



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

BY TARA JESKE

"SOMEDAY, I'm going to hike the Pacific Crest Trail, from Mexico all the way to Canada."

"I love baking—what if I could turn it into a business?"

"I wish I could spend a summer road tripping through Central and South America."

What have you always wanted to do? What stops you from turning it into reality? Maybe you think you've waited too long. That you should have started before you had a family, while you were still in your 20s, or before you settled into your career. But as these Walla Walla University alumni prove, it's never too late to...

Climb a mountain

Michael Boyson '81

AGE: 58

DENVER, COLORADO

There are 53 “14ers”—peaks exceeding 14,000 feet—in Colorado, and Michael Boyson is on a quest to climb each one. Michael works for a population health management company. He and his wife, Shelley, have two children, Trevor '14, 25, and Madeleine, 22, a current WWU senior.

I started hiking in the high Sierras at a very young age. Later, my parents let me go on backpacking trips with my older brother in and around Yosemite National Park.

One of my earliest memories is hiking with him and his buddies up a small, granite-domed peak that overlooked Dardanelles Lake. I remember reaching the top and being able to see for miles in all directions, including into Yosemite National Park. The carved granite landscape looked really cool, and right then I wanted to explore it all.

I've hiked several peaks in Yosemite. I grew up spending up to six weeks each summer at Camp Wawona. Every year I took the hiking class and we climbed one or two peaks. My favorite was Half Dome.

At Gem State Academy, the hiking club did backpacking trips in the Eagle Cap Wilderness. From there, we climbed the Three Sisters and several other dormant volcano peaks.

With my own kids off to WWU, I realized a couple of years ago that if I don't climb the 14ers now, I'll never have a chance to do it again.

I've summited 14ers 49 times, but only 28 are unique. So I have 25 to go. In 2015, I summited 14 out of 20 attempts. In 2014, I summited 19 out of 24 attempts. Many times I've turned back due to weather. Most recently, I summited Longs Peak (14,255 feet) in late September on my fourth attempt. I either hike in Rocky Mountain National Park or climb 14ers most weekends.

Hiking 14ers requires you to hit the trail before sunrise to avoid afternoon thunderstorms. During these early mornings you sometimes encounter wildlife on the trail.

While hiking Quandary Peak (14,265 feet) last spring, I took a break around 13,200 feet to watch the sunrise. Within a minute, I had a feeling I was being watched. Glancing left and right with my headlamp, nothing stood out.

After a quick snack, I started packing up to hit the trail. That's when I felt hot air breathing down my neck. Turning quickly, I saw a mountain goat less than two feet away.

I froze. I had read about nannies protecting their kids by going after humans on this peak. But after a minute, I realized she was just checking to see if I would share my food. When she realized I wouldn't, she and her two kids slowly moved past me, down over the steep ridge.

When I peered over the ridge I couldn't pick them out among the rocks and snow. It was as if they had vanished into thin air.

I like how naturalist John Muir put it: “In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks.” The Colorado mountains are inspiring.

“With my own kids off to WWU, I realized a couple of years ago that if I don't climb the 14ers now, I'll never have a chance to do it.”

WHAT I'VE LEARNED:

Where else can you find such beauty this world has to offer while cleansing your body and renewing your soul? To me, it's the mountains. John Muir said it best: “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to the body and soul alike.”

TO WOULD-BE CLIMBERS:

Hiking a 14er is a bit like life. “The journey only requires you to put one foot in front of the other...again and again and again. And if you allow yourself opportunity to be present throughout the entirety of the trek, you will witness [God's] beauty in every step of the way, not just at the summit.” (Author unknown)

Sandy Zaugg's career in education has spanned the globe—and every grade from first through college. Her years teaching abroad also helped inspire the next chapter of her life. After retirement, she segued into teaching English in Asia and then at age 60 began a new career writing adventure novels for kids, Christian fiction, and other books.

My career was slowing down, retirement was nearing—and a person shouldn't just retire and vegetate. I didn't want to run a bed-and-breakfast, work in McDonald's, or drive a cab. So I figured it was time to follow a lifelong dream.

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WHAT I'VE LEARNED:

Writing has taught me to be quiet! I get more inspiration when I look and listen and experience than when I rattle on. It has taught me to accept criticism—and when to ignore it. Writing and travel have taught me to enjoy the unusual things about those I meet and to see God's hand in the affairs of my life.

ADVICE TO ASPIRING WRITERS:

Don't make the first thing you write be your surefire blockbuster novel. You need to crawl before you run. Personally, I wrote poems for kids, magazine articles, and devotionals. Don't expect to get rich—unless your name is Stephen King. The publishing industry is saturated.

I'd always wanted to write, but I was a poor reader from an uneducated family and didn't know

real people did things like this. Then I married, and my husband, Wayne '61, was a chemistry professor, first at Walla Walla University, then at La Sierra University. It was encouraging to me when he was published in a few journals. But I didn't want to write for the *Journal of American Chemistry*. I wanted to write a book called *Don't Eat Your Rubber Pants!* (You'll have to check with your grandmother to know what rubber pants are.)

My husband passed away in 1979. I became a widow when my kids were 8 and 13. A few years later, I got a

job in Singapore, and we moved. Since age 45, I've been around the world twice and taught in four countries in Asia. I've taught in the United States, the Philippines, China, and Hong Kong. I've also served as a girls' dean in Singapore, then as an associate dean of women at Walla Walla University.

For me, living abroad was—and is—an adventure. That's where I get a lot of my ideas. Even in later years when I traveled without my kids, I had adventures I could easily insert children into when I wrote about them. I've only written one manuscript about a place I haven't been—and it hasn't been published.

My first book was published after I turned 60. *The Rockslide Rescue*, book number eight in The Shoebox Kids series for Pacific Press, was published in 1998.

Writing kids' mystery/adventure books came from my own love of a good mystery. I have published 12 adventure books for middle school-aged children. I have also written a biography of a Seventh-day Adventist missionary to China, titled *Lotus Blossom Returns: The Remarkable Life of Florence Nagel-Longway-Howlett*, at the request of the publisher.

My book *Surviving Grief* came from a longing to share with people what others did for me when my husband and son died. People were so good to me. So I also wanted to give others ideas on how to help grieving friends.

Currently, I have a Christian fiction manuscript in progress and four more manuscripts I need to submit—two books for children and two Christian fiction books.

If you feel passionate about a new career, go for it. Sure, it may scare you a bit—but so what! For me, approaching retirement was the right time.

Write a book

Sandy (Leach) Zaugg '61

AGE: 77

GRESHAM, OREGON



PHOTO: BRANDON WITZEL

A photograph of Herbert Bork, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a grey baseball cap, a red and black plaid shirt, and blue jeans with red suspenders. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a dark, industrial setting, likely a foundry, with some green lighting visible in the upper left.

Herbert Bork '51

AGE: 94

PENDLETON, OREGON

Start your own business

Herbert Bork runs a one-man foundry, Bork Saddlery Hardware, located west of Pendleton, Ore. After a 25-year career in education, he started the business at age 80 and still runs it singlehandedly 14 years later. He offers more than 150 different products and his brand is recognized worldwide for its high quality.

I was principal for Harris Junior Academy here in Pendleton. I taught a business class, and for the class laboratory work, I started a business where the students could work to earn money to pay their tuition. They made saddle cinches. I paid them for and graded them on the cinches they made. Every school should have an industry. It's a character education, learning how to work and be a productive citizen.

We made our own diecast metal buckles and rings for the ends of the cinches. The saddle-makers then told people we could also do foundry work, and the business grew out of all proportion. We had a big demand for cinch buckles and other saddle hardware.

At that time I was the largest cinch-maker in the country. We had about 30 people making them, used nearly a ton of mohair cord each month, and needed more help. So I sold the cinch-making part of the business and kept and expanded the foundry.

I'm lucky: I have a hobby that I can more or less make pay, rather than just go out and play golf. The fact that you're 65 and going to retire doesn't mean you should just fold it up and go on vacation.

I have a ranch with a shop, so I use that for my foundry. I get up every morning and take the dog the 20 miles out there and fire up the smelter and crucible and get things going.

I pour manganese bronze, and I make the hardware, the rigging plates, and the D-rings that go on the saddle. I pour a lot of trick horns for trick riding, bronze oxbow stirrups, and bronze arches for packsaddles for the Grand Canyon.

The techniques are the same as 100 years ago. You have sand mixed with clay. You make molds by hand or with a jolt and squeeze molding machine. I make match plates, with half of the pattern on one side, half on the other. You use the match plate to impress it in there. When you take it apart you have holes where you pour the metal in and it fills in those voids. Then you break it up.

The crucible holds the metal ingots, which you melt with propane. You bring it up to 1,850 degrees Fahrenheit in the smelter, lift it out with tongs, and put it in the pouring shank with ceramic blanket protection. It's pretty close to 100 pounds. You hold it with one hand and go down the row pouring the metal into the molds.

It's interesting work. I think with anything you do, you have to have a passion for it or it isn't going to work out very well. Work doesn't have to be drudgery when you're in good health and you're making something that people really want. There is satisfaction in what you do.

ADVICE TO WOULD-BE BUSINESS OWNERS:

It isn't for everybody. Some people have to work for somebody else and get a paycheck. But I think that if young people start out earlier and look around, there is work out there. Look around. See if there is a need. The idea is you do it a little at a time and feel your way; don't go borrow a big amount of money and go bankrupt. Build up your clientele over the years, and the work is out there. Then you're not dependent on someone you can decide they don't need you. It's happened to a lot of people who thought business was going well, and it goes bankrupt.

"The fact that you're 65 and going to retire doesn't mean you should just fold it up and go on vacation."

Become a painter

Judi (Light) Dear '71

AGE: 69

WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Judi Dear has filled many roles in her career, including children's/drama pastor, librarian, reading specialist, and wedding officiant. Though diverse, many of her jobs have made use of her lifelong love of art, music, and writing. In 2012, Judi took a fall that left her seriously injured. She has used her recovery period to focus on her art—in particular, her love of painting.

In every undertaking, I have needed to use art of various kinds. I've painted huge backdrops for school programs, dramas, and Sabbath School. I've made costumes for the Christmas play and created games and coloring pages for kids to accompany the sermon. I really don't know how many plays I've written for church or Sabbath School. I love drama because it brings everything I am passionate about together: scripture, art for backdrops and costuming, music and writing.

I cannot remember a time when I didn't want to express myself creatively. My whole family sang and played instruments. I have led small choirs and sung with various groups with my husband. I have written 41 sets of sacred lyrics, many with music.

When I was a small child, my parents loved music and my mother also loved art. She would get a roll of butcher paper and lay it out on a tall table. Friends would come and sit on the other side of the table to be drawn. I would pull up a stool and draw beside her.

When I was about 5, one of my older brothers bought me finger paints. I loved the slippery feel of the paper and the heady smell of the paints and the thickness of the paint on my fingers. I was hooked on painting. By sixth or seventh grade I could make realistic likenesses from life or photos.

I have always done art—but I have always thought someday I would have more time for it. I am a person who finds it easy to drop my interests to take care of a need I see that someone else has. While I have done art for other purposes all along, the last oil painting I had done was in 1983.

In 2012, I fell and broke some bones and developed nerve damage and could no longer drive. So I took up art, music, and writing in my free time. Recently I began oil and acrylic painting again, encouraged by my husband. He began renewing my art supplies, as I was mostly housebound.

I've painted landscapes, portraits, and biblical paintings. My current painting is my eldest son and his wife in a steampunk setting discussing John 3:16 with Jesus.

I'd love to sell some paintings, but I'm just getting a feeling for it again. I always fall short, but I enjoy the process.

In art I can make what I wish or dream of. No one has to like it. For me art is relaxing. It is a sensory experience. I can share, in a small way, an experience of my Creator.

WHAT INSPIRES ME:

I am sure God is at the root of creativity. Sometimes, just a concept or memory, a breathtaking moment, a scene of nature, or a need inspires me. I have many creative ideas, more than I can ever get to.

TO ASPIRING ARTISTS AND WRITERS:

Jesus accomplished more in three years than the rest of us accomplish in a lifetime. He stuck to His mission. So I suppose, if you want to make a mark in the world, you should stick to your mission. When you are expressing yourself, never measure yourself by men's standards. There are many petty things that men will criticize you over that God really doesn't care about. Ask Him how He feels about your motives. Settle it with Him, and move on.

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PHOTO: THOMAS GRIMES

“It’s good to not get complacent, to put yourself into unknown situations where you have to ‘figure it out’ anew.”



Take an epic journey

Curtis Broderick '90

AGE: 52

CLAMART, FRANCE

Curtis Broderick’s 10-country, Paris to Istanbul motorcycle trip with his son in August last year took them through Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, and into Turkey on a 2005 Suzuki V-Strom 650. Curtis lives just outside Paris with Joan, his wife of 25 years, his daughters Rachel, 22, Laura, 20, Sophie, 18, and his son, Aaron, 15. He works near the Bastille at a 50-person health information systems company.

When I sold my motorcycle after graduation in 1990, I had been riding for 11 years. Marriage and a brood of little children don’t mix well with motorcycles, so it would be another 21 years before I would sit in the saddle on my own motorcycle again. A motorcycle to me is probably like a horse was to a cowboy. It’s a cliché, but it is a great feeling of freedom.

Since “Long Way Round,” the televised world motorcycle tour by Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman in 2004, adventure touring has become big, with many blogs and websites dedicated to it. Reading online stories of long motorcycle rides through interesting places and meeting interesting people tickled my sense of adventure.

I thought, “What’s something BIG I can do?” I had to have a challenge. Something a little edgy. Something doable, but into the unknown, and certainly something that

wasn’t an easy win. It’s good to not get complacent, to put yourself into unknown situations where you have to “figure it out” anew.

Going all the way to Istanbul, the front door to Asia, seemed like a worthy challenge—very big, but also doable. So that would be the destination.

I really got a kick opening up my first issue of *Road Trip* magazine. I do not lie; the very first page I opened to was “Readers’ trips: Paris-Istanbul.” I read the article five times and contacted the guy for all the preparation tips I could get.

I wanted to broaden Aaron’s horizons by visiting new places and meeting new people. I also wanted to teach him that you can do whatever you want if you plan it well in advance.

Some particularly memorable moments from the trip are riding through the rain in the mountains of Montenegro as the sun set, which took a toll on my nerves; standing on the ledge of 37-story building in Istanbul; swimming in the Black Sea; visiting fifth-century Byzantine church ruins in Albania; feeling like my clutch cable could give out at any moment on a Slovenian mountain pass; and being invited to stay in the home of a complete stranger—that was very memorable and touching.

This trip showed me that wherever you go people are not really that different from you and me. We want to live in a safe place, have a decent job, enjoy big meals with family, hang out with friends, pursue hobbies, go on adventures, and be a little mischievous now and then. Outwardly, we look and do things differently, but inside we all have the same hopes and desires.

ON TAKING YOUR OWN EPIC JOURNEY:

Make the mental decision that it WILL happen, no matter what, and give it a definite date, like June 2017. Start stashing away a little money every month—and prepare, prepare, prepare. Tell others about it, and they’ll be rooting for you. Never mind that you’ll feel sheepish if you don’t actually go and do it.

ON TAKING RISKS:

I don’t want to risk the regret of not having tried, of wondering what such a trip might have been like. Don’t start with a huge, overwhelming goal. I did a five-day trip with Aaron in 2014 within France. That worked out fine. Do something a little bit out of your comfort zone and once you see that it’s easier than you thought, that gives you the confidence to try something a little more daring next time. There is a quote from Helen Keller that I find to be a great motivator: “Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.”