Leticia Rodriguez, ’19, is one of those rare clinicians who choose to return to work in the rural community where they grew up. The nurse practitioner moved her family back to Yakima two years ago when she joined the Children’s Village as a developmental-behavioral specialist. Some of her patients come from very rural areas of Central Washington where there are no health-care providers.

Rodriguez sees a growing demand for medical services in her community. So does the UW. A National Rural Health Association study found that residents in rural areas face worse health outcomes than their urban counterparts. With less access to primary and preventive care, they have shorter lives and are less likely to survive a major health event like a heart attack or stroke. In Washington, more than a million people—14% of the state’s population—live in rural communities.

Because evidence shows that students who train in rural settings are likely to return to those or similar communities, Premera Blue Cross has granted the UW $4.7 million to lead a program placing nursing students in rural practices throughout Washington. Through the Rural Nursing Health Initiative, 20 students each year over the next four years will find clinical placements. Photo by Dennis Wise
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Thanks to majority owner David Bonderman, ’63, Seattle will welcome an NHL expansion team starting in the fall
By Jim Caple

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Ron Chew’s heartfelt history of his hometown provides insights to communities of color in the Emerald City
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A computer revolution is coming, and as usual, UW scientists from a range of fields are collaborating to make it happen
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UW Libraries kicked into high gear during the pandemic by digitizing resources for students, faculty and the world
By Sheila Farr

The Space Needle shows off some civic puck pride, flying the flag of the NHL’s newest team, the Seattle Kraken.
It should come as no surprise that UW alumni are playing a major role in the arrival of the league’s 32nd team. David Bonderman, ’63, is the principal owner, and other alumni hold key leadership posts with the team, which is scheduled to debut in October.

David Ryder, ’06, ’11, has been photographing the pandemic since the first US case. In March 2020, he photographed the cover for TIME Magazine. Visit our website for his story and some of his images from the past year.

Bamboo in the Bathroom
Ryan Fritsch, ’12, is the co-founder of Cloudpaper, a Seattle company that sells toilet paper made from bamboo grass. The sustainable grass survives harvesting, regrows quickly and releases more oxygen than trees.
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uw.edu/populationhealth
In 1980, with great excitement, I started my Ph.D. program in the UW College of Forest Resources. I knew what I wanted to do—use tree-ring records to track human-induced climate change. I chose the UW because of its renown in atmospheric and earth sciences. It also had a newly minted tree-ring lab in the basement of Winkenwerder Hall. I did wonder: Would all those famous faculty really have time to devote to a graduate student studying tree rings? Would my adviser and committee share my conviction that the urgency of the question demanded that we integrate climate science, earth science, tree physiology, forest ecology and, just maybe, a little political science?

The short answer was yes, and it soon became abundantly clear why: Integration and cross-pollination to think beyond our silos is deeply rooted in the culture, in the very DNA, of UW.

In 2010, I was honored to return to UW as the first dean of the newly formed College of the Environment, a college that furthers our bedrock principles by fostering a belief that earth and environmental sciences benefit from more formal integration. What, then, changed in the past 30 years that finally brought this vision to life? Quite simply, urgency. Environmental challenges were mounting and disconcertingly complex—the climate impacts we foresaw decades ago are now here. We have a deeper understanding of our region’s serious seismic risks. We know that as impossible as it might have seemed, we have fundamentally changed the chemistry of our oceans. And there are a whole host of other issues that demand our attention. The good news—You name a messy, complex environmental issue and it’s highly likely that our faculty are engaged. Again, it’s simply who we are.

So what’s next? Scientists spent decades warning us about what would happen during the 2020s and 2030s. Now we see it. Warmer temperatures are wreaking havoc by fueling massive wildfires and driving more severe storms. The future has arrived and with it the knowledge that natural science is necessary but not sufficient alone for managing our warming planet. As scientists, we need to join our colleagues and communities to imagine and work for a future that is sustainable, just and deeply engaged in issues of race and equity. Our solutions will rise at the juncture of science, technology, culture and politics as we move away from a fossil-fuel economy. Here at the UW, we are poised to lead in our communities while keeping our eye on how we scale solutions to the planet. As we imagine and build toward that sustainable future, our commitment to solve sticky problems, coupled with our deep community engagement, should remain our North Star. We have risen to challenges before, and our spirit dictates we will do it again. It’s what we do. It’s in our DNA. —Lisa J. Graumlich, ’85, is a paleoclimatologist who uses tree-ring data to understand human impact and long-term trends in climate change. She is stepping down from her role as dean of the College of the Environment in June and will shift her focus to community-engaged scholarship.
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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Is Normal Near?

When our editorial team met in early December to plan this issue, we wondered: With new COVID-19 vaccines, would life return to normal after a particularly brutal year?

Right before we were sent home last year to work remotely as a way to protect ourselves from the novel coronavirus, our March 2020 issue of University of Washington Magazine came out. Looking back now, it is almost shocking how innocent that issue seems. The cover featured art professor emeritus and ceramics genius Patti Warashina, ’62, ’64, who was about to be honored by the Smithsonian Institution. This column paid tribute to our team’s visual experts, Art Director Ken Shafer and Digital Editor Quinn Russell Brown. Furthermore, the issue carried stories about the aftermath of Mount St. Helens’ 1980 eruption, the incredible impact the late Jim Ellis had on our lives, success stories of UW students who created startups, and the heartbreaking story of a student who barely escaped a deadly fire in Paris years ago and became an artist.

When life was “normal,” this magazine told a broad range of stories that captured the University’s impact on our lives and our communities. When things went haywire last year and “pandemic” became part of our daily lexicon, we did not have to look far to find new stories to tell. If you recall, the UW became the first university in the nation to switch to remote learning. UW Medicine and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation became national leaders as the prime sources for information about this scary disease. The community rallied to donate personal protective equipment to UW Medicine and money to help support students.

Now, the word “vaccine” has become one we use more often than ever. And while some things may never be quite the same again, we have a glimmer of hope that in the coming year, life might return to some kind of normal. Imagine visions of bustling fall-quarter campuses in Bothell, Seattle and Tacoma; students, faculty and staff lined up for Chinese food in the HUB; students playing their hearts out in the Music Building; and fans coming to watch a women’s volleyball game or a performance in Meany Hall … maybe that could be in our future. Wow, wouldn’t that feel good.
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Bill Gates Sr.
Heroes are rare, but Bill Gates Sr. (“An Advocate for us All,” Winter 2020) was the real deal. He urged honor and pledged commitment to his college, his community and his country. His embrace became global, and it enabled him to leave this world having made it a better place. I’m grateful for his life and legacy.
Kitty Kelley, ’64, Washington, D.C.

Highest Compliment
I pondered that photo of Bill Gates Sr. as a first lieutenant in the US Army during World War II. I met him on occasion. My father had served as an enlisted man in combat during World War II. After the war, he would say about some veterans, “That is the kind of officer I would have liked to serve under.” That was his highest compliment. I know he would say that about Mr. Gates. I would have been delighted if he was my neighbor. He must have been a hell of a grandfather.
Ken Jacobsen, ’72, Seattle

Vega’s Story
Your recent article “Holistic View” (Winter 2020) captured the essence of Fernando Vega’s character. I was an EOP counselor between 1972 and 1980. At the time, we weren’t as equipped to counsel pre-med students and were told to send Fernando to our colleagues at Arts & Sciences for guidance. Long story short, his pre-med adviser there told him that his academic performance wouldn’t quite cut it for med school. Later on, Fernando came back and recounted a funny story: He was accepted to UW Med School, and he was going to be in the same class as his pre-med adviser (who apparently had also applied). But Fernando also had a small problem. He couldn’t decide on an undergraduate major: microbiology or cellular biology. We talked at length and I learned that he had fulfilled or was about to fulfill the academic requirements for both majors. I think I might have helped him decide then and there. I took out a quarter and asked him to call it. He did. Years later, I became one of his patients. Truth be told, Fernando Vega never needed counselors to determine his goals. He just needed to be himself.
Victor B. Pineda, ’72, ’80, Seattle

Granddad’s Pandemic
As we ‘turn the corner’ on 2020’s COVID-19 pandemic, I’m reminded of the other dark ’20—1920—that found my grandfather still in a hospital a second year recovering from the Spanish Flu scourge that claimed many millions globally. He lived 91 years—unlike the more than 60,000 fellow US World War I service members who perished of flu complications—outnumbering combat fatalities in “The War to End All Wars.” Yes, for perspective as we turn a great pandemic corner yet again, we face renewed recovery realities. As a nation and world citizens, how will we restore normalcy? Perhaps, one hopes, building and thriving as my granddad did.
Dennis D. Case, ’77, ’82, Lacey

Frazer Cook
What nice remembrance of Frazer Cook (Winter 2020). When I was a student operator at the AV department, Frazer was a dispatcher. He was just a nice guy, and doing those games was a passion. Keep looking for those small stories. They are often some of the most meaningful times at UW.
Stephen McCombs, ’76, Delta Junction, Alaska
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Aiming at COVID-19

The UW Medicine Virology Lab continues to lead the fight to subdue the pandemic

By Julie Garner

In January 2020, the UW Medicine Virology Lab’s scientists saw what was unfolding in Wuhan, China, the globe’s first epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic. They got to work developing a diagnostic test knowing that a freight train of infectious disease would be barreling down on the US and the people of Washington state. What happened next was, by a non-scientist’s definition, a miracle. Only a top-notch team of virologists could have developed an accurate test for a new virus in only two weeks. The UW Medicine Virology Lab was one of the first academic labs in the US to develop a COVID-19 test.

As it turned out, the science was the easy part. Federal bureaucracy gummed things up when the team sought permission to scale up for real-world testing. “The extra regulation surrounding COVID testing combined with the lack of testing availability in public health labs resulted in a lost month for testing in the United States,” says Alex Greninger, assistant professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology.

The story of how the UW Medicine scientists fared and what went wrong with testing in the US was featured last year in The New Yorker. As it turned out, the unfolding disaster of the COVID-19 epidemic kept the FDA’s attention on other matters and the Washington State Department of Health granted the lab Emergency Use Certification.

Geoffrey Baird, ’07, professor and acting chair of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, credits Gov. Jay Inslee, ’73, and his administration with providing critical support, “both with funding and assistance. It’s clear the governor was making data-driven decisions,” Baird says.

In the early days of the pandemic, Virology Lab scientists routinely pulled 80-hour work weeks to test the samples that came in as the pandemic intensified. Today, the lab is the testing workhorse for Seattle and multiple King County sites running between 10,000 and 12,000 samples per day. Baird says the testing situation in Seattle is much better than in other parts of the country.

Diagnostic testing isn’t the only COVID-19 work being done at UW Medicine. The lab is providing the testing for a 30,000-person nationwide Phase 3 clinical trial to see if the Novavax vaccine can protect against COVID-19 infections. Phase 3 trials are large-scale trials that test a drug’s efficacy and adverse reactions.

More than 1,000 of the trial’s volunteers are participating at the Virology Research Clinic at Harborview Medical Center.

Deborah Fuller, professor of microbiology who has devoted her career to vaccines, and Jesse Erasmus, a former postdoctoral student in Fuller’s lab, have developed an mRNA vaccine using a different lipid nanoparticle carrier (called LION) that was developed by HDJ Bio in Seattle that is slated for testing in India. This vaccine has the potential not just to protect people in the US but to reach parts of the world where a massive inoculation campaign with the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines would be almost impossible because it doesn’t require as super-cold temperatures for storage and could offer protection with only one shot instead of two.

“We started to conceptualize our vaccine and delivery system to address the shortcomings of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines,” says Fuller. The Pfizer vaccine must be kept at minus 70 degrees Celsius while the Moderna vaccine must be kept at minus 20 degrees Celsius.

Earlier in Fuller’s career, she worked on the development of a gene gun to deliver RNA and DNA vaccines that could overcome other limitations of current vaccines. This vaccine doesn’t require a trained a clinician to administer it and is stable at room temperature. “The gene gun shoots micro-particles of vaccine into the epidermis of the skin,” she explains. Pfizer acquired the gene gun years ago but didn’t really investigate its potential for delivering vaccines. Fuller called Pfizer, “I asked, ‘Are you guys doing anything with that gene gun?’ and they said, ‘No, do you want it?’” Fuller jumped at the chance and the UW School of Medicine got the technology. “They pulled up in a big truck and dropped off all the gene gun pieces,” says Fuller.

COVID-19: PREVENTION, PROTECTION & POSSIBILITIES

How was the COVID-19 vaccine developed so quickly? What makes older adults vulnerable to viruses like COVID-19? When will it be safe to travel? The UW Retirement Association and UW Medicine host a series of March talks featuring leading specialists in immunology, geriatric medicine, vaccinology and infectious diseases to address these topics and more. Visit uwalum.com/events for more information.
Brace Yourself

Continuing a playful, 54-year-old UW tradition, first-year residents in the School of Dentistry’s orthodontics program crafted wire sculptures using the materials of their profession. The artworks, which were featured in a department exhibition in December, ranged from a portrayal of the Seattle skyline to a portrait of a resident’s Samoyed dog. Ellen Hoang’s entry was inspired by the Japanese anime film “My Neighbor Totoro.” The award-winning cult classic features two young sisters who explore their new home and befriend some playful spirits (one of which is Totoro). “Growing up with Studio Ghibli films, I always admired the creative story lines and artistic attention to detail,” Hoang says. “As I pursue orthodontics, I hope to continue to celebrate imagination and artistry with my patients.”
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You Can Help Prevent the Spread of COVID Vaccine Misinformation

By Kolina Koltai

It is seemingly impossible to avoid hearing news about the coronavirus pandemic and about the various COVID-19 vaccines on the market. Vaccine misinformation is a common occurrence and I don’t expect it to go away any time soon.

Since you, and those around you, must make the decision to vaccinate yourselves, the information you encounter online and that you might choose to share plays an important role in the decision to vaccinate (or not). I study misinformation online, specifically around vaccines, and I want to caution you about the kind of misinformation you may see in the coming months and offer you tools to stop its spread.

**Vaccine misinformation is not new.** Claims like “vaccines cause autism” have lingered since the early 1990s despite numerous scientific studies that show there is no link between the MMR vaccine and Autism Spectrum Disorder. What we are seeing now is classic vaccine-opposed narratives and misinformation applied to the COVID vaccine. False reports claim that the COVID vaccine causes side effects like Bell’s palsy or even death. These stories are built around bits of true information presented in a misleading way. For example, while it is true that six people died during the Pfizer-BioNTech trials, only two were given the vaccine. The other four received a placebo. There is no evidence to suggest the deaths are connected to the vaccine.

Different types of misleading information about vaccines include stories discrediting the vaccine’s safety, efficacy and necessity. These stories can be difficult to debunk as they may be based on some truth manipulated to be misinformation. You may also see conspiratorial claims, like the vaccine contains tracking microchips.

**Not all vaccine-opposed content will be about the vaccine itself.** There will be more conversation about mandates and vaccines being “forced” on people. While laws and regulations vary by state, there is little evidence that a COVID vaccine will be forced onto anyone. We do currently require certain vaccinations in schools and places of employment, but there is always an exemption option depending on the state or organization.

**What if you are the source of misinformation?** Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and TikTok have updated their policies on COVID vaccine misinformation. However, misinformation happens quickly and can be worded to circumvent a platform’s policy.

You can help reduce the spread of misinformation online, whether it’s accidental or intentional. Sharing mis- or disinformation gives it power. Regardless of your demographic, you can be susceptible. Sometimes you may be specifically targeted. Misleading information not only spreads by what we publicly share or see on social media platforms, but what we share in private communications with friends and family. Effective misinformation is designed to cause an emotional response, triggering a desire to share it.

**Resources are available to help you identify misinformation.** You can improve your ability to spot misinformation. A key approach is the Stop, Investigate, Find and Trace (SIFT) technique, a fact-checking process developed by digital literacy expert Mike Caulfield. When you encounter something you want to share, stop and check if you know the website or source of the information. You can investigate the source. Then find trusted coverage to see if there is a consensus among media sources about the claim. Finally, trace claims, quotes and media back to their original sources to see if information was taken out of context or manipulated.

If you are able to get vaccinated, share your story to highlight the positive elements of getting a vaccine. However, understand that once you post something on social media, it can be taken out of context and used in ways you may not agree with. Decontextualization is a common misinformation tactic. Most people care about updates concerning the coronavirus pandemic and the vaccine. We want to share important and critical information with our loved ones. In doing so, make sure you develop debunking habits. While social media platforms and news outlets will continue to address vaccine misinformation, we can all help in minimizing its spread and its power. —Kolina Koltai is a postdoctoral fellow at the UW’s Center for an Informed Public. She researches information-seeking behaviors, trust assessment of information and misinformation and decision making, with a focus on when people dissent from the scientific mainstream.
Never Done Learning

Ed Jones, ’66, and thousands of others gain skills outside the traditional classroom

By Delia Ward

Ed Jones, ’66, holds the record for the number of certificate programs taken through the UW Professional & Continuing Education program. It’s a mark the Boeing retiree had an enormous amount of fun reaching.

It all started in 2004, when Jones signed up for a film class and worked with a team to produce a short movie about an artist so obsessed with his work, he dies making it. “It’s kind of a goofy story,” admits Jones. Although he laughs a little at the plot, he enjoyed learning skills like camera placement, lighting, how to frame individual shots and how to pull a project together on a deadline. The class also changed the way that he watches movies, he says: “I always look to see who’s the gaffer.”

Jones has since completed 11 UWPCE certificate programs, more than anyone else. His other classes include a course in private investigation taught by a lawyer and two private eyes, a class on forensics and another on environmental law and regulation. He also studied electronic discovery management, advanced online marketing and nonfiction writing.

As disparate as these offerings may seem, there is a common thread. Jones, a former governmental contract manager at Boeing, is fascinated by information and informational structure, whether it’s used by online marketers or private eyes. “Some of these classes fall in line with my former job,” he says. “I gathered information, coordinated it and documented it. So it all kind of fits together.”

Even if you set aside his record number of certificates, Jones is something of an atypical student at UWPCE: Although he always had reasons for his course selections, his approach was often exploratory, even a little playful. Many more students are focused on advancing or changing their careers.

What today is the UW Continuum College—the professional development and continuing education division of the University—started in 1912 to offer correspondence and extension courses. Over the years it has evolved and expanded, serving current UW students as well as alumni and the general public.

Through programs like UWPCE, UW Online and Summer Sessions, Continuum College offers about 100 certificate programs and more than 110 graduate degree programs, currently enrolling about 50,000 students a year. Classes are taught by UW faculty as well as artists, writers and professionals in fields like business, sales and technology. The Continuum College is responding to shifts in the landscape of higher education and in the job market, especially as people seek to gain new skills or even change careers, says Rovy Branon, vice provost for the college.

Strictly speaking, Ed Jones wasn’t trying to advance his career when he started taking the continuing education courses. Rather, he had more time on his hands because his youngest daughter had left for college. And Boeing paid his tuition, so he felt free to follow his curiosity.

Still, the knowledge and skills he gained did relate to his work. He found himself becoming even more data-driven. He improved his presentation skills and brought storytelling into his work. He thought more about conflict resolution, and he learned about data security. All these skills were useful to a person brokering government contracts—and useful to his employer, too.

Though Jones is now retired, he’s not done taking classes. He started a certificate course on fundraising last fall, which will bring his hard-to-beat record up to 12. “Continuing education gives you a structured way to learn about a subject,” Jones says, and he hopes that what he learns from his newest course to help raise funds for local nonprofits. “It inspires you to go off and do something.”
Moonstruck

We sleep less on nights leading up to a full moon

By James Urton

For centuries, humans have blamed the moon for our moods, accidents and even natural disasters. But new research indicates that our planet’s celestial companion affects something else entirely—our sleep.

Scientists at the UW, the National University of Quilmes in Argentina and Yale University report that sleep cycles in people oscillate during the 29.5-day lunar cycle. In the days leading up to a full moon, people go to sleep later and sleep for shorter periods of time.

The research team, led by UW biology professor Horacio de la Iglesia, observed these variations in urban and rural settings—from Indigenous communities in northern Argentina to college students in Seattle. They saw the oscillations regardless of an individual’s access to electricity, though the variations are less pronounced for those in urban environments. They reported their findings in the journal Science Advances.

The pattern’s ubiquity may indicate that our natural circadian rhythms are somehow synchronized with—or entrained to—the phases of the lunar cycle. “We see a clear lunar modulation of sleep, with sleep decreasing and a later onset of sleep in the days preceding a full moon,” says de la Iglesia. Although the effect is more robust in communities without electricity, the effect is present for everyone in the study including undergraduates at the University of Washington.

Using wrist monitors, the team tracked sleep patterns among 98 people living in three Toba-Qom Indigenous communities in the Argentine province of Formosa. The communities differed in their access to electricity: One had no electricity, a second had only limited access to electricity—such as a single source of artificial light in dwellings—while a third was in an urban setting and had full access to electricity. Researchers collected sleep data for one to two whole lunar cycles. Study participants in all three communities also showed the same sleep oscillations as the moon progressed through its 29.5-day cycle. Depending on the community, the total amount of sleep varied across the lunar cycle by an average of 46 to 58 minutes, and bedtimes seesawed by around 30 minutes. For all three communities, on average, people had the latest bedtimes and the shortest amount of sleep in the nights three to five days leading up to a full moon.

When they discovered this pattern among the Toba-Qom participants, the team analyzed sleep-monitor data from 464 Seattle-area college students that had been collected for a separate study. They found the same oscillations.

The evenings leading up to a full moon have more natural light available after dusk: The waxing moon is increasingly brighter as it progresses toward a full moon, and generally rises in the late afternoon or early evening, placing it high in the sky after sunset. The latter half of the full moon phase and waning moons also give off significant light, but in the middle of the night, since the moon rises so late in the evening at those points in the lunar cycle.

“We hypothesize that the patterns we observed are an innate adaptation that allowed our ancestors to take advantage of this natural source of evening light that occurred at a specific time during the lunar cycle,” says lead author Leandro Casiraghi, a postdoctoral researcher in the UW Department of Biology.

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PROUD TO BE OFFICIAL AIRLINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.
Helen Chu Honored for COVID-19 Work

University of Washington Medicine professor Dr. Helen Chu, ’12, whose team of researchers and scientists in the Seattle Flu Study identified the first case of the novel coronavirus in the U.S., has been named “Washingtonian of the Year” by the Washington State Leadership Board. Chu, who conducts research in the Brotman Baty Institute for Precision Medicine in the UW School of Medicine, was honored for her work, which led to therapies for COVID-19, treatments and the development of vaccines.

Chu, associate professor in the UW Medicine Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, is one of the principal investigators of the Seattle Flu Study, a collaborative research project that was investigating how influenza and other respiratory viruses spread throughout the city. Since many in the field saw respiratory viruses as a likely source of a pandemic, her work became even more critical.

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Back in the days of disco, Architecture Professor Daniel Streissguth, ‘48, was asked to lead the design for a new home for the then College of Architecture and Urban Planning. His brief was to lead the team to create “useful, well-balanced architecture” with offices, classrooms, studios, a library and space for the design disciplines to collaborate. It needed to capture the vibe of the times in raw concrete with its structural components on view.

Working with architect Gene Zema, ’50, and a team that included architecture professors Grant Hildebrand and Claus Seligmann, Streissguth had to synthesize the desires of his colleagues while meeting the expectations of the administration—all in a hip, brutalist-style package. “We hoped to have a building that was open to the community,” Streissguth told an audience at a College of Built Environments presentation in 2015. It was to be “transparent so that individuals working inside and people from outside and inside… could see one another’s activities. … We hoped the building would adapt itself easily to future changes and additions.”

While it has had a few updates, Gould Hall hasn’t substantially changed in the 50 years since students first set foot in it. It has four above-ground floors, cantilevered balconies and rooms with wide windows that peer both inside the building and out to the trees. While outside it sits quietly on its corner, the interior offers a visual thrill as floating staircases crisscross a skylighted atrium.

Last year, because of the pandemic, Professor Ken Oshima had to scuttle plans to take his studio class to Japan to study metabolic urbanism—how the built environment can be constantly reshaped. So instead of sites around Tokyo, he refocused his students on Gould Hall, their own campus home. “They knew it and could be much more familiar, especially with them meeting virtually, online,” he says. “One of the most interesting things about Gould is that from the outset it was designed to be expanded and to be open-ended,” Oshima says. “It was not just this museum piece but something to continually rethink.”

That rethinking is especially relevant now, he says, since the U District is rapidly transforming with twenty-story apartment buildings and a light rail station that opens in September.

Oshima’s students looked at the original vision of Streissguth’s team and then gazed into the future to see how the building might evolve over the next few decades. Some designed rooftop terraces and covered plazas. Others, gardens and a cinema. They added stories, capturing new views across campus and toward downtown. They added windows, exterior staircases and open-air construction spaces. Miggi Wu added hydroponic ponds to a terrace. Zining Cheng opened classrooms to the sky and wrapped the building in a massive transparent membrane.

These explorations would have pleased Streissguth, who died at the age of 96 in November. As where and how we work evolves amid the pandemic, so should Gould Hall. “It’s a really great time for people to be reimagining their own environment,” says Oshima.
Clockwise from top left: FIRE PIT cabelas.com; LAPTOP BACKPACK mojosportsbags.com; INSULATED TUMBLER logobrands.com; CHAMPION WOMEN’S ULTIMATE STADIUM JACKET huskyteamstore.com; DOG LEASH, COLLAR & BANDANA littlearth.com; GOLF UMBRELLA ubookstore.com

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A Dream Come True

Jimmy Lake took a long and winding road through colleges and the NFL before becoming head coach of Husky football

Jimmy Lake was born in California and lived five years each in Turkey and the Philippines. He played football at Eastern Washington University and also coached there and in the NFL. He served as defensive backs coach for the UW in 2004 and then again from 2016 to 2019. He recently finished his first season as head coach of the Huskies.

How did you get into coaching?
I started off playing football for Eastern Washington University. As I was finishing my degree, I served as an undergrad assistant linebackers coach and really enjoyed it. The following year, I got the linebackers coaching job at a very young age and coached players that I had played with.

What was it like to coach in the NFL?
It was a phenomenal experience. It really raised my coaching expertise to another level, and it helped me with coaching in college. Being around NFL coaches and players really elevated my game.

How did you get the original UW job as a defensive backs coach?
I coached at Eastern Washington for four years and it was time to grow and spread my wings. I was always looking for that next job so I could learn from other coaches. I heard the UW had a DB job open and I pursued it. When they offered me the job, my wife and I were ecstatic and crying.

What is it like being the head coach for the Huskies?
Even though we weren’t successful in 2004, we knew what a special place this is and what it could become. So, after a long journey of moving to a lot of states and taking jobs at colleges and in the NFL, and then becoming an assistant here, being the head coach is a dream come true.

What has it been like during COVID-19?
It’s definitely been a challenge. There have been a lot of obstacles to navigate that no one has had to navigate before. I’m thankful that we have an excellent staff, a strength and conditioning staff, a medical team, and that our coaches and players have been extremely resilient and able to deal with the situation of a pandemic. I’m very proud of how we’re holding up during COVID.

How good will the Huskies be in 2021?
We really feel like we have some unfinished business that we weren’t able to resolve in 2020. We have a lot of players who will go into their second season of running schemes that they learned last year. I know we will be able to take the next step in that department in terms of their knowledge and playing fast. And we are adding a lot of pieces with the 15 players we signed in 2020. We’re excited that we’re going to have spring football this year. We have a lot of hard work ahead, but we definitely have a lot of pieces that are coming back from a short successful run that we had last year. I feel that the future is bright.

How do you like working for the UW?
I’m extremely happy to be here. I love this city, I love this university, I love this area of the country. I’ve been all over the country, and this is my favorite area. I love our fan base, and I know how excited they are to watch us grow and try to bring a championship back to Seattle. It is a real honor to be here and to be working for the University of Washington.

Elevating Expectations

New COO Jason Butikofer works to promote Husky sports even more

When he was in high school, Jason Butikofer knew that he wanted to work in college sports. After graduating from the University of Iowa, he started on his career path, working for athletic departments at Arizona State University, the University of Minnesota, Army, Southern Utah University and Purdue University, where he had reached the rank of deputy athletic director. His rise was so impressive that Sports Business Journal named him on its “Power Players” list in 2019.

And now, Butikofer has reached an even higher level as the Chief Operating Officer for Husky athletics. “I knew [Athletic Director] Jen Cohen for a couple of years, and when I was at Purdue, we had numerous discussions about Athletic Department needs. … She told me she had an opening, and it made sense for me to move to Seattle and the University of Washington. It’s a great city to live in and a great brand to be associated with.”

Butikofer, who starts his second year with the Huskies in April, has an impressive array of responsibilities. In addition to serving as the administrator for some of the UW’s most prominent sports—men’s football, basketball and rowing—he works with head coaches and directors, strength and conditioning, and sports medicine. “I also work closely with head trainer Robert Scheidegger on health and wellness of our student-athletes, as well as with our other doctors. That has been a unique role during COVID, to work closely with those individuals to put forward COVID protocols that have enabled us to return to play.”

He also oversees responsibilities with the Tyee club, ticket operations and sales, marketing, strategic communications and corporate sponsorships. And he plays a key role in the University’s relationship with Adidas.

“It has been an unbelievable experience (coming here),” he says. “This is a very well-respected, well-run athletic department. My goal was to help Jen further elevate our efforts on the external side of the house, and work closely with a few of our programs. I definitely have aspirations to become an athletic director at some point in my career. That is down the line. Now I am just so excited to be here in Seattle and to be part of this department—and get us through COVID and back to normal.”
New Husky administrator Sheridan Blanford focuses on diversity and equity within higher education and sports

In her new role as the Huskies’ first Associate Athletic Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Sheridan Blanford, ’16, has the opportunity to make a big impact as she incorporates two of her passions—sports and inclusion.

A native of Colorado who attended St. Olaf College in Minnesota, Blanford was a four-year college basketball player who later came to the west coast to earn her master’s of education in Intercollegiate Athletic Leadership from the UW in 2016. She also served as a graduate assistant in the Tyee office. “I really started to think about diversity and equity within higher education and sports differently. Combining it with the new world of college sports is really unique and important. When I graduated, there were only two or three institutions in the entire nation that had a person or a department focused on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). It’s something that I’m very passionate about from not only a professional perspective but also from a personal perspective. “I am a bi-racial woman. My mother is white and my father is Black. Diversity, equity and inclusion are not the only things I’m passionate about but I live it every day. I am the walking, breathing definition of inclusion and I strive to create it wherever I go.”

From UW, Blanford went on to work as the assistant director for Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, the conference that her undergraduate institution, St. Olaf, was in. Prior to returning to UW in her new role, Blanford worked at the University of Wisconsin as the Director of Inclusion & Engagement in the athletic department. At Wisconsin, Blanford was able to take her unique position of being one of the first in the business to have a DEI role, and combine it with her passion to provide spaces of belonging, and access and opportunity for everyone to thrive and succeed.

UW Athletic Director Jennifer Cohen says that Blanford’s passion and expertise will have a tremendous impact on the student-athletes, coaches and the sports staff. “There’s lots of work to be done,” Blanford says. “I am going to evaluate the culture: determine the pockets of excellence, identify areas of opportunity, and establish a strategy to ensure equity and inclusion are a part of all UW Intercollegiate Athletics policies and programs.”
Floating Robots
Hundreds of UW-built monitors will help solve the mysteries of our oceans

The UW will soon be deploying a fleet of floating robots in oceans around the world. The effort is part of a $53-million, five-year grant from the National Science Foundation to pursue fundamental questions about ocean ecosystems and to inform computer models for fisheries and climate studies.

The University, which is also building 300 of 500 floats, joins the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Princeton University on the project. About $20.5 million of the award funds the UW work, with another $3 million for maintenance.

“This is one of the largest awards that NSF has ever given in ocean sciences,” says Stephen Riser, professor of oceanography. “It will allow us to create and deploy an ocean observing system that will operate for decades and will influence our ideas about the carbon cycle.”

This new network of floats, called the Global Ocean Biogeochemistry Array, will sink and rise, going from the surface to 1.24 miles deep to collect observations about ocean chemistry and biology. Every nine days, the floats will surface and transmit data via satellite that will be made available for free to researchers and the public within a day of being collected.

“These observations will provide an unprecedented global view of ocean processes that determine carbon cycling, ocean acidification, deoxygenation and biological productivity—all of which have a critical impact on marine ecosystems and the climate of our planet,” says Alison Gray, assistant professor of oceanography.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, more than 80% of the world’s oceans are unmapped, unobserved and unexplored. The researchers hope that the project will take away some of the mystery by inspiring other researchers to contribute similarly instrumented floats as part of the global research effort. Ideally, this expanded network will grow to a sustained array of 1,000 biogeochemical floats uniformly distributed around the world’s oceans, and spaced about 620 miles, or 1,000 kilometers, apart from each other.

UW HOSTS TENT CITY 3
The UW welcomed Tent City 3, a community of homeless people, to its Seattle campus for winter quarter. It was set up in a parking lot between John M. Wallace Hall and the Fishery Sciences buildings. “Welcoming back Tent City 3 aligns with the UW’s public mission and its commitment to helping solve the challenges of our city, state and world,” says Sally J. Clark, director of regional and community relations. Tent City 3 at the UW provided safe, secure temporary housing for up to 70 people. The number reflects a lower density to allow for social distancing and other COVID-19 precautions. Academic interactions with Tent City 3 were held virtually due to the ongoing pandemic.

STATE PRESERVATION AWARD FOR ASUW SHELL HOUSE EFFORT
The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation recognized Nicole Klein and fellow members of the ASUW Shell House’s “The Next 100 Years” campaign with its 2020 Outstanding Achievement in Historic Preservation Planning Award. Inspired by the 2013 book “The Boys in the Boat,” and celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2018, alumni, former rowing team members, the ASUW and friends and family came together with a vision to restore the building for public education and enjoyment. “Nicole was the perfect person to lead this ambitious fundraising effort,” the recognition states. “Her passion for the preservation of this building and its rich history is boundless.”

AAAS HONORS FIVE PROFESSORS
Four faculty are new fellows in the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Pedro Domingos, professor emeritus in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, who specialized in artificial intelligence and machine learning; Eberhard Fetz, professor in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, a pioneer in brain-machine interfaces; Daniel Raftery, professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine and at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, who studies metabolism; and Daniel Weld, professor in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, who has contributed to the field of artificial intelligence. In addition, Deborah Donnell, ’87, professor in the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Division at Fred Hutch, was selected for “distinguished contributions to the field of HIV prevention research.” She is also a UW affiliate of global health and of health services.
TOGETHER WE BLOOM

Through blue skies and grey, BECU celebrates our partnership with the University of Washington and the Alumni Association. We stand united by a long history of supporting and inspiring communities throughout the greater Puget Sound.
THE KRAKEN ARE COMING!

THANKS TO NEW OWNER DAVID BONDERMAN, ’63, SEATTLE IS GETTING ITS OWN NHL TEAM. AND A BUNCH OF HUSKIES ARE HELPING RUN THE SHOW

BY JIM CAPLE
ILLUSTRATION BY PETE RYAN
That’s right, a team from Seattle. That was in 1917, when the Metropolitans routed the Montreal Canadiens in four games in the finals. Interestingly, neither team was part of the National Hockey League back then (it didn’t exist). The league based in Canada was called the National Hockey Association while the Metropolitans played in the Pacific Coast Hockey Association. The 1917 finals were the last championship series that did not feature an NHL team.

The Metropolitans “overcame the strongest teams on both coasts and they overcame themselves,” Kevin Ticen, ’99, wrote in his excellent book, “When It Mattered Most: The Forgotten Story of America’s First Stanley Cup, and the War to End All Wars.” “As the first American team to claim the Stanley Cup, they not only achieved greatness, they achieved immortality.”

The Metropolitans also faced the Canadians in the 1919 Stanley Cup finals, but the series was canceled after five games because several Montreal players suffered from the Spanish Flu, which was far worse than COVID-19; approximately 50 million people worldwide died of it. No champion was crowned that year. The Metropolitans made the Stanley Cup finals again in 1920 but lost to the Ottawa Senators. Unfortunately, that success did not mean the team’s future was sustainable. The Metropolitans folded after the 1924 season, and the arena where they played in downtown Seattle no longer exists.

There has never been an NHL team in Seattle—until now. Thanks in large part to David Bonderman, ’63, the Seattle Kraken is scheduled to make its debut as an NHL expansion team this coming fall in Climate Pledge Arena, the completely renovated KeyArena. Bonderman, a billionaire businessman, is the majority owner of the team.

As a University of Washington student, Bonderman majored in Russian language and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the College of Arts & Sciences in 1963. He later earned a law degree from Harvard. He is particularly fond of his time at UW. “I had a good time. And I have had contacts and friends in Seattle ever since,” Bonderman says.

Bonderman, who is 78, grew up in Los Angeles and now lives in Fort Worth, Texas. A founding partner of global investment firm TPG, he also is a minority owner of the NBA’s Boston Celtics and has served on the boards of some premier corporations, from Continental Airlines to The Wilderness Society and The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Bonderman also served on the UW Foundation Board and created the UW’s Bonderman Travel Fellowships in 1995. These awards give eight undergraduate students and six graduate students the opportunity to travel the world independently each year, all expenses paid. To date, more than 280 students have experienced these once-in-a-lifetime global journeys. He also does charity work in Africa, focused on anti-poaching efforts.

Interestingly, Bonderman wasn’t a big hockey fan as a kid. “I grew up in Los Angeles, and there were no teams” in the area, he says. “So, I was not a hockey fan. But my favorite sport now is hockey.”

Another owner of the Kraken is 77-year-old Jerry Bruckheimer, a movie and TV producer who graduated from another Pac-12 school—the University of Arizona. The president and CEO of the Kraken is Tod Leiweke, a name familiar to Seattle sports fans as the onetime CEO for the Seattle Seahawks and Sounders. The Kraken’s ownership and investor group has strong ties to UW. Adrian Hanauer, ’94, who earned a degree in history from the College of Arts & Sciences, is a minority owner and owns the Seattle Sounders of Major League Soccer. Hanauer recently told a reporter that “Seattle is a major market, but it definitely has a local feel that is different than New York or Los Angeles or Chicago or even Houston.”
construction from the College of Built Environments and is president and chairman of J. Wright Development, an investor.

Jeff’s brother David is also a minority owner in the team.

Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan, ’85, who has a law degree from the UW, also played a role in the official proposal to the NHL in 2018. “We are thrilled to have an NHL team,” she says. “I think it is going to increase the culture of skating and hockey in the whole region.”

Moreover, two UW alums serve as senior executives for the Kraken. Eric Pettigrew, ’87, who earned his master’s from the School of Social Work, is vice-president for Governmental Relations & Outreach. He served as a Washington state representative in the 37th district for 18 years before joining the Kraken staff. “It was an incredible honor to represent the 37th legislative district,” he says. “I was able to help so many people for 18 years. My education at UW was key to my effectiveness as a legislator, and I am grateful.”

He also was a hockey fan as a kid. “I loved hockey growing up, although I have never played it,” he says. “I grew up in South Central L.A., about five miles from the Fabulous Forum, where the Los Angeles Kings played, and five miles from the L.A. Sports Arena, where the L.A. Sharks [of the short-lived World Hockey Association] played. I watched it on TV and went to games when I could.”

Mari Horita, ’94, a graduate of the UW Law School, serves as the Kraken’s vice-president for Community Engagement and Philanthropy. She joined the staff knowing little about hockey but a lot about community building, having served as the president of the local ArtsFund for seven years. “My time at ArtsFund was an extraordinary opportunity to work with and on behalf of our region’s arts and cultural sector to build a more vibrant and inclusive community,” she says. But she is new to hockey. “It’s a steep learning curve, but fortunately I’m surrounded by tons of hockey knowledge,” she says. Horita is in charge of building out the team’s social impact and philanthropic objectives and strategy, as well as its community and civic engagement work. She also co-leads the team’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiatives.

The longtime arena at Seattle Center has been home to the NBA’s SuperSonics, WNBA’s Storm, and Western Hockey League’s Thunderbirds, not to mention serving as one of Seattle’s most popular concert venues. It is undergoing a $1 billion remodel and has a new name, thanks to Amazon, which purchased the naming rights for Climate Pledge Arena. It is scheduled to open in the fall for the Kraken’s NHL debut. However, the COVID-19 pandemic could alter those plans. UW connections are all over the arena, as Amazon is a longtime supporter of the UW, and Alaska Airlines, another major UW backer, is the naming sponsor for the arena’s south atrium.

The name “Kraken”—the result of 18 months of research, consideration of more than 1,200 possible names and 215,000 fan votes—is based on mythic sea creatures that are said to haunt the Puget Sound. The logo is an “S” as a tribute to the aforementioned Seattle Metropolitans, with a single tentacle rising from the bottom to symbolize the “deep, dark waters of Puget Sound,” according to a team news release. As for the red “eye of the beast” near the top—well, you can thank Bonderman for that idea.

Although the team has yet to take the ice, sales of Kraken merchandise have been incredibly strong. And that is on top of the Kraken setting a league record for the fastest time to sell all of its season tickets. Everything sold out in a matter of hours.

Hockey has long had a place in Seattle’s heart. Two popular junior league hockey teams call Western Washington home: the Seattle Thunderbirds, which started in 1977, now play in Kent. The Everett Silvertips started in 2003 and have been one of the Western Hockey League’s biggest draws. In addition, the Pacific Division U-19 and U-16 Championships also were held locally last March in Lynnwood (where the girls competed) and Tacoma (where the boys played). There also are several youth hockey teams in the area, and the UW has a strong club hockey team that plays in the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The Olympic View Arena in Mountlake Terrace is the rink the Husky hockey team calls home.

The area is hungry for hockey, says Paul Kim, owner of the Seattle Metropolitans’ logo. “I grew up playing youth hockey here. There were two groups when I was playing and now they have [about] 10. It’s exploding. I definitely think it is growing and once [an NHL] team comes here, I think it will grow exponentially really quick.”

The excitement is not just around having a new team here. Says Bonderman: “Our plan is to someday win the Stanley Cup.”
Early each morning around 5 o’clock, Ron Chew steps out of his Beacon Hill home and sets off on a long run. Over the course of an hour or two, he jogs through the neighborhoods where he grew up and went to school, where he covered news stories as a reporter and where he raised his two children. Chew’s lean, 67-year-old frame is a familiar sight, and whether they know him or not, people wave as they drive by.

It was on a few of these long, contemplative runs a few years ago that Chew, a journalist and former director of the Wing Luke Museum, mulled plans to write his own
Ron Chew captures the memories, heart and soul of one of Seattle’s beloved communities of color in his new memoir.

By Hannelore Sudermann

Photos by Tim Matsui
history of Seattle. The city was changing—at a rapid pace. The Asian and Pacific Islander and African American neighbors who lived near him over decades were leaving the area, and young professionals were moving in and renovating. “The world I knew was nearly gone,” he says.

History is built on a fragile foundation of memory, records and stories, says Chew. The history he wanted to write would strengthen the foundation, particularly for understanding Seattle’s diverse communities. “Often, especially in communities of color, you don’t always have a sense of where your place is,” he says.

Chew thought of his dear friend Donnie Chin, who founded the International District Emergency Center and gave years of support to the Asian and Pacific Islander community. Chin was killed in the crossfire of rival gangs one early morning in 2015. Within a year, three more community pillars, Bob Santos (known to the community as Uncle Bob), Ruth Woo (Auntie Ruth) and Charles Z. Smith, ‘55, (the first African American and first person of color on the Washington State Supreme Court) had died, and Chew felt the profound loss of all of them. With Chin’s unsolved murder and the other deaths lingering for him, he knew it was time to tell their history as he knew it.

In our midst are a few incredible people who witness events, take notes, keep journals and hoard letters. They sit across from us at restaurant tables recording our stories, or on our front steps interviewing our elders. If we’re lucky, they bring it all together for the rest of us before it disappears into time. Chew is one of those people. Just a few pages into his biography, “My Unforgotten Seattle,” you realize you’re not just reading his own family story. You’re given a view into Seattle’s long-standing Asian and Pacific Islander communities—communities that most regional histories mention only in a fleeting chapter. Chew takes his readers to the Chinatown-International District, the businesses and community service organizations, the people he encountered and learned from. He tells of the ordinary people he saw do extraordinary things.

“Ron Chew has captured the heart and soul of Seattle’s International District and the noble struggle of immigrant families and their American-born children as they claim their place in a society that isn’t always welcoming,” writes Jamie Ford, the author of the bestseller “Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet,” in a review of Chew’s autobiography. “It’s a very important book. I was fascinated, mesmerized. I gained a deeper understanding of my family and my own search for identity.”

Chew uses his personal history as scaffolding for the story of Seattle—from early Chinese immigration over a century ago to Black Lives Matter protests this past summer. As he details his grandfather’s arrival in Seattle in 1911, he shares a family secret. By falsely establishing himself as born in the US, his grandfather was able to open the way West for his sons. At the same time, under a pall of this falsehood, his parents lived in fear of immigration authorities.

Chew’s father left China at 13, joining his own father and brothers in Seattle in 1930. He lived in the back of a laundry, attended school and eventually opened his own laundry downtown. He returned to China in 1937 to wed Chew’s mother, a marriage arranged by their families. By 1948, Chew’s family was partners in Campus Laundry in the U District. The work of cleaning, ironing and mending clothes was grueling. His father eventually left the laundry to work as a waiter in the Hong Kong Restaurant in Chinatown, a job that placed him at the center of the community. Chew’s mother came to Seattle in 1950, and soon they were a family. Once Chew and his three siblings were all in elementary school, his mother became a garment worker, often working two jobs to help support the family in Seattle as well as family in China.

Chew’s childhood ranged between Chinatown and Beacon Hill. Because his home culture and language was so different than what he encountered at elementary school, Chew had a rough start. Still, at his core, he was a collector of stories. At 11,
“Ron has a mind and memory that is just unstoppable.”
he started his own handwritten newspaper in his parents’ basement. As a teen in the 1960s, he began to realize the significance of the events unfolding around him.

He was a freshman at Franklin High School when UW students Carl Miller and Larry Gossett, ’71, led a sit-in there for Black student rights in 1968. Coming to the UW a few years later was another awakening. Chew felt like he was breaking free from the modest, cautious home of his parents, finding what seemed to be “a forested retreat in another city.” He studied literature, communications, history, women’s studies, math and astronomy.

He kept a journal through college, recording his experiences and discussions with classmates and friends. “I was able to preserve those remnants of conversations and relationships,” he says. “Being a reporter, I had some sense that I valued those relationships. I saved them. Years later [while working on the book], I had footprints that I could follow back in time.” He wrote for The Daily and for the Chinatown-ID-based International Examiner, covering politics, activism, and the visits to the UW and Seattle of public figures including Jane Fonda, Ken Kesey, Eugene McCarthy and Cesar Chavez.

Despite his talents and hard work, Chew left campus before earning his degree. He details the episode in his book. It was the toughest chapter to write, he says. At age 20, despite his childhood habits of hiding from attention, he publicly stood up to racism. “It was a very spirited time, a very idealistic time,” says Chew. The matter stemmed from his application to be news editor of the student-run Daily. As an experienced staff member who had helped with editing and training new reporters, he thought he was an excellent candidate. But the editor-in-chief offered the post to other students—white—who hadn’t applied for the job. “I thought I deserved at least the courtesy of an interview,” Chew says.

Fueled by frustration and with a view to other examples of discrimination at the paper, Chew filed a complaint with the UW human rights office. He noted that people of color at The Daily rarely advanced beyond the position of reporter. Six months later, an investigator from the office issued a report validating Chew’s grievance and noting that the student newspaper didn’t have clear hiring guidelines, job descriptions or minimum qualifications. She recommended the newspaper provide back pay to Chew and that the board that advised The Daily be diversified.

The advisory board pushed back, urging the UW president to reject the settlement. News of Chew’s complaint and the board’s response played out across the city in Seattle’s newspapers and TV stations. Among Chew’s detractors was a respected UW faculty member. His supporters included fellow Daily reporters and local activists. Ultimately, the vice provost for student affairs issued a settlement that included $1,200 in back pay for Chew and a demand that the Student Publications Board improve The Daily’s hiring practices.

Though his complaint had succeeded, Chew was weary from the experience and eager to move on. In 1975, he left the UW a few credits short of a degree and lacking a reporting requirement. The school wouldn’t consider his work for the International Examiner, a nonprofit Asian American community paper, as meeting the requirement. “It was the kind of thing I never talked about,” Chew says. But he put it behind him so as not to be consumed by anger and self-doubt. “Remember, I was a 20-year-old kid fighting a system and wondering: Where am I headed?”

It wasn’t a crusade, he says, just an accumulation of everything he had learned about civil rights and the need for change.

With his own injustice behind him, Chew turned his energies to covering injustices in his community. He became friends with Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, ’75, second-generation Filipino Americans working to improve conditions and address racism in Alaska canneries. With Chew’s help, Viernes produced a newspaper series for the International Examiner about the history of cannery workers. The two agreed that the work could one day become a book. But in 1981, Viernes and Domingo were assassinated by Filipino gang members who profited from the corruption the activists were trying to undo. Later it was discovered that the crime was tied to dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Chew covered the murders, all the while mourning the loss of his friends. In 2012, he wrote “Remembering Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes: The Legacy of Filipino American Labor Activism.” The book includes the Viernes history of Alaska canneries.

While at the International Examiner, Chew explored other causes, including community health care, garment workers’ rights, and the “Gang of Four,” a powerful cross-cultural partnership with Latino, Black, Filipino and Native American leaders to push Seattle toward greater racial and social equity. The “Four” were UW alumni Roberto Maestas, ’66, (who had been Chew’s Spanish teacher at Franklin) and Larry Gossett, as well as community activists Bob Santos and Bernie Whitebear.

His penchant for collecting and sharing stories, and for revealing truths, served him further when he was recruited to serve as director of the Wing Luke Museum in 1991. Wing Chong Luke, ’52, ’54, a UW Law grad, was the first Asian American to hold elected office in Washington. He served on the Seattle City Council from 1962 until his death in a plane crash in 1965. The following year, his family and friends founded the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience.

Chew’s take on the director’s job was to engage community members in the exhibits, exploring the stories of their experiences. The first major exhibit commemorated the 50th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which forced thousands of Japanese Americans into prison camps. It included a re-creation of a concentration camp barrack. Many people brought their own families’ stories to the project, which turned out to be a great success. “The community needed a place to deal with an issue that had been simmering for so many years,” Chew says. “People had not shared their pain, their loss. The civil liberties issue behind it had been pushed under the rug.”

He recruited Treva Lindsey, UW’s Ethnic Studies Department, to help the Wing Luke team develop exhibits, starting with the Japanese internment experience. What Chew does in his book, he did in the exhibits—sharing specific stories that illuminate a common experience. So says, “Everyone’s stories are really different, but there are common patterns and historical trends,” she says. “We enjoy listening to people who are not the leaders. A lot of times those stories are not being included in our histories, and those are more important.”

Chew’s approach was disconcerting to some. “It was a notion of museums as story-based rather than object-based institutions,” he says. “I thought, let’s figure out how we can be of service exploring issues that are responding to a community need. When you do that, something new emerges. It’s magical.” He was able to do it, he says, because the museum’s team shared the vision. Another exhibit explored Seattle’s sewing industry. The project documented new voices, including his mother’s, and provided a subject for the community to come together around.

“He invented community-based scholarship. That is really important for both here and nationally,” says Mayumi Tsutakawa, ’72, ’76, a writer and former executive director of the King County Arts Commission and the Historic Preservation Program. She is

Chew uses his personal history as scaffolding for the story of Seattle—from early Chinese immigration over a century ago to Black Lives Matter protests this past summer.
also the daughter of famed sculptor George Tsutakawa, ’37, ’50, who taught art at the UW for 34 years. Chew and Mayumi Tsutakawa grew up in the same neighborhoods and attended the same schools a few years apart. At the time Chew became director of the Wing, most museums were run by curators who took a distant, scholarly approach. Chew, by contrast, “was full-bore dedicated to the idea of community-curated exhibitions,” Tsutakawa says.

Chew’s most ambitious project was moving the museum from its storefront location to a renovated full city block. When Chew joined The Wing, it had a $150,000 budget and was $50,000 in debt. Through grants to strengthen the organization, Chew and his team developed a budget of $500,000-$700,000 a year. Even with those numbers, launching a $23 million capital campaign to build a new museum seemed audacious to his board, Chew says. “I think they thought I was crazy. But if the vision is strong and people are with you, you will find the dollars.”

Chew’s reputation as a leading museum director spread beyond the West. In 2001, President Clinton appointed him to the National Council for the Humanities. And he received the Ford Foundation’s Leadership for a Changing World award three years later.

The vision for the museum was a success. Blending his management work with new fundraising efforts, Chew stayed busy for several years. By the time of the groundbreaking for the new Wing in 2007, he was ready to move on. Since then, he held a part-time position as a scholar in residence in the UW museology program, teaching fundraising and developing community-based exhibitions. He consulted for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the development of its new visitors center. And he served as executive director of the International Community Health Services Foundation. Finally, he formed his own communications firm to support cultural work and write community histories.

The Asian and Pacific Islander community response to Chew has ranged from interest—as he undertook novel projects to tell community stories—to deep respect. In 1997, a group of American Ethnic Studies students marched on the president’s office to protest administrative cuts ending the contracts of certain faculty, including Connie So. The students agreed to leave the office if Chew would come to campus and speak on their behalf. “Ron was to them a natural person they all wanted to gravitate toward,” says So. “They knew of his human rights complaint as a student and saw him as a man of principle. I guess he went in there and said, ‘Hey, what’s going on, do you want to leave?’ And they did.”

In 2002, Chew’s friends wanted to recognize him through the UW for his contributions as a journalist and cultural leader. Cynthia Del Rosario, ’94, ’96, and her aunt, Bettie Luke, Wing Luke’s sister, took the lead. Enlisting the help of the UW Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity, they sought to right a decades-old wrong. They found a supporter in then-Department Chair Jerry Baldasty, ’72, ’78.

In Baldasty’s view, Chew had fulfilled the reporting requirement three decades earlier. “The International Examiner is an incredible example of the value of community journalism,” says Baldasty. “Of course, we would want our students to work for a newspaper like that one.” He gladly conferred the missing credits so Chew could earn his degree. At a small ceremony in Baldasty’s office, Chew signed his graduate diploma card, tears in his eyes. Then he walked across the hall to The Daily and signed his name on the wall where so many other editors and writers had left their own marks.

“There are few people in journalism in this city and this country who I admire more than Ron Chew,” says Baldasty. “What he has accomplished at the International Examiner and throughout his career has made our city a better place. I consider myself really lucky that I was able to help address this problem. You don’t get many opportunities to do exactly the right thing.” Later that week, the UW Multicultural Alumni Partnership gave Chew the Distinguished Alumnus Award. And a few years later, he was inducted into the UW School of Communication Hall of Fame.

Who tells the history of the Pacific Northwest? Murray Morgan, ’37, like Chew, was a journalist, activist and author. From the 1940s to the 1990s, Morgan wrote of the South Puget Sound communities he grew up around and deeply understood. And Tim Egan, ’81, Chew’s fellow Daily reporter and a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, dips into his hometown understanding of the Northwest to explain the region to readers of The New York Times.

But when it comes to the story of people of color in the Pacific Northwest specifically, we often get it from a distance, says So. Who better to write a history of our community? adds Tsutakawa. “Ron has a mind and memory that is just unstoppable,” she says. And he has a profound dedication to Seattle’s Asian American community that at each of life’s junctions he returned to serve.
UW AND THE NEXT COMPUTING REVOLUTION

By
Andrew Engelson
Quantum physics is weird. Many an undergrad has been baffled by Schrödinger's cat in a box which could be both dead and alive until the box is opened. Some of us ponder how light exists as both a wave and particle. And our pandemic quarantine might give us time to work on understanding the notion of action at a distance in
which two entangled particles, separated by a great distance, change state instantaneously if one is observed.

It turns out these and other bizarre components of quantum physics are the foundation for a new kind of computer, one that promises to be substantially faster and more powerful than any that exists today. And UW researchers in physics, computer science, chemistry, engineering and materials science are training leaders in the burgeoning field of quantum information science and technology, or QIST.

QIST offers radically new advances in a variety of fields as well: ultrasensitive sensors to one day measure the firing of individual neurons in the brain, or completely secured encrypted communication.

Jim Pfaendtner, chemical engineering professor and chair of UW’s Chemical Engineering Department, notes that quantum computing could force us to jettison Moore’s Law, the dependable rule of thumb that asserts computing power tends to double every two years.

“You'll have a radical change in the type of a certain class of calculations—the scaling is massively higher,” Pfaendtner says. “So the number, the extent of calculations that you can begin to conceive of doing will really change overnight if this technology comes to pass.”

Calculations that would take thousands of years on classical computers could conceivably take just a few hours. The benefits are many, but there’s one striking potential impact: current security and encryption would be obsolete. “Today’s crypto-keys will not be secure when quantum computing is realized,” Pfaendtner says. “Because the computers will be exponentially faster.”

Not surprisingly, the U.S. government has taken notice, dedicating more than a billion dollars in 2020 to research efforts. In the past four years, UW has received $30 million in funding for QIST research, says Kai-Mei Fu, associate professor of physics and electrical and computer engineering.

Fu helps lead a lineup of regional quantum collaborations including Northwest Quantum Nexus, a research partnership among UW, Microsoft, and PNNL. She’s also a leader of the Quantum X initiative, which brings together UW researchers across disciplines. “Quantum X is a very typical bottom-up University of Washington endeavor,” Fu says. “We realized there are a lot of people doing quantum on campus. Our main goal is to connect everyone.”

Quantum X brings together principal investigators at UW in materials science, physics, electrical and computer engineering, and other disciplines integral to creating a quantum computer. “Building up connections between these disparate fields is really hard,” says Fu. “Some of the big ideas and major advances will come from the interaction of different fields.”

“The power of qubits comes from their ability to add these probabilistic wave-functions of information together,” she says. “Creating an exponentially more powerful and much faster way to do calculations.

But it turns out that creating a working qubit is fiendishly difficult. You need to manipulate a single atom or particle, which isn’t easy. Atoms interfere with one another, making precise measurements difficult unless you can isolate them. “We want to build a big, powerful, thick box to secure our quantum information,” Wiebe says. “But we don’t want it to be so secure that we can’t read it.”

That why Kai-Mei Fu is fascinated with diamonds.

“Part of the allure of a diamond isn’t that it’s a beautiful material,” she says. “It has nice properties, has very extreme properties. Part of it is more mundane—it’s pure enough that I can work with it without interference from a noisy environment.”

Fu and her colleagues specialize in creating minuscule defects in otherwise perfectly pure diamonds to manufacture qubits. Inside the lattice of carbon atoms that make up a diamond, you can sneak in two nitrogen atoms. This creates tiny flaws, or “vacancy centers,” that can, when brought down to super-cold temperatures, be manipulated to store information.

The trick is integrating those tiny empty spaces into an actual circuit. Much ballyhoo
surrounded the Google announcement in 2019 that it had built a rudimentary 53-qubit quantum computer that achieved “supremacy”—quickly solving a problem that classical computers would take much longer to figure out. Then last year, IBM announced it had constructed its own 64-qubit processor. But the results of these efforts are still tenuous, and just how successful these first efforts have been is hotly debated among scientists.

One big problem with qubits is that their relatively high error rate. Even after the atoms are isolated and manipulated, one concern is decoherence—a quantum effect that’s essentially a random change in the atom’s state, which can be caused by an electric or magnetic field, stray radiation or other environmental factors.

What Fu and her UW colleagues have focused on is creating improved interfaces between those tiny defects and a larger circuit that can manipulate the information contained in them. Working with UW’s Nanofabrication Facility, Fu says, “We can make devices that couple these defects to these photons. That’s huge.”

Three of Fu’s colleagues in the electrical & computer engineering department, Mo Li, Arka Majumdar and Karl Böhringer, received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant last fall to work on developing a microchip-sized steering system that coordinates multiple laser beams—which could eventual link more than 1,000 qubits. “It’s a huge engineering challenge for the field,” Böhringer says.

In another multidiscipline effort, Fu is leading a $3 million traineeship program also funded by the NSF that brings together UW graduate students across different fields to collaborate on QIST research. Fu says, “What’s really key is we’re bringing together students from different departments.”

A regional hub for quantum research

JUST WHAT QUANTUM computers will be applied to is a fascinating and potentially controversial question.

Wiebe notes one surprising application: fertilizer production. The chemical process for creating ammonia-based fertilizer has been around for over a hundred years. It’s fairly simple process, but one that consumes close to 1% of the world’s total energy use.

But now we know that bacteria have evolved to make ammonia at room temperature using an enzyme called nitrogenase. Using that enzyme on a large scale could significantly reduce global energy consumption. But the process isn’t well understood and can’t be replicated beyond a single cell. “Despite 100 years of trying,” Wiebe says, “nobody has actually been able to crack the problem of how exactly this kind of molecular knife that bacteria have discovered actually works.”

The complex chemistry—which includes heavy metals such as iron and molybdenum—can’t be modeled using existing computers. It would potentially take thousands to millions of years. But with a fully functional quantum computer, Wiebe predicts “we could actually simulate it in the span of a few hours.”

Savage points to another application on a much larger scale. “Take for instance, colliding neutron stars,” he says. “What happens in the densest part of that? Using a classical computer, we still don’t have answers with the precision we need.”

The potential to create a computer that can bypass existing cryptographic encryption is driving governments in the U.S. and China to massively scale up QIST funding. Wiebe says having a strategy now will help mitigate future security risks.

“Twenty years is enough time for us to develop some good tools. We really need to build up and make sure these things are reliable and can hold up against ordinary hackers in addition to the quantum hackers we’re going to be worried about in 20-plus years.”

Strangely enough, QIST also allows for the creation of perfectly secure communication networks. Based on quantum principles such as entanglement and the impossibility of copying a quantum state, quantum keys are packets of information that always bear a trace if observed. “What makes [quantum keys] completely secure is that as soon as someone tries to copy, disturb, or see the message, it leaves an imprint on the message that’s detectable,” says Fu. Even a quantum computer wouldn’t help overcome this perfectly secure key.

At the moment, the implications are merely theoretical. But as QIST researchers like those at UW advance and refine the technology, hard decisions will have to be made about who can use these tools. “We have to decide when we want to use this,” says Fu, “and when do we not want to use this?”

For now, the researchers are focused on advancing the technology, bolstered by a vibrant quantum research community in the Pacific Northwest. The UW, Microsoft, Amazon, and Intel, as well as PNNL and a host of quantum startups such as D-Wave Systems and 1QBit (both in British Columbia) are all making Cascadia a magnet for QIST research.

“One of the things that really attracted me to UW and the Pacific Northwest for quantum is the amazing synergies that are possible between all of these different organizations,” says Wiebe. “We’ve got an amazingly strong computer science department at UW. We’ve got very strong chemistry, as well as electrical engineering and physics departments—and surrounded by a wonderful collection of industrial partners.”

In a decade or two, we’ll know if computers are ready to take the next quantum leap.—Andrew Engelson is a freelance journalist and News Director at the South Seattle Emerald. He was the founder and editor of Cascadia Magazine.
Digital Dynamo

Over the past year, UW Libraries has undertaken a massive effort to significantly expand access to digital resources and develop new programs that teach students and faculty critical skills for research in a digital age. By Sheila Farr

Dr. Nettie Asberry was an early African American resident of Tacoma known for her work in fighting racism and in opening doors for women. She is believed to be the first African American woman in the US to receive a doctorate degree. Her story and more like it are available online thanks to the HathiTrust, a collective repository of digital content from research libraries from the US, Canada and Europe.

The “Poetry in America” series, featuring the works of Walt Whitman (below), is among the 250,000 new e-resources offered by the UW Libraries, thanks to a $220,000 investment that included funding from endowments and $80,000 from donors to the Libraries’ COVID Relief Fund.
ON APRIL 22, 1912, AN extraordinary opera premiered at Seattle’s Moore Theatre, with imported New York stars and a 65-member chorus. Billed as “the first grand opera ever written by an American woman,” “Narcissa” was composed by Seattle resident Mary Carr Moore and glorified the life of Washington pioneer Narcissa Whitman—one of the first two white women to cross the Rocky Mountains. Narcissa and her husband, Marcus, were killed in an 1847 Indian raid at the Walla Walla mission they founded on tribal lands. (Initially, they were declared innocent victims of a massacre. Historians have since re-evaluated that assessment.)

Now, more than 100 years later, a piano and voice score of “Narcissa,” signed by the composer, is part of a trove of rare music in the UW Library system that was recently conserved and digitized. Resewn and placed in a fresh binding, the score was photographed and made available online for the use of scholars here and around the world.

In recent years, the digitization of library materials has been a priority at the UW and other libraries around the world. But last year, the COVID-19 pandemic and the moving of instruction to remote learning pushed that process into overdrive. To make remote learning feasible, the role of libraries has expanded exponentially. And librarians have become essential teaching partners, helping faculty incorporate new software tools so students can keep their coursework on track from home.

“Moving to online teaching at warp speed was a huge challenge,” says Beth Kalikoff, director of the UW Seattle Center for Teaching and Learning. Fortunately, Kalikoff points out, UW Libraries was already leading the way in digital initiatives, even before the pandemic.

Last year, to facilitate remote learning, UW Libraries invested more than $220,000 to purchase more than 250,000 new e-resources—including funding from endowments and $80,000 from donors to the Libraries’ COVID Relief Fund. Among the new subscription services is Academic Video Online (AVON), the most comprehensive video subscription available to libraries. Offerings include current affairs documentaries such as “John Lewis: Good Trouble” and the “Frontline” episode “Policing the Police” as well as the “Poetry in America” series, cinema classics and film criticism. Comprising some 70,000 titles, AVON offers thousands of videos in American history, business and economics, arts and architecture, nursing and many others. The libraries have added individual science e-books and business case studies, as well.

Students in the performing arts have been especially hit hard by the shutdown. In response, arts librarians Madison Sullivan and Erin Conor worked quickly to expand access to online resources. The purchase of an enhanced subscription to the Classical Scores Library now brings musicians access to most major classical scores in a printable format, as well as harder-to-find contemporary works. Improved access to the Drama Online Core Collection made scripts to 1,700 new plays available, on top of existing classics. Particularly relevant right now is the New Play Exchange, which adds diversity to the playlist. Comprising work by living playwrights whose scripts may not have been easy to locate before, the database is searchable by racial, ethnic and gender identity, as well as by title and author. And as always, the department depends on its popular subscription to Shakespeare’s Globe on Screen, with videotaped performances from the Bard’s Globe Theatre in London.

Dance students have seen their studio practice upended by the pandemic. For them, access to streaming video has been more urgent than ever. Dance Online: Dance in Video offers documentaries and full performances by top 20th century performance groups and individuals, including the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Mark Morris, Donald McKayle, the American Ballet Theatre and the Dance Theatre of Harlem. For more cutting-edge recent works, students can turn to Seattle’s ontheboards.tv, which offers high-quality videos of full-length shows in dance, theater, music and multimedia performance.

But online learning means more than watching: impact and active participation are essential. To support faculty and students in creating and sharing their research openly, the libraries created the Open Scholarship Commons (OSC). The OSC is a one-stop hub for consultation, workshops, and events that connects the UW community across disciplines. This is the place where students and faculty can access a range of tools and guidance to create open digital books and exhibits, as well as hone new research skills in areas such as text mining or data visualization. They can learn new and more equitable ways to publish, and get assistance with the complexities of fair use, copyright and data.

A piano and voice score of the 1912 opera “Narcissa,” the “first grand opera ever written by an American woman,” is part of a vast collection of rare music that the UW Library system conserved and digitized.
The highly successful 2020 Black Lives Matter Storytelling Project (left) engaged students in timely, difficult conversations about race, racism and racial justice, thanks to the work of data and digital scholarship librarian Erika Bailey and professors Sonia De La Cruz and Tanya Grace Velasquez.

management—major stumbling blocks for many in the digital era. For now, the OSC exists online only, but when campus reopens there will be a welcoming physical space in Suzzallo Library as well.

Betsy Wilson, vice provost for digital initiatives and dean of university libraries, has led the libraries system for the past 20 years, a period of unprecedented change. With a staff of 350 in libraries serving three campuses, she has overseen a massive shift from print to digital formats. And as the core function of libraries shifted, she notes that the role of librarians evolved as well.

“Librarians and libraries staff are much more than a conduit to finding materials,” Wilson says. “In a typical year, our staff teach more than 800 instructional sessions. We work with faculty to design courses, teach research methodology and advise students on writing, research and all forms of digital scholarship, including data use and management, publishing and copyright.”

Last year, for example, data and digital scholarship librarian Erika Bailey teamed up with two UW Tacoma classes—led by Sonia De La Cruz, assistant professor of communication, and sociology professor Tanya Velasquez, who worked in collaboration on the 2020 Black Lives Matter Storytelling project. Students participated in group discussions and produced written stories, videos and other forms of creative work to explore their experiences related to the Black Lives Matter movement, race, racism and racial justice. With guidance from Bailey and content manager Adam Nolan, the students contributed their materials to a kaleidoscopic e-book using the program Pressbooks to mesh written content and video in a multimedia format that could then be publicly shared.

Part of Bailey’s task was working with faculty to instruct students on privacy considerations, including consent for use of work, understanding what it means to put students’ names and images on public media, helping students understand copyright issues and concerns. “Without Erika’s support, we would not have been able to translate this work into a digital publication,” De La Cruz says. “The students truly enjoy knowing that their work has the possibility of being shared and seen by others.”

One primary resource that’s been especially important for remote scholarship is HathiTrust, a collective repository of digital content from dozens of research libraries in the US, Canada and Europe. HathiTrust comprises a digital library, a research center, a shared network of print collections, and a portal to US federal documents and publications. HathiTrust also has a copyright review team to locate and open materials in the public domain. It’s the site where faculty and students can find the score of “Narcissa,” and other rare music

HathiTrust gives UW faculty and students access to a vast trove of information while enabling scholars around the world to dip into the UW’s rich archive. Due to copyright restrictions, not all materials in the database are universally available. However, during the move to remote learning, HathiTrust Emergency Temporary Access Service has allowed special access by current UW faculty, students and staff to more than 1.7 million electronic volumes of the UW Libraries print collection and items in the public domain (out of copyright). (Access does not extend to members of the UW Alumni Association, Friends of the UW Libraries or members of the public who purchase a UW library card.)

Helping faculty and students understand the complexities of copyright in the digital age is a big part of the transition to online learning, says Denise Pan, associate dean of university libraries for collections and content. With a book, she says, the library can simply buy a copy and check it out to whomever needs it. With digital licensing, the library must pay for different levels of access: for single or multiple users, for a restricted timeframe or perhaps a limited geographical use. That means a book could be available to students here in Washington, but international students might not be able to tap into it if they are abroad. To offer more equitable access for all students, Pan says, UW Libraries is encouraging instructors to work with librarians to find available online alternatives to some textbooks, sources that are already open, licensed to UW or both. As demand grows for subscription services and digital textbooks, prices do, too. With current and predicted budget shortfalls due to COVID, the library is reviewing existing databases, journals and subscriptions for potential cuts.

Yet even as digital needs increase, some parts of the library system still depend on good old fashioned print. That’s especially true of the library’s International Studies Units, where shipments of books and journals from East Central and Southeastern Europe, Russia and former Soviet republics, the Near East, South Asia and Southeast Asia continue to arrive regularly. Michael Biggins, the Slavic, Baltic and East European studies librarian, says that in some of those regions, access “to currently published, born-digital books and periodicals still ranges from highly restricted to nonexistent.”

Each year, Biggins says, his unit orders and processes up to 15,000 newly published books, many more periodicals and journals, as well as sound recordings, musical scores and other papers. But with the libraries closed, boxes and parcels began to pile up. As soon as it became possible, a few multilingual staffers in the department, using safety protocols, began going to campus once every other week to sort the shipments from around the world and deliver them to workers at home. The material—published in dozens of different languages and scripts—must be matched to the orders, entered into the UW online system, and linked with metadata so that it can be easily located and accessed. After the materials are processed, members of the team drive from house to house, recover the boxes and deliver them back to the library into queues for proper routing and shelving.

Also, as the governor’s restrictions allowed, some staff resumed work behind the scenes at library facilities to initiate curbside pickup for books and interlibrary loan materials that are not digitally accessible. They too faced a huge backlog of mail and invoices, accumulated boxes of acquisitions, and, of course, the task of locating, pulling and checking out current materials for pickup.

But if anything has been made clear during this pandemic year, it’s this: Checking out books is no longer the main duty of libraries. “The thing that has impressed me in these weird times is how important remote access to resources is,” says Moriah Caruso, digital preservation librarian and collective collections strategy librarian. “It’s more equitable: The working moms in school don’t have to come into the library during open hours, or at all... It’s forced us to learn and grow. If there is any silver lining, we have proven we can move quickly to change our services.”

For Dean Wilson, who will be retiring at the end of the school year, making the libraries user friendly has long been a priority. Now more than ever, the library system serves as the lifeblood of the University.

“Libraries are so much more than a place to study and access materials,” Wilson says. “No matter what year of study, major or what department someone comes from—everyone uses the libraries. The ways that people use the libraries has shifted during COVID, obviously, but the role of libraries as a gateway to knowledge and support for teaching, learning and research has not.”

—Sheila Farr is an author and former visual art critic for The Seattle Times and a frequent contributor to UW Magazine.
From Their Home to Yours

Native storytellers share insight into sense of place

By Quinn Russell Brown

What does the word “home” mean to you? While the COVID-19 pandemic has forced all of us to spend more time indoors than we used to, the Native American sense of place has long carried a deeply felt, poignant role in life, no matter the circumstances. The UW Alumni Association recently invited a group of Native storytellers for a virtual event to discuss the meaning of sense of place. The event, “Short Talks: Home,” is the latest edition of a series based on stories told by people from the UW community (topics in previous “Short Talks” events have included “Art” and “Love”).

Standing in front of a Meany Hall living room set adorned with a floor rug, a warm lamp and a leather chair draped in Native blankets, the speakers shared moving stories, poems and declarations. Tyson Johnston, the vice president of the Quinault Indian Nation, welcomed the audience to the event. “It should be known that Indian humor is used as an important tool to not only laugh, but also to teach, to heal and to keep one humble, especially in the face of great evil and hard struggle,” said Johnston, a former UW student.

Casey Wyecncoo, assistant director of Intellectual House, organized and moderated the event. The planning started well before the pandemic. Rehearsals, like most meetings, moved to Zoom. Spotty WiFi and connectivity issues at times interrupted the process. “It was similar to the issues youth on reservations and from rural areas are facing every day trying to attend online classes,” said Wyecncoo, ’16. Nevertheless, the show went on, as Wyecncoo, Johnston and three other speakers stayed committed to bringing their stories to the UW audience.

There is no simple definition of home for Native people. “Indian Country is comprised of hundreds of different tribes, nations and communities, and within those, smaller bands and families,” said Wyecncoo. “Here in the Northwest, there are 29 tribes in Washington alone.” The communities and tribes represented in “Short Talks: Home” included Tanana Athabascan, Quinault, Spokane and Suquamish. The other speakers included Dian Million, the wonderful poet who has been called the heart and soul of the UW’s American Indian Studies department; Gena Peone, ’08, the archivist for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; and Robin Little Wing Sigo, ’06, the treasurer for the Suquamish Tribe. “Home is central to who I am today,” Peone told the audience. “This land is special because it has been the land of my ancestors. There is a familiarity even when I come to a place that I have probably never set foot.”

The recorded video is available on UWAA’s website through April 4. Watch it here: UWalum.com/short-talks-home-event-wrap-up
VIN GUPTA
— Public Health Physician
— TV Contributor for NBC News and MSNBC
— UW Affiliate Professor of Health Metric Sciences
— Major in the Air Force Medical Corps Reserves

In the last 12 months, he has brought his health policy and epidemic preparedness expertise to national TV hundreds of times. He uses the platform to correct misinformation about the pandemic, promoting the guidance of doctors and scientists. He’s helping us make sense of it all.

Pulmonary/critical care is a field that allows you to care for the most critically ill patients. The pandemics that bring the world to a halt are generally respiratory pandemics.

I come from a medical family. My mother is a pediatrician and my brother, a pulmonologist. Mine was sort of the default path. It was what I was used to seeing and I liked what I saw.

But I rarely recognized that being a clinician 99% of the time wasn’t what made me happy. I had a set of skills and strengths that allowed me to explore different spaces like public health and international relations. In college, I studied abroad in South Africa and developed an interest in foreign policy.

Today, I’m a part-time ICU doc at Virginia Mason. I also have my Air Force obligations and a healthy amount of my time is spent helping to guide Amazon’s internal and external response to COVID-19.

I never went into this wanting to be a TV doctor, but now I feel duty bound to continue because I feel that people trust me. I try to stay in my lane and try to just help people.

When I was invited to regularly share my expertise on television, I felt ready for the moment. I had done some communications for the media whenever I was asked to. I think my clinical experience, my military experience, and my communications background are ingredients in being an effective communicator.
Ingrid Thoft earned a certificate in private investigation from the University of Washington in 2009, but don’t expect to see her walking the streets on misty Seattle evenings shadowing a wayward spouse, tracking a missing person or hunting for a Maltese Falcon.

Instead, Thoft uses the P.I. skills she learned to write her award-winning detective novels featuring hard-nosed private eye Fina Ludlow. Thoft credits UW’s private-investigation program with helping her create a believable main character who uses tried-and-true sleuthing methods to work through complicated situations. “I had three terrific instructors, and they were all women attorneys, which was very inspiring to me,” Thoft remembers. “They each spoke about the importance of finding justice for people, and that’s what I try to create in my characters. Fina speaks for people who have no voice.”

The courses also included numerous guest lecturers—state and local police, forensic scientists and security analysts—who spoke about cyber investigations, surveillance techniques, accident reconstruction and interviewing procedures. Students even took field trips, such as visiting the morgue.

After completing the courses, Thoft says, “I didn’t feel compelled to get my license. But I learned to appreciate the hard work those people do and how they interview people.” Thoft has published four Fina Ludlow novels. Her first, “Loyalty” (2013), was nominated for the Shamus Award, given by the Private Eye Writers of America for best debut private-eye novel, and won the Spotted Owl Award, given by the Friends of Mystery for best first novel. She has also written “Identity” (2014), then “Brutality” (2015).
Dick’s
Dynasty

Taking over from his dad, Jim Spady, ’83, kept Seattle’s favorite burger joint jumping

By David Volk

Years before Donald Trump refused to concede the results of the 2020 US presidential election, Jim Spady, ’83, found himself in the middle of a case of electoral fraud of his own. And he couldn’t believe how blatant it was.

As the UW School of Law grad tells it, he was watching a count during a 2010 election when a sudden surge of votes from the north, all apparently from the same person. Within minutes, a similar surge came from the south. After realizing one person voted 30,000 times, Spady knew he had to do something.

“We went on local television, held a press conference and we told them, ‘We know who you are. We know your IP address. If you don’t stop this right away, we are going to take away your burger privileges for life.’”

A lifetime ban on burgers can be a pretty steep consequence, especially when the privilege is to get them from Dick’s Drive-Ins. Spady, then the company’s vice president and legal counsel, knew the threat was more amusing than enforceable, but what else can you do when you ask your customers to vote on where to open your first new location in more than 30 years and some people start to cheat?

“We were watching that at the time. We knew what else can you do when you ask your customers to vote on where to open your first new location in more than 30 years and some people start to cheat?”

The funny thing is, when Spady graduated from the UW Law School in 1983, he never expected to preside over a plebiscite to expand consumer access to burgers and fries. Instead, he planned to be a commercial litigator awaiting the decisions of a judge or the vote of a jury. He was off to a good start as an attorney—first at the prestigious Seattle firm of Bogle & Gates, and years later on his own—when his dad, Dick, told Jim he was in a pickle.

After 30-some years in the burger biz, a shake-up was in the offing. His father’s partners wanted to sell and the senior Spady didn’t. Would Jim please take time off and see the family firm through the buyout and maybe work the front office for a while? His father was 67 and focused on his “legacy” projects. He did not want to return to the office full time.

“I was only going to stay for 10 years, but you know how things go. I got comfortable there, and 30 years later I retired,” he said in a phone interview while sitting on the deck of his getaway condo in Hawaii. COVID-19-related travel restrictions notwithstanding, his choice of retirement locale may be fairly typical, but his career was anything but. That’s probably to be expected when you go from being part of a widely respected establishment in the Northwest legal community to running a beloved Seattle institution. “We’re not a major icon of the city like the Space Needle or the Columbia Tower…We are a beloved minor icon of Seattle,” he says, adding: “A mighty tasty one, too.”

The regional chain’s secret sauce is its inexpensive, high-quality food, good wages and benefits, and its status as a community gathering place for generations. Spady says. “We’re the memory you had of coming here when you’re a teenager. We’re the memory you have when you’re on a date or when you drove a car for the first time. Where did you go? When there was a big win at Husky Stadium, where did you go to celebrate afterward? Dick’s Drive-Ins,” he says.

Spady didn’t change a thing when he took over. Instead, he focused on getting the chain out of the debt incurred to buy out the other two founding partners. But once that happened many years later, his father agreed to build another restaurant. That’s when Jim’s wife, Fawn, suggested having Dick’s customers vote on where to open a new restaurant, based on the major headings of a compass.

Spady knew Dick’s was popular, but was still surprised to get 115,000 real votes despite the ballot box stuffing. “North” beat “South” and “East” and the new restaurant opened in Edmonds in 2011 on a property that was owned by a family that used to stop at the Dick’s in Lake City on their way to Husky games.

Although an Esquire online reader poll chose the drive-in as its “Most Life Changing Burger Joint” in 2012 without any lobbying effort on Jim’s part, the family isn’t above self-promotion. When representatives for Macklemore in 2013 were producing a video for the song “White Walls,” and wanted to shoot a scene where the singer drives by the Dick’s on Capitol Hill, Jim’s son, Saul, convinced them to also have the rapper perform on the restaurant’s roof. It was Saul’s brainchild, but John Denver-loving Jim first had to convince the family it was a good idea, despite the risqué lyrics. “It’s a little different. But they agreed to do it. And when you actually listen to the music video,” he added sheepishly, “You don’t hear all the lyrics, which is good, right?”

Spady retired in 2019, just a few months after the company opened a “South” continued on page 51
The Culture Crew

Three alumni lead the cultural funding agency for King County, broadening support for underrepresented communities

By Malavika Jagannathan

In early March 2020, Brian J. Carter, ’08, leaned forward in his office chair at 4Culture, King County’s cultural funding agency, to do some quick back-of-the-napkin math. The looming loss of revenue for the nation’s arts-and-culture industry was staggering: nearly half a billion dollars.

As 4Culture’s executive director, Carter knew the arts-and-culture sector would face devastating losses as one of the pandemic’s first victims. By the time the statewide stay-at-home order was issued in late March, Carter saw his initial estimates balloon. Theaters went dark, museums shuttered, and many artists had no foreseeable income. The agency had a monumental task ahead.

4Culture is a driving force in the region’s creative landscape—supporting every-thing from the Seattle Shakespeare Company to up-and-coming multimedia artists. King County residents encounter 4Culture’s influence when they step inside a museum, read poetry on a Metro bus poster or stroll past a colorful mural.

Historically, philanthropists who supported arts and culture often overlooked marginalized communities. 4Culture aims to reverse that trend. When Carter took on the executive director role in 2018, he renewed the agency’s mission—to fund, support and advocate for culture in King County—with racial equity at its core. “I want to position 4Culture as an innovative, experimental place,” says Carter. “To do that, we had to make a commitment to racial equity as a featured focus of the way we work and see ourselves.”

Behind the scenes, you’ll find him working with two other Husky alums—Joshua Heim, ’10, and Chieko Phillips, ’11—to make the cultural ecosystem more equitable, accessible and inclusive. One example is the grants they give to organizations in underserved communities to build or renovate their physical spaces.

Their commitment to equity brought the three to 4Culture in the first place—and it has remained the agency’s North Star in its pandemic response.

Growing up in Yakima, Carter was painfully aware of how rarely museums reflected the lives of people like him, the biracial son of an African American father and Hispanic mother. Armed with a history degree and an insatiable curiosity, he realized that he wanted to create something he’d never seen: a Black history museum.

He found the UW’s Museology Master of Arts program at the right moment. As a student, Carter discovered that the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle not only shared his dream but was making it come true. By the time the Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) opened its doors two years later, he was a full-time staff member.

Over the next 14 years as a museum professional, Carter was frustrated with how infrequently marginalized communities were reflected in the staff, programming and exhibits of most mainstream museums. Change was slow, in part, because organizations worried about losing donors. But Carter saw how powerful funders could be in advocating for increased diversity and equity through financial support. He was especially drawn to the community-wide reach of 4Culture.

“There’s something fascinating about a public funding agency, because public dollars should fulfill the highest public good,” Carter explains. “When you get lost,
you can ask, ‘Is this in the best interests of as many people as possible?’”

**Reflecting all stories**

At the Northwest African American Museum, Carter met an intern named Chieko Phillips who had moved across the country to attend the UW’s museology graduate program. Her love of history—and interest in how museums inspire learning—was sparked by childhood visits to places like the Museum of Civil Rights in Memphis, Tenn.

“The topics that can be explored in a museum don’t just have to be things that happened in the past,” says Phillips, who grew to realize that museums also reflect what is important to society today. And when Phillips, who identifies as Black and Japanese American, looked for how people of color showed up in the narratives, she often found their stories relegated to the side.

NAAM was different from other history museums, bridging the gap between the past and the present. One of the first projects Phillips helped with looked at health disparities disproportionately affecting African Americans. It offered both historical context and preventative tips from health care professionals.

The museology program gave her an inside look at the varied “forces that work around museums and give them power.” 4Culture, she noted, was a place to help solve broad problems that many cultural institutions struggle with, such as acknowledging and addressing their own histories of racism and exclusion. Today she is the agency’s heritage lead. “4Culture has all the ingredients that feed my curiosity as to how to better serve all of the public, heritage field and cultural sectors,” she says. “It’s the curiosity that’s followed me throughout my career. Why is this happening? Can this be different? Where are people of color in this?”

**Building a cultural ecosystem**

Like his colleagues, Joshua Heim has had a lifelong curiosity about culture. Growing up in Hawaii, he was fascinated by hula, an Indigenous dance form whose drumbeats and chants are the soundtrack of the islands. Learning hula sparked something bigger in Heim, an Asian American; he admired hula’s role in Native Hawaiian activism for sovereignty and self-determination.

Understanding culture as a tool of community empowerment inspired Heim to earn a master’s degree in cultural studies from UW Bothell and an international development certificate through the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance. Arts and culture “are significant to our society and critical in helping us become better versions of ourselves,” says Heim. “With COVID, we’re starting to understand what it means when we can’t be together and have shared experience.”

Heim joined the 4Culture team as deputy director in late 2019. It’s his dream job, working at the crossroads of arts, culture and community. “All the good things that most people like about their communities are cultural in nature, whether it’s a festival, a local civic organization or an old building that anchors your main street,” he says. Heim leads the agency’s COVID-19 recovery task force. He says that 4Culture’s mission—to create opportunities for all people to help shape that cultural legacy for future generations—is even more critical as the agency helps organizations and artists recover from the pandemic.

**Equity in a global crisis**

The pandemic has transformed the way 4Culture supports the creative community, but it hasn’t altered that central commitment to equity. With programs canceled and physical spaces closed, cultural workers have faced a significant loss of income and opportunity. Creative people in marginalized communities have been especially vulnerable. Carter looked at 4Culture’s original 2020 plan and returned to his guiding-light question: “Is this in the best interests of the public at this moment?”

Switching gears, 4Culture has issued emergency grants to artists and organizations and distributed more than $4 million in federal relief funding from the CARES Act. The agency has helped organizations install Plexiglass barriers so they can reopen under state guidelines, supported virtual programming like online art classes for refugee youth and seniors, and helped cultural workers afford necessities like groceries and child care. They built equity into that process by earmarking additional funding for communities in King County with the lowest incomes and highest need.

Now Carter, Phillips and Heim are looking past the pandemic and brainstorming ways to continue their work with a smaller budget. One of 4Culture’s revenue sources is the county’s lodging tax. Fewer visitors during the pandemic means less money for 4Culture’s grant programs.

“Many people want me to predict what the future of culture is going to look like post-COVID,” says Carter. “I am much more interested in how we use this opportunity to create a significant policy change that brings us to more racially equitable outcomes. If we have not moved the needle on where the money goes and who it goes to, then we have not succeeded.”

**MEDIA**

The Last Story of Mina Lee
By Nancy Jooyoun Kim, ’06
4 Park Row, 2020
This New York Times bestseller delivers the story of a mother’s mysterious death and her daughter’s journey home to Los Angeles’ Koreatown to uncover the truth of their pasts. The book is told from two perspectives: Margot, the daughter of a Korean immigrant mother, and Mina, who fled Korea to make her own future in America. This is a Reese’s Book Club pick. Kim, who lives in Oakland, California, has an MFA in Creative Writing from the UW.

We Had Fun in Quarantine
By Lacey J. Heinz, ’18, and Hannah Moore
Archway Publishing, 2020
This is a lighthearted look at what a family does together while social distancing. With messages about hand washing and mask wearing and clever illustrations that capture not only the children in action but the parents in their own quarantine experiences, this book celebrates family time. Heinz, who has a master’s in education from UW Tacoma, kept early readers in mind as she paired her careful text with Moore’s playful illustrations.

Latinx Photography in the United States: A Visual History
By Elizabeth Ferrer
UW Press, 2021
From the early days of the medium, Latinx photographers have documented the daily lives of ordinary people as well as the Latino community’s pursuit of dignity and justice. Their work touches on family, identity, protest, borders and themes including the experiences of immigration and marginalization, yet it has been largely unrecognized in surveys of American photography. This book celebrates 80 artists. Without them, “the way we understand the history of photography simply is not complete,” author Elizabeth Ferrer said at a recent Town Hall Seattle event. This book is an introduction to Latinx photography, one that will hopefully lead to further study and recognition.
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
Thoft  Continued from page 46


Thoft describes Fina as a tough-willed woman who works as an investigator in her family’s legal business. She’s often at odds with her father, a high-powered lawyer and—like in most families—she must balance family loyalty with personal issues. One thing she struggles with is the knowledge that a relative has been a sexual abuser.

Her work has been optioned by Hollywood studios, which makes her wonder about who would be best to bring her gumshoe to life. “I think Scarlett Johansson, Emma Stone and Florence Pugh would all make great Finas,” she says.

Thoft’s writing career began when she was a youngster, when she created a newspaper that was read by two people: her parents. Later, she wrote for her high school newspaper, then earned a B.A. in liberal arts from Wellesley College in 1993. Afterward, she worked in the Office of Human Resources at Harvard University and at tech companies, writing internal communications and ghostwriting speeches for upper management.

She moved to Seattle after her husband, Doug Barrett, joined Microsoft as a senior software developer. To further her writing goals and meet new people, she began taking classes at the UW, earning a certificate in screenwriting in 2008, then studied private investigation to inform her detective stories. “I’ve always enjoyed detective fiction, and for years I’ve wanted to write a professional sleuth and really wanted to know my stuff,” she says. “I didn’t want her to be a caricature.”

Meeting readers at book signings—and elsewhere—is thrilling, she says. “I was working out at my health club and heard people talking about my work. When one of the women pointed me out, the other gasped, ‘You’re Ingrid Thoft?’ She didn’t recognize me from my book jacket photo because I was so sweaty,” she says. Interestingly, the Thofts are no strangers to Seattle. Her father, Richard, did his surgical internship at UW Medicine-Harborview Medical Center and her mother, Judith, earned a master’s in child psychology at UW in 1962.— Freelance writer Benjamin Gleisser is a frequent contributor to UW Magazine

Spady  Continued from page 47

location in Kent. Dick’s is now hoping to open a location on the Eastside. Once again, customers will play a role in picking the city, but they’ll vote with their feet this time around, Spady says. That’s because the restaurant has recently launched a mobile food truck that is visiting many metro Seattle locations and tracking which areas are most popular.

Once the Eastside location opens, that will leave one last point on the compass: West. While the company will likely focus initially on the larger population areas north, south and east of Seattle, Spady is convinced that a restaurant west of Seattle will happen, probably in a location like Bremerton or Silverdale. If he had his way, however, “west” will also eventually include Hawaii. He admits it could be a logistical nightmare, but it would be a great benefit for staffers in both states. Those who work on the mainland could do a stint in Hawaii, and islanders could work for a time on the mainland.

Besides, he misses having his weekly burger from Dick’s. “They have OK burgers here,” he says, “but it’s not the same thing”—Freelance writer David Volk loves chocolate shakes from Dick’s
Standing Tall

By Jamie Swenson

His journey took him from the UW to professional basketball and back. But it’s in the special education classroom that Anthony Washington, ’16, ’19, is making a lasting difference.
As a student at Garfield High School, Anthony Washington would walk by a special education classroom and sometimes see friends who’d been sent there for being disruptive.

“Hold up!” Washington remembers thinking, his deep voice rising an octave. “Why is so-and-so in there?”

Special education, implemented properly, can be transformative. It provides critical support for students with disabilities, helping them engage and succeed in school and beyond. But what Washington was seeing was different—and in his experience, it would become an alarming pattern, especially for young men of color.

Though his friends may have acted out in class, the root causes of their behavior—trauma, violence, poverty—weren’t being addressed. Instead, the special education classroom was used to keep them from distracting others in general education classes. And in missing those classes, his friends were falling further behind. It was unfair both to Washington’s friends and to the students who did benefit from special education.

FROM THE BASKETBALL COURT TO THE CLASSROOM

But back then, Washington was focused on basketball, not school. His junior and senior years, he played on a Garfield team brimming with talent—including future Huskies Brandon Roy, Will Conroy and Tre Simmons—and a basketball scholarship brought Washington to the UW in 2002. But after two years fraught with injury and frustration, he transferred to Portland State University and then left for a decade-long professional basketball career abroad.

With stints in Germany, Qatar and the Dominican Republic, Washington says, “I kept thinking I was about to make it to the NBA.” But eventually, repeated injuries forced him to face a different reality.

He took stock of his options: “I decided to hold myself accountable. My mom had gone back to school. My grandparents were educators. Why did I feel like basketball was the only route I could take? I was like, ‘Man, I want to teach.’”

Washington hung up his sneakers in 2015 and reenrolled in the UW to become a teacher. This time, he was focused.

“It was all about not letting an opportunity fade,” he says of his second chance at a degree. “I pursued it wholeheartedly.”

Washington’s confidence grew. He made the dean’s list. And in 2016, he earned his bachelor’s in American ethnic studies and landed a job as a substitute special education instructional assistant at a Seattle-area middle school.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

On his first day, Washington took in the classroom. “It was me and eight Black boys in a room. I didn’t have any instructions. I wasn’t told what to do with them. I started to realize: I’m 6’10”, I’m 270 pounds,” he recalls. “I think I’m just supposed to control these kids.”

But he didn’t want to control them. He wanted to teach them.

The job became permanent, and Washington encountered a familiar, frustrating theme: the misuse of the special education classroom, and its connection to the criminal justice system for a disproportionate number of young Black men.

He remembered the fate of several of his high school friends: Sent to special education for behavioral issues without help for the underlying causes, they were considered problem students and more likely to face disciplinary actions like suspension. As they watched their teachers’ confidence in them wane, they lost confidence in themselves. School wasn’t serving them, and they eventually stopped attending; some got involved with gangs or drugs, and some were now in prison.

Once they’d been labeled disruptive or difficult, it was as if his friends—and their teachers—were locked into that narrative.

Washington worried that some of his middle school students were headed toward a similar future: “When I would get called to gen-ed classrooms my students were in, it was because teachers wanted me to carry them out. It wasn’t like, ‘Hey, I need you to have a conversation with this guy.’ It was ‘I need him out of my room.’”

Washington’s goal came into focus: He wanted to be a mentor and advocate, giving students the empathy and accountability that seemed lacking. He decided to become a full-fledged special ed teacher. And that meant returning to the UW once more.

A CLEAN SLATE

In 2017, Washington enrolled in the master’s program in special education at the UW College of Education. His second year, he was selected for a graduate-student teaching position at the Experimental Education Unit (EEU) at the UW’s Haring Center for Inclusive Education. It was a game-changer, providing both financial assistance and teaching experience.

At the EEU, children with and without disabilities learn alongside one another. “All the kids there are so curious,” says Washington with a broad smile. “They’re interested in everything—they’re a clean slate. This is probably what my middle schoolers used to act like. It reminded me that their curiosity is still there. It helped me stand tall on that.”

LIFE LESSONS

Washington is now in his second year as a special education teacher at Garfield High. His connection to the Garfield community gives him a strong stake in his students’ growth, and his UW and EEU training helps him create an inclusive environment where his special education students thrive—and helps him advocate for each student to be in the right learning environment for them.

“If you’re not able to take certain classes because you’re kicked out all the time, you’re not just hurt on a daily basis,” Washington says. “You’re hurt in the long run.”

He adds, “I’m big on accountability, because that’s what my students need. But I’ve got to be compassionate.”

Sometimes Washington shares lessons from his own life, speaking frankly of his regrets about leaving the UW during his undergrad years. In describing how he ultimately took responsibility for his future, he hopes to be a role model.

Washington is grateful for the opportunities he’s had. “The UW and the EEU—and the scholarship funding—set me up to reach these kids. To give kids who got written off a chance to get their life together. Maybe even go to college.”
Art has always been vital to Miranda Belarde-Lewis, whether it tells a new story or conveys ancient knowledge. It’s also deeply personal. On her mother’s side, Belarde-Lewis is Takdeintaan Clan from the Tlingit tribe, one of several Native groups in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest who tell stories of Raven, a traditional trickster figure. On her father’s side, she’s Zuni Pueblo, a tribe in the Southwest U.S. known for their painting, pottery, jewelry and other arts.

In high school in New Mexico, Belarde-Lewis learned about and created Zuni art, taking field trips to Phoenix’s Heard Museum and entering work in student competitions. In college, she interned with the Arizona State Museum’s office of American Indian Relations during the week and sold Native art at a local gallery on weekends.

It’s no surprise, then, that Native art is still prominent in the life of Belarde-Lewis, an assistant professor in the University of Washington Information School (iSchool) who earned her master’s in museology (’07) and master’s (’11) and doctorate (’13) in information science at the UW.

Her nearly two decades of work with museums—including the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian, the Santa Fe Museum of Contemporary Native Art, the Suquamish Museum on the Kitsap Peninsula and many others—has brought her closer to Native art from across North America. It has also immersed her in a troubling truth: “Colonialism is at the root of museum practice. The showcasing, the spoils of war, conquests and exploration. That’s how museums got started.”

Even today, Belarde-Lewis says, Native art is often placed in natural-history museums, as artifacts rather than art on its own merits: “There we are, right along with the dinosaurs and all the other long, long-ago objects.”

Through her scholarship and independent curation work with Native artists, Belarde-Lewis is helping bring Native voices and vision to spaces traditionally dominated by colonialism.

That focus was a perfect fit for the iSchool’s Native North American Indigenous Knowledge research initiative; in 2020 Belarde-Lewis was named the inaugural Joseph and Jill McKinstry Endowed Faculty Fellow in Native North American Indigenous Knowledge. The three-year award was created by Jill McKinstry, ’69, ’73, ’87, who was the equity-focused and action-oriented director of Odegaard Undergraduate Library for 17 years, and her husband, Joe. The philanthropic support will help Belarde-Lewis apply for federal grants, involve students in her research and bring speakers to the UW community.

The UW’s collegial atmosphere for Native and Indigenous scholars was part of what drew her here as a graduate student—and why she returned in 2018 as a faculty member.

THE INDIGENOUS CURATOR

How is an Indigenous curator different from a Western curator? “The narrative changes when the people whose objects are there, are in the room,” Belarde-Lewis explains. “When they create the labels, the texts and the sequence by which visitors from other communities will encounter this group of objects.”
How is an Indigenous curator different from a Western curator? “The narrative changes when the people whose objects are there, are in the room.”

Take “Raven and the Box of Daylight,” an exhibition Belarde-Lewis helped curate for Tacoma’s Museum of Glass and which will appear at the National Museum of the American Indian in 2022. Showcasing the stunning blown glass of Seattle-based Tlingit artist Preston Singletary, the exhibition captures one of dozens of Raven stories: Originally a white bird living in a world cast in darkness, Raven tricks a nobleman who’s hoarding the light into handing over the stars, moon and sun, illuminating the world.

From inception to exhibition, Belarde-Lewis worked with Singletary for four years on the exhibit. Together, they considered who has the authority to tell Raven stories, the challenge of giving oral history a physical form, and how best to tell it through glass. Belarde-Lewis had to wrestle with the fact that there are many versions of the same story—be they from a Tlingit storyteller in Whitehorse, Yukon, Canada; from Sitka, Alaska; or from Juneau. This is the level of nuance and care that an Indigenous curator can infuse into an exhibit.

“Native peoples are not a monolith,” says Belarde-Lewis. “We worked very hard not to offend our fellow Tlingits by privileging just one story.”

LAYERS OF KNOWLEDGE

Belarde-Lewis’ research includes Indigenous systems of knowledge, the many layers contained in a complex work of art—a culture’s language, ecology, politics, history, spirituality and more.

She explains this concept to her classes with a totem pole as an example: “You can learn about the tree a totem pole was made from. Its imagery represents a story or a person and can give you political insight into whose territory you’re on. It can teach you about how artists are manipulating the material itself—through carving, burning, burnishing or painting. And it can teach you about Indigenous concepts of physics and engineering, because they had to lift that pole up.”

Each community has a unique relationship with the animals, plants, land and waters. “And that influences how communities have developed their sense of themselves. That’s where my work as a curator and scholar tie together, because I bring a deep-seated respect and awareness to my work.

“I know there’s a lot I can learn about any Native artist or community I work with,” she continues. “But I’m extremely mindful that there’s a whole bunch that is not for me to know.”

THE FUTURE OF THE FIELD

Once COVID-19 restrictions ease off, Belarde-Lewis aims to use funding from her fellowship to bring speakers to campus. In the meantime, she’s focused on supporting the Native scholars of tomorrow.

“Mentoring the next generation is where you build sustainability,” she says. “Native communities have been doing this for thousands of generations.”

There are fewer than a dozen specialists in Indigenous information science in North America, but the future looks promising at the iSchool, where two other Native faculty—Clarita Left-handed-Begay and Sandy Littletree, also UW graduates—contribute to research, teaching and mentoring the next generation in this burgeoning field.

With the help of her fellowship, Belarde-Lewis hopes to bolster the UW’s Indigenous community and continue work toward a world in which Native American art is more carefully curated and appreciated for its rich artistic merits.

“This is as close to a dream situation as we could have for a Native person pursuing this type of work,” she says. “It comes from the McKinstrys. It comes from the Native North American Indigenous Knowledge initiative. There’s no other iSchool in the world that has a program like this.”
The UW in Your Backyard

By Korynne Wright Chair, UW Foundation Board

You may not see as much purple and gold east of the Cascades as you do in Montlake, but there are thousands of Huskies with central and eastern Washington roots. I should know—I’m one of them!

I was born and raised in Yakima. Both of my parents went to the UW, as did my three siblings and I.

I return to Yakima to see my family often. When I visit in the spring, it brings me great joy to see purple “New Husky” signs in yards, indicating that someone has just been admitted to the UW. I remember well my feeling of excitement when I learned I’d be heading to the UW the following fall. That I would be a Husky.

Although our campuses in Seattle, Bothell and Tacoma welcome thousands of students who have uprooted themselves for an education in the greater metro area, it’s not a one-way street. The University of Washington is the University for all Washington, and we meet Washingtonians in their communities, be they in Neah Bay, Ellensburg or Colville.

In Spokane, we train the doctors of tomorrow in partnership with Gonzaga University, and eastern Washington students can stay in their communities while they complete most of their medical training—and then serve there.

In Forks, the UW’s Olympic Natural Resources Center brings expertise from forestry, ocean and fishery sciences together with local commercial interests, all for the benefit of rural and urban communities.

In the Yakima Valley last spring, community organizations partnered with the UW-based Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center to create COVID-19 safety messages for Washington’s mostly Spanish-speaking agricultural workforce.

In the Methow Valley, UW ecologists work with members of the community to manage their forests and mitigate the size, strength and impact of annual forest fires.

And throughout our state and region, UW Medicine’s Airlift Northwest transports 3,600 injured and critically ill patients a year to appropriate care centers.

These are, of course, just a few of the many UW people and programs working to serve others across our state. And every year, thousands of UW graduates return to their communities and begin making an impact themselves.

When you support a UW program in your community—or contribute to a scholarship that helps a student from your community—you help us fulfill our mission as the University for Washington.

I invite you to learn more about what the UW is doing in your backyard. uw.edu/in-your-community
The bug-size camera seen here on the back of a Pinacate beetle may be small—but it’s an innovation with a big impact. Until now, even the most diminutive cameras have been too heavy and energy inefficient for tiny robots—or critters—to carry. But this lightweight wireless camera, created by a team of UW engineering faculty and students, is so petite it can be mounted on an insect. The researchers tested the removable camera on two beetles and a miniature robot; they hope to create an even lighter version that can be carried by flying insects like moths.

The camera not only took and streamed a bug’s-eye video to a nearby smartphone, but it also captured panoramic views, thanks to a robotic arm that expands the camera’s arc of vision. An insect or robot outfitted with a remotely operated mini camera could help monitor soil conditions, locate pests or explore tight spaces like pipes.

The College of Engineering hopes to create more campus spaces to foster innovative, collaborative research projects like this one. Plans are underway to build a new interdisciplinary engineering building, with hands-on research, instruction and collaboration areas where faculty and students can learn and work together.

Create collaborative spaces. When you support the construction of a new interdisciplinary building for the College of Engineering, you can help spark collaboration and innovation.
giving.uw.edu/interdisciplinary-engineering

I invite you to learn more about what the UW is doing in your backyard.
wu.edu/in-your-community
Many Husky student-athletes have gone on to careers in the pros, the Olympics and World Championships: Crew, football, women’s volleyball, softball, men’s and women’s basketball, you name it. Now you can add ice hockey to that list.

Ryan Minkoff, ’15, became the first student-athlete from the Husky club hockey team to make it to the professional hockey ranks when he signed with a Finnish minor league team. Minkoff, now a Seattle-based hockey agent, recounts his “unconventional” tale in his new book, “Thin Ice: A Hockey Journey from Unknown to Elite and the Gift of a Lifetime.”

A native of hockey-mad Minnesota and a big fan of the perennial powerhouse University of Minnesota hockey program, Minkoff played schoolboy hockey and set his sights on playing Division I college hockey. Since Union College in upstate New York showed little interest in him, Ryan considered going to Penn State, which is known for its strong club hockey program, or the UW (his mother is from Mount Vernon), “I thought I could help put UW club hockey on the map,” he says. So westward he came.

With Minkoff on board, the club enjoyed a lot of success. The holder of seven school scoring records, he wondered if a career in the pros was possible—something that’s pretty unusual for club players.

While he was vacationing in Mexico, he received a Facebook friend request from someone he hadn’t heard of; it turned out to be a representative from a Finnish minor league team. Three months after he graduated, he was on his way to a small remote town four hours north of Helsinki, to play with the Finnish team.

But things didn’t quite turn out the way he imagined. Minkoff was one of only two foreign players on the team and he didn’t speak Finnish. The pay (when it came) was lousy, so he got a side job coaching a youth team of 10- and 11-year-olds. He also drove the Zamboni at the local ice rink and worked odd jobs around town. His playing time dwindled so when the season was over, he came home and decided to start a hockey agency, leveraging his UW economics and entrepreneurial education.

He was also inspired to go this route because he felt the Finnish team was taking advantage of his Latvian roommate. “I reworked his deal and then he got meals and other opportunities that he didn’t have before. That got me thinking that I could create a niche and help other European players with their contracts,” Minkoff says. After he helped his first client, his older brother, and some other Finnish players, the word got out and the referrals started coming his way. He was in business.
Go, Dog. Go!

The annual Alaska Airlines Dawg Dash 10K/5K Walk/Run goes virtual April 17–18, 2021.

Annually, the Alaska Airlines Dawg Dash has always been a welcome event for Dawgs, and dogs, of all ages. Postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, the event is back this spring with a new virtual format with an emphasis on having fun.

Here’s how it works: Huskies around the world are encouraged to create their own 10 or 5K route to dash the weekend of April 17-18. Adults receive a running shirt and medal; children get a collectible t-shirt and sticker; and—new this year—all registered canines receive a limited edition bandana (available in small and large dog sizes, of course).

Formally including dogs as part of the pack has struck a chord with alumni; day one of registration saw more dogs than children registering for the race. And why not? Our dogs have proven themselves invaluable companions—always eager to offer emotional support, encourage a much needed exercise break or remind us to treat ourselves.

So, get yourself and the dog off the couch and join us for a weekend of purple and gold pride. It’s going to be pawsitively awesome! UWalum.com/dawgdash

This year’s event is sponsored by Alaska Airlines, AT&T, BECU, Brooks Running, University Book Store, UW Medicine and WSECU.
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‘My Guiding Light’
Judge Charles V. Johnson was a trailblazer, a father figure and a legend in the law

On Jan. 15, the Washington state NAACP streamed a virtual event with a star-studded lineup of political heavyweights. Chief Justice Steven González of the Washington State Supreme Court gave the opening statement. As the first man of color to hold his position, González paid tribute to the person who paved the way for him. “He has educated, supported and mentored generations of us who take these positions of firsts,” the chief justice said. He told the audience to expect to hear overwhelming evidence that would convince them beyond all doubt that Judge Charles V. Johnson, ’57, had lived an extraordinary life.

The event, “Farewell to a King: Honoring the Life of Judge Charles V. Johnson,” featured a multigenerational ensemble of judges, politicians, professors, advocates and activists. They dialed in from courtrooms, living rooms and kitchens to sing the praises of a man unlike any they had ever met: An icon in the community, an imposing force on the bench, a mentor and a role model. “For me, he was my guiding light,” said U.S. District Court Judge Richard A. Jones, ’75. “A father to me. A favorite uncle. A best friend.”

Johnson, a Seattle Municipal and King County Superior Court judge who sat on the bench for nearly 30 years, came to the Northwest to attend UW Law School in 1954. He was the only Black student to graduate from his 1957 class. He revived the NAACP’s Seattle chapter and, as the civil rights movement swept the nation, he set out on a legal career that included championing equal access to education, employment and economic growth.

UW Law Teaching Professor Kimberly Ambrose, ’84, ’89, an attorney who frequently appeared before Judge Johnson in the 1990s, recalled that colleagues who arrived late to his courtroom were asked to make donations to community organizations. It was his way of reminding them to show respect to the families caught up in the system. “I thought that Judge Johnson was the embodiment of what a judge should be,” Ambrose said. “The way that he would swear witnesses in, raising his large hand with his powerful, booming voice I thought that no witness sworn in by Judge Johnson would ever stray from the truth.”

COURTESY JOHNSON FAMILY
COURTESY NIEMI FAMILY
COURTESY LEE FAMILY

JANICE NIEMI, ’68, summited just about every peak of the legal world. The Minnesota-born, UW-educated lawyer served in both houses of the state Legislature and as both a District and Superior Court judge. She was named Woman of the Year in Law not only for her accomplishments, but also for the trail she blazed: In 1968, she became one of the first women to graduate from the UW School of Law. In lieu of flowers after she died at 92 on Oct. 21, donations were sent to the organization Washington Women Lawyers, which she co-founded.

TONY LEE, ’72, laughed loudly and often, and he could do 50 pushups late into his life. Injustice and inequality didn’t stand a chance against this civil rights activist who left a career in law to advocate for public policy. “Tony Lee has been the savior of many people in this state,” former State Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney said. The Tony Lee Apartments in Lake City, home to 69 units of affordable housing, stand as a symbol of his service. Lee died of complications of ALS on Nov. 12. He was 72.

SPRING 2021 61
In Memory

**ALUMNI**

**1940**

JEANNE CASE BRACKEN '42, Seattle, age 100, Nov. 27

ELEANOR ESFELD CONON '42, Kirkland, age 96, Oct. 25

WILLIAM G. HATHAWAY '42, '77, Lynnwood, age 100, Sept. 21

MARY BASSETTI '44, Seattle, age 98, July 8

JACKLYN FISHER MEURK '44, Seattle, age 98, Nov. 20

MARGARET T. STEELE '46, Kirkland, age 94, Sept. 13

WILLIAM HENRY TROGDON '49, Seattle, age 93, Nov. 2

JUNJI YUKAWA '49, Olga, age 95, Nov. 4

JU N J YUKAWA '49, Seattle, age 93, Nov. 2

**1950**

ELIZABETH O. PINKERTON '50, Spokane, age 93, Nov. 18

WILLIAM FRANCIS BRIGGS '51, Blaine, age 93, Nov. 2

DONALD F. ERIKSON '51, Mercer Island, age 94, Sept. 13

JOE GYO I KE '51, Mercer Island, age 93, Oct. 12

DEAN WALLING SAFFLE '52, Surprise, Arizona, age 91, Dec. 16

TOM LOFTUS '52, '57, Seattle, age 89, Oct. 23

HELEN NADINE FINCHAM MAGILVIRA '52, Lake Forest Park, age 89, Oct. 22

PATRICIA ANN MORROW MOUTON '52, '58, Issaquah, age 89, Dec. 14

DOROTHY BUETOW '53, Oak Harbor, age 91, Sept. 17

HARRY DINGWALL '53, Mercer Island, age 89, Nov. 30

GEORGE L. JORDAN '53, Seattle, age 94, Oct. 7

JEANNE MARIE MCGRATH '53, Seattle, age 89, Oct. 15

BEVERLY ANN SCHOFENFELD '53, Rancho Mirage, California, age 88, Nov. 27

VIRGIL W. SHEPPARD '53, La Conner, age 98, Feb. 10

RUTH SHIPP-DART '53, Seattle, age 90, Oct. 10

WILLIAM WARD COOLEY '54, '63, '66, Shoreline, age 88, Oct. 23

FREDERICK HALVERSON '55, Lake Forest Park, age 92, Nov. 22

GEORGE JOHN MUNDO '60, Auburn, age 87, Dec. 24

MALCOLM SPENCE '60, Seattle, age 87, Sept. 2

DENIS STAFFORD SHORT '61, '68, Normandy Park, age 85, Dec. 26

MACLAY M. ARMSTRONG '62, Woodinville, age 88, Oct. 20

MYRON DWIGHT HAWKES JR. '62, Bothell, age 84, Sept. 24

JOSEPH P. RONI '62, Federal Way, age 87, Dec. 16

LINDA SPOERL ARMSTRONG '63, '65, '83, '95, Los Angeles, age 81, Sept. 29

ROY BENJAMIN PHILIPS '63, Bellevue, age 84, Nov. 17

ROYAL GLORIA LOBB '64, Bellevue, age 99, Sept. 27

WAYNE ROGER NEWHOUSE '64, Bainbridge Island, age 79, Oct. 28

LAWRENCE MALCOM '65, Des Moines, age 86, Nov. 10

ARTHUR HUTCHINGS MCKEAN '65, '68, Bellevue, age 77, Oct. 14

PERRY THERTON '66, Seattle, age 81, Sept. 30

JOAN ROBERTA FEDOR '66, '67, '76, Chelan, age 91, Dec. 14

THOMAS GUBALA '66, Bend, Oregon, age 78, Oct. 11

**1960**

ERICH J. GAUGLITZ JR. '60, Lake Forest Park, age 92, Nov. 22

WILLIAM FARRINGER LENIHAN '58, Palm Springs, California, age 89, May 20

RAYMOND PRINDLE '58, Seattle, age 85, Oct. 25

ALEFRA NOAUSKE SAKAMOTO '58, Bellevue, age 91, Oct. 21

RONALD JAY HULL '59, Seattle, age 83, Oct. 21

HOWARD E. SHIEL JR. '59, Blaine, age 94, Nov. 30

RICHARD SHROYCK '59, Rollingbay, age 89, Oct. 10

**1965**

WILLIAM G. HATHAWAY '55, Seattle, age 90, Oct. 10

KEN KINICHI SHIGAYA Nov. 28

MARTHA "MUFFY" S. JOHNSON '55, Seattle, age 89, Nov. 4

PERRY THERSON '57, Seattle, age 85, Oct. 25

DONALD ARTHUR MALLETT '57, Mercer Island, age 89, Nov. 7

JOHN MARVIN SCHMELLA '57, Seattle, age 71, Nov. 4

**1970**

MICHAEL JAMES CARNEY '70, '78, Seattle, age 71, Dec. 7

EDWINA N. GANNIS '70, Seattle, age 70, Nov. 21

NEIL FREDERICK SCHNEIDER '70, Mercer Island, age 78, Nov. 5

HENRY STEVEN BOYAR '71, Seattle, age 71, Nov. 13

DOUGLAS FRANCIS COLEMAN '71, Renton, age 77, Oct. 15

STEVEN FAIN '71, Seattle, age 71, Nov. 10

CHARLES SLEETH '71, Boulder, Colorado, age 71, Aug. 10

BENJAMIN A. TRIGG JR. '71, Spokane, age 75, Oct. 17

LEIF ARNE LOGAN JR. '71, Seattle, age 75, Dec. 17

WALTER (WADLASYWAL) PORADA '72, Normandy Park, age 74, Nov. 14

ROCHELLE ELIZABETH SNEE '73, Seattle, age 74, Oct. 1

JOHN "SCOTT" FARQUHAR '73, '75, Seattle, age 70, Oct. 31

GAIL THOMAS '73, '75, Seattle, age 68, Oct. 28

JAMES J. MOHUNDRO '76, Seattle, age 82, Oct. 21

DENNIS SLUMAN '76, Seattle, age 67, Oct. 27

**1980**

HENRY HARRIS MCCARLEY JR. '60, Redmond, age 81, Dec. 9

SHIRLEY ELAINE SUTHERLAND '80, Seattle, age 85, Oct. 2

GREGORY LEIGH BERTRAM '81, Bainbridge Island, age 72, Nov. 13

**1990**

DENNIS CLAY MOORE '92, Seattle, age 64, Nov. 15

RUSSELL JAY KURTH '94, Seattle, age 53, Oct. 14

ADAM LEWIS PALMER '95, Eagle, Colorado, age 49, Feb. 1

**2000**

STRYDER J. WEGENER '01, Seattle, age 42, Dec. 1

KLAUS BURKHARD SHULER '04, Seattle, age 48, Dec. 2

FACULTY AND FRIENDS

PATRICIA JEAN ALBISTON spent more than 30 years as a volunteer at the Henry Art Gallery, identifying and drawing diagrams for embroidery stitches in the extensive Textile Collection. She died Nov. 2 at the age of 92.

CARL FREDERICK BERNER, '63, was a surgeon who served on the faculty of the UW School of Medicine. He also went on medical missions to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries to those in need. He died Oct. 28 at the age of 85.

JULIE ANN BERRIDGE, '87, worked in social work at the UW for many years. She died Nov. 2 at the age of 70.
OVERTON BERRY was a revered jazz pianist in Seattle who enjoyed a career that spanned more than seven decades. He studied piano at Linfield College, Cornish College and then at the UW before he left school to make music his career. He served as the music director for singer Peggy Lee’s performance during the 1962 World’s Fair in Seattle. He died Oct. 19 at the age of 84.

ELIZABETH HUDSON BOBA spent 13 years as an administrative assistant in the UW’s Classics Department. She was the wife of the late Imre Boba, a beloved UW history professor who died in 1996. She died Dec. 21 at the age of 100.

RICHARD H. BOGAN, ’49, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II before coming to the UW to earn a master’s degree in civil engineering. After earning two more degrees, he served as a UW professor of civil and environmental engineering for 45 years. He died Dec. 8 at the age of 94.

PHOEBE BARNES CANER served as secretary of the Henry Art Gallery Association and then as director of its fundraising and continuing education efforts. She was instrumental in raising support for the Henry’s Gwathmey expansion in the late 1990s; the Phoebe Caner Henry Art Gallery Fund was established in her honor. She died Sept. 27 at the age of 87.

THOMAS F. CAREY JR., ’51, ’54, served in the Navy as a medical technician during World War II before coming to the UW School of Medicine. He was an eye surgeon who had served in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II before coming to the UW to earn a master’s degree in civil engineering. After earning two more degrees, he served as a UW professor of civil and environmental engineering for 45 years. He died Dec. 8 at the age of 94.

PHOEBE BARNES CANER served as secretary of the Henry Art Gallery Association and then as director of its fundraising and continuing education efforts. She was instrumental in raising support for the Henry’s Gwathmey expansion in the late 1990s; the Phoebe Caner Henry Art Gallery Fund was established in her honor. She died Sept. 27 at the age of 87.

JAMES DETTER, ’65, ’68, joined the faculty of the UW School of Medicine after completing his residency and fellowship in hematology at the UW. He was director of the Division of Hematology in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at UW Medical Center-Montlake and then at UW Medicine-Harborview. The Kansan was born Nov. 26 at the age of 87.

MARGARET “GIBBY” GIBSON, a registered nurse with a degree in infectious diseases, spent more than 20 years working at UW Medical Center-Montlake. She died Dec. 13 at the age of 98.

LESLIE EDMONDS HOLT served on the MLIS Advisory Board for the UW Information School. She and her husband Glen E. Holt created the Leslie Edmonds Holt and Glen E. Holt Endowed Fund in Library and Information Science at the UW Information School. She died Oct. 31 at the age of 71.

ALBERT JONSEN was a giant in the field of co-authored scholarly texts and guidance considered essential to human-subjects research and to physicians’ decision-making. He led the UW Department of Medical History and Ethics (now Bioethics and Humanities) from 1987 to 1999. During his time, he transformed its focus from history to bioethics training, research and service. He died Oct. 21 at the age of 89.

STANLEY M. LITTLE JR. was a highly regarded Boeing executive who served as the chairman of the company both in Seattle and nationwide. One of the University’s major supporters, he played a key role in the volunteer leadership of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and in its move to South Lake Union. His commitment to Fred Hutchinson was largely because he lost his wife, Peggy, to breast cancer. He died Oct. 7 at the age of 99.

JAMES EDWARD MARTIN studied at the UW and went on to become a renowned painter. Much of his work was captured in the monograph “James Martin: Art Rustler at the Rivoli” (UW Press, 2001). He died Dec. 15 at the age of 92.

BRUCE STUART MILLER, ’65, ’69, earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in marine science from the UW College of the Environment and taught at the UW for 27 years. After he retired in 2002, he worked for another 18 years as professor emeritus. His influence lives on via the 2009 textbook he wrote, “Early Life History of Marine Fishes.” He died Oct. 31 at the age of 84.

EUGENE NATKIN, ’62, chaired the UW School of Dentistry’s Department of Endodontics for 33 years. A renowned teacher and academician, he was proud that many of his students went on to become deans, associate deans and department chairs of dental schools nationwide. He received the first Bruce R. Rothwell Distinguished Teaching Award, the school’s highest faculty honor. He died Sept. 21 at the age of 88.

KELLY BALMER WILLIAMS NELSON was a VISTA volunteer, screenwriter, physician assistant, and, for nearly three decades, he managed malpractice claims and lawsuits for the UW and UW Medical Center-Harborview. She died Nov. 15 at the age of 74.

BOB NEWMAN, ’60, delighted children and families by playing a variety of Dentistry and Veterinary School’s legendary local TV show “J.P. Patches.” From Ketchikan the Animal Man to Gertrude the City Dump Telephone Operator and other characters, Newman was a mainstay on the show that ran on KIRO-TV from 1960 to 1981. He died Dec. 13 at the age of 88.

CAROL BLANCHARD OVENS taught English at the UW and later at Seattle Central Community College. She served in the volunteer leadership of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and in its move to South Lake Union. Her commitment to Fred Hutchinson was largely because she lost her wife, Peggy, to breast cancer. He died Oct. 7 at the age of 99.

ROY CHRISTOPHER PAGE, ’63, ’67, served as a dental officer on the aircraft carrier USS Randolph between 1957 and 1960, practiced general dentistry and joined the faculty of the UW School of Dentistry in 1964. He enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a professor of pathology and periodontics, and was renowned for attracting more than $40 million in grant funding. He died Oct. 29 at the age of 88.

REIMERT THOROLF RAVEN-HOLT was a public health expert. He associated professor of preventive medicine in the UW School of Medicine, he began a lifelong crusade against the negative health impacts of tobacco use, including some of the earliest epidemiological research among mothers of newborns that demonstrated the adverse impact of a mother’s smoking history on the birth weight of her child. He helped stop the free sampling of cigarettes to students on the UW campus and the sale of cigarettes on campus to minors. He also lobbied for the removal of cigarette vending machines from UW Medical Center-Montlake. Later, he led the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Population, where he devised the world’s foremost population and family planning program. He died Oct. 1 at the age of 91.

WILLIAM J. RORABAUGH was a popular teacher during his 43-year career as a history professor at the UW. He specialized in U.S. political history of the 1960s after beginning his career as a Jacksonian social historian. “It is not unheard of, but nevertheless unusual, for a scholar to completely rettool and learn a new scholarly field, 150 years removed from his original research,” he said. Tacoma history professor Mi- chael Allen. Rorabaugh’s first book, “The Alcoholic Republic: An American Odyssey” from Harvard University Press, was a landmark work, and he was honored when the Alcohol and Drug History Society established the William J. Rorabaugh Book Prize. He died March 19 at the age of 74.

ANN DALEY RYHED-RYHERD served as a stenographer at the UW Office of the Registrar from 1948 to 1954, then as secretary of the Henry Art Gallery, and as secretary of the Henry Art Gallery Fund. She died Feb. 9 at the age of 96.

ANTHONY DARROW SHAPIRO served as an adjunct professor at the UW School of Law. The Mercer Island resident was a Seattle attorney who specialized in representing victims of wrongful death, brain injury and catastrophic personal injury. He previously was a King County prosecutor and an instructor at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. He died Nov. 16 at the age of 62.

BELA SIKI was a legend in classical music in the Pacific Northwest. As a member of the School of Music faculty, he was a renowned concert pianist and mentor to many musicians. The Hungarian-born Siki won a prestigious Geneva International Music Competition, which jumpstarted his performing career. He joined the UW faculty in 1965, left in 1980 for a stint in Cincinnati but returned to the UW in 1985 and stayed until his 1993 retirement. No less than President William Gerberding delivered an intermission tribute during his farewell concert. He died Oct. 29 at the age of 97.

DANIEL STREISSGUTH, ’48, grew up in Monroe, working in the family department store. In college, he interrupted his architecture studies to serve in World War II but returned to the UW after the war to finish his degree. He joined the UW architecture faculty in 1953 and went on to serve two terms as department chair in the College of Built Environments before retiring in 1992. He helped design Gould Hall and the UW’s Nuclear Reactor Building. He died Nov. 21 at the age of 96.

ANDREW GEORGE TOLAS, ’65, completed his dental residency at the UW and was known for establishing national and local standards of care. He always maintained that people who could not afford care in his community and in Guatemala. He died Dec. 10 at the age of 89.

HAROLD B. TUKEY JR. was recruited by the UW from Cornell University in 1980 to create the Center for Urban Horticulture, the first such center in the world. Tukey, a native of New York, also served as director of the Washington Park Arboretum. He died Dec. 1 at the age of 86.

DAWN WELLS, ’60, was a famous TV actor best known for playing Mary Ann on the 1960s sitcom “Gilligan’s Island.” A native of Reno, Nevada, she was one of the original cast members on the show, which ran on KIRO-TV from 1960 to 1965, and then at the UW before he left school to make music his career. He served as the music director for singer Peggy Lee’s performance during the 1962 World’s Fair in Seattle. He died Oct. 19 at the age of 84.

WILLIAM MARTIN WomACK, ’66, became the first African American dean of the UW Department of Psychiatry in 1969. A native of Lynchburg, Virginia, he was five years old when he announced that he wanted to become a doctor. He specialized in child psychiatry at UW then completed a residency at Children’s Hospital and Odessa Brown Children’s Clinic, and served as division chief for psychiatry at both Harborview and Seattle Children’s. He died Nov. 29 at the age of 84.

BONNIE WORTHINGTON-ROBERTS, ’65, ’67, spent many years as the chair of the UW’s nutrition department. She gained worldwide recognition as a nutritionist who lectured locally, nationally and throughout the globe. A competitive swimmer, diver and tennis player, she also loved working on art projects, whether it was decorating gourds, making jewelry or needlepoint. She died Oct. 24 at the age of 77.

Columns

SPRING 2021
Master Mentor

The late Bill Holm dove headfirst into learning about Native art and culture, and he taught many of people about a field that thrilled him.

By Quinn Russell Brown

It’s day one of the class Native Art in the Northwest, and the term “‘uhlsh’” pops up on the Zoom screen. It’s the Lushootseed word for “Seattle,” the Duwamish-Suquamish chief who inspired the city’s name. Professor Kathryn Bunn-Marcuse asks the 155-person class to unmute their microphones, all at once, so that she can teach them how to pronounce it. “To say this barred ‘L’ at the end, you put the tip of your tongue on the roof of your mouth, behind your teeth, and you blow air out the side,” she says. “And since we’re not in class, you won’t be spitting on anyone.”

A cacophony of voices pingpongs around the Zoom room as the students try it out: See—pause—uhlsh. See—pause—uhlsh.

Bunn-Marcuse smiles in acknowledgment of the chaos, and promptly asks everyone to mute themselves. The vocal lesson has another purpose: It’s a collective land acknowledgment at the start of the quarter. “That is the name of our city,” Bunn-Marcuse says, telling the students that throughout the quarter, they will take turns sharing a longer land acknowledgment each time the group convenes.

The class has a particular weight this quarter because of the passing of the legendary Bill Holm in December. Holm, a leading scholar of Native art and art history, mentored Bunn-Marcuse, ’98, ’07, and was a surrogate grandfather to her children. Even though Holm is no longer with us, students at the UW continue to learn through the people who learned from him, teaching the classes he helped shape.
Holm taught a three-quarter sequence of Native Art to UW students in the 1970s, inviting anyone in the community to sit in on the class. The auditors included Indigenous artists like Haa’yuup Ron Hamilton and Joe David. People crowded in and sat in the aisles. That’s because Holm knew his stuff. As an outsider to Native arts and culture, he had immersed himself in the Burke Museum beginning as a teenager in the 1950s, learning from director Erna Gunther before traveling the region and the country to meet Native artists and learn about their craft. “They were really interested in talking to him, because he was really interested in talking to them,” says Bunn-Marcuse. “His strength was that he was incredibly humble and generous.”

Holm became an encyclopedia of archival history and a bridge between cultures, mastering the contents of museum collections and traveling the world to give what he had learned to the next generation. In 1965, he published the book “Northwest Coast Indian Art: An Analysis of Form,” which became a Rosetta Stone for generations of Native artists looking to converse with their ancestors. His personal collection of 30,000 images of Northwest art was the stuff of legend: Young artists and scholars reached out by letters, then emails, asking him for copies of images or for advice about technical instruction. Holm had learned techniques from reading about anthropology, talking with older artists or trying them with his bare hands. He made bows and arrows, beadwork, textiles, cedar canoes and totem poles. “I’m at my heart a hobbyist,” Holm once told UW Magazine. “I started with Indian design because I was thrilled by it.”

Holm’s legacy lives on through the Bill Holm Center, which Bunn-Marcuse currently directs, as well as the Bill Holm Center Series through the University of Washington Press. The most recent book in the series, co-edited by Bunn-Marcuse, is called “Unsettling Native Art Histories on the Northwest Coast.” To see artwork by contemporary artists highlighted by Bunn-Marcuse, head to magazine.uw.edu.

They were really interested in talking to him, because he was really interested in talking to them.

JAMIE STROBLE, ’10
Climate Director
The Nature Conservancy in Washington

A proud Husky who grew up in Hawai’i, Jamie Stroble is a climate justice advocate helping create a more resilient, equitable world. Stroble, who majored in environmental and international studies, has helped King County fight climate change in partnership with the most impacted communities—and is now tackling the same challenge statewide. Whether at work or on Seattle-area waters coaching her Hawaiian outrigger canoe club, she hopes to inspire a new generation of leaders.
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