

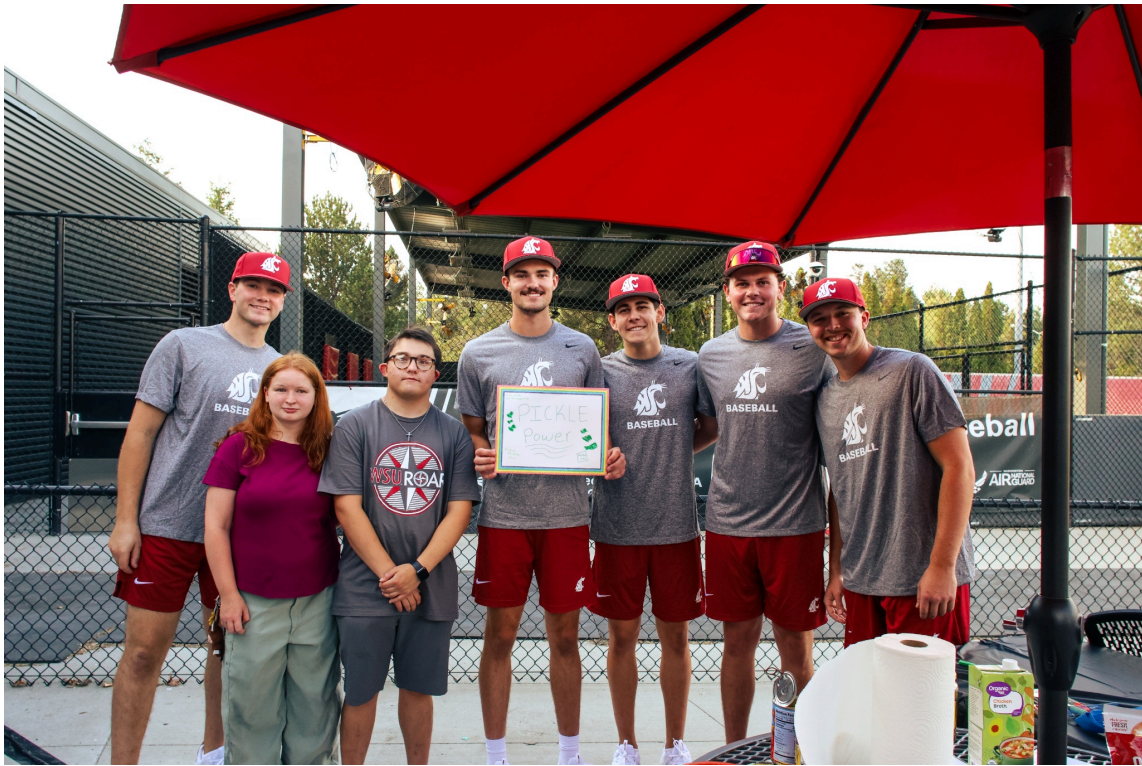
September 2026



Welcome to the New Academic Year

The new academic year is underway at the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences. Students are back in classrooms, labs, and gyms across Washington — and the work of the college of human capacity is already in motion. This first issue of the year's Crimson Pulse brings you where that work is headed: national research momentum, a milestone in generosity, and an opportunity to double your impact for WSU ROAR.

[Watch the Dean's Welcome Video](#)



Cougars Cook Up Belonging: The 6th Annual ROAR × Baseball Lentil Cook-Off

What happens when WSU ROAR scholars and Cougar Baseball players trade the classroom and the diamond for a kitchen? One of the best traditions in Pullman. For the sixth year, scholars and student-athletes teamed up, got creative with lentils, and let a panel of judges settle whose dish reigned supreme.

The dishes are the excuse. The point is what gets built along the way — real friendships, forged over recipe debates and divided-up prep work. When a scholar and a shortstop are standing side by side arguing cumin versus smoked paprika, the differences that might otherwise define them fade into the background. That is what belonging looks like in practice, and it is why this event sits at the heart of ROAR's mission.

Judges scored each dish on flavor, texture, presentation, technique, and originality — but with awards for Best Team Name, Best Team Sign, Best

Collaboration, and even a Safety Award alongside the top three finishes, the night produced far more winners than podium spots. Special recognition went to ROAR scholar Payton Hilberg, who single-handedly claimed both Best Team Name and Best Team Sign for her team.

"You put WSU ROAR scholars and the baseball players together, add a little friendly competition and some lentils, and they take it from there. We love the relationships that have grown out of this partnership, and we're delighted that Coach Choate and the team continue to show up for WSU ROAR." - Kristi Tippet, WSU ROAR Director

Six years of staying power owes much to Coach Nathan Choate and the entire WSU Baseball team, who show up year after year with genuine investment. Their message is unmistakable: belonging at WSU is not reserved for one group or one space. It extends to every Cougar.

Double Your Impact: Arshan's Challenge

Stories like the Cook-Off are exactly what your support of WSU ROAR makes possible — and right now, there is a way to make that support go twice as far.

Through Arshan's Challenge, Mahmood Ghassemi will match, dollar for dollar, first-time gifts to WSU ROAR scholarships or ROAR programmatic funds — up to \$250,000 in total matching support, through June 30, 2029.

WSU ROAR — Responsibility, Opportunity, Advocacy, and Respect — opens the college experience to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. A first-time gift to ROAR scholarships or ROAR programmatic funds goes twice as far, the moment you make it. Multi-year pledges qualify for the match.

Give to the WSU ROAR
Programmatic Fund →

Give to the WSU ROAR Scholarship
Fund →



50 Years of Impact: Jack Simpson

The WSU Foundation recently featured Jack Simpson '62, who has supported the university for half a century. His story is a reminder of what sustained generosity builds: not a single moment, but a foundation under decades of student success and research impact.

We're proud that giving like Jack's fuels the work of this college every day.

[See the whole story →](#)

Tell your story. Expand our story.

Have a story to share, reach out! Whether you're a student, professor, administrator, alumni, parent, or simply a fan of the College, we want to hear from you! Share stories via our [Story Hub](#).

WSU College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences

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