The Death Dodger
A legendary test pilot’s quest for the heavens

Virus Vanquishers
A father, a son, 2 viruses p24

Larry Gossett
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Teachers of the Year
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The beach. The briny air. The invasive European green crab! Carcinus maenas first clawed its way onto Washington’s southern beaches in 1998 and arrived up north in 2015. It is skilled at prying open bivalves and makes meals of a number of other organisms that normally feed native birds and fish. Having started in the northeast Atlantic Ocean and Baltic Sea, it has spread to northern Africa, the US East Coast, Brazil, Australia and now the West Coast, where it was first seen in San Francisco Bay in 1989. Washington fisheries, including those for Dungeness crabs, oysters and clams are in danger.

The Washington Sea Grant Crab Team, which is based at the UW, launched in 2015 to understand and mitigate the spread of the green crab along the coast and in intercoastal waters. Citizens help monitor the spread by sharing sightings and locations. If you think you have found a European green crab, you can visit the crab team’s webpage (wsg.washington.edu/crabteam) for help distinguishing it from native species. Take several pictures from different angles and distances to share with the team at crabteam@uw.edu. Leave the crab where it is—the team will follow up quickly. Photo by Dennis Wise
When Dad overturned a glass, she righted the whole family.

Only Julie kept her cool. The family foundation had always been a little bone of contention between me and Dad. We just had different ideas about what to do with the money. We were both raising our voices when Dad knocked over a glass without even noticing. That’s when Julie, the peacemaker, stepped in and had an impromptu counseling session with Dad which led to a slightly restructured foundation and a much-improved family relationship. We’re blessed that Julie is the financial advisor that set up our foundation. Because intergenerational wealth doesn’t work without intergenerational harmony and for that you must focus on the little things.

— Marie, Santa Barbara
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More than half a million donors supported the UW during our Be Boundless campaign. Together, we are just getting started.

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uw.edu/boundless

Louis Maliyam, ’21
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Dr. Darrell Salk's famous father created the polio vaccine and set the path for him to enjoy a long, successful career at UW Medicine.
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Larry Gossett started the movement to bring Black studies and diversity to the UW. He also fought for equity in Seattle as an activist and senior statesman.
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By George Spencer
A FUTURE WHERE RACISM DOESN’T DETERMINE WHETHER YOU SURVIVE A PANDEMIC.

Black, Native and Latino Americans are dying from COVID-19 at a higher rate than white Americans — because of enduring inequities in housing, jobs, education and health care.

Healthier communities make healthier people. The University of Washington is at the forefront of addressing the interconnected factors that influence how long and how well we live, from systemic inequities and health care to poverty and climate change. In partnership with community organizations, the UW transforms research into concrete actions that improve and save lives across the country — and around the world.

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A Shot at Better Care

Growing up in Port Angeles and on the historical lands of the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, I became aware of some of the economic and health disparities associated with being Native American. When I was a School of Pharmacy student in the 1970s, I became involved in starting up the Seattle Indian Health Board Clinic under the mentorship of Donna Dockter, ’72. Then the Puyallup Tribe reached out and asked if I would help develop its clinic. For years after that, I have helped other tribal clinics start up and expand their services.

It’s all part of the same story. Through my work, I became more and more aware of the issues of inequity around access to health care. In 1996, the UW invited me back to campus to share my experience with pharmacy students. That eventually led me to become a clinical professor, a position from which I now facilitate connections between the school and communities of need—bringing pharmacy students and colleagues out into our communities to help provide health care.

In the 1990s, School of Pharmacy epidemiologist Jacqueline Gardner, ’80, and I shared concerns about the low immunization rates in rural, underserved and elderly communities in Washington state. We saw an opportunity. Together, we developed the country’s first community pharmacist immunization training program. It exploded on us. We found demand for training around the country. The UW School of Pharmacy has trained its students to administer vaccines, particularly to marginalized communities, ever since.

Initially, leaders in the fields of medicine and nursing resisted the idea of pharmacists providing direct patient care. But we persevered and learned a lot about being change agents. What we did was really more fundamental than just providing immunizations and contraception, it was a reimagining of what it means to access health care on a patient’s terms. You may recall, you had to make an appointment with your doctor to do many of these things. You had to take time off from work or school, and maybe wait weeks to get an appointment. What we did was lower the threshold of access by reaching people near their homes and on their life schedules, not on a medical clinic’s schedule.

Last summer, when we realized that we may have COVID-19 vaccines coming to market, I and my health sciences faculty colleagues and students decided to dedicate our next year to COVID vaccinations. Our Interprofessional Service Learning Committee (aka IP-SLAC) developed a COVID vaccination training boot camp, preparing students in pharmacy, medicine, nursing and dentistry to give COVID vaccines. Now hundreds of our UW health sciences students and faculty are out in our communities doing the work. Social work and public health students may not be able to administer the vaccines, but they help by educating vaccine-hesitant people and supporting vaccine delivery by handling administrative tasks.

We know that vaccines are the most successful tool we have for infectious disease prevention or reduction. In response to the current pandemic and in preparation for future pandemics, we need continued improvements in equitable access to clinical care services, particularly for underserved communities. We must better manage long-term health problems and extend medical care in ways that are more efficient, more convenient, more inclusive and more cost-effective.

As we have expanded vaccine delivery beyond doctors’ offices and into pharmacies, we can now move it further, meeting people in their workplaces, community centers and churches. We can do more to reach our underserved communities where and when it is easiest for them. Making lifesaving health care more accessible and more affordable must be our leading priority.—Don Downing, ’75, is a clinical professor and endowed chair of the Institute of Innovative Pharmacy Practice at the School of Pharmacy.
Our #1 Ranked Medical School Means Better Healthcare for You

The University of Washington School of Medicine has once again been ranked #1 in the nation for Primary Care Education by U.S. News & World Report. With world-class faculty conducting research into areas such as neurogenetics, catheter-based heart treatment and using nanoparticles in flu vaccines, the School also ranks #2 in the nation in federal research funding.

Our top-ranked medical school and internationally known research center are directly connected to the care you receive at UW Medicine. So when we say you’ll receive a higher degree of healthcare, it's not just a slogan. It's a promise.

uwmedicine.org/care
Honoring Past and Future

The strangest academic year anyone can remember is nearly over. As we celebrate 12,000 new University of Washington graduates, we also have the special opportunity to honor three academic leaders who are retiring after serving the University for more than 60 years combined.

We salute Robert Stacey, who served on the faculty of the Department of History for 33 years and retires after serving as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, which produces more than half of all UW bachelor’s degrees on the Seattle campus, since 2013; Lisa Graumlich, ’85, the inaugural dean of the College of the Environment 25 years after she earned her Ph.D. here; and Betsy Wilson, who since 2001 has led the massive, spectacular UW Libraries system, and oversaw a total transformation of what it means to be a library.

Three individuals, 64 total years of service to the University—as teachers, mentors, administrators, visionaries, leaders, friends. They created spaces for students to learn and grow, and dealt with everything that came their way, from 9/11 and the Great Recession to vulnerable budgets, expanding numbers of student applicants, head-spinning technological developments, the explosion of students going into STEM fields, a pandemic, you name it. Their commitment to students and to providing the best possible educational opportunities never wavered.

Stacey, who joined the UW faculty in 1988, is an expert on the history of Jews in medieval England, and a recipient of a Distinguished Teaching Award. Graumlich has used tree-ring data to understand long-term trends in climate, focusing on the mountains of western North America. And Wilson, who led a network of 16 academic research libraries across all three campuses, as well as the UW Press, is an expert in digitization and how to make the UW Libraries’ incredible resources available to students and interested parties everywhere through open-access initiatives and programs. They covered everything from history, literature, arts and natural sciences to studies on climate, ecology, and natural resource management, to collecting and making available key resources for educators, students, scholars, the public.

We will miss Robert Stacey, Lisa Graumlich and Betsy Wilson. But the University will seek the best leaders to carry on their legacies and maintain the excellence they brought here.
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Recognizing Ron Chew

I was so happy to see the cover photo and article about Ron Chew (“The Soul of Seattle,” Spring 2021) and his memoir “My Unforgotten Seattle.” It is about time that the University of Washington recognized one of its truly outstanding graduates.

In 2002, Communication Department Chair Jerry Baldasty finally awarded Ron his degree, which I believe had been denied in retribution for his discrimination complaint. Baldasty is quoted as saying, “The International Examiner is an incredible example of the value of community journalism.” I certainly hope the Communication Department has since changed its internship requirements, which excluded work at ethnic newspapers. The requirement was discriminatory to students of color and also affected low-income students, since many had to travel long distances at their own expense for internships at small regional newspapers in other parts of Washington state. The University needs to take a look at departmental graduation policies in all disciplines that might detrimentally affect today’s students of color.

Leslie Cossitt, ’77, Seattle

Drive-in Delight

Thank you for the wonderful article on the “Dick’s Dynasty” (Spring 2021). Boy, did it bring back some wonderful memories! I lived in Bellevue during my teen years in the late ’60s, and our “American Graffiti” destination was Dick’s Drive-In on Bellevue Way. Pass your driver’s test...head to Dick’s with your friends. After a football game...celebrate at Dick’s. Meet friends from all four high schools...socialize for hours at Dick’s. It was the place to gather on any given evening while munching on the best cheeseburgers and fries in town!

I was a reporter for the Interlake Soothsayer from 1967-1969, and Dick always supported our newspaper by buying ads from me during my time on the staff. He obviously didn’t need the promotion or business, but his support was always truly appreciated by students and staff alike.

Although the Bellevue Way location closed many years ago, I stop by Dick’s in Lake City occasionally to enjoy the burgers and fries. May I just say, the fries still have my vote as the best in town! [Editor’s Note: Dicks announced in February that it will open a new location in Bellevue.]

Drive-in Delight

Enjoy your retirement, Jim Spady. Thank you for keeping Dick’s Drive-In healthy and prosperous well into the future.

Karen Eland Edwardsen, ’73, Bothell

Diet for the Planet

Dean Lisa Graumlich’s statements (“How Do We Address the Climate Problem?”, Spring 2021) are hopeful. I hope she and other scientists look at plant-based diets as part of the solution. Vegan diets can benefit the environment.

Barbara Downward, ’76, Seattle

Words of Warning

Andrew Engelson’s article “Quantum Leap” (Spring 2021) was an interesting introduction to quantum computing. David Ignatius’ novel “The Quantum Spy” (W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2017) has a disturbing theme that involves the attempt to use a quantum computer to decipher an encrypted message only to discover that a quantum computer may be far better at identifying persons from massive amounts of surveillance footage. Author Michael Maccoby described this abuse of technology over 40 years ago in his book “The Gamesman.” The application of basic research is screened out to favor the maintenance of security—a pit, Maccoby points out, with no bottom.

David Ortman, Seattle

CORRECTIONS

4Culture

In a story in the Spring issue about alumni working at King County’s 4Culture program, Cheiko Phillips was erroneously described as identifying as “Black and Japanese American.” Phillips identifies as Black and Japanese.

Kraken

In a Spring issue story about the Seattle Kraken, the correct number of UW Bonderman Fellows each year is eight undergraduate and eight graduate students. Also, the award to each fellow is currently $23,000.

LETTERS

Due to space limitations, not all comments may be printed. Those that are may be edited for length, accuracy and clarity.
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The name Beverly Cleary has become synonymous with children’s literature. The audaciously creative UW alum wrote more than 40 children’s books, the most famous of which starred characters like Ramona and Beezus. Her work not only changed the way we write for and about children, but also the way we think about them.

“As a child, I disliked books in which children learned to be ‘better’ children,” she told UW Magazine in 2008. In her books, kids were allowed to be kids, a revolutionary thought for a culture that tended to see children as humans in waiting.

Cleary earned a degree from the UW School of Librarianship in 1939. She married her husband Clarence the next year, and later worked as a librarian in Yakima and then at an Army hospital in Oakland. She published her first book in 1950, which tells the story of a boy named Henry Huggins in Northeast Portland. The book became a series, followed by another series starring Ramona. By the time of her death March 25 at the age of 104, Cleary’s books had sold more than 85 million copies.

We talked with Michelle H. Martin, the Beverly Cleary Endowed Professor for Children and Youth Services in the UW iSchool, which descends from the School of Librarianship. “Beverly Cleary wrote about what she knew,” says Martin. “She wrote about the people, the kids and the pets around her. That is excellent advice for anybody who is wading into writing, whether for children or adults.”

Lesson two: “She was incredibly prolific, so write a lot.” Lesson three: “Keep a child’s eye view in mind. Her ability to capture the voice and quirkiness of childhood expression is part of what made her work and sustained her popularity.” Lastly: Don’t let success go to your head. “Stay humble, even if you’re really accomplished, you always have more to learn,” says Martin. “Especially from children.”
Artist Gary Simmons draws upon cultural forces like music, sports, film and cartoons as he explores the idea of erasure of African American history and culture. For his Henry Art Gallery exhibit, “Gary Simmons: The Engine Room,” he created an interactive space that calls to mind the suburban garage as a site for invention and experimentation, particularly for bands. “The B-Side,” a large-scale wall painting, is one of Simmons’ “erasure drawings.” He uses chalk on a blackboard to create ghostly images. In this case, the focus is lyrics from the b-sides of albums by Seattle native Jimi Hendrix, including “Electric Ladyland” and “Axis: Bold as Love.” The exhibit runs through Aug. 22.
Federal Archives to Stay in Seattle
By Hannelore Sudermann

When the federal government announced it would be closing its national archives at Sand Point last year, a UW community of alumni and faculty sprang into action to halt the plan to move about a million boxes of documents and artifacts to centers in Missouri and California.

Without direct access to these irreplaceable, undigitized records, tribes, museums, scholars and historical preservation societies would be harmed, noted state Attorney General Bob Ferguson, ’89, who filed a lawsuit to stop the process late last year.

UW teaching professor Connie So, ’87, who is also president of the Seattle Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans - Asian Pacific American Advocates, voiced support of the suit. In the wake of tremendous hostility, most early Chinese Americans left few records of their lives and history, So said. Files relating to the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act hold precious information about families, businesses, lifestyles, occupations and land ownership.

“They directly connect current generations to the past,” she said. “Cutting access to these important historical records would be devastating.”

The archives hold materials from throughout the Northwest and Alaska, including marriage and census documents and records of Japanese Americans sent to internment camps during World War II. Tribes regularly use the archives for historical research and to protect land-use and water rights. Fawn Sharp, ’95, past president of the Quinault Indian Nation and current president of the National Congress of American Indians, talked about the harm that moving the archives would do to Native communities. “The information that is housed and the history is vast,” she said. “It’s invaluable.”

In February, a federal judge temporarily blocked the sale of the archives building. In April, the Biden administration halted the previous administration’s decision to sell the building.

FEDERAL ARCHIVES TO STAY IN SEATTLE

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Graduate Seattle

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14 UW MAGAZINE
Less Can Be More

The secret is subtraction in a world driven to add

By Leidy Klotz, '05

When my family visited San Francisco, the Embarcadero waterfront was at the top of our to-do list. It had taken an earthquake to make this unforgettable place. Well, an earthquake with some help from a woman named Sue.

Before the Embarcadero was a must-see destination, it was a double-decker concrete highway. For decades, it stretched more than a mile along San Francisco’s eastern waterfront, blocking precious views and access to the bay. Elsewhere in the city, community organizers—initially downplayed as “little housewives” by pro-highway groups—that stopped plans for highways that would have done more harm than good. But the Embarcadero Freeway was serving tens of thousands of vehicles per day. It was one thing to determine that a new highway was unnecessary; it was another to ask whether it might be a good idea to remove a freeway that had already been built. Fortunately, San Francisco had Sue Bierman.

Bierman moved to San Francisco in the 1950s. She had learned how to get things done as a community organizer. Based on her success in that role, she earned an official appointment, in 1976, to the city’s planning commission.

She was meticulous in her public service. Her planning commission studied the Embarcadero Freeway using all sorts of metrics: how much traffic it carried, how many customers it brought to city businesses, how the freeway affected property values and how it affected quality of life—in the neighborhoods it connected and in the neighborhoods it crossed. It took all that analysis and more, over nearly a decade, for Bierman’s commission to finally, in 1985, offer their plan for the freeway: Get rid of it.

Businesses near the freeway opposed the plan, worrying that reduced automobile traffic would mean fewer customers. More surprisingly, in retrospect at least, businesses weren’t alone in resisting. When San Franciscans voted on the proposal to remove the freeway, it wasn’t even close. For every voter in favor of removing the freeway, there were two who wanted to keep it. Whether for fear of traffic, fear of lost business, or simply fear of change, voters rejected removal. The people had spoken. Sue Bierman and her commission moved on to other projects.

The Embarcadero Freeway might still be blocking San Francisco’s waterfront if not for the Loma Prieta earthquake, which struck on Oct. 17, 1989. The earthquake killed more than 60 people and injured thousands. It caused about $6 billion in property damage alone. At the time, it was the most expensive earthquake in the history of the United States.

The act of nature changed the calculus for removing the Embarcadero Freeway. First, the post-earthquake freeway had been rendered unusable. To repair the damaged and aging structure, to have it carry traffic again, was going to cost far more than knocking it down. And second, the earthquake was a tragic warning of the risks of elevated freeways. Many of the people who had died in the Loma Prieta earthquake had been crushed when the Cypress Street Viaduct collapsed in Oakland. And as a double-decker elevated concrete structure just over a mile in length, the Cypress Street Viaduct looked ominously like the Embarcadero Freeway.

Whether it’s Sue Bierman surveying San Francisco’s waterfront, me considering my home renovation, or you making resolutions, we’re all doing essentially the same thing—trying to change things from how they are to how we want them to be. And in this ubiquitous act of change, one option is always to add to what exists, be it objects, ideas or social systems. Another option is to subtract from what is already there.

The problem is that we neglect subtraction. Compared to changes that add, those that subtract are harder to think of. Even when we do manage to think of it, subtracting can be harder to implement. But we have a choice. We don’t have to let this oversight go on taking its toll on our cities, our institutions, and our minds. By understanding the nature and roots of our adding, we can learn how to find less across disparate worlds.—Adapted by Leidy Klotz, ’05, from his new book, “Subtract: The Untapped Science of Less,” and reprinted by permission of Flatiron Books. Klotz studied civil engineering at the UW and is now an associate professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Virginia.
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Anthony Ishisaka isn’t with us any more, but his impact on legions of University of Washington students—as well as all of Western Washington—lives on. The late, longtime associate professor in the School of Social Work was renowned for his love of teaching and mentoring. Born at the Granada War Relocation Center in Colorado in 1944, he experienced injustice as a Japanese American. That inspired him to be a co-founder of the Asian Counseling and Referral Service, one of the largest social-service providers for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. His impact continues to be felt through the curriculum he created at the UW to train social workers how to respond to and interact with vulnerable populations dealing with chronic mental illness. "He had extremely strong feelings about teaching,” says his daughter Toshiye Ishisaka. “He lived what he valued.”

Adds daughter Naomi Ishisaka: “He was intellectually brilliant but very humble. His belief was that you take your work seriously but not yourself. He was able to connect with people from all walks of life. He really created a template of how to work in cross-racial solidarity.”

Ishisaka created the UW’s first service-learning opportunities with communities of color through his role as associate dean of academic affairs in the School of Social Work. The school honored him with the 2008 Living Human Treasure Award for his work focusing on mental health and providing services for refugee communities. But more than his work, Ishisaka was treasured for his humanity. Naomi says her father “believed that everyone had power, and his role was to help them capitalize on that.”

“Tony was family to many of us,” recalls Edwina Uehara, professor and Ballmer Endowed Dean in Social Work. “He was the most brilliant, well-read, wickedly funny, deeply caring, insightful and honest human being I’ve ever met.”

His daughters recall how their father had students over at their home all the time, “people who became our aunts and uncles to this day,” Naomi says. He also brought his daughters to meetings in the Chinatown-International District and other communities around town. He dedicated himself to addressing the systemic problems plaguing communities of color. In 2003, Ishisaka received the UW’s S. Sterling Munro Public Service Faculty Award in recognition of his leadership in community-based instruction.
The Cascadia Subduction Zone, an area about 70 to 100 miles off the Northwest coast, has the potential for some of the largest earthquakes in the world. And some of the areas most at risk for shaking hazard range from the Olympic Peninsula to the Cascades. In May, Washington joined the USGS Earthquake Early Warning System (ShakeAlert), helping our region prepare for a variety of seismic scenarios. The earthquake warning, which will come through our electronic devices, might arrive just seconds or tens of seconds before the shaking begins. That's time to drop, cover and hold on, reducing injuries and fatalities.

**BETWEEN THE QUAKE AND THE SHAKE**

1. When the big earthquake hits, it will likely center off the coast, where the Pacific Plate and the Juan de Fuca Plate meet.

2. Sensors will detect the seismic waves and transmit details about magnitude and location.

3. A processing center will calculate the magnitude and direction of an earthquake and send out alerts.

Airplanes can taxi or be redirected.

Trains and elevated transportation can slow or stop.

Devices will receive an early warning, giving people time to take cover before the shaking arrives.

Hospitals can shift to their back-up generators. Elevators can stop and open their doors.

Illustration by Kathleen Fu
UW researchers have discovered a new law of fluid mechanics, a branch of physics, that will affect the future of aircraft design. The “Law of Incipient Separation” defines the maximum slope of an aircraft fuselage to avoid the separation of airflow that increases pressure-drag.

Getting the slope of the aircraft’s body right will reduce drag and create a more fuel-efficient aircraft. In a new paper, Aeronautics & Astronautics Associate Professor Antonino Ferrante, research assistant Dawei Lu, ’19, and doctoral student Abhiram Aithal define the parameters of this newly discovered law.

“When the flow gets close to separation, the drag actually goes down, so the best scenario is to be as close to separation as possible without crossing the line because peak performance in control and efficiency is right before separation,” explains Aithal.

Ferrante had an intuition that the law existed. “Nature follows laws that are just waiting to be discovered,” he says. And Lu and Aithal worked out the simulations and data analysis to prove it.

The process of proving the law’s existence involved researching aircraft fuselage geometry from NASA in fluid mechanics literature. This geometry is an analytical model used to run computer simulations of aerodynamics. The researchers first ran simulations with varied heights using this single geometry to find the slope value where flow gets close to separation. Next, they ran hundreds of simulations for different geometries and flow parameters and filed a patent on these new geometries which will aid further research.

“What surprised us most,” Lu says, “was that the maximum slope of the aircraft body and not the maximum curvature or the shape of the curved surface dominates this phenomenon.”
HUSKY PICKS

ENJOY YOUR *ME* TIME

Together season is coming

Clockwise from top left:
- Yoga studio: SPORT SLIDES foco.com; YOGA MAT victorytailgate.com; ADIDAS SLEEVELESS TEE and COLEMAN BOTTLE ubookstore.com; FACE/CLUB TOWEL dickssportinggoods.com
- Picnic: PICNIC BASKET and GRILL picnictime.com; SPORTULA lowes.com; RETRO BRAND TEE ubookstore.com
- Movie theater: FANNY PACK littlearth.com; COLOSSEUM POLO SHIRT kohls.com; SOCKS target.com
- Pool party: STRAW HAT foco.com; 24-CAN COOLER logobrands.com

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Rowing Toward Opportunity

Erin O'Connell was born and raised in San Francisco but went to the UW and was the coxswain on the women's rowing team. She served as an assistant rowing coach after graduation and later became athletic director at Seattle Pacific University. She also has been the president of the USRowing board of directors. Now she's back as the UW's Deputy Athletics Director and the Senior Woman Administrator. *Interview by Jim Caple.*

You rowed for the UW from 1993-96. What was that like?

My experience as a student-athlete here was second to none. It really is why I am in the position I am today. I was coached by Jan Harville, who to this day is still a very dear friend and mentor. She had the right recipe of being tough, teaching confidence and inspiring young women to be the best.

You then became an assistant coach for the UW crew. Tell us about that.

It’s kind of the next step from being a coxswain in the boat. You’re just doing it from a different viewpoint. But I knew that at some point in my career, I wanted to be a part of the bigger picture and work with more than one team.

You also worked at Seattle Pacific University as an administrator.

There was an opening there for an assistant athletic director for compliance and the senior woman administrator. I held that job for five years and served as the SPU athletic director for seven years.

How did your current position in the UW athletic department come about?

When Jen Cohen was named athletic director here, I sent her a text congratulating her, because we had been friends for a long time. When she first came to Washington, I was a very young rowing coach. I had hopes that at some point, I would be able to wiggle my way back over here.

What’s it like being a student-athlete versus an athletics administrator?

My experience now is a lot different. Back when I was a student-athlete, we had to lobby for our early-morning practices when it was dark and it was a safety issue. Now, we’re able to provide much better opportunities to all of our student-athletes.

How is women’s equity evolving nationwide?

In the ’80s, the NCAA designated that each athletic department needed to have a senior woman administrator. That led to the creation of women’s opportunities and leadership. Within the Pac-12, the senior woman administrator group oversees all sports except football and men’s basketball. It’s obviously very much in the spotlight because of the inequities exposed in the NCAA basketball tournaments. I think it’s time for absolutely creative approaches for how women’s sports can be marketed.

How does the UW fare when it comes to women’s equity?

We’re doing OK. I would say there are a lot of pieces to that puzzle. Participation rates in sports have to do with your gender population on campus. At the University of Washington, we have had more females than males in our student population. That is something we have to keep an eye on in terms of the opportunities we provide for women’s participation.

Porter Was Purple and Gold to the Core

W. Thomas Porter, ’59, served in the Army, earned his MBA from the Foster School of Business, taught at the UW and loved Husky athletics with all his heart. He led the UW’s $54 million Campaign for the Student Athlete, and he wrote numerous books celebrating Husky athletics. He was even known to peddle books out of the trunk of his car at Husky tailgates.

Porter, who died Jan. 27 at the age of 87, was working on a book on the 1958 men’s crew’s stunning victory in Moscow at the time of his death. Husky fans everywhere are familiar with his books: “Go Huskies! Celebrating the Washington Football Tradition,” “A Football Band of Brothers: Forging the University of Washington’s First National Championship” and “Husky Stadium: Great Games and Golden Moments.”

But Porter (above left, inside Husky Stadium) didn’t constrain his love of the UW to sports. While teaching in the Foster School as a professor, he served as the UW’s director of planning. He also led an effort to implement a planning and budgeting program in all of the UW’s schools and colleges. He later enjoyed a career in banking but continued to teach, lecturing at the Foster School when he was 73.
Practice Facility a Boost for Softball Program

By Jim Caple

Everyone knows what a national powerhouse the UW softball team is. Soon, the program will receive a boost in the form of a brand-new indoor facility adjacent to Husky Stadium and the Nordstrom Tennis Center. The 5,500-square-foot Softball Performance Center is slated to be completed in August, according to softball head coach Heather Tarr, ‘98.

“The momentum from this indoor facility can be huge,” Tarr says. “From a recruiting standpoint, player development, there is just so much that it can do for our program.”

Junior Haley Herberg is Pac-12 Cross-Country Athlete of the Year

By Jim Caple

Junior Haley Herberg (left) started running track when she was in third grade, then got into cross-country in middle school. “Everyone else in my family runs,” says the Southern California native. “That’s how I got into it. Mom and Dad both ran in college.”

Herberg, a transfer from the University of Oklahoma, learned well. She went wire to wire to win the individual title at the Pac-12 Cross-Country Championships in March and was named the Pac-12 women’s cross-country athlete of the year. “It definitely was really humbling and gratifying,” she says of the title. At the conference championships she fended off late-charging Ella Donaghue of Stanford for the title. “I did not dare look back,” Herberg says. “Ella definitely gave me a run for my money.”
Pandemics are nothing new to Darrell Salk, the son of the man who created the polio vaccine.

When pediatric geneticist Darrell Salk arrived for his COVID-19 vaccine at UW Medical Center-Montlake, he was reminded of similar immunization lines from childhood.

He recalled scenes of grade school students in the early 1950s queuing up for their polio shot. One of the worst outbreaks of polio in the nation’s history occurred in 1952. His father, Jonas Salk, had just developed a vaccine, and it was entering clinical testing. As a major national field trial was organized to evaluate its safety and efficacy, parents enrolled their children—more than 1.8 million first- and second-graders, in a double-blind trial, with
As a young boy, Darrell Salk received a polio vaccination from his father, Jonas Salk. Salk Family photo
no certainty of any benefit. They hoped to save their children from the paralysis, iron lungs, metal leg braces and weakened limbs that polio brought.

His father had been studying poliovirus since 1948, and was determined to defeat to infantile paralysis. After Jonas Salk had reached the point in his research where he believed the vaccine could prevent polio infection, he vaccinated himself and his laboratory colleagues. His family was next. Darrell Salk, a spindly 6-year-old at the time, received his dose at home at the kitchen table.

In adulthood, Darrell Salk, like many of his relatives, chose a career in medicine. He did his residency in Seattle in the mid-1970s, attracted to the UW School of Medicine practice after hearing pediatrician and psychiatrist Michael Rothenberg speak on how physicians can gain the trust of infants.

Salk took to heart Rothenberg’s advice on caring for, taking an interest in and interacting with children and parents—and not pretending to know it all, but being willing to find answers for patients.

Salk wanted to train at a place that took this approach to medical practice, so he drove his pickup truck from Baltimore to Seattle.

Salk went on to a career in teaching, practice and research, and recently retired from the UW School of Medicine faculty. In addition to his work in medical genetics and inspired by his own family history, Salk has written on the history of polio and its prevention, and on vaccination development generally.

Paralysis from polio, he explains, was rare before modern sanitation. Babies were exposed to the virus while still protected by maternal antibodies.

When summer outbreaks started surfacing in the U.S. in the mid-20th century, public health departments closed swimming pools, movie theaters and beaches.

The public, Salk says, rallied to end the threat of polio. Families pressed coins into “Join the March of Dimes” collection cards. Mothers canvassed door-to-door to raise donations. Critics predicted the Salk killed-virus vaccine would be ineffective because it did not use infectious, live viruses. However, clinical trial evidence proved otherwise.

By 1955, the Salk vaccine was pronounced a success, heralding not only the end of polio outbreaks but also a new way of thinking about immunizations. “Church bells rang, parades were held, and people danced in the streets,” says Salk. “People welcomed the vaccine with relief.”

It’s hard not to compare the country’s reaction to polio epidemic of the past century and the present coronavirus. “The public response was unified against polio,” Salk says. “Almost everyone wanted to participate in the effort.” Today, while some countries have created a uniform approach to the coronavirus, the U.S. response has varied, he says.

“President Franklin D. Roosevelt understood polio firsthand,” Salk notes. “He had suffered, and did not minimize what was happening. He took action. In addition to leading government efforts, he converted his own personal property [Warm Springs] into a place where patients could have rehabilitation.”

In contrast, the early months of the coronavirus pandemic were met with the White House “ignoring, blaming and hoping it would go away,” Salk says.

Under previous administrations, the country had been planning for the eventuality of a pandemic, says Salk. Infection experts predicted that some sort of animal-to-human virus transmission would spill over and become a brand-new, fast-spreading human-to-human disease.

Ebola, swine and avian flu, and earlier outbreaks of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) were warnings. Public health officials had forecast a deadly pandemic that would arise and disrupt hospitals, schools, transportation and businesses. Nevertheless, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention readiness efforts were disbanded before the present pandemic. The Obama administration established a Directorate for Global Health Security and Biodefense at the National Security Council. “The Trump administration disbanded this pandemic response office,” Salk says. “That was why the country was so unprepared.”

Compared to the seven years it took his father to develop a polio vaccine, the pace at which coronavirus vaccines were designed and tested was phenomenal. The speed bump was getting them out to the public.

Starting in 1955, when the polio vaccine became available, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (now the March of Dimes) distributed it through a coordinated, centralized national system that tried to be fair. But disparities still existed, as is also the case today with coronavirus vaccines, Salk says.

“The initial distribution of the coronavirus vaccine was not as efficient or equitable as we would have liked,” Salk says. “But vaccine confidence has grown, and the numbers of people willing to be vaccinated is definitely up.”

“I’m so pleased at Biden’s overall response to the pandemic,” Salk says. “He applied what had already been known and what advisers had been saying for more than a year.” The government is addressing concerns about vaccine manufacturing quality at some plants and unrelated clotting problems in a small percentage of recipients.

In addition, lessons learned from the development of the inactive poliovirus vaccine are still guiding public health today. The Poliomyelitis Surveillance Program set the stage for today’s Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Testing and approval of the polio vaccine was a model for current Food and Drug Administration practices.

On the downside, public anxiety about vaccines increased during the late 1960s and 1970s, due in large part to lawsuits about paralytic polio caused by the live, oral polio vaccine (the Sabin vaccine). In 1962, after polio had already been more than 90 percent eliminated in the United States, the live, oral polio vaccine began to be used. It eventually supplanted the use of the inactive poliovirus vaccine, Salk explains.

Live polio vaccines are infectious and thus carry a risk of causing paralysis. Killed-virus and other non-infectious vaccines are taken for granted today because of the success of the inactive poliovirus vaccine.

While present-day vaccines must pass rigorous safety standards, hesitancy about getting a shot can be hard to overcome. Getting immunized is a personal choice. “Most people have a minimal reaction to the COVID vaccines,” Salk says. “Typically it is a sore arm or a minor fever. That means the vaccine is working as it should to activate your immune system. The biggest risk of a COVID-19 infection is death. Compare that outcome with the outcome of a treatable reaction to the vaccine.”

Salk believes it is unwise to play the odds with the pandemic coronavirus: “I wouldn’t bet my life or the life of someone I love by not getting vaccinated. That’s not a good bet.”

“Getting vaccinated against coronavirus is the right thing to do,” Salk says. “Get it for your own sake, to protect your loved ones and to contribute to ending the pandemic.”

Now that he is fully immunized, Salk continues to wear a mask and follow other infection control steps to set an example.

“People who are vaccinated can feel less worried because they have an added layer of protection,” he says. “But given the variants...
of the virus and individual differences in immune responses to the vaccine, there is still a risk of infection.”

Because pandemic control was not achieved early on, Salk said, it allowed time for mutant strains to emerge. This had been predicted because coronaviruses mutate to survive.

They are unlike poliovirus, which his father and others demonstrated comes in only three types, one more serious than the other two. His father had applied his energy to the tedious task of determining the limited number of types. The findings led to his 3-in-1 vaccine. The polio vaccine blocks the virus from getting into tissues where it can cause paralysis.

For polio, Salk says, infection and disease are not always synonymous. Respiratory illnesses are different, and vaccines must prevent the initial infection.

The approach that scientists have used to create the first two COVID-19 vaccines makes it quicker to make changes in them to guard against infection by variant strains.

“The mRNA vaccines tell our cells to produce proteins identical to the outside of the coronavirus,” he says. “The body responds to this product and creates protections against the infection.”

These non-infectious vaccines are different from previous methods that grow viruses and then weaken or inactivate them on a large scale. Faced with a variant, it takes a while for manufacturers to update the vaccine using those methods. In contrast, mRNA vaccines seem to be more like a drug than a biological pharmaceutical drug. Developers can build a newer mRNA version and test it right away to see if it works against the variant. This is not true with biologicals.

“mRNA vaccines are manufactured, not grown,” Salk says. “They are based on a chemical aspect of the virus that they are up against.” Researchers can obtain the sequence of a variant mutation in the coronavirus, remodel the RNA vaccine accordingly, then verify the sequence is correct. The process is a faster way to produce newer versions of a vaccine and is easier for quality control, Salk says.

Meanwhile, scientific ingenuity never slows down. Computer-designed nanoparticle candidate vaccines, like those heading out of the UW Medicine Institute for Protein Design, and second-generation RNA vaccines that are shelf stable could further stock the world’s toolkit against coronavirus variants.

At present, no scientists know how long vaccine-mediated immunity to COVID-19 will last. Levels of antibodies—the virus fighters—could drop, and booster shots could be needed. “Coronavirus immunization strategies might need more than just a prime and one boost, and are likely not an ‘all I need for the rest of time,’” Salk says.

“There’s no reason to believe, based on experience to date, that COVID-19 will not be around for a while,” Salk adds. “It may become a seasonal disease. We’ll need to get on top of it faster when outbreaks occur. It is more likely to be like influenza, in the background all the time. That is the typical behavior of respiratory viruses.”

It is possible that people will need to get regular coronavirus vaccines, just as they do flu vaccines. Salk explained that annual flu shots are advised because people need to maintain a high level of circulating antibodies against flu viruses. From the moment the flu enters the body, it starts acting, and a nimble immune response is required to fight it off. If not, the virus gets the advantage. The same is true for fending off the coronavirus. “The immune cells might not have the leisure to say, hmm, what is this and what do I do to respond?” Salk says.

In contrast, repeated doses of the killed polio vaccine are not needed. A polio vaccine doesn’t have to keep poliovirus from infecting the gut. Its job is to teach immune cells to recognize the invader so they make antibodies that stop the virus traveling through the bloodstream from the gut to the spinal cord, where it can cause paralysis. There’s plenty of time after exposure for an educated immune system to recognize the poliovirus and crank out antibodies.

While the rate at which vaccinations are now being administered provides some encouragement, it’s difficult to predict the future course of the coronavirus. After more than a year under pandemic constraints and isolation, many people are fatigued and eager to become more mobile, sociable and engaged in a broader world. They also never want to go through something like this again.

“Will there be another pandemic?” says Salk. “It depends on how careful we are.” —Leila Gray works in the UW Medicine newsroom. Her expertise includes infectious disease, genetics and precision medicine.
The Alumnus Summa Laude Dignatus is the highest honor bestowed upon a UW graduate and is presented annually by the UW and the UW Alumni Association. It recognizes a legacy of achievement and service built over its lifetime. More than 70 alumni who personify the University’s tradition of excellence have received this prestigious honor since the award was inaugurated in 1938. The list includes Nobel Prize winners, internationally recognized scientists, artists, business leaders, educators and many other influential figures.

From radical youth to senior statesman, Larry Gossett has been an activist for all of us.

By Hannelore Sudermann  Photos by Rick Dahms
CANT HOLD HIM BACK

2021 ALUMNUS SUMMA LAUDE DIGNATUS
LARRY GOSSETT, ’70
You can’t really talk about the UW in the 1960s without mention of Larry Gossett. A student activist who helped organize the Black Student Union on campus, he formed tight bonds with his classmates and sparked a massive effort to make the University more diverse.

Gossett ranks among Edmond Meany (class of 1885), Trevor Kincaid (class of 1899 and 1901) and Bill Gates Sr (class of 1949 and 1950) as alumni who transformed the University for generations to come. While his predecessors established the campus, founded the zoology department and a research station, and drove innovation and public service law, Gossett and a small group of fellow students motivated the UW to expand its curriculum and recruit and support first-generation students and students of color. They also prompted the school to hire more faculty of color. The results of their activism enriched the college experience for everyone, not just underrepresented and economically challenged students.

But that’s just part of why Larry Gossett is this year’s Alumnus Summa Laude Dignatus (alumnus most worthy of praise), the highest honor the UW confers on its alumni.

Thousands know him as a human rights activist, a leader who crossed cultural lines to support women and people of color through acts of civil disobedience.

Nearly 200,000 Seattle-area residents know him as their King County Council member. For a quarter century, until 2019, he represented a sizable segment of inner-city Seattle, a district known for its diversity.

He would also pull a few dollars from his pocket to help anyone cover bus fare.

**LARRY GOSSETT** didn’t start out wanting to change the world. But the moment he stepped foot in Harlem in the summer of 1966, that was his mission. The New York neighborhood, a mecca for Black America, was a center for racial pride. Profound influences like Malcolm X (who had been assassinated the year prior) and sociologist Preston Wilcox helped the community recognize its biggest challenges: oppression, discrimination and social and economic exploitation.

Into this world came a 20-year-old clean-cut college student from Seattle, eager to address urban poverty and learn more about Black America. Gossett was a solid student and basketball star at Franklin High School who enrolled at the UW in 1963 in the midst of the Vietnam War. He wasn’t thinking about much except earning a degree that would land him a good job. As a junior, he joined AmeriCorps through VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) and was assigned to Harlem, what the government was then describing as a “pocket of poverty.”

Gossett discovered a far different Black America than what he knew in Seattle. His hometown had a Black population that numbered around 30,000. In Harlem, where the population topped 100,000, each city block was home to thousands. “And most of them were poor,” says Gossett. “I wondered, why does this exist in my country?”

He fed his understanding with books, starting with Black history. The bookstore clerks pushed him to read about non-Black revolutionaries as well, developing his understanding of race and economic-based injustice. He started thinking about the exploitation of one class by another. “I just changed very, very rapidly,” says Gossett. He became self-analytical and observant. He also altered his appearance, growing his hair and donning sunglasses and dashikis. He asked people to call him Mohamed Aba Yoruba. By the end of his time there, he considered himself a Black revolutionary.

He could have stayed to support the revolution from the heart of Black America, “But I wanted to do the work at home in my own community,” he says. “So I caught my plane on Sept. 17, 1967.”

Gossett was a new version of himself not just in looks, but in attitude. At the airport, his mother and youngest brother walked right by him, he laughs. Once home, he reached out to his UW friends and discovered that, like him, they were ready to embrace racial pride, seek social and economic empowerment, and celebrate Black history and culture.

Over the next few months, the students made trips to two different meetings in California where they encountered other students, activists and the Black Panthers. At the end of the first trip, the UW contingent established a Black Student Union on the bus on the way home. “We couldn’t wait,” says Gossett, who was selected as regional chair for Washington and Oregon’s BSU.

On Jan. 6, 1968, at the start of winter quarter, 13 UW students announced the formation of the BSU on campus. The group called out the administration, pointing out that there were few Black students and teachers, the UW offered no classes in Black history or culture, and no class used texts by Black authors. “It shocked me, but it didn’t surprise me,” Gossett says of the oversight.

In the spring, BSU activism landed Gossett and other classmates in the King County Jail. They had gone to Franklin High School to support students in a sit-in to draw attention to racism from teachers and the principal, Two days later, the police knocked on the Gossett family’s door at 7:30 a.m. Larry wasn’t home, and they arrested his brother. Once he learned the police were looking for him, Gossett went police station with a member of the UW faculty to turn himself in safely.

That afternoon, news about the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. reached the jail. Gossett, Carl Miller, ’74, and Aaron Dixon—who had, because of their activism, earned a degree of respect from the other inmates—talked the prisoners out of fighting with each other. The UW students explained that King was an activist for everyone struggling with injustice and social and economic disparities, regardless of color.

Their trial for unlawful assembly was ultimately a debacle. A seven-minute jury deliberation delivered a guilty verdict and of one the harshest sentences ever given to peaceful demonstrators—six months in the county jail. The verdict roiled the Black community, sparking several riots. Fortunately, the men were
quickly released on appeal and new charges were not pursued.

Gossett’s brush with the law only intensified his activism. “I became very serious about using the opportunities I had to ‘liberate’ Black people,” Gossett says. He was ready to put his life and his body on the line. “We thought we would be dead or in jail by 25.”

In May 1968, Gossett and a group of Black, Latino and Native American students and their white classmates joined members of the greater community to march on the Administration Building (now Gerberding Hall), climbing the central stairway and taking over President Charles Odegaard’s office. They brought a list of demands that included recruiting and supporting more students of color, diversifying the faculty and delivering a Black studies program. After a nearly four-hour sit-in, with more than 70 police officers and a growing numbers of sympathizers gathering outside, the demonstration ended peacefully shortly before 9 p.m. Odegaard had agreed to their demands.

Ultimately, the BSU found an ally in Odegaard. “He had a better understanding than most of the whites on campus,” says Gossett, “But he thought we were moving too fast.” In answer, Gossett and his BSU classmates argued that after centuries of oppression and stolen opportunity, the time for change was long overdue.

That 1968 sit-in motivated Odegaard and his administrative team. By that fall they had started the Educational Opportunity Program for low-income and first-generation students, founded the forerunner that became the Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity (OMA&D), accelerated the hiring of faculty of color, and developed programs in African American studies, Asian American studies and Indian studies.

By 1975, the number of Black students on campus had grown from 63 at the time of the sit-in to 1,666, says Gossett. They were joined by 800 Chicano/Latino students and at least 200 Native Americans, he says. Ultimately, Odegaard and his administration had delivered on recruiting and funding for scholarships and organizations. “I had a deeper appreciation of him by the time he died in the 1990s,” Gossett says. In fact, Gossett spoke at Odegaard’s funeral at the request of his family.

THE UW WAS just one of Gossett’s arenas. In addition to joining the Black Panthers and working as a labor and human rights activist in greater Seattle community, Gossett formed an alliance with three other activist-leaders in Seattle’s communities of color. “We met in struggle,” says Gossett of friends Bernie Whitebear, Roberto Maestas and Bob Santos. Santos represented the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, Whitebear (Sin Aikst) was a leader in the urban Indian movement, and Maestas, ’66, ’71, was a teacher at Franklin High School who became an activist and co-founder of El Centro De La Raza. By supporting one another’s causes, they changed the landscape of the greater Seattle community.

“We just clicked,” said Maestas in a 2009 interview with KCTS-TV, Seattle’s PBS station. “Before you knew it, we were buddies, like brothers.” The system had somehow always pitted one group against the other, says Gossett. Once they started showing up for demonstrations or negotiations as a multiracial group, they struck fear in the heart of the Seattle establishment. A few phone calls could bring out 300 to 400 demonstrators.

Gossett also worked in the UW’s newly formed Office of Special Programs, the precursor to today’s OMA&D. One spring day in 1973, an undergraduate named Rhonda Oden, 75, strolled into the office. Gossett, who was overseeing the academic counselors, set about connecting her with an adviser. Later, he asked her out. The pair married in 1975.

By then Gossett had left the UW to focus more on activism and community organization. He joined the Central Area Motivation Program as a consultant and by 1979 became the executive director. It was a community-driven service organization focused on reducing the impact of poverty by providing food, shelter, education support, employment and training. It was a welcome contrast to the institutional structure of the University, says Gossett. While ensuring that CAMP served the community, he also encouraged the people he met there to become involved in public issues.

1984 was also a life-changing year for Gossett. His service as state chairman for the National Rainbow Coalition, a multi-ethnic campaign to make Jesse Jackson the Democratic presidential nominee for the 1988 election, brought Black activists and non-voters of all ethnicities into the Democratic Party. They started to reshape it. The Rainbow Coalition transformed the idea of how to gain political power in Seattle, Washington and nationwide—while also transforming Gossett’s thoughts about politics. “And by then the bug had bit me,” he says.

Today Alexes Harris, ’97, is a sociology professor at the UW. But when she met Gossett in the early 1990s, she was a Garfield High School student who, along with many of her classmates, wanted to do something about recent killings of people their age.
Professors
One year into remote learning, these seven distinguished scholars kept class as fresh and relevant as ever. Find a seat and meet your 2021 Distinguished Teachers of the Year.

Photos by Jackie Russo
Weichao Yuwen
UW Tacoma, School of Nursing & Healthcare Leadership

I adopted a dog named Scooter right before the pandemic, and my life has changed in a very positive way since then. Since my research mainly focuses on supporting families, this experience has also helped me broaden my understanding about self-care and family care. During the pandemic, I picked up crafts like macrame, weaving, ceramic making, painting, beeswax wrap making, etc. And I do enjoy lattes, milk tea with toppings, chai tea, etc. Basically, liquid with caffeine and milk. My tolerance has gone up drastically since the pandemic.
Sarah Zaman
UW Medicine, Pediatrics

While helping my mother navigate a long illness, I’ve reflected on how she shaped me. My mom sees the world through a NASA engineer’s lens. She also lives her life in joyful exclamation points. I inherited her distinctive mix of stubborn logic, excitable curiosity, and wonder. That gift shaped who I am as a teacher and doctor. During the pandemic, I wrote recommendation letters from my mother’s hospital bedside. As she recovered, I started mentoring via text message and teaching across time zones. I gave my first Zoom lecture from the practice grocery store in my mom’s rehabilitation hospital. These teaching moments were improvised and unconventional—but also meaningful and joyful. This tangled, tough year made me love teaching and mentoring even more.

Theodore Myhre
Teaching Professor, UW School of Law

The pandemic removed the day-to-day busyness of life that takes our focus away from deeper issues by keeping our focus on superficial ones. So, when the Black Lives Matter movement exploded across the country in reaction to systematic police violence, the country as a whole had the space to actually understand the inequity in our culture. I realized that legal education in the United States has become exclusive and elitist, depriving most people of even basic legal literacy. If social equity and racial justice matter, what do we do about this? The answer: empower people with legal knowledge and skills. We need to move legal education into grade schools, high schools, colleges and universities. We need legal training for people outside of school, too. Even police officers who are trained to enforce the law are not trained in the law. And that has life-threatening results.
Andrea D. Carroll  
Associate Teaching Professor,  
Department of Chemistry

There is so much non-verbal communication that I rely on during class and office hours to gauge student understanding. I have missed that terribly in the past year. I miss the hallway chatter, the rooms full of students working on experiments, and the general energy and camaraderie that only comes with being together on campus. On the positive side, my son (Alex, 9) and I have walked more than 200 miles since remote learning began! We like the early morning walks at 7 a.m. best, before the neighborhoods are really awake.

Wendy Barrington  
School of Nursing

There is much history that is not part of our civics lessons that informs so much of what is happening today. These mechanisms are what perpetuate social injustices that result in health disparities—and will continue to do so until they are disrupted. It should not be about whether these policies and practices are intentionally racist—it should be about whether the impact of these policies and practices are racist. And a simple way of assessing racist impact is by asking the question, “Does this policy or practice disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities?” If yes, it’s racist. Let’s fix it.
Tadesse Ghirmai  
Associate Professor; UW Bothell, Electrical Engineering

The biggest lesson for me during the pandemic is the reaffirmation that empathy is an essential component in the success of the teaching and learning process. I also developed an interest in listening to music from different countries. Although I do not understand the lyrics of most of the songs, I came to enjoy the music. Another thing I feel good about during the quarantine is that I spent a lot more time with family in the last year. As a family, we developed a habit of walking together for about 3 miles a day.
Test pilot Scott Crossfield (left) tries out a pressure suit in a heat chamber in this undated photo from the 1950s. Photo from Bettmann Collection, Getty Images. At right, Crossfield poses with the X-15 rocket plane in Los Angeles in October 1958. Photo by Allan Grant/The LIFE Picture Collection via Getty Images.
Taking risks was second nature for Albert Scott Crossfield. That's how he became the first man to fly at twice the speed of sound and laid the groundwork to go into space.

By George Spencer
OLD DECEMBER RAIN SWEPT THE REMOTE AIRFIELD.
Worry showed in the eyes of test pilot Scott Crossfield, a graduate of the UW’s William E. Boeing Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics. He won fame in 1953 as the first man to fly twice the speed of sound. And six years later, he piloted the hypersonic X-15 space plane. Reporters gave the cocky Crossfield the ultimate nickname—“Mr. Space.”

But on Dec. 17, 2003, the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers’ first flight, Crossfield was in Kitty Hawk, N.C., attempting to recreate the history-making flight. Instead of feeling cocky, he was worried because he was about to try flying an experimental plane called the Wright Flyer. He had spent four years training pilots to handle another experimental plane. After testing an earlier model and surviving a crash, Crossfield, ’49, ’50, muttered, “I’ve never flown an airplane as unstable as this.”

No one ordered him to fly it—he volunteered. “We didn’t know what the limits of the airplane were,” Crossfield wrote in his autobiography. “I wasn’t going to ask pilots to do something I wouldn’t do myself.”

Crossfield had, as Tom Wolfe put it in “The Right Stuff,” “the ability to go up in a hurtling piece of machinery and put his hide on the line and then have the moxie, the reflexes, the experience, the coolness, to pull back in the last yawning moment and then go up again the next day, and the next day, and every day.” Wolfe later told The Los Angeles Times that “Crossfield is the great man who nobody knows anymore [who should be] on the Mount Rushmore for pilots.”

On this day in North Carolina, the eyes of the nation were on him, just as they had been when he strapped into the sleek, sinister X-15 on June 8, 1959, for its first flight. Back then, America craved a post-Sputnik space-race victory. “We understood we were under the gun to do something for our country and get back our internal self-confidence,” Crossfield wrote in his autobiography, “Always Another Dawn.” The flight of the Wright Flyer held similar importance; the president would soon arrive on Air Force One to attend the re-enactment of the Wright brothers’ historic flight on its 100th anniversary.

Crossfield watched technicians tinker with the exotic craft. “You wait and wait and wait. The engines don’t start. The airplane doesn’t work. You’re a month late. Everybody’s on your back,” wrote Crossfield. “This is the story of my life in flight testing.”

On this bitter morning, the plane couldn’t fly. Not enough wind. The replica of the 1903 Flyer, which Orville Wright flew 120 feet 100 years earlier in 1903, sputtered to a sandy halt at the end of its rickety launch track. President George W. Bush and thousands of onlookers at Kitty Hawk left disappointed.

Four years earlier Crossfield, then 82, had joined the Wright Experience, a team dedicated to recreating the first powered flight. While the replica was being hand-fashioned, he taught pilots to fly the next best thing—a 1902 Wright Brothers glider.

He flew it himself at the end of a tow rope over a grassy runway, each time pushing its performance. One time while 10 feet high going 25 mph, he lost control. Though unharmed, “he went flying ass-over-teacup over the front of the glider,” said Virginia Tech engineering professor Kevin Kochersberger, who attempted the centennial flight.

Years earlier, Crossfield said he prided himself on never bailing out. “It’s a matter of professional integrity, if you please, to get it home—that’s what I’m paid for,” he wrote.

•   •   •

In 1927—the year Charles Lindbergh made his historic solo crossing of the Atlantic—a priest arrived at Crossfield’s Wilmington, California, home to administer last rites. Six-year-old Scott had pneumonia and was in a coma. Pictures of airplanes blanketed the walls of his bedroom, almost covering an image of the Sacred Heart. “But what about the Lord?” he asked Crossfield’s parents.

A year after recovering from pneumonia, he came down with rheumatic fever. He had to stay in bed for months. During the next four years, the small, sickly boy was confined to bed-rest for weeks.

“I grew to adolescence in an unusual, isolated environment, finding things to pass the long hours at rest that few other boys
“do,” he recalled. When he was 9, he rigged a make-believe airplane control stick and rudder pedals to a wicker chair. With a flying manual beside him, “my imagination took me across oceans, into deep valleys and above the mountains. I dreamed of flying from California to New York nonstop and setting a new record,” he wrote in his autobiography “Always Another Dawn.”

Three years later, he got a newspaper delivery route. One stop was a small airfield. He offered the owner free papers in exchange for flying lessons. He never told his parents. For Crossfield, “each flight was a fantastic, wonderful experience, and a tonic.” At age 13, he knew his life’s goal: “I would be not only a pilot but the best damned pilot in the world.”

Around this time, his father bought a dairy farm near Chehalis in Boistfort, Lewis County. Thanks to his chores, Crossfield became a tough teen. After a high school fight, the principal told him, “Scott, don’t wait for the school bus today. Just walk on home right now.”

As a University of Washington freshman in 1940, Crossfield was a young man in a hurry who wanted to be an engineer so he could understand every aspect of aviation. “A lone wolf on a special mission,” he called himself. He took a heavy course load, lived in “depressing” boarding houses, and worked as a butler and furnace cleaner at a “snooty sorority.”

Returning to UW after World War II—a Navy fighter pilot, he flew the Vaught Corsair but never saw action—Crossfield got his bachelor’s in science in 1949 and flew, so to speak, through his graduate studies, earning his master’s in aeronautical engineering in a year while relishing his job as chief operator of the UW’s Kirsten Wind Tunnel. His thesis, which he bragged might have fewer pages than any other, focused on aviation’s future—swept-wing supersonic aircraft. “He was forward-looking, a driven man,” says former department chair Adam Bruckner.

While finishing school in the UW’s William E. Boeing Department of Aeronautics & Astronautics, he wrote a letter seeking work at Bell Aircraft, maker of the X-1, which broke the sound barrier in 1947. It concluded: “Temperament: reliable, family-man type; even disposition, cool in emergencies. Salary? I would fly the X-1 for nothing, if necessary.”

Receiving no reply, he made an unannounced visit to the chief pilot at the Ames Research Center in San Francisco. He told Crossfield he had no openings but that by odd coincidence, Crossfield’s wife had just called to tell him that her husband had been invited to Edwards, the California test center for experimental aircraft near Death Valley, to interview for a test pilot job at NASA’s predecessor, NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. There, Crossfield said he found “a runway scratched out of the desert” and fliers with a “contagious, pioneering spirit.” He found his destiny.

“We’d test the edge of something and find out we were in the middle of a whirlpool,” he told the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1979. His dangerous, yet routine, high-altitude research work meant learning a rocket plane’s limits, landing alive, writing a report and maybe breaking a record in the process. Before the X-15, Crossfield flew more than 100 sky-shredding experimental missions—more hours than any other test pilot—in the X-1, X-4, X-5, XF-92, and the D-558 II Skyrocket, the bullet-shaped white plane he took to Mach 2 (1,291 mph) on Nov. 20, 1953.

He routinely dodged death. On his first X-4 flight, both engines failed. “All hell broke loose at 27,000 feet,” he recalled. The Skyrocket, also on his first flight, lost power, instruments and cabin pressure. As if that wasn’t enough, the windshield iced over, and the cockpit filled with smoke. Once when flying the X-1, which he called “the king of the hot rods,” it pitched, stalled and flipped on its back. Its windshield also iced up. Crossfield “thanked his lucky stars” he wasn’t wearing flight boots. He kicked off an oxford shoe, yanked off a sock, and scraped clear a spot in the windshield with his bare foot.

Then came the X-15, a plane Air & Space Magazine dubbed “the keystone in the bridge between Earth and space.” Crossfield called it the first manned space vehicle. “I kind of felt I was the first as-
The thought of a bailout never occurred to me. I’m paid to bring airplanes back.”

Test pilot Scott Crossfield joins a rack of flight suits and other gear inside the pilot dressing room at the North American Aviation plant in Los Angeles. Photo by Allan Grant/The LIFE Picture Collection via Getty Images.

“...would have to fight me first,” he said. Crossfield was a visionary in other ways. In 1952, he suggested attaching an X-15 to the top of a rocket to create an orbital space plane, a strategy NASA formally rejected in 1959. “If we’d continued with the orbital X-15, it would’ve been the research airplane’s natural step up the line,” Crossfield told the Discovery Channel in 1993. “We wouldn’t be worrying about space stations today, they’d be up there.”

Mishaps plagued the X-15. On its first non-powered glider flight, ice frosted its windshield. (On later missions, a plastic windshield scraper would be hung on the control panel.) During the first powered flight on Sept. 17, 1959, Crossfield struggled to land as its nose rose and fell like a rowboat’s bow in stormy seas. Fellow X-15 pilot Milt Thompson, ’53, called it “a terrifying sight.” Crossfield barely touched down safely. His reward on landing? In true 1950s style, an Air Force officer handed him a martini with an olive.

When the X-15 got a new, more powerful engine. Crossfield buckled in for a ground test, huge steel clamps restraining his cockpit 20 feet forward at an estimated 50 Gs. “There was no panic, no fear,” he said. “I was concerned primarily for the safety of other people.”

He joked that flight surgeons loved doing autopsies on test pilots because they were so easy. “When you opened up a test pilot,” Crossfield said, “you found only two operable parts—one at each end and totally interchangeable.”

Contrary to popular belief, test pilots were nearly as famous as Mercury astronauts. After his Mach 2 flight, he was mobbed at a hotel press conference, flashbulbs exploding in his face. Later he found himself seated with movie star Esther Williams. When asked what she thought about being next to the world’s fastest man, she replied, “He hasn’t laid a hand on me yet.”

During his X-15 days the press dubbed him “Our First Man in Outer Space,” even though none of his flights flew that high. “The press refused or couldn’t bring itself to believe me,” he said. “It was always the same: hurry, impatience, no time for thoughtful reflection.”

The X-15, which Crossfield referred to as “a strange tiger,” was a black dart snuggled under the right wing of a B-52, lofted to high altitude, and dropped to the perilous unknown so its million-horsepower rockets could blast into the heavens and land safely, a feat it did 199 times more than 20 years before the space shuttle.

Crossfield was the perfect pilot. “He was the first of a new generation of flying aeronautical engineers—an engineer first and pilot second,” says National Air and Space Museum curator Bob Van der Linden. Like Neil Armstrong, who later flew the X-15, Crossfield had the flying skill and steely nerves, plus an engineer’s intuition about human factors and aerodynamics.

Like the Wright Brothers, he was an inventor. Not only did Crossfield help brainstorm the X-15 in 1952, he left NACA in 1955 to work for North American Aviation as its Design Specialist and pilot. “I would be the X-15’s chief son of a bitch … anyone who wanted … to capriciously change anything or add anything … would have to fight me first,” he said.

“The engineers were in virgin territory,” according to National Air and Space Museum curator John Anderson, author of the book “X-15.” The space plane’s pioneering design had temperature-abating metals on its leading edges to act as re-entry heat shields. The X-15 remains one of the most successful research planes ever built, its Mach 6.7 (4,520 mph) speed record unbroken.

Crossfield also designed the first full-pressure suit in collaboration with a Philadelphia girdle maker. He saw a “glamorous looking” shiny silver fabric at the company and recommended that it replace the khaki space suits for an iconic, futuristic look. When the Pentagon wanted heavy material for the X-15’s seat, Crossfield fought back. Remembering his farm-boy days, he had already contacted International Harvester and had a lighter seat modeled after those on tractors.

Crossfield was a visionary in other ways. In 1952, he suggested attaching an X-15 to the top of a rocket to create an orbital space plane, a strategy NASA formally rejected in 1959. “If we’d continued with the orbital X-15, it would’ve been the research airplane’s natural step up the line,” Crossfield told the Discovery Channel in 1993. “We wouldn’t be worrying about space stations today, they’d be up there.”
Test pilot Scott Crossfield scopes out the cockpit of an X-15 rocket plane at the North American Aviation plant in Los Angeles. Crossfield hit a speed of Mach 2.97 in the X-15. Photo by Allan Grant/The LIFE Picture Collection via Getty Images.

Because Crossfield worked for North American Aviation, NASA forbade him to push the X-15 to speed and altitude limits reserved for military pilots. Years later, the space agency retroactively gave test pilots who flew above 264,000 feet (50 miles) the title “astronaut.” Crossfield wasn’t eligible. His peak altitude and speeds were 88,116 feet and Mach 2.97 (1,960 mph), though he told friends he violated his orders and punched past Mach 3.

He considered applying for the Mercury program, but an Air Force general told him, according to Wolfe, “Scotty, don’t even bother, because you’ll only be turned down. You’re too independent.” The deciding blow came when he learned the honor of the first flight would go to a chimp.

In the end, he played a major role getting men to the moon. As a systems director at North American Aviation on the Apollo program, he oversaw reliability engineering, quality assurance and systems tests for the command and service modules and the Saturn V’s second stage. Later, he became an Eastern Airlines executive and for 20 years served as a consultant to the House Committee on Science and Technology.

He continued to fly. On April 19, 2006, when he was 84, he left the Prattville, Alabama, airport in his vintage Cessna 210A to fly home to Manassas, Virginia. He hit a Level 6 thunderstorm in northwest Georgia. In his last transmission to air-traffic control, he requested a 180-degree turn. Searchers found his plane’s wreckage in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. An investigation blamed the crash on his failure to get updated weather information and controllers’ failure to warn him of the storm.

Crossfield loved risk. In his later years, he railed that bureaucracy had stifled progress. Of his early Edwards days, he said “we had an era where we could do pretty much what we wanted. We would stay up late at night figuring out how we wanted to do something, and then we’d go out and do it. Who’s to stop you? “Our only risk,” he said, “is the fear of risk.” —Freelance writer George Spencer is based in Hillsborough, North Carolina. This is his first article for University of Washington Magazine.
First to Four Stars
Nominated as Vice Commandant, Linda Fagan, '00, is set to become the highest-ranking woman in Coast Guard history

By Jon Marmor

The first woman director of the National Science Foundation was a UW alumna. The first woman director of NOAA? Another UW graduate. And now, the White House has nominated Linda Fagan, '00, a graduate of the School of Marine and Environmental Affairs in the UW College of the Environment, to be the next vice commandant of the US Coast Guard. That would make her the first woman to four-star Coast Guard admiral.

Fagan’s master thesis was titled “Improving the Quality of Information in the Marine Transportation System: An Exercise in Risk Reduction.” “What I remember is that she arrived with the idea behind it already formed in her own mind based on her experience with her USCG commands since graduation,” Leschine says. “9/11 had not yet happened. But she saw that many agencies and groups were in the business of security, but often poorly coordinated or in conflict given differences in approach and mandate.”

Fagan's rise to four-star admiral in the Coast Guard is not her first time being first. She is the Coast Guard's first-ever Gold Ancient Trident, as the officer with the longest service record in the marine safety field. She has spent 36 years with the Coast Guard.

Her career has prepared her well to become the No. 2 officer in the Coast Guard. She has served on all seven continents, held command roles along the East Coast, and served as deputy director of operations for headquarters at U.S. Northern Command.

One particularly impressive assignment came in 2013, when she was posted to NORTHCOM under a detail to the Department of Defense, another rare assignment. She was part of the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center, set up as part of a defense against attacks on North America. “I remember talking to her after that, and she remarked that coordination and communication were better but still not what she thought they should be,” Leschine says.

She also held positions as captain of the port in Boston and first female commander of Sector New York and captain of the Port for New York and New Jersey. In terms of national security, this remains one of the most sensitive posts in the U.S.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas says Fagan “is a superb leader, who, as the 32nd vice commandant, will guide the Coast Guard at a time when its mission of securing our maritime borders, ports and waterways has never been more important. We are grateful to Vice Admiral Fagan for continuing her service to the country, for the trail she has blazed, and for inspiring us all.”

Fagan graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1985 with a degree in marine science before coming to the UW to earn her master’s in marine affairs, a feat she accomplished in just five quarters. Professor emeritus Tom Leschine, her academic adviser, explains that many master’s students don’t complete the degree in the allotted two years. But Fagan “showed superior work habits and goal-orientation,” he adds. “From the day she arrived, you could tell she was headed somewhere.”

Support to the Department of Defense and Combatant Commanders. Pending confirmation by the Senate, on June 18 she will replace Adm. Charles Ray, who has served as the Coast Guard’s No. 2 officer since May 2018.

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PERRY ACWORTH
FARM MANAGER

"Overall, I'm responsible for managing 6 acres. Within that, we have what amounts to an acre cultivated with annual crops, another half-acre is perennials. Because the farm keeps expanding with additional land at the center for urban horticulture (CUH), we don't actually know how big it is."

"From June through November, we provide community boxes to community subscribers.

"We also sell produce to campus restaurants and cafes and donate food to students through the UW food pantry and to the neighborhood through a district food bank."

"Students started the farm in 2006 - growing food in beds near the botany greenhouse."

"Today the farm is a registered student organization and exists on three sites across the UW campus. We demonstrate and provide students with experience in urban farming."

"It's great to have the contrast of the farms. At the site north of Husky Stadium, we're gardening with full sun and up to 16 hours of daylight. We grow cucurbits like melons and zucchini, cucumber, pumpkins, and delicata."

"My top tools: I'm fond of the flame weeder, the Jang speed seeder, and the scuffle hoe."

"At Mercer Court apartments, the farm is in a courtyard between seven-story buildings. We've learned that beets, greens, lettuce, carrots, potatoes all do surprisingly well with just a half-day of sun."

"In 2012, I sold my farm in Maine, loaded my kids and dog into a u-haul and drove out here for grad school."

"You can always reinvent yourself. In my 30s, I became a farmer, then at age 49, I went back to school again."

"I'm the only paid employee on the farm."

"We also train about 30 students and have an Americorps worker... and some pretty kick-butt volunteers."

"How did I get to be a farmer?"

"Living in Vermont, I saw beautiful dairy farms turning into large-scale housing developments."

"I realized that farming is a way to keep land space open and protected from development. Plus, I love food!"
Distinguished Service Award

This honor from the UW Alumni Association recognizes extraordinary volunteer leadership within the UWAA and those who embody the UW’s values and public service mission.

Colleen Fukui-Sketchley, ’94

Few Huskies have created a legacy of volunteer leadership as impressive as Fukui-Sketchley. As UWAA president during the 2010-2011 academic year, she oversaw the creation of UW Impact, the UWAA’s legislative advocacy program, and was instrumental in hiring its first full-time director. She also spent six years on the UWAA Board of Trustees, served on the UW Foundation board and co-created and chaired the foundation board’s first DEI Committee. In 2015, she received the Charles E. Odegaard Award, which honors a member of the UW community whose leadership sustains the former UW president’s work on behalf of diversity at the UW and the state.

Honor a UW alum veteran

The Distinguished Alumni Veteran Award recognizes UW alumni veterans who have made a positive impact on the national or international community, the UW or the veteran community. Do you know a Husky vet who has made a difference? Tell us their story. Go to Washington.edu/alumni/about-uwaa/awards/distinguished-alumni-veteran-award and click “How to Nominate.”

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Husky for Life!
RETIREE EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

This honor from the UW and the UW Retirement Association pays tribute to UW retirees from throughout the UW community who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to community service following their retirement.

Professor Emeritus Terence Mitchell

One of the Foster School’s most prolific researchers in organizational behavior, Mitchell has not slowed down since retiring in 2014 after 45 years at the UW. He volunteers at three animal conservation organizations: the Woodland Park Zoo, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the Alligator River Wildlife Refuge in North Carolina. And that’s when he isn’t publishing articles with colleagues and doctoral students. Says Frank Hodge, dean of the Foster School: “Terry gives a tremendous amount of time and energy to better the communities in which he lives and visits. He is a role model.”

GOLDEN GRADUATE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

This UWAA recognition honors alumni who have demonstrated sustained, long-term and meaningful engagement with the UW.

David, ’68, and Marcie, ’69, ’76, Stone

Nearly any time the UW Alumni Association Board of Trustees, Meany Center, the UW Libraries or the iSchool have something important in the works, there’s a good chance you will run into the Stones. Simply put, they are two of the most dedicated, passionate volunteers the UWAA and the University have. Since 2008, when the Stones returned to Seattle after they retired, “the University has been a hub for our lives,” Marcie says. “What we studied here was so important to our careers. We really wanted to give back.” Their involvement spans quite a few units across the University. Both have served on the UW Alumni Association Board of Trustees (at separate times) and both have been active participants in the UWAA’s Legislative Advocacy Committee as well as UW Impact.
Clay can be difficult. It dries out. It cracks. It changes color. It can’t be rushed. It responds differently to glazes, firing temperatures and a whole suite of variables. Also, it’s messy and can explode in a kiln.

But that’s part of why George Rodriguez fell for clay. He was studying graphic design as an undergraduate in El Paso, Texas, and thought that ceramics was just about pottery. But he took a class anyway and discovered that clay—with all of its possibilities and uncertainties—could become sculpture. Then and there, he chose to make art his career.

In 2006, he enrolled in the UW’s MFA program where Akio Takamori, one of his heroes, was teaching. Rodriguez wanted to study with somebody working in figurative sculptures, and that was Takamori’s metier. “And the UW had one of the top programs in the country for clay,” says Rodriguez, ’09. When the budding artist came to scout the school, Takamori introduced him to the clay community. Rodriguez was dazzled. “It was like your hero taking you to see the town,” he says. He discovered professors and artists like Doug Jeck, Jamie Walker and alumni like Patti Warashina, ’62, ’64, the Seattle artist who built her career around sculpting the human figure. He couldn’t wait to move. “This was the community I wanted to be in.”

During a recent visit, Rodriguez, in jeans double-cuffed to reveal his colorful socks, is working in his two-story corner studio in an old warehouse in Ballard. Just inside the door, a larger-than-life clown he calls “Candypants” awaits visitors. To the left looms a massive kiln large enough for Rodriguez to walk inside. It makes it possible for him to create people-sized figures, he explains as he pulls open the heavy door and throws his whole body into sliding it down a track. Creating complex, and massive and often intricate sculptures has its challenges, particularly with clay, which offers an uncertain outcome. “It’s always exciting to open a kiln,” says Rodriguez. “You’re wondering, does it work today? If not, you take a hammer to it and start over.”

From the start, Rodriguez explored identity, culture and community with his work. His pieces are clever, playful and profound. Part of his style centers on ornamentation and detail. He hand forms tiny leaves and rosettes and elements to adorn the larger figures he’s creating. His UW thesis exhibition, “Instrumental Divide,” featured nine life-sized mariachi figures and was built around the theme of community. At first view, you see the unadorned backs of nine
“It made me realize how interconnected we are as human beings.”

Terracotta Army. It was a necessary adventure for Rodriguez who often reflects about his own identities—Mexican and American. “It made me realize how interconnected we are as human beings,” he says. When he returned home, he found himself trying to merge western and eastern styles in his work. “So much imagery bridges cultures without even trying.” He took inspiration from communities besides his own, ones he wants to celebrate through his own lens.

Rodriguez’s first solo show was a series of self-portraits. One of his next projects evolved away from himself as a subject into a series of people connected by the named George: George Jetson, George Burns, Curious George, Boy George. George Plimpton. Rodriguez’s work is playful but also thoughtful. He created “Narcissus,” a dress covered with yellow flowers, in response to people saying his self-portraits were narcissistic. Those who look inside the dress see themselves in a mirror.

Today, Rodriguez is represented by the Foster White Gallery and his work can be found at two sites on the UW campus. A version of his 12-piece series based on the Chinese zodiac hangs in the Bill & Melinda Gates Center for Computer Science and Engineering. Rodriguez features the 12 animals, but his version uses creatures of Central and South America in place of the Chinese animals traditionally featured.

While Rodriguez is popular among collectors in the Pacific Northwest, his reputation is now spreading across the country. In 2019, the National Council on the Education of Ceramic Arts recognized him as an emerging artist. And he is currently an artist in residence at Temple University in Philadelphia.

His latest project is a continuation of his animal series, “El Zodiaco Familiar.” This version is a collaborative effort, with Rodriguez’s sculptures embellished by Mexican and Chicana/Chicano artists—including a jeweler and a poet—whose birth years correspond with the masks they’re helping create. The exhibit opens June 19 and will run through late October at the Whatcom Museum.

Hiking Washington’s History
Judy Bentley and Craig Romano, ’94, ’97
UW Press, May 2021
Just in time for summer, the UW Press releases a new edition of this “trail guide for history buffs and history book for hikers.” The original, released in 2010, was the first-ever hiking guide to the state’s historic trails. Now it is updated and in full color, featuring Washington’s spectacular terrain from centuries-old footpaths to hunting grounds and trade centers to homesteads and coal mines high in the mountains. The authors have added 12 new hikes to the original 32, accounts from diaries and archives, and contemporary and historical photographs.

Forgetting Nature
Ross Harrison
March, 2021
Featuring UW psychology professor Peter Kahn, this short documentary by UK-based filmmaker Harrison calls us to look at how technology affects our experiences and how wild nature is disappearing from our lives. Kahn researches the trends of nature decline and technological development. “We are more distant from the natural world than any culture has ever been,” he says. He talks about how each generation risks accepting a more depleted natural world. The 5-minute work is a call to pay attention to the wildlife around us and develop ways to protect and restore it. Or at the very least, we should spend time outdoors and pay attention to nature. The documentary streams for free on forgettingnature.com.
On “graduation day,” a dozen service dogs, mostly Labrador retrievers, stand with their trainers while eager young men and women file into the gymnasium-sized room. The bright-eyed, tail-wagging canines are excited to meet their new owners. Watching from the sidelines is Bill Perkins, ’70, who feels gratified to know that he has helped create a program that enables American servicemen and servicewomen to find peace in their lives.

The program is Patriot Paws, a Texas-based nonprofit organization that employs incarcerated individuals to train service dogs. For right, a veteran interacts with his new companion.

Well-trained dogs can immensely help vets return to living an almost normal existence.

picking things up. German shepherds are also good service dogs because they’re really smart, but when someone gets on an elevator with a big shepherd, everyone else in the elevator tends to back away. But everyone loves Labs and wants to pet them. They’re better when it comes to interaction with people.”

Preparing a service dog is arduous. It takes about two years of constant lessons to train a dog, and out of every 100 potential pooches, about 80% don’t make it through the program. But for those that do, the rewards are great on both sides of the leash.

As a lover of dogs (and a few cats) since he was a young pup himself, Perkins met dog trainer Lori Stevens when Max, his feisty German shepherd, needed a few classes at obedience school. Stevens and Perkins talked of their deep respect for military-service personnel and her wish to begin a program to provide dogs for veterans. Perkins, who had retired after spending 45 years in clinical research, volunteered his time and knowledge to help get Patriot Paws out of the kennel.

“I have a 100% high regard for those who served our country, and it was clear disabled veterans needed help. Plus, the program was a good way to keep myself busy,” says Perkins, whose resume includes stints as an executive and a clinical researcher at several major pharmaceutical and biotech companies.

After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire with a double major in music and biology in 1961, Perkins earned a Ph.D. in anatomy at the University of Washington. He was a postdoctoral fellow and a faculty member in pathology at Harvard Medical School from 1970 to 72 before joining the private sector.

Though he pursued a career in clinical oncology research, his love of music never waned. While at Harvard, he played trombone in the Wellesley Symphony and joined the Bellevue Symphony Orchestra while studying at UW. And today, at 82 years old, he’s still taking music lessons and playing in a number of community orchestras in Texas.

Between his music and work with Patriot Paws, he spends plenty of quality time with Cooper, his German shepherd. “He’s one of the family and runs the house,” he says with a laugh. “Dogs love you. You don’t have to worry about them not caring about you. They love you unconditionally.”

Benjamin Gleisser is a frequent contributor to University of Washington Magazine
Gossett encouraged her to help organize the annual Martin Luther King celebration based out of her school. “Larry just always wanted to engage with young people around politics, around advocacy and around community engagement,” says Harris.

She volunteered in 1993, when Gossett decided to run for King County Council. The district—where he worked, lived, had gone to school and was an activist—was the perfect fit. As the campaign volunteer coordinator, she witnessed Gossett building relationships across ethnic lines and outside of the standard political structure. “Larry was not part of the African American sort of establishment,” says Harris. “He was told it wasn’t his turn to run. He wasn’t the polished candidate that some people thought should run.”

But the neighborhoods saw it differently. As Gossett and his campaign went door to door, made phone calls and sent out mailings, his support grew and he won with record voter turnout. “It was truly one of the best grassroots electoral campaigns,” says Cindy Domingo, Gossett’s campaign manager and later his chief of staff for King County.

“He has a passion for those who have the least and are the most oppressed,” adds Domingo, who first met Gossett at CAMP. “He has no hesitation to take money out of his own pocket to help someone out.”

Gossett’s major causes included homelessness, human rights, issues around immigrants and refugees, and criminal justice. In 1997, the council was ready to enact a $100 booking fee for everybody in the jail. When it came time for the final vote, Gossett halted the process. He asked for a week’s delay and used the time to invite women and men already in debt to the court to testify before the council. “I knew they could not afford another $100,” he says. “Why add to that for no reason?” Then he presented findings from his office that the county was already owed $366 million in unpaid legal financial obligations. It was enough to persuade two fellow council members to change their votes and kill the fee.

While the effort to remove public art and symbols of racism has spread to nearly every state and campus today, Gossett was ahead of his time in pushing for this change in King County. The original county logo was a crown that honored Vice President William Rufus DeVane King, a 19th-century proponent of the Fugitive Slave Act who enslaved people at his own plantation in Alabama. In 1986, the county council voted to instead honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose public service achievements were more in line with the county’s own priorities. But the crown lingered as the county’s symbol well after Gossett took office. In 1999, Gossett proposed dropping the imperial crown in favor of a likeness of MLK. It took substantial effort and argument, but Gossett eventually won the support of enough fellow council members and, 20 years after the namesake was changed, the logo followed suit.

Gossett lost his seat in 2019 to Girmay Zahilay, who was a senior at Franklin High in the mid-2000s when Gossett was a guest speaker at an event to prepare students for college. Zahilay met the longtime leader, who impressed him as an advocate who seeks out community connections.

“He was what they call the conscience of the council,” Zahilay says. He had a grassroots approach and worked constantly to help his colleagues understand the impact of their actions. “When you are representing the disenfranchised, you have to govern in a different way,” says Zahilay, who occasionally calls Gossett for insights about the council and the district. Before leaving office, Gossett was working on just-cause eviction—ensuring that people can’t be evicted for no reason, especially during a pandemic or crisis, something Zahilay is carrying forward. “I’m glad I can be here to play a role in that.”

Though Gossett is no longer in office, “he’s still doing it today,” says Zahilay. Despite the pandemic, he turns out for marches and protests, including the events last summer on Capitol Hill. “He’s always there.”

Gossett’s 21-year-old granddaughter, Nea, a UW Bothell student, seems to have inherited his drive for activism. “Her name means ‘one with purpose,’” says Gossett. “She went to 26 of 33 demonstrations last summer.” He probably would have gone to all of them, too, but because of his age, his family was concerned for his health during the pandemic. Instead, he and Rhonda encouraged Nea’s commitment to the Black Lives Matter movement, he says, “We just said be careful.”

Today, Gossett is working on a memoir, continuing his activism and seeking new ways to serve his community. While some people who leave office take a souvenir like a chair or painting, Gossett took his county phone number. If someone needs to reach him, they still can, he says. “I’m always going to be a servant of the people.”
The day Kate Isler launched TheWMarketplace—where you can buy an embroidered pashmina scarf and a consultation with an attorney in one purchase—the women-led e-commerce site featured about 700 products.

Just six months later, shoppers can browse 2,300 products and services from 340 providers. But growth came with challenges for this brainchild of CEO Isler and her business partner, Susan Gates.

“We’re a startup, so our resources are limited—and our people resources are really limited,” Isler explains. When it was time for long-term business planning, a welcome solution came in the form of a team of UW undergraduate students in the Foster School of Business, working on a quarter-long project with the school’s Consulting and Business Development Center (CBDC).

As Nicole Bryant, ’21, a finance major with a love for numbers and problem-solving, perused a list of possible clients, she felt drawn to the company’s mission. “I was really into the fact that TheWMarketplace was women-owned,” says Bryant, “and I thought it was a cool business model.”

In an industry dominated by global giants like Amazon and eBay, the startup is intentional about the businesses they feature: those owned by women or certified as gender equitable by a third party. “Our real mission is to change culture,” says Isler, noting that women are disproportionately bearing the
economic impacts of the pandemic. “Women are responsible for 85% of purchasing decisions, so if we can give them the option to buy from one another, we have an opportunity to level the playing field.”

Shepherded by a trio of UW alumni mentors, Bryant’s team worked closely with TheWMarketplace all winter quarter. From analyzing demographics to studying the competition, they learned how to translate research into business decisions. At the end of the quarter, the student consultants walk away with invaluable practical experience, while the business gets critical insights to help it stay competitive.

“There’s just something different about applying your knowledge to a real project,” says Bryant, whose goal was to help TheWMarketplace carve out a niche in e-commerce. “It feels so much more rewarding instead of a test at the end of the quarter.”

**SUPPORTING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES**

Each year, hundreds of undergraduates like Bryant are immersed in the behind-the-scenes work of running a business, thanks to the Consulting and Business Development Center.

Since the center’s inception at the Foster School in 1995, student consultants and faculty-led courses have helped generate more than $250 million in new revenue and retain more than 200,000 jobs, primarily at businesses owned by women and people of color. And the benefits go both ways. In a recent survey of graduates, 90% of student participants say their experience helped them land their first job after graduation.

The center’s mission—to enhance the Husky Experience and assist local businesses owned by people of color, women, LGBTQ+ people, veterans and others in underserved communities—has been bolstered by a recent philanthropic gift from UW Regent Joanne Harrell and Bruce Harrell, a former Seattle City Council president.

Bryant thinks of the CBDC as her second home on the UW campus: “It’s an amazing center with an amazing mission.” An internship her first year with the center’s social-media marketing team led to a permanent job there as an administrative assistant. Last summer she worked on another CBDC project, analyzing overtime expenses for the Washington State Ferries.

Bryant is grateful for donors like the Harrells who are “putting their money toward something that benefits people who really need it, like communities of color and women-owned businesses.”

**GAINING REAL-LIFE SKILLS**

For the businesses who work with the CBDC, the benefits are priceless.

From conducting demographic research to studying company financials, Bryant’s team did work that might otherwise have cost TheWMarketplace thousands in consulting fees. But Isler says it’s not just the savings—it’s the invaluable information that will have the biggest impact on the business.

“Having the Foster team come in and say, ‘Here’s where you sit in the market, here’s where your big opportunities are, here’s how you can differentiate your offer’ is incredible in terms of value,” says Isler about a strategic analysis Bryant put together, evaluating the company’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

For the student consultants, learning what is and isn’t feasible is part of the process. Before any new ideas go to the client, they’re first shared with a team of advisers—three Foster alumni with real-life expertise from working at T-Mobile, Amazon and Oracle.

Sometimes their advice comes in the form of a gentle no, like when Bryant’s team eagerly proposed a mobile app to help lure a younger demographic to TheWMarketplace. Knowing that apps are costly to develop, the advisers warned the team it might not be practical for a client with limited financial resources.

Despite the added challenges of working on a complex project over Zoom, Bryant was grateful to walk away from this experience with useful, marketable skills that can’t be taught in the classroom, like flexibility and creativity. Working with a startup, especially one run by women for women, opened her eyes to a different way of doing business.

“Kate and Susan are just so passionate about making it better for everyone and really do want to change the world,” says Bryant about TheWMarketplace founders. “It’s really cool to see how driven they are because they created this from the ground up.”
Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson lost their daughter to an uncommon form of cancer. Their philanthropy aims to expand research and bring hope to patients and their families.

As a semiprofessional cyclist, Johanna Trueblood raced over all manner of challenging terrain: narrow city streets, winding mountain descents and rough, unpaved roads. And she did it to help others, raising money for the American Heart Association and other nonprofits through her bike races. Her passions for cycling and making a difference were inspiring—sometimes, her whole family would join her in training for and participating in a charity ride.

"Johanna was a super athlete," says her father, Curtis Anderson. "She was an inspiration for all of us to raise our exercise regimen to keep up with her."

But at 42, Johanna, a mother of three in peak physical shape, was diagnosed with a liver sarcoma. While recent scientific advances have radically improved the way many cancers are treated, sarcomas have not gotten equal attention. Infiltrating bones, organs, and connective tissue like muscles and tendons, these diseases are often difficult to treat. And because they’re much less common than other cancers, research and treatments lag—and patient outcomes are often poor.

Despite undergoing rigorous treatments, including chemotherapy and a complex 10-hour surgery, Johanna died eight months after her initial diagnosis. "It broke our hearts—we did everything we could to help her," says her mother, Elizabeth (Libba) Anderson. "But the science just wasn’t there."

HEARTBREAK AND RESOLVE
After Johanna’s passing in 2014, Curt and Libba matched their heartbreak with a resolve to help advance sarcoma research. "We want to make sure it’s there for the next person," says Libba.

The Andersons weren’t new to transformational philanthropy in medicine. They helped establish the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute in their hometown of Savannah, Georgia, and donated to expand curriculum and enrollment at Georgia’s Mercer University School of Medicine. Their family foundation, renamed The Johanna Anderson Trueblood Foundation after Johanna’s passing, encouraged family members to make charitable gifts in their communities. But the Andersons didn’t expect that their search for the best place to invest in sarcoma research would lead them back across the country to their alma mater.

Curt and Libba met at the UW in 1962 while earning their undergraduate degrees, and Curt’s MBA, ’67, from the Foster School led to his international investment-banking career. So when they learned about the 30-year sarcoma research collaboration between UW Medicine and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, they knew it was a perfect match.
The sarcoma program is the crown jewel within UW Medicine,” says Curt. “The strength, integrity and vision of the program really spoke to us, and given we were both UW alumni and how much we enjoyed our time there, all the pieces of the puzzle fell into place.”

Seeing the impact they could have, the Andersons made a $5 million gift to the UW Medicine/Fred Hutchinson Sarcoma Program, which brings together multidisciplinary experts—medical, surgical and orthopedic oncologists; rehabilitation specialists; pathologists; and more—from UW Medicine and its partner organizations. These specialists treat approximately 800 sarcoma patients annually, more than any other cancer center in the region.

“I still sometimes pinch myself to make sure this isn’t a dream,” says program director Dr. Lee Cranmer about the Andersons’ gift. “This is going to put us at the forefront.”

The Andersons’ investment will also create a powerful sarcoma database linked to a tissue bank. “Soon we’ll have a quick, low-cost way to assess an idea’s potential and either pursue it further or move on to the next idea,” says Cranmer.

Finally, the Andersons are helping ensure a bright future for sarcoma care in Seattle: Their gift creates an endowed UW professorship and two fellowships for physicians who want to specialize in the field.

**FINDING THE PERFECT MATCH**

Cranmer worries that describing sarcomas as “rare” makes it seem less urgent to find a cure. In reality, he notes, 20% of cancer cases in the U.S. involve cancers that are considered rare—and discoveries in treating less-common cancers often spark revolutions in fighting more common types. Immunotherapy, for instance, originated in melanoma treatment but is now at the forefront of cancer care across much of the field.

Curt and Libba Anderson know that there isn’t likely to be one magic cure for all sarcomas. And although the gift was spurred by the tragedy of losing their daughter, they’re excited about its potential to impact the work of researchers at the UW—and save lives. Even from another corner of the country, they’ll be keeping a sharp focus on what’s happening in South Lake Union for a long time.

“Dr. Cranmer talked to us about clinical excellence. Cutting-edge research. Creating the next generation of sarcoma clinicians,” Curt recalls. “All of that resonated with us, and we knew immediately that we had a soul mate.”

**AN INNOVATION INCUBATOR**

Part of what makes sarcomas such an intractable family of diseases is their variety—there are more than 70 different subtypes, so a one-size-fits-all treatment approach has been disappointing.

“Our vision is to develop treatment strategies and therapies specific to each type of sarcoma,” says Cranmer.

The Andersons’ gift will help develop what Cranmer calls an “innovation incubator.” Clinical trials, the gold standard for evaluating new therapies, are time-consuming and expensive for an uncommon group of diseases like sarcomas—so treatment options have evolved glacially since the early 1970s. The Andersons’ gift establishes an awards program to fund promising ideas for clinical trials, laboratory research and more. It’s a low-risk way to explore many ideas and pilot projects, then boost the ones with the most potential. The gift aims to remove roadblocks, speed up the process and, ultimately, increase the likelihood of success when new treatments finally make it to the clinic.

“It’s like investing,” says Cranmer. “You don’t want to try to pick the one stock that wins. You want to invest in a mutual fund where you win no matter what.”

**‘Johanna Trueblood raced over challenging terrain—but her life was ended by an uncommon form of cancer. Spurred by her tragic loss, her parents aim to speed up the science for future sarcoma patients.’**
Impact

An Education Beyond the Classroom

By Korynne Wright Chair, UW Foundation Board

Thousands of students are graduating from the University of Washington this month, many of them having completed more than a year of their coursework remotely. My son, earning his MBA from the Foster School, is one of them. And while his graduate schooling didn’t look the way we’d imagined, I’ve watched with pride as he became more resourceful and resilient because of it.

Last March, in the early days of the pandemic, my son’s professors—and faculty across the UW—had to act quickly to move their coursework online. Month after month, quarter after quarter, they experimented, innovated, taught and learned—together.

What made much of this possible was the foresight of our donors, who helped us attract and retain world-class professors; build cutting-edge facilities where our faculty could lead immersive virtual classes; and provide students with the technology, research equipment and support funds they need for a successful and equitable education. The pandemic required us to move quickly, and we were able to be so nimble because of our donors’ generosity.

While we look forward to resuming most in-person classes this fall, a UW education is never meant to be solely contained in the classroom. At the Foster School’s Consulting and Business Development Center, for example, students get real-world experience with local businesses. It’s one way that a UW education, amplified through the power of philanthropy, can support underserved communities in our region. (Read more on page 52.)

This pandemic has challenged us all, and even when we can once again meet in person, we’ll need to work together to ensure an equitable recovery for everyone. But I can’t think of a university that’s better qualified to be at the center of such an effort. Because at the UW, it’s what we do together that has the biggest impact.

An Education Beyond the Classroom

By Korynne Wright Chair, UW Foundation Board

When COVID-19 put an end to most in-person learning, in March 2020, UW faculty had to get creative. How do you put on a play when actors are confined to their own apartments? Teach furniture design when students can’t use the shop? Show students how to mix concrete online?

More than a year later, we celebrate the innovation of UW faculty who worked hard to ensure that their students could continue to grow and learn, the resilience of students who adjusted to a drastically different learning environment, and an entire community who came together to redefine what is possible in a world of physical distance—and digital connection.

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Support UW students. Like our faculty, our donors care deeply about UW students. When you contribute to a COVID-19 Emergency Student Fund, you help students succeed even when times are at their toughest.
giving.uw.edu/emergency-student-funds

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Promoting Preservation

Elizabeth Bell, ’81, has spent her life preserving a vital city in a foreign land

By Sharon McDonnell

Raised in California, Elizabeth Bell has lived in Antigua, Guatemala, since she was 14. She has done wonders to preserve the 16th century city and promote its vibrant culture.

It’s not every day that someone wins a gold medal for their historic preservation efforts in a country that’s not their native land. But that’s what Elizabeth Bell received from the National Council for the Protection of Antigua for more than 42 years of “tireless effort in preserving the city and promoting understanding of the heritage” of Antigua, Guatemala.

Palo Alto, California-raised Bell, who studied Latin American history and historiography (the study of historians) at the UW, has lived in that beautiful Colonial city since she was 14. “I’m married to the historic preservation of Antigua,” says Bell, ’81, author of seven books about Antigua and an operator of cultural tours throughout Guatemala since 1992 as owner of Antigua Tours. Bell’s adopted city, a UNESCO World Heritage treasure, was founded in the 16th century and boasts Latin America’s most spectacular Easter celebration. “Flower carpets” in ornate patterns, created by local volunteers from petals, leaves, fruit and dyed sawdust, decorate Antigua’s cobblestone streets during Holy Week, to be trampled by religious processions and then remade anew each day. Superbly photogenic, Guatemala’s original capital draws visitors worldwide to enjoy the vivid primary colors. The city is surrounded by volcanoes. A major eruption in 1773 left the city in ruins, forcing almost all of its citizens to move away.

Bell’s father worked for Sunset magazine in the Bay Area before he moved his family to Antigua in 1969 after falling in love with it on a trip to Central America. Her parents owned a B&B and textiles shop in Antigua, became experts in Mayan textiles and even worked on an exhibit of traditional Mayan textiles at San Diego’s Museum of Man. After graduating from the University of San Carlos in Guatemala City and graduate school at UW, she furthered her studies in Rome and Havana, Cuba. At Rome’s International Centre for the Conservation and Preservation of Cultural Property, she earned a certificate in Architectural Conservation.

But, unlike the U.S., Antigua lacked federal, state and city grants or tax credits for historic preservation. So, Bell and like-minded cohorts encouraged private owners and buyers to preserve their properties.

While the law to protect Antigua was passed in 1969 (coincidentally, the year the Bell family arrived in Antigua), “It was not popular at all. So, our small group implemented it.” They also pushed for the city’s UNESCO designation.

“It’s not every day that someone wins a gold medal for their historic preservation efforts in a country that’s not their native land. But that’s what Elizabeth Bell received from the National Council for the Protection of Antigua for more than 42 years of “tireless effort in preserving the city and promoting understanding of the heritage” of Antigua, Guatemala.”

“Flower carpets” in ornate patterns, created by local volunteers from petals, leaves, fruit and dyed sawdust, decorate Antigua’s cobblestone streets during Holy Week.

COURTESY ELIZABETH BELL (2)
University of Washington Press, the Pacific Northwest’s oldest and largest publisher of scholarly and general-interest books, is releasing the first sports book in its 110-year history this fall, and the subject is very fitting: “Fear No Man: Don James, the ’91 Huskies and the Seven-Year Quest for a National Football Championship.”

Written by veteran Seattle sports talk radio host Mike Gastineau, the book will be available everywhere books are sold, including University Book Store, on Aug. 25. You can pre-order your copy at a 30% discount at uwapress.uw.edu. Enter the promo code WST30 at checkout. The book costs $29.95.

Book signings will start in September. Visit uwapress.uw.edu/events for details.

For Golf Channel analyst Paige Mackenzie, ’06, the only thing more thrilling than scoring a hole-in-one is calling the golf play-by-play at this summer’s delayed Olympic Games in Tokyo.

“I was excited to get the nod,” says the Yakima native, who used to host Golf Channel’s “Morning Drive,” a show that featured playing tips from the pros. “I’ve loved watching the Olympics since I was a child. For me, nothing is more exciting than watching the best golfers in the world competing in their prime, and knowing how much work they put into getting there. The Games mean so much more than just sporting competitions.”

Mackenzie is no stranger to covering excitement on the golf course. She recalls covering the Huskies’ stunning victory at the NCAA golf championship in 2016. “That was UW’s first national championship,” she says. “They were underdogs and won it all. It was great being a former Husky and interviewing the players on the post-game show.”

Mackenzie competed on the LPGA tour until back surgery on a herniated disc in 2013. Several years before, she had done a brief stint with the Golf Channel, and after her surgery, she was hired to cover the 2013 U.S. Women’s Open.
This is our hometown, where we’re from and where we live. And we believe everyone deserves a place to call home. That’s why we’re committed to supporting local efforts to shelter families. Our ongoing collaboration with Mary’s Place — a Seattle-based emergency shelter provider — helps bring women, children and families inside. We care about our community. Because this is our hometown.

To learn more, visit: marysplacesseattle.org
A Prescription of Service
Joy Plein dedicated her life to geriatric patients, teaching and mentoring

Joy B. Plein, ’51, ’57, a champion of older patients, dedicated her long life to researching, teaching and sponsoring pharmaceutical research at the University of Washington. The driving force for the geriatric component of the School of Pharmacy curriculum, she helped build the UW’s Clinical Pharmacy program and sent UW pharmacists into the community to broaden the possibilities of what pharmacy could be, connecting the field to nursing, medicine, dentistry and social work.

“She lifted up the profession,” says Karan N. Dawson, ’70, ’78, ’03, a close friend and colleague in the School of Pharmacy. Plein’s half-century of academic service was matched only by her monetary gifts to the University, which totaled $3.5 million in donations alongside husband Elmer Plein, a UW professor who died in 1994. The Pleins were a force to be reckoned with in the School of Pharmacy, conducting research together and team-teaching a course.

Before she was Joy B. Plein, she was Ellen Joy Bickmore—born in Utah and raised in Idaho. Dawson points out that in Greek, “Ellen” means “light,” and we all know what “Joy” means. “I think she lived up to both of her names,” Dawson says. 

To Marilyn Sparks, she was Aunt Joy. After growing up in California’s foster care system, Sparks needed a lifeline when she was kicked out at 18. Aunt Joy was one of the people who stepped in, albeit from 1,200 miles away. She helped pay for rent so Sparks could go to college, and she mailed a special pair of earrings on graduation day. “I have gradually learned that my Aunt Joy is a scientific celebrity.”

As Plein entered her 90s, Sparks found comfort in knowing how supportive Dawson had become to her aunt. The colleagues grew so close that Dawson was with Plein when she died in February. “She told me that she wasn’t afraid, and that she was ready,” Dawson says. “I think she told me that because she didn’t want me to worry. And I think that’s what Joy did: She was always thinking about the other person and how she could help them—even at
In Memory

ALUMNI

JOHN TIMOTHY HOBBES
Enumclaw, age 79, Jan. 11

1940

WILLIAM ROBERT WALLACE
'42, Pasadena, California, age 99, Jan. 8

GEORGE ALDEN JOHNSON
'45, '47, Bellevue, age 97, Feb. 26

VIVIAN K. HARLIN
'46, '70, Renton, age 96, Jan. 31

MARY MANOLIDES DELISTRATY
'47, San Rafael, California, age 94, Jan. 31

VICKY FRIEND
'47, 73, Olympia, age 95, Jan. 18

KENNETH MCDONALD LOWTHIAN
'48, Seattle, age 94, Jan. 24

LAYTON L. MCCOY
'48, '51, Kansas City, Missouri, age 93, Nov. 13

BARBARA J. KNUDSEN STAMEY
'48, '49, Seattle, age 94, Jan. 15

HELEN CAMPBELL
'49, Bellevue, age 93, March 17

ZOE ANN CASHMAN
'49, Seattle, age 92, Feb. 22

ELEANOR GRIFFIN DICKSON
'49, Mercer Island, age 94, Feb. 23

GERALD A. GRIFFIN
'49, Everett, age 98, Oct. 26

RICHARD DANIEL HARRIS
'49, Seattle, age 98, March 3

DALE OLIVER JOHNSON
'49, Bellevue, age 93, Jan. 2

CHESTER CLEARY STENCIL JR.
'49, Kirkland, age 95, Feb. 10

1950

KENNETH RUSSELL BERGMAN
’50, Bellevue, age 92, Dec. 13

JOSEPH C. FINNEGAN
’50, Mercer Island, age 97, Feb. 16

MORTON KUZNETZ
’50, Bellevue, age 92, Dec. 13

JAGADISH CHANDRAN KAIMAL
’59, ’61, Hamilton, New York, age 90, Jan. 25

MARGARET H. LEVIS
’59, ’76, Seattle, age 83, March 9

GERALD J. LONN
’59, Sun Lakes, Arizona, age 82, July 4, 2020

THEODORE HOWARD ORMREK
’50, Brier, age 95, Jan. 9

WALTER FUKUYAMA
’52, Union City, California, age 95, Jan. 1

SINCLAIR “MISSY” CRAVEN MALM
’52, Redmond, age 90, Feb. 17

MICHAEL E. DEDERER
’53, Seattle, age 88, March 7

IRENE LANDIN
’53, Shoreline, age 89, Nov. 26

MARK W. THOMPSON
’53, Belfair, age 88, Jan. 22

STEWARD R. CROOK
’54, Summer, age 87, Oct. 17

JANET BARKER FOOTH
’54, Seattle, age 87, March 31, 2020

JOHN BURTON KIEFER
’54, Salem, Oregon, age 90, Feb. 2

FRANKLIN S. LOONEY JR.
’54, Wilmington, Delaware, age 94, July 3, 2020

GEORGE ERNEST CASPERSON
’55, Edmonds, age 91, Dec. 10

JOHN "JACK" FORSYTH HELMS
’55, Moraga, California, age 87, Jan. 22

DAVID LEE GARRISON SR.
’56, 65, Puyallup, age 86, Jan. 18

EDWARD FRANCIS BOYLE
’58, Lake Stevens, age 85, Feb. 7, 2020

WILLIAM EARL DEFOREST
’58, Edmonds, age 89, Jan. 25

JOHN ERIC LILJEGREN
’58, Mercer Island, age 92, Jan. 31

RICHARD J. MAYER
’58, Richland, age 89, Oct. 15

JOAN ALTA OCK
’58, Bellevue, age 85, March 21

JACK WIERES
’58, Bellevue, age 88, Dec. 30

ALAN E. ANDERSON
’59, Camas, age 86, Aug. 29

JAGADISH CHANDRAN KAIMAL
’59, ’61, Hamilton, New York, age 90, Jan. 25

MARGARET H. LEVIS
’59, ’76, Seattle, age 83, March 9

GERALD J. LONN
’59, Sun Lakes, Arizona, age 82, July 4, 2020

1960

ROBERT V. MYERS
’60, Manson, age 87, Jan. 15

ROBERT W. THOMAS
’60, Seattle, age 86, Jan. 3

WILLIAM MICHAEL THOMPSON
’60, Seattle, age 79, Jan. 16

ALAN J. DOWNES
’61, Saint Cloud, Minnesota, age 88, Oct. 14, 2019

MAURICE ESKO
’61, Lake Forest Park, age 83, Nov. 19

VIRGINIA F. STOUT
’61, Seattle, age 84, June 4, 2020

ROGER EDWIN TURPPA
’61, Seattle, age 84, Feb. 20

HOWARD L. "SKIP" HARTSHORN
’62, Longview, age 83, July 7, 2017

ALLEN SYMINGTON
’62, Seattle, age 81, March 19

ROLLAND DEWING
’63, Renton, age 86, Dec. 5

DONNA JEAN GULLIFORD
’63, ’64, Bainbridge Island, age 78, Dec. 13

WILLIAM THOMAS LAWRIE
’64, Bremerton, age 75, Jan. 11

THOMAS LEWIS MORGAN JR.
’64, Lynnwood, age 79, March 15

CHARLES PAUL SITKIN
’64, Seattle, age 86, March 21

LARRY AMOS JONES
’65, 89, Seattle, age 77, Feb. 26

VIRGINIA F. STOUT
’66, Seattle, age 77, March 8

WALTER FUKUYAMA
’68, Woodinville, age 76, Dec. 19

MERLYN BELL
’67, Seattle, age 82, Jan. 22

ROBERT W. KITTO
’67, Kent, age 78, Dec. 25

ADA VAN DAM
’67, Seattle, age 93, March 6

CHARLES L VINSONHALER III
’68, Mansfield Center, Connecticut, age 78, Oct. 24

FRED SHANAFELT
’69, Redmond, age 74, Feb. 25

1970

CLYDE LEROY CRAWFORD III
’70, Seattle, age 70, Jan. 25

FRANCIS BAKER
’71, Deming, age 82, Feb. 24

FRED C. FORSBERG
’71, Sammamish, age 76, Jan. 26

PATRICIA ANNE (DU RUIZ)
’71, Camano Island, age 89, Dec. 29

DOUGLAS GLEN HOUK
’72, Seattle, age 86, Dec. 27

BETSY HARTLEY
’73, ’75, Shoreline, age 80, April 9, 2020

HARRY M. GATJENS
’74, Edmonds, age 66, Nov. 24

KEVIN MICHAEL WRIGHT
’75, Seattle, age 66, March 4

SCOTT RICHARD GILBERT
’77, Seattle, age 70, Nov. 30

JAMES WILLIAMS KEYES
’78, Edmonds, age 66, April 9, 2020

THOMAS H.S. BRUCKNER
’80, Portland, Oregon, age 62, March 18

SHARON K. MELNICK
’82, Klamath Falls, Oregon, age 64, Nov. 5

ELON I. POKKER
’82, Seattle, age 62, Nov. 7

BRUCE STONE
’82, Kailua Kona, Hawaii, age 72, Jan. 26

EDWARD CARR
’86, Walla Walla, age 74, Jan. 8

FE ELECTION ARREOLA
’87, ’91, Seattle, age 57, Jan. 19

JAMES L. SCHAAD
’87, Newberg, Oregon, age 61, Oct. 3

KEITH SLAWSON
’87, Seattle, age 56, Oct. 25

1980

JENNIFER JEANETTE TIESI
’06, Seattle, age 56, Jan. 19

SEAN M. MCCARTHY
’12, Coeur D’Alene, Idaho, age 40, Jan. 31

FACULTY AND FRIENDS

BETH BENTLEY taught “Writing Contemporary Poetry” at the UW from 1980 to 1992 during her 30 years of teaching poetry in the Pacific Northwest. She died Feb. 11 at the age of 99.

MARY ANN BILL served as acting vice president of human resources at the UW. She died Feb. 21 at the age of 80.

BRUCE GREGORY BROWN, ’76, joined the UW School of Medicine faculty in 1979 after completing his cardiology training in the lab of Dr. Hal Dodge Jr., ’48, ’51. He developed quantitative arteriography, a methodology used to measure coronary artery narrowing. He made significant contributions to the understanding of lipid biology and atherosclerotic disease changes with lipid therapy. He died Jan. 5.

THOMAS H.S. BRUCKNER was a Korean War veteran and an Assistant U.S. Attorney who changed careers in the mid-1980s and taught at the Foster School of Business until his retirement in 1996. He helped
Columns

start the UW’s Environmental Management Program. He died Dec. 27 at the age of 89.

STEPHEN J. CARTER, ’63, ’68, was born in Spokane and served as a flight surgeon in the US Navy before starting his medical career at the UW. He was in charge of ultrasound at Seattle VA Hospital and worked in private practice before returning to the UW, where he shifted his focus from clinical to research. He created a portable ultrasound machine that eventually became Sonosite, and conducted research in the therapeutic uses of High Intensity Focused Ultrasound. He died Jan. 29 at the age of 78.

RUU-KWANG CHANG, ’58, and his first wife, Ida Yui Wuu Hoh, ’61, fled their native China in 1947 to escape the Communists and ultimately made their way to America. Both came to the UW to advance their education. Ruu-Kwang died Sept. 30, 2020 at the age of 97, while Ida died at the age of 44 in April 1968.

HERBERT COSTNER spent 37 years on the faculty of the UW Department of Sociology. He served as department chair and was also as associate dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. While on leave from UW from 1976 to 1979, he served as director of the Division of Social and Economic Science at the National Science Foundation. During the academic year following his retirement, the College of Arts & Sciences added several academic units to sponsor a lecture series in his honor. He died Jan. 13 at the age of 90.

JON COUNTS served as a clinical assistant professor in the UW School of Public Health and was a principal investigator for the Foundation of Health Care Quality in Seattle. He died Jan. 30 at the age of 83.

WILLIAM O. CRIMINALE was a longstanding professor in the UW Department of Applied Mathematics. He earned his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University and studied in Cambridge, England where he met his wife, Ulrike. They moved back to the states, and Criminale worked at Princeton University before moving to Seattle in 1960. He lost his wife to a tragic climbing accident in 1988. He died Sept. 30 at the age of 86.

PATRICIA L. DAWSON served on the faculty of the UW School of Medicine, where she was the inaugural medical director for Healthcare Equity. Her book “Forces of Health: The Experience of Surgical Resiliency From the Perspective of a Woman of Color” broke new ground in understanding the impact of gender and race on the practice of medicine. She died Dec. 13 at the age of 71.

H. BRAD EDWARDS, ’61, worked in the mortgage banking business, eventually rising to executive vice president at Coast Mortgage (later Rainier Mortgage). He served on the Advisory Board for the UW School of Drama, and with his wife, Karen, supported several UW academic and arts programs besides being avid Husky sports fans. He and Karen also took numerous trips with UW Alumni Tours. He died Jan. 31 at the age of 82.

FREIDA FELTON ENG, ’99, spent her career caring for Indigenous populations and veterans. A member of the UW School of Medicine faculty, she served as a family physician at the Seattle Indian Health Board and was medical director at the Snoqualmie Tribal Health Clinics and Cowitz Indian Tribal Clinic. She also worked in Alaska, where she provided medical exams for veterans. She died Dec. 17 at the age of 61.

RICHARD CARL ERICKSON, ’59, ’69, served as a pastor of two churches in Illinois before returning to the UW to earn a Ph.D. in psychology in 1969. He then started his career as a clinical psychologist at VA hospitals and was a clinical professor at the UW, Oregon Health & Science University and Harvard Medical School. He died Feb. 5 at the age of 83.

JACQUELINE RUTH FARWELL worked as a neuropsychologist both at the UW and at Seattle Children’s Hospital. A mother of two children adopted from Romania, she became a grandmother to three grandchildren. She died March 12 at the age of 73.

THOMAS E. FELL, ’70, volunteered for two tours during the Vietnam War as a general medical officer with the Marine Corps and at a MASH unit. That inspired him to pursue a career as an anesthesiologist, and he completed his residency in anesthesia at UW Medicine. He was one of the medical partners behind establishing The Preceptor, the UW’s first medical program director, trained paramedics and immediately proved cardiac arrest survival in Thurston County. He died Oct. 24 at the age of 82.

KURT R. GALLE, who served the University as a professor of mechanical engineering from 1960 to 1983, was best known for being part of the team that developed the UW biomorphic baseball. He also worked with the School of Public Health and Community Medicine on industrial hygiene topics. He died Dec. 12.

SEN-ITIROH HAKOMORI spent 35 years on the faculty of the UW School of Medicine and School of Public Health. He was nominated five times for the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work at the UW and at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in cancer and blood-group antigen research. He was instrumental in developing cancer in cell biology and the fine molecular structure of cellular membranes that led to development of diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to cancer and other diseases. He died Nov. 10 at the age of 91.

SCOTT CARRINGTON HANNAH was a pioneer in the frozen food business, exporting products overseas. Among his many community service efforts was being a Tyee donor and supporter of the UW. He died Feb. 11 at the age of 81.

LEROY GRANGER HORNBECK, 69, served the University for 32 years in the UW Chemistry Department, and he was principal as associate director of the Chemistry program at UW for his work at the UW and at Seattle Indian Health Board and was medical director. He died Feb. 11 at the age of 81.

DONALD L. JOHNSON, ’52, ’57, served as president of the UW Law School Foundation. As a UW law student, he was on the Law Review Board of Editors. He later had a long career at Bogle & Gates, and was renowned as a major Seattle philanthropist in the arts and supporter of the Henry Art Gallery. He died Dec. 16 at the age of 90.

AVRON JOSEPH MALETZKY, ’68, ’69, served on the pediatric faculty of the UW School of Medicine. He died Jan. 21 at the age of 82.

G.W. “SKIP” MERCIER was a theater design instructor at the UW School of Drama. He wanted his students to be unconstrained by traditional roles and to follow their instincts and imaginations as well as their technical skills. He died March 11 at the age of 66.

HAROLD E. MORSE, ’69, earned his Ph.D. in education from the UW College of Education and he went on to create and launch The Learning Channel. He died Jan. 5 at the age of 83.

ROBERT A. MUNDELL, ’54, was awarded the 1999 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for “his analysis of monetary and fiscal policy under different exchange rate regimes and his analysis of optimum currency areas.” His work led to the creation of the euro and supply-side economics. He taught at the University of Chicago and Columbia University. He died April 4 at the age of 88.

RACHEL SUGGS PITTS, ’55, was the last of the 13 African American registered nurses who in 1949 founded the Mary Mahoney Professional Nurses Association, the nation’s first African American professional organization in the Pacific Northwest. She died June 13, 2020 at the age of 99.

PATRICK ADRAIN RAGEN, ’52, was born in a small Montana town. Seeing his older brothers get up before dawn to feed cattle in sub-zero weather inspired him to go to college. He later served on the faculty of the UW School of Medicine and had a long career as an internist in Seattle. He died Jan. 22 at the age of 92.

ANDREW REYNOLDS served on the faculty of the UW and on the board of the UW’s EOP Program. He also was president of the US Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research. He died Feb. 7 at the age of 81.

JOSEPH E. ROTHBERG joined the UW faculty in 1969 from Yale University as a professor of physics. Much of his experimental work was carried out in Switzerland, where he contributed to the Large Hadron Collider experiments. He died March 4 at the age of 85.

LORING “LARRY” R. ROWELL served the University for 34 years as an instructor in the UW Department of Cardiology and later in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. He made major contributions to our understanding of how the cardiovascular system copes with physical stresses. He died Dec. 19 at the age of 90.

PATRICK M. RUSSELL, ’46, was born in Portland, Oregon, and went to the UW, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was student body president. She later was elected to the Los Angeles City Council, and became the first woman elected president of the Association of Washington hospitals. He died Feb. 27 at the age of 86.

ANN QUINN STATON began her career as a professor and later became chair of the UW Department of Speech Communication. She ended her career as dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Texas Woman’s University, where she created the Global Connections Initiative to foster global thinking and cross-cultural understanding. She died March 7 at the age of 70.

DEEMS AKIKIKO TSUTAKAWA was born to one of Seattle’s premier families of artists and musicians. He enrolled at the UW to study ethnomusicology but left before graduating to play the piano professionally. He performed all over Seattle and created his own label, J-Town Records. He died Feb. 25 at the age of 69.

ROBERT MATTHEW WINGLEE was a professor in Earth and Space Sciences at the UW, and his passion was teaching students and doing research in space plasmas, engineering and climate change environments of planets. He was featured on the Discovery Channel’s “Science of Stars Wars” and was a Fellow of NASA’s Innovative Advanced Concepts. He chaired Earth and Space Sciences from 2003 to 2015 and was named the 2014 UW Undergraduate Research Mentor of the Year. He died Dec. 24 at the age of 62.

ELVEN “AL” THOMAS WORLEY, ’70, came to the UW from Chelan and became a record-setting defensive back for Husky football. He set an NCAA record with 14 interceptions in a single season, a mark that still stands today. He went on to coach at Northern Arizona University and Portland State, and served as head coach of the Yokosuka Base Seahawks, a US Navy service team in Japan. He died Dec. 14 at the age of 74.

ROBERT SEIFERT, ’56, played football and baseball at the UW and served in active duty in and the reserve of the US Navy. He was the founding director of the UW Alumni Fund and later joined the faculty of the UW School of Public Health. He served as associate administrator for the University of Washington hospitals. He died Dec. 27 at the age of 86.

ANTHONY “BOBBY” TROYER, ’71, graduated from the UW and served in active duty in and the reserve of the US Navy. He was the founding director of the UW Alumni Fund and later joined the faculty of the UW School of Public Health. He served as associate administrator for the University of Washington hospitals. He died Dec. 27 at the age of 86.
As our region buckled during the third coronavirus wave in November, a group of UW Medicine residents gathered around a table, masked up and bleary eyed. They had been nominated by their Department of Medicine peers to take on a challenge they felt quite prepared for.

“We showed up in sweats, and we were half awake, but once it started, we were really intense about it,” says Molly Kelly, a resident physician in internal medicine. “We were feeling angst when we didn’t know the answer.”

Thankfully, no lives were at stake, but their egos were boosted and bruised. The event was “Doctor’s Dilemma,” a trivia competition put on by the Washington Chapter of the American College of Physicians. It was styled after the hit TV show “Jeopardy,” and the contestants were the region’s best-and-brightest medical residents. In other words: a moment of low-stakes fun for some of the most stressed-out people in the Pacific Northwest.

Joined by teammates Christian Klein and Anna Morenz, Kelly’s crew won the competition to advance to the nationals—despite a mix-up over the spelling of Lemierre’s syndrome. Says Klein, who still disputes the moment: “They dinged us for having an apostrophe in the right place.” (Lemierre’s syndrome is a rare bacterial infection that can affect teenagers and young adults.)

Back home, the Husky team helped UW Magazine come up with medical trivia questions for our readers. Play along below, or head to magazine.uw.edu for a longer interactive version.

**Answers! STAT!**

UW Medicine students are competing in the national finals of a “Medical Jeopardy”-style contest. Here’s your chance to explore your own medical knowledge.

By Quinn Russell Brown and Jon Marmor

➔ Dr. Robert A. Bruce, UW Medicine cardiologist and professor, is known as the “father of exercise cardiology” for using this piece of exercise equipment for a stress test to diagnose and evaluate heart and lung disease. (The medical variation of this equipment was designed by UW bioengineer Wayne Quinton, ’58.)

**Answer: Treadmill**

➔ UW Medicine professor Belding Scribner invented the arteriovenous Teflon shunt, which has saved the lives of more than 1 million patients with kidney failure. He opened the world’s first clinic for this procedure.

**Answer: Dialysis**

➔ UW cardiology professor Dr. Leonard Cobb joined other researchers to develop this model for emergency-care services throughout the world and CPR training for millions.

**Answer: MedicOne**

➔ Along with his colleagues, UW orthopedic surgeon Ernest M. Burgess engineered this prosthesis that allows lower-limb amputees to run and engage in active movements. It is worn by hundreds of thousands of amputees worldwide.

**Answer: The Seattle Foot**

➔ UW professor Dr. David Auth invented this device that uses a tiny catheter to clean out a blockage in an artery. Like a tiny sander, it removes the brittle plaque material while leaving healthy tissue intact, and it has a football-shaped burr at the end that rotates at speeds up to 190,000 rpm.

**What is the rotablator?**

➔ This is the name of the laryngeal prominence of the thyroid cartilage that is more prominent on the front of the neck.

**Answer: Adam’s apple**

This fruit is used to describe the rashes associated with dermal extramedullary hematopoiesis, a condition in babies born with blue or purple marks on their skin.

**Answer: Blueberries, or blueberry muffins**

➔ When looking at endometriosis implants with laparoscopic technology, the
lining of the uterus can have dark brown cysts that are described with this treat.
Answer: Chocolate

➤ In patients with Tay-Sachs disease, the eyes sometimes contain a red spot in the macula resembling this fruit.
Answer: Cherry

➤ The liver is nicknamed after this seasonal spice during hepatic congestion, when the plumbing of the blood vessels backs up. (Hint: A little goes a long way.)
Answer: Nutmeg

➤ Yersinia pestis, the bug that carried the bubonic plague, can be found in the feces of these two animals.
Answer: Puppies, prairie dogs

➤ Leprosy is commonly carried in this omnivorous, large-clawed mammal that lays eggs and is related to anteaters and sloths.
Answer: Armadillos

➤ COVID-19 causes many mysterious symptoms. This down-to-earth part of your body might end up red and swollen.
Answer: Toes

➤ This antibiotic wonder drug was created when mold was spotted growing on the wall of a laboratory.
Answer: Penicillin

➤ This negative-pressure ventilator was commonly associated with polio, until a Harvard-trained Danish physician found that it could do more harm than good. The replacement: positive-pressure valves, which made way for the modern ICU.
Answer: Iron lung

➤ Xanthomas (cholesterol lesions on the skin) and jaundice (liver dysfunction) both get their names from a word meaning this color.
Answer: Yellow

➤ What language do doctors take from when they identify peau d’orange, meaning “orange peel” or “orange skin,” which may be a symptom of inflammatory breast cancer?
Answer: French

➤ This medical term for this disease translates to “sweet urine.”
Answer: Diabetes
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