

# THE GOLDEN EAGLE CALL

## EWU RETIREES ASSOCIATION FALL 2025

### EWU ARCHIVISTS DISCOVER A SLICE OF BASEBALL HISTORY

Eastern Washington University's archivist Steve Bingo and a group of students are preserving regional history and making it accessible for the community.

Housed in EWU's JFK Library, the archives includes historical university records, donated collections related to local history, and a book collection that focuses primarily on the Inland Northwest.

As the 2025 World Series unfolded in late October, the archives shared news about a collection of glass-plate photographs donated by Eugene T. Hawk that contained early career images of two baseball legends, George Kelly and Stan Coveleski, from the 1910s. Both players went on to earn inductions into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

The photos were among those taken with the Spokane Indians. They included Kelly, who went on to play first base with the New York Giants (now the San Francisco Giants), and pitcher Coveleski, who eventually played for the Cleveland Indians and the Washington Senators.

While playing for the Giants, Kelly helped the team score back-to-back World Series championships in 1921 and 1922. Stan Coveleski, a right-handed pitcher who mastered the (then legal) spitball, led the Cleveland Indians to a World Series championship in 1920.

Bingo says many of the photos included in the 587-plate E.T. Hawk Collection were taken by Frank Guibert. A number of Guibert's images are held by the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture. Bingo credits John Klint, a 31-year-old graduate student from Sweden who is earning a master's degree in library sciences from University of Alabama, with identifying the major league players in the photos.

"It's amazing to have these photographs that connect the Spokane Indians to Major League Baseball history at a time when there were no major league teams on the West Coast," Bingo says. "Because minor league players do not stay put for very long, it's a treasure to preserve a glimpse of their careers prior to stardom."

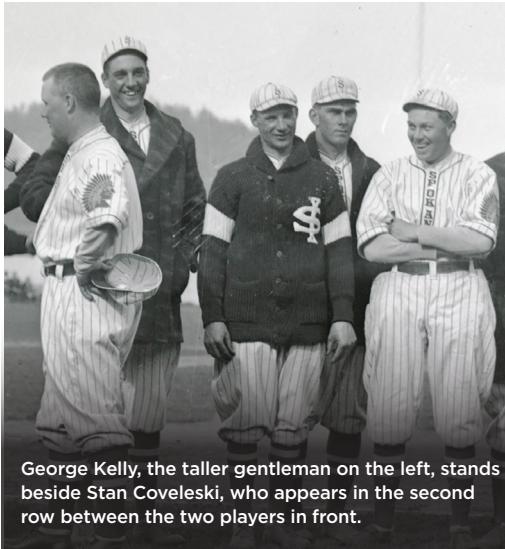
Two years ago, Bingo partnered with Riley Baxter, assistant director of alumni programs, to create a memorable exhibit for the EWU Alumni Association's 100-year homecoming anniversary celebration. Held in the Walter and Myrtle Powers Reading Room inside Hargreaves Hall, the exhibit featured historic photos, yearbooks and

memorabilia highlighting traditions, clubs, sports, activities and academics spanning the decades.

It was an impressive undertaking, says Kelsey Hatch-Brecek, director of alumni relations: "Steve puts together displays that make you feel like you're right there - in that moment, that place, that story. His work brings history to life."



The Spokane Indians team is pictured on April 14, 1914.



George Kelly, the taller gentleman on the left, stands beside Stan Coveleski, who appears in the second row between the two players in front.

### UPCOMING EWURA EVENTS

**Dec. 18, 2025**

**2-4 p.m. | Senior Hall Lounge**  
EWURA Holiday Party: Join other retirees for a festive holiday gathering. Bring a snack or dessert to share.

**Jan. 15, 2026**

**10 a.m. | Monroe 205**  
EWURA Gathering: Provost Lorenzo Smith will share his insights with the group.

**Feb. 19, 2026**

**10 a.m. | Monroe 205**  
EWURA Gathering: Robert Gibbs, retired physics professor and EWURA board member, will present "The Joy of Batik: Turning Cloth Into Art."

**April 16, 2026**

**10 a.m. | Music Recital Hall**  
Music Concert for Retirees. Students perform a variety of musical selections.

### JOIN EWURA!

Fill out the enclosed membership form to join our group.

Enjoy friendly camaraderie, special events and also make a positive impact for EWU students.

### MONTHLY GATHERINGS

**When:** The third Thursday of the month, September through May

**Time:** Social time with coffee and baked goods, 9:30-10 a.m. Guest speaker presentation, 10-11 a.m.

**Where:** 205 Monroe Hall, Cheney campus

## EWURA BOARD 2025-2026

**Keith Adolphson**, President  
**Melanie Gibbs**, Vice President  
**Morag Stewart**, Past President  
**Wendy Repovich**, Treasurer/Secretary  
**John Bruntlett**, Member-at-Large  
**Floyd Cloke**, Member-at-Large  
**Bob Gibbs**, Member-at-Large

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

### AS OF OCT. 16, 2025:

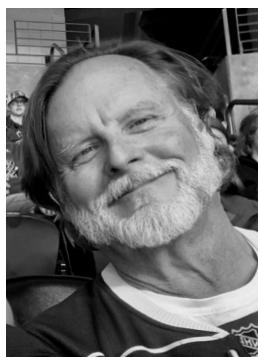
Current Market Value:.....\$200,255.20  
Principal:.....\$135,482.73  
STCU Checking Account: .....\$1,661.88  
Golden Eagle Scholarships:.....\$29,639.18

## THANK YOU TO OUR GOLFERS!

Thank you for everyone who turned out for the golf league! Players had a great time while raising funds to support the EWURA Golden Eagle Scholarship Fund.



## DEAR RETIREES AND FRIENDS,



I hope this message finds you well and full of the same spirit that makes our association such a welcoming community. As we continue navigating changing seasons, let's reflect on what we've accomplished—and the exciting things to come.

I am grateful for the connections we've made this past year. Whether it was through our monthly gatherings or the diligent efforts of our scholarship committee to select four superb scholarship recipients to support this academic year, we've made meaningful strides in keeping our community engaged. It's clear that the heart of our association lies in the generous contributions of its members.

EWU President Shari McMahan kicked off our 2025-2026 year in September by updating us on the successes EWU has achieved, and the challenges it faces ahead. Notably, EWU was selected as a College of Distinction and received the Carnegie Foundation's prestigious classification of research-intensive colleges and universities. The two designations highlight engaged students, great teaching, a vibrant community, and successful outcomes.

Janis Bliss, from the benefits office, followed in October. (Read her tips for retirees on Eastern's EWURA website.)

As we look ahead, we have an excellent lineup of speakers and events. (Check out the calendar on the front cover. Thank you to VP Melanie Bell Gibbs for organizing the guest speakers!)

I encourage everyone to join us! Your involvement is the cornerstone of our success. We're always open to new ideas—if there's something you'd like to see or a project you're passionate about sharing, don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can make the EWURA even more impactful.



As we look to the future, we have goals to strengthen our association and ensure it continues to thrive in support of the EWU community:

- **Increasing Membership and Active Participation:** We're committed to growing our community and encouraging additional retirees to join us. If you have friends, colleagues, or family members who may be interested in becoming members, please invite them to attend one of our upcoming events. Remember, we are not a faculty group—but an every retiree group. In other words, the more, the merrier—and the stronger we are as a group!
- **\$150,000 for the Scholarship Fund:** One of our most exciting long-term goals is to raise \$150,000 in principle for our scholarship fund, and we're very close. This fund plays a crucial role in supporting the education of young people in our community. With your help, we can continue providing meaningful help to students into the future. Every contribution brings us closer to that goal.

Thank you for your continued support and participation. Our community wouldn't be the same without you. I'm honored to be part of this dynamic and supportive group. Stay well, and I look forward to seeing you at our next gathering!

Warmly,

**Keith Adolphson**  
EWURA President

## FUTURE COUNSELOR AWARDED GOLDEN EAGLE SCHOLARSHIP

Xiola Sebastian, a returning student who plans to become a mental health professional, was recently notified that she is an EWURA 2025-2026 Golden Eagle Scholarship awardee. Receiving the scholarship offer was a welcome surprise, says Sebastian, noting, “I was very thankful. It was unexpected—but very much appreciated.”

The 30-year-old transfer student will graduate with a bachelor’s degree in health psychology from EWU in March 2026. She plans to then pursue a master’s degree in mental health counseling from Eastern. “Mental health is such a relevant topic all the time. Everybody probably has some sort of family history or they themselves struggle or deal with mental health [issues],” Sebastian says.

Sabbastian juggles a four-day-a-week, appointment-based schedule working as a massage therapist for a local mental health clinic, along with taking full-time classes.

“It’s definitely harder when you are self-sustaining and you are paying all your bills yourself,” she says. Support from the EWURA gives Sebastian a little breathing room so that she can focus more time on academics—and finishing her degree.

When Sebastian first thought of becoming a counselor at around age 16, she researched Eastern and felt it would be an ideal fit for her career interests. However, she recalls being intimidated by the years of education required to realize her professional goals. As a returning student with a clear focus for her future, Eastern remained her top choice.

As an undergraduate student, Sebastian has learned about tic disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, general anxiety, and other mental health illnesses. Ultimately, she plans to put the knowledge, tools and credentials developed through Eastern to work as an independent counselor helping teenagers and adults struggling with addiction, substance use disorders, and identity issues. “I’d like to be someone who can be a support system—or part of someone’s support system—in the future.”



## IN MEMORIAM

We’d like to take a moment to honor the outstanding Eastern faculty and staff retirees, and their spouses, who have passed away over the past few months. We extend our condolences to their loved ones and our gratitude for the impact they made for EWU’s students and community.

**David Daugherty**, faculty emeritus in mathematics, served the university for 30 years before retiring in 1996. Daugherty passed away June 12, 2025.

**Patrick Foster**, retired staff in modern languages, served the university for 15 years before retiring in 1999. Foster passed on June 30, 2025.

**Mark Lester**, faculty emeritus in English, served Eastern for 17 years, retiring in 1999. Lester passed away Aug. 25, 2025.

**Charles (Chuck) Roper**, retired staff in the controller’s office, served the university for 47 years and retired in 2024. Roper passed on July 7, 2025.

**Bill Smithpeters**, retired staff, worked in PEHR as the Women’s Basketball coach. He served 15 years, retiring in 1994. Smithpeters passed away on June 28, 2025.

## EWURA SCHOLARSHIP HELPS DESIGNER ADVANCE HER SKILLS



Bea Smith is an experienced designer working to advance her skills. Smith, who recently started a freelance design firm called RevWorxZ Designs (RWZ), enrolled at EWU to inspire her partner to complete a computer science degree and support her own goals as a business owner.

“I was starting a freelance company and noticed that a lot of the skills I had were outdated from being Adobe Associate Certified in 2016—might as well learn some new skills while I’m at it,” she says. Part of Smith’s entrepreneurial drive includes combining her passion for racing with design. She races a Camaro RS in the local AutoSports Northwest Club and developed a custom Arizona Iced Tea livery for her Camaro.

Smith, age 25, has found her greatest design success in building cohesive brand identities and liveries. Liveries, a style of marketing that carries across uniforms, auto decals and signage to show ownership, sponsorship and affiliation, work well for marketing companies within the autocross and automotive industries.

Smith developed her initial design skills while attending a technical charter high school in her hometown of Boise, Idaho. She went on to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard, start her own business, and, years later, enroll at EWU. Now in her senior year in the design program, the hardworking Smith, who is on her own to pay for college, juggles hours working as a freelancer/independent contractor with coursework and program demands.

Several months ago, Smith received an email from the EWU Retirees Association offering her a scholarship award. “I had no idea that the scholarship was a thing prior to getting that email. It was a very pleasant surprise,” says Smith. Receiving the scholarship allows Smith to decrease her work hours and spend more time increasing and modernizing her skills—positioning herself for future success.

