel, and Jim was the only grandchild with a real connection to the farm, playing in muddy fields and discovering new strengths and talents amid the late-summer wheat.

When Jim turned 12, carefree play gave way to new responsibilities, when Simon enlisted him to drive a ton-and-a-half farm truck hauling 20,000 tons of wheat to the family's grain elevator. The experience grounded him, giving him a strong work ethic and an appreciation for the farm and the land, along with \$15 a day.

"Grandpa Simon figured it would build a good work ethic and an appreciation for the farm," said Jim. It did that, and more.

Seated high on a pillow, he'd drive the farm's "trap wagon," a '35 Chevy loaded with the farm's tools, grease guns and gas cans, helping Simon repair combine engines on the fly.

"I'm a hands-on engineer. I like to get into the guts of things," says Jim. "Part of that comes from my farm experience, where, if you needed something done, you got out the wrenches and you did it!"

Simon's farm was where Jim developed skills and confidence that would one day serve him well as a professional engineer, assembling computer systems that contributed to the discovery of the first gravitational wayes.

Keeping the legacy

Simon, who passed on in 1995 at the age of 96, left the farm to Jim.

The farm became a retreat where Jim and his wife Nancy explored new callings, blacksmithing on Simon's original forge while connecting with their roots.

Thanks to Simon's wartime connection to the campus, he and Marvel long supported WSU students. In their lifetime, they created a WSU scholarship fund for students in agronomy, soils, human nutrition, and dietetics. Jim and Nancy have continued this support in Simon and Marvel's names.

Now, with no family members available to carry on the farming legacy, the couple has decided to leave the property to WSU, keeping and building on Simon and Marvel's lifelong tradition of support.

Simon and Marvel would be pleased that their farm will continue, intact, to help students make handson discoveries that help others, in agriculture and far beyond.

"Jim is honoring his grandfather with this gift," said Nancy. "I know he would approve."

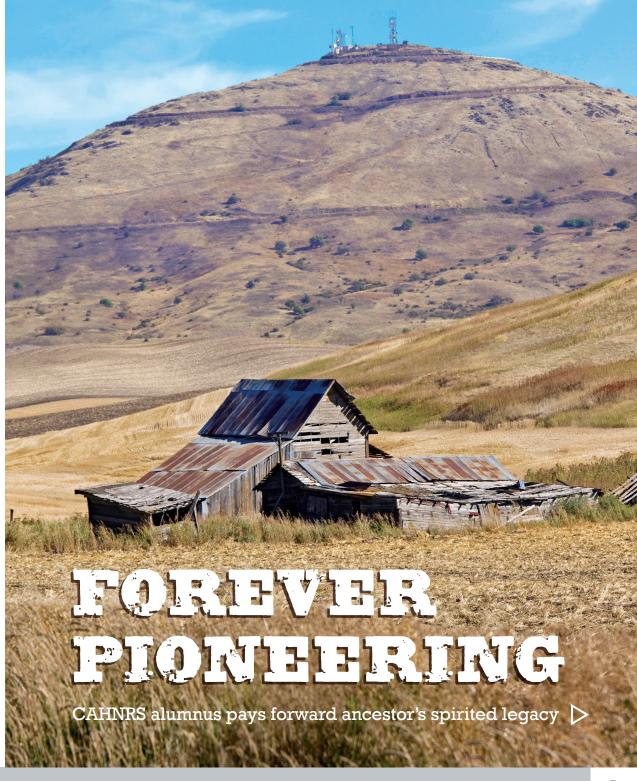


Through the WSU Land Legacy program, gifts can be designated to benefit virtually any WSU activity, and donors can direct their contributions to what matters most to them.

"Farms like the Reinbolds' have sustained Washington families and communities for generations," says Hal Johnson, Cougar alumnus, farmer and the university's Land Legacy Council chair. "This land represents hard work and stewardship, values that we hold most dear and that guarantee a sustainable world for generations to come."



Learn more about making a gift of land at: https://legacyofland.wsu.edu/



Not a stone or beam remains of James S. Davis' hotel on the summit of Steptoe Butte. The rolling prairies far below have long since given way to checkerboards of ripening grain.





The vista from Steptoe Butte, a quartzite island rising 1,700 feet above the Palouse, is as inspiring today as it was 128 years ago, when Davis, an immigrant and entrepreneur better known by his nickname of "Cashup," opened the grand inn.

"It takes my breath away," said Gordon Davis, Cashup's descendant and a CAHNRS alumnus who led a dozen family members to the top of the mountain two summers ago. "Every time I come up to Steptoe, it opens my mind to what my great-grandfather saw when he first came here in 1872.

"He could look for many miles on every side and picture the richest farmland in the world," Gordon added. "If he could stand here today, I don't think he'd be one bit surprised by what he would see."

As a sod-busting homesteader at St. John in 1872, then as an innkeeper and hotel-builder, James Davis could see the potential of this land for agriculture, trade and improvement. His early vision predicted the Inland Empire of today.

Pursuit of excellence

Gordon, who graduated from Washington State University in 1969 with a double degree in agricultural science and agricultural education, inherited much of the Cashup

spirit. An award-winning teacher, mentor, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Gordon helps students and educators at WSU, in his home state of Texas, and nationwide rise to excellence.

In the classroom, the boardroom, and in the frigid walk-in coolers where he coached his intercollegiate meats judging teams, Gordon has always followed the same motto: "It's all about the kids."

His journey began in 1964, when his family was named the Washington State Dairy Family of the Year. Gordon remembers being "grilled under the willow tree" by Timothy Blosser, chairman of the award selection committee and head of the WSU animal sciences department, who recruited him to the university's competitive livestock and meats judging teams. That experience, a team contest to apply critical thinking and analysis quickly and accurately, changed his life.

"Oh, I loved it!" Gordon said. "Mentally and physically, I've never seen a tougher, more challenging event than meats judging!"

After graduation, Gordon taught high school agriculture before seizing the chance to get back into collegiate judging, following his former coach and mentor Gary C. Smith to Texas. Building future leaders in the food industry, Gordon was proud to be able to co-coach two

national champion teams, in 1973 at Texas A&M, and 1989 at Texas Tech. Former team members tell him the experience changed their lives, too.

Paying forward success

In 1990, Gordon founded his educational media company, CEV Multimedia. Now a world-class service used in 67 colleges and universities, and high schools and middle schools across the nation, the service has 15,000 teacher subscribers, including more than half of all agriculture educators nationwide. Gordon, as chair, leads with four partners—three of whom are former members of championship judging teams.

With success, Gordon gave back. A major supporter of education, he served on CAHNRS' National Board of Advisors and its Campaign Council, helping raise more than 250 million to support academics, research, and Extension. Gordon continues to financially support CAHNRS student learning today.

"No matter how good you are, you can always get better," he says. "The team is always more important than any individual win. I'm on the Cougar team, and we're winning together."

A secret mentor

As a teen, Gordon learned from family elders about Cashup, his famous ancestor.

"My great-grandfather, a man I've never met, has been a secret mentor to me," Gordon said. "He had incredible vision. I've had success in life because of that same vision. I've tried to see ahead of the game, just like him."

In his latest trip to the Palouse, Gordon made sure to pass on the Davis history to the five youngest members of his family—Cashup's great-great-grand-children.

"It is quite a story," he told the children. "You need to learn about it."

This spring, Gordon's oldest grandson, Reese, came to WSU as a transfer student.

"I think Cashup had something to do with it," Gordon said. "

TOWERING VISION

"Cashup" Davis & his Steptoe Hotel

A pioneer, grand host, and savvy businessman who built a stately, short-lived hotel atop the Palouse's highest mountain, James S. "Cashup" Davis crossed an ocean and a continent in constant search of new opportunity.

Born in 1815 in Sussex County, England, Davis emigrated to America, putting the family craft of well-digging to prosperous use. Farming in Wisconsin and lowa for more than 20 years, Davis felt the urge to go west, staking a claim first in Oregon, then, in 1871, in Whitman County in the Washington Territory.

Living in a dugout home a hundred miles from Walla Walla, the nearest city, Davis and his family broke the tough prairie sod, planted grain and raised cattle, battling primitive conditions, the elements, and one summer, a plague of crickets.

But Cashup was a fervent promoter of the region, and praised the fertility and beauty of the Palouse in a letter to his sons: "The country is one vast pasturage of grass. Its fattening qualities are unsurpassed by any in the world.... Cattle are fat all the year."

Master of the dance

A few years later, Davis moved a few miles north of Steptoe Butte, building a general store and inn, with a dance hall on the top floor. In the era before trains, his settlement soon became a well-known stage coach stop, and Davis loved to play the host.

Young and old gathered at his hall to step the polka and waltz to a two-man "orchestra" in dances that lasted from dusk to dawn.





Davis earned his lasting nickname as one of the few traders willing to put "cash up" on the counter. Cash was rare in the territory, and Davis earned respect and made shrewd deals thanks to his ability to offer hard money.

Spectacle on the mountain

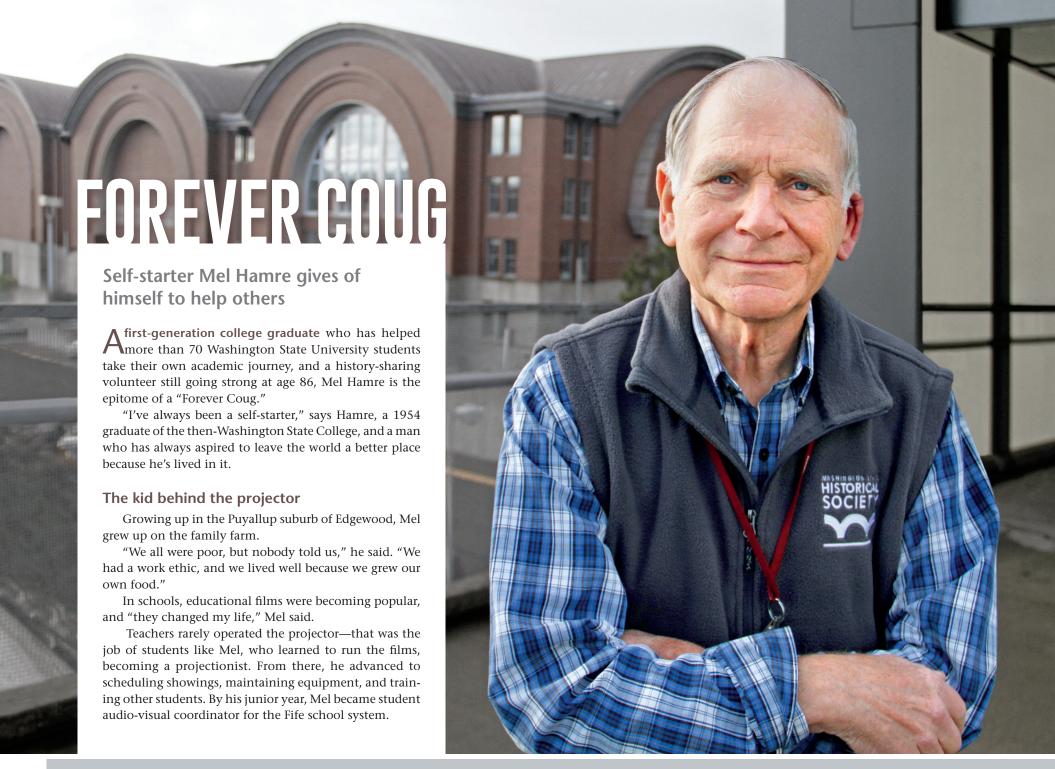
With the arrival of the railroads, the stage coach business dried up. Davis had long been fascinated by the majestic, 3,600-foot Steptoe Butte. He purchased land and spent \$10,000, a fortune in 1888, to build his hotel, equipped with every luxury and considered a palace on the Palouse.

Crowning the spacious building, with a grand hall, stage and dining room for 50, was a cupola observatory and reading room with views of 150 miles distant.

Some say Davis built his hotel because he missed the merry company of travelers. But while hundreds visited every season, the hotel was not a success. In later years, he occupied it alone, wistfully hoping for crowds who rarely came.

Davis died June 22, 1896, at age 81, alone in his hotel atop the peak. While his son tried to maintain the hotel, it burned down in 1911 in a fire said to be started by a couple of smoking teens. The blaze on the mountain was seen for miles.

The grand hotel has vanished, but the "Cashup" legacy remains on the Palouse: A sense of opportunity, pride, and adventure that runs through its farms, businesses, classrooms, and research endeavors.



Thanks to his work ethic and good record, Mel received a scholarship from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. When he arrived at Washington State College in 1950, Mel had a marketable skill, useful for paying the \$200-per-semester room-and-board and \$87.50 in tuition and fees.

He landed a student job, rising to become chief projectionist and assistant chief technician, shipping films from the audio-visual center's film library, and scheduling movies for entertainment in Todd Hall.

"I advanced to a buck an hour," he said—more than the typical student wage in the '50s.

Supporting the student experience

After graduation, Mel took a job teaching 8th grade back home at Edgemont School, but "my number was up," and he was shortly drafted and sent to a U.S. Army combat engineer battalion in Germany. Once out of the Army, however, Mel had a decision to make.

"Things were happening fast in the world of science," he said. "I decided my calling was to get on with my education."

Earning advanced degrees at Purdue University, Mel went on to the University of Minnesota, spending his professional career in Extension, teaching, and research in poultry science.

Washington state, however, was always his true home. And, knowing firsthand the needs of students from working families, Mel began funding scholarships in CAHNRS and the WSU College of Education more than 20 years ago.

"I'd been there and done that," Mel said. "I talk to young people, and I know

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Helping big dreams come true



Exploring wheat genes that could give us better varieties for pastries, cookies, and cakes, Crop and Soil Sciences graduate student Carmen Swannack benefits from fewer financial worries and more supplies in school thanks to Mel Hamre's scholarship.

Funding from donors like Mel rewards hard-working students, giving them a boost of confidence that lets them achieve their goals, says Swannack.

"I thank Mel for all the support he gives to CAHNRS students," says Swannack. "His gift helps students like me get a great education, turning dreams into reality."



Pointing out the state's varied fruit crops as they roll past, volunteer guide Mel Hamre helps young guests learn more from a trip to the Washington State History Museum. "I like to give visitors something special to remember," he says.

how hard it is: A \$1,000 scholarship means 100 hours less they have to work. That lets them live the college experience—belong to clubs, work out at the Rec Center, go to the games. Not just pound the books!"

Day at the museum

Working at a recent Friday morning opening of the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma, as he's done nearly every week for 22 years, Mel was on hand as a guide, answering questions and adding a personal touch for visitors of all ages.

Wearing a fleece vest marked "Volunteer," Mel proudly pointed out an antique propeller—"Kids like to see how fast they can make it go!" and the origins of the shipbuilding exhibit—"Those are the tools of a master craftsman."

Few who visit the agriculture exhibit ever notice the little, stuffed mouse in his shadowy corner, but once Mel pointed him out, two visiting girls were excited to spot it.

"We have a mouse in the museum. Can you see it?" Mel asked. High atop stacked wheat sacks, the rodent crouched, lifelike as if intent on stealing Palouse grain.

"I like to give visitors something special to remember," said Mel.

Mel retired home to Washington in 1995, but, true to character, has kept busy in his volunteer job at the museum and helping at his retirement community, while still supporting students in CAHNRS.

"I'm a lifelong educator," he said. "I taught 8th grade, taught in college, and continuing education in Extension. Why quit now?"

BROADENING HORIZONS

The Cecelia "Bunny" Quirk Agricultural Scholarship

Haile Hunsaker

Cecelia "Bunny" Quirk scholarship recipient

Haile Hunsaker understands the power of education. Hunsaker, the 2018–19 recipient of the Cecelia "Bunny" Quirk Scholarship, is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Education, and, much like Bunny Quirk did, she hopes to give back to her community as a high school teacher and mentor for future Washington farmers. A senior from Port Orchard, Wash.,



Hunsaker is a first-generation college student, who, like many WSU students, needed help funding her education.

"It's impossible to be successful in college while constantly worrying about the price of supplies and keeping a roof over your head," says Hunsaker. "Receiving the Bunny Quirk Scholarship has certainly been very helpful for me."

Helping students like Haile is the reason Bunny decided to establish the scholarship. "It just brings me so much joy to help," Bunny says.

But for Haile, a President's Honor Roll student, the scholarship hasn't just allowed her to focus on her studies. It's taught her what kind of educator and person she wants to be.

"Legacy giving is a way to show support for a cause or platform that you really believe in," says Hunsaker. "Bunny Quirk believed strongly in the ideals of agriculture and giving back to the community. I'll be sure to carry on the spirit of her commitment to agriculture through my role in educating the next generation of students!"

ravel is one of Bunny Quirk's great passions.

"My mother and my grandfather always wanted to be some place other than where they were," she says, recounting her youth on her family's wheat farm, "and I inherited that trait."

At well under five feet tall, Bunny, whose given name is Cecelia, has never let her petite size—or anything else—stand in her way.

"I started traveling young," she says. "I have a great deal of curiosity about the world, and I've never been afraid of anything or meeting anybody."

The stamps on her passport are there to prove it—from the South Pacific to the Swiss Alps, her travels have taken her to the far corners of the world, far beyond the edge of most people's comfort zones. Her favorite place?

"That's a toughie," she says, looking into the distance, searching the catalogues of her memory. When the answer comes, she smiles. "Ethiopia."

The joy of giving

Born and raised in Lincoln County, Wash., Bunny graduated from WSU with a degree in Home Economics and made a career as a teacher in the Yakima valley. Summer vacations gave her the freedom to read and travel. Retirement has increased her time for both.

These days, Bunny lives in a house that has been in her family for three generations. Filled with heirlooms handed down from her grandmother to her mother and on to her, the house is also a reminder of the legacy she inherited—to work hard and give to others. "I've lived a blessed life," Bunny says, "and it feels good to give back."

One of the ways Bunny has chosen to honor that legacy of giving is through the creation of a scholarship that supports CAHNRS students. Now in its fourth year, the Cecelia "Bunny" Quirk Agricultural Scholarship funds students studying agricultural education or crop and soil sciences and reflects the importance of connection and stewardship to the land.

"Washington state is special," Bunny says. "The diverse landscapes, the diverse agriculture. I've seen a lot of the world, and Washington is very special."

Bunny is the first to admit that even she is surprised by the trajectory of her life.

"When I was growing up, Grand Coulee Dam was the largest dam in the world, and when important people were visiting, they were taken there." One of those important people was Haile Selassie, the emperor of Ethiopia. "He drove right through town," she says, crediting that memory with sparking her desire to see the world.

But a scholarship in her name started as a small donation. "I think most of us start off giving a little bit, and we enjoy it," she says. "That's really why I do it. Giving probably gives me more pleasure than it helps those who receive."

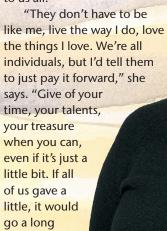
A lasting legacy

While she'd rather be in Bermuda than in the spotlight, Bunny knows her gift has the potential to change the lives of the students who receive her scholarship.

"I just want to ease their load," she says. "I want them to have good careers, good families. And I'm pretty sure they'll give back what they can one day."

She also understands that a college education introduces students to a bigger world than perhaps many of them have known. "I'm glad I came to WSU," Bunny says, "rather than a school where everybody was just like me. It's good to broaden your horizons."

When asked what wisdom she might share with her scholarship recipients, Bunny has an answer that applies to us all.



way."

Where Legacies Begin New club helps minority students connect, share

fresh perspective

Tor Letty Trejo, a senior from Bridgeport, Wash., attending college was never a given.

"My earliest memories are of my parents waking up before sunrise to pick fruit," she says. "Bridgeport is a small town of mostly migrant farm workers, so I've grown up with agriculture happening all around me, but I really had no guidance on attending college."

After a year at Wenatchee Valley College, Trejo transferred to WSU because, "I knew they had great agriculture programs."

This spring, Trejo will complete a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and Food Security with minors in Crop Science and Agriculture and Food Systems. When she dons the cap and gown to receive her diploma, she'll be the first college graduate in her family.

From Guam to Pullman

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Tomyia Wallace's journey to WSU started half way around the world.

"I'm the first in my family to go to college," Wallace says, "and I'm also the first to join the military."

Five years of service in the US Navy took Wallace first to Japan and then to Guam. But it was her desire to study agriculture that brought her to Pullman. "My grandmother has a green thumb," Wallace explains, "and I always wanted to be like her."

At WSU, Wallace decided on a career that could help prevent illness: growing nutritious food and teaching others how to do the same.

Like Trejo, Wallace felt the challenges of being a minority student studying agriculture.

"I'm the only black female in any of my agriculture classes," she says.



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The need for new perspectives

60

Their shared identity as minority agriculture students led Trejo and Wallace to help start one of WSU's newest campus organizations: the WSU chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences. Known by the acronym MANRRS, the club is a national organization, with chapters in universities across the country.

Colette Casavant, CAHNRS' Lead Academic Coordinator, first proposed the idea of starting a MANRRS chapter at WSU.

"I saw an incredibly valuable resource for Washington state and for WSU students, something that really let them hone leadership skills," Casavant explains.

In the fall of 2018, the WSU MANRRS chapter held its first official meeting. Trejo was elected president.

The benefits of the club are already apparent. In October, MANRRS members attended a regional conference at Oregon State University. Inspired by what they saw around them, several WSU students. including Wallace, entered the debate competition and won. They'll be attending the national debate competition this spring.

"MANRRS provides minority students with the opportunity to create relationships and make connections with industry members that will one day hire us," says Trejo, who has just been offered an internship at Land O' Lakes. After graduation, she will move to Corinne, Utah, as a Winfield United Technology Manager intern.

"Being able to sit and have breakfast with the president of a company and talk about my career goals, my background, and how I could fit into their company are some of the opportunities MANRRS has offered me that I don't think I would have otherwise," Trejo says.

But the value of MANRRS isn't just in what it offers to CAHNRS students.

"If I had to tell someone that they should donate money to help support MANRRS, I would tell them that they're contributing to the future of agriculture," Trejo said. "They're helping provide industry with diverse leaders who have new and different perspectives to better our world."



Knowledge for all

Extension leader Mary Kohli pays forward a lifetime of learning and action

resh out of college, on her own in a new state and in her first real job, Mary Kohli found herself learning fast about the humble arts of hearth and harvest.

A home economics graduate back in Delaware, Ohio, Mary had been hired over the phone as a Cooperative Extension agent in Denver, Colorado.

Newly arrived and tasked with helping Colorado families and homemakers solve urgent questions about food preservation, canning and baking, Mary had to admit that homemade preserves were outside her expertise.

"I'd never canned in my life," recalled Mary. "I absolutely never had and never will!"

But, raised in a family of strong, independent women who prized education, Mary wasn't afraid to work hard and ask questions. She drew her chair close to the seasoned senior agent, Jackie Anderson, and listened as Anderson shared the secrets to baking great cakes in Colorado's high mountain air, along with answers to many other home economics head-scratchers. In no time at all, Mary was on her way, helping families and 4-H leaders learn about everything from clothes-

making and bread-baking to nutrition and health.

Knowledge for all

For more than 100 years, Extension agents like Mary have been unsung heroes of rural and urban America. "I grew up in a family where education was highly valued. It was simply assumed that I would seek an education, too."

With the resources and expertise of land-grant universities like WSU at their fingertips, Extension agents bring knowledge to the people.

In Mary's case, that could mean subjects she knew a lot about, or topics she didn't—like home canning. A quick study and a grand generalist, Mary could turn to a network of fellow experts when she didn't know the answers.

Inspired to learn about Extension, leadership and personal development, Mary advanced her own education, coming to Washington and serving in district leadership positions for more than 25 years. She helped Extension agents across Washington improve lives and communities.

Today, she pays forward her success, and that of her late husband and fellow Extension leader Tom Quann, through scholarship donations and involvement in CAHNRS and other causes she cares deeply about.

SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE

Every dollar counts



Growing as a person while developing skills in both chemical engineering and life, former 4-H member **Kaylee Logan** is the current recipient of the Tom Quann 4-H Scholarship, benefiting from the generosity of Mary Kohli and her late husband, Tom.

Scholarships help students like Logan balance the needs of school and finances with activities and involvement.

"Every dollar counts," she said. "It's very satisfying to receive aid from organizations that I've dedicated thousands of hours to throughout my childhood.

"To the donors, I personally thank you for believing in me and supporting me in my endeavor of expanding my knowledge and impacting the world. Your contribution is being used in the best ways possible and is so appreciated: You are helping my dreams come true."

Costumes and community connections

Pursuing studies in the Department of Apparel, Merchandising, Design and Textiles, senior **Maria Wanner** has benefited from the Jim and Barb Quann Endowed Scholarship, exploring life-changing opportunities outside the classroom.



Going from intern to costume manager for the Regional Theatre of the Palouse, she has designed costumes for community theater productions of Legally Blonde the Musical, The King and I, The 39 Steps, Newsies, and most recently, Cabaret. Wanner also supervises interns working in the costume shop, passing on the knowledge she's gained.

"I live my life striving to be the best version of myself, and it is through the many experiences made possible by scholarships that I grow and learn in different ways," Wanner says. "New experiences have so much to offer, and there are still many more horizons to discover in this journey of life."

Honored with a design award her junior year at the annual AMDT Mom's Weekend Fashion Show, and for her student writing, Wanner is a hard worker who has learned to find balance.

"My senior year has been about learning to live in the moment, while balancing between the many activities and responsibilities I have," she said. "Thank you so much for your generous support of my education."

Prizing the gift of learning

Raised in Wheaton, Illinois, Mary's parents were both highly active in their communities. Mary's father, Orlin, was a professional, sought-after portrait photographer in the Chicago area, while her mother, Alice, was an elementary school teacher. Mary also connected with her four well-educated aunts, two with master's degrees—one a music teacher, one a hospital administrator—and two of whom served in the military.

At first, Mary considered a career in clothing and retail. But her counselor at Ohio Wesleyan University knew she wasn't cut out for the cloth trade and urged her into Cooperative Extension.

The Extension experience, she added, "really matured me. I was constantly learning, and gained so much from my colleagues. We became better leaders together."

First-generation opportunities

It was here in Washington that Mary met her husband, Tom. An alumnus of the then-Washington State College's College of Agriculture, Tom devoted his career to WSU Cooperative Extension, retiring in 1987.

"Tom was very loyal to 4-H," says Mary. "He was a 4-H member who was inspired to go to college, and was the first in his family to graduate."

Tom's family founded a WSU scholarship in his honor, benefiting 4-H students. After Tom's death, Mary founded a scholarship in both their names helping deserving students. Today, she is establishing a new scholarship supporting learning opportunities for Extension faculty and staff.

Over the years, she and Tom, who passed away in 2013, helped students and staff gain educational opportunities they might not have experienced otherwise. When Mary retired in 1994, she asked her colleagues to skip gifts, and instead pool their contributions in the form of a team award for faculty and staff in the college. She then matched all that was given.

Last fall, Mary was honored as a Benefactor of the Washington State University Foundation for her and Tom's contributions to Extension and CAHNRS.

"Education has always been very important for my family," Mary said. "No matter what the age, I feel strongly that any person can learn—by reading, in classes, attending seminars, and belonging to organizations that provide education, such as the League of Women Voters, of which I'm a member."

"I'm really proud to support opportunities for young people," she added. "A formal education can give your work and personal life such a great boost."

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Catch the Cougar Spirit



Tomyia Wallace is many things: US Navy veteran, first-generation college student, future farmer, and fly fishing enthusiast. You might call her a trailblazer. She calls herself a proud Coug.

Every day, Washington State University students like Tomyia are forging new paths toward a brighter future. They are solving problems, innovating solutions, and cultivating the skills they'll need to be tomorrow's leaders. They are connected by their commitment to make the world a better place. It's the Cougar spirit.

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