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INSIDE CAREERS EDITION

FOLKLIFE GOSPEL



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

The Rev. Allen A. Belton joined members of the Total Experience Choir, University Presbyterian Gospel Choir, Wings of Grace, the Oliver Family Generation of Faith and several other gospel groups in the grand finale of the gospel show, Monday, May 30, at the 40th Annual Northwest Folklife Festival. The four-day festival featured a wide array of music, dance and the arts representing a variety of cultures.

Course Explores Identity

UW students look at mixed cultural heritage, histories

By Laurel Christensen
UW News Lab

In a new course offered this year at the University of Washington, students spent three quarters exploring the issues surrounding people of mixed-heritage, which can include anything from interracial relationships, families and experiences to transracial adoptees, multiethnic backgrounds, and diverse cultural histories.

Intergenerational roots: A Mixed Heritage Family Oral History Project was a 1-credit, independent study course offered through the University of Washington's school of social work that asked students from a variety of backgrounds to discuss what it means to be of mixed heritage and how best to bring what they learned to the community.

"We're not film or art students," said Gabbie Duncalf, an undergraduate student in the course all three quarters. "We come from so many different disciplines: Social Work, Communications, Scandinavian Studies, Museology, etc.—but we're making a film and an exhibit even though a lot of us haven't done this sort of thing before, and it's really exciting."

Designed to span three quarters, the course was largely student driven, incorporating multiple graduate and undergraduate perspectives into a discourse about the oral histories of underrepresented communities.

The course culminated Thursday, June 2 at The Ethnic Cultural Center in the Udistrict,SP with an interactive community event showcasing the students' work this quarter. Installations in the lobby invited attendees to tell their own stories and actors from Memory War Theater performed *Below U.S.* — a dramatic play that depicts the "hybrid identity" of people involved in multi-cultural environments. The event also featured a partial screening of the class' still-in-progress documentary, "Beyond the Spiel," leaving time afterward for feedback from the audience.

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Washington To Add New District

Commission considers citizen needs in deciding congressional lines

By Brian Stimson
Of The Skanner News

Washington State will soon be getting a new representative in Congress.

Every 10 years after a US Census, the Washington State Redistricting Commission is charged with the task of making sure congressional districts are equally distributed. In the last 10 years, the state has gained nearly 1 million new residents. Commission Chair Lura

Powell, Ph.D., said commissioners must balance a number of different factors in reworking the congressional map — from demographics, to maintaining "communities of interest" (more on this later), to geography, to the wants and needs of constituents.

"All input is taken into account," she said.

And that's why it's more important than ever for your voice — and your community's voice — to be heard. Powell says it's important to know where

communities lie, so they aren't inadvertently broken up when district lines are moved around.

Many of these communities — sometimes called communities of interest — are not as obvious as a township or county line. They may neighborhood associations or areas connected by shared culture, economic interest or history.

The commission is made up of two Democratic and two Republican appointees, as well as the nonpartisan, nonvoting chair. For any plan to be

approved, three of them must decide that is fair enough for either party.

Powell, who is a non-voting member of the commission, says that there really is no way of telling where the new congressional district will be squeezed into the map. While it might seem obvious to some that the urban areas of the state — which have seen the most growth over the decade — would receive the new district, Powell says it could be a big new dis-

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City Builds Low-Income Housing for Youth

Homeless, former foster children will receive support to age 25

The Low Income Housing Institute is developing 50 units of housing in the University District for formerly homeless youth and those transitioning out of foster care. A new home for the University District Food Bank will be located on the first floor. LIHI recently purchased the 13,600 S.F. site located at 5019 Roosevelt Way N.E., which is next door to the University Branch Library.

Runberg Architecture Group will design the four-story building where residents, age 18 to 25, will receive support to finish their education and pursue employment. LIHI will partner with two experienced non-profit service providers, YouthCare and Sound Mental Health, to provide counseling, employment services and other supportive services.

"The studios will be 425 square feet and

will provide a safe home for a population that in many cases has been abused, neglected or abandoned," stated LIHI Executive Director Sharon Lee.

The University District Food Bank has been searching for a new home as it has outgrown its existing space. "We are excited to partner with LIHI on this important proj-

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