

# University of Washington Magazine

# VAR-SITY

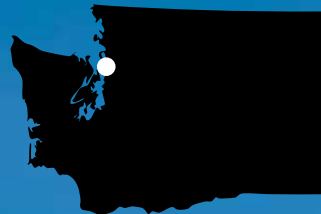
## Coming attraction: The new U District

Change is coming to  
the UW's front door.  
What does it mean for all of us?









## A Deep Attachment

Penn Cove lies just off the Saratoga Passage on the east side of Whidbey Island in a spot that, because of its geography and hydrology, is one of the most abundant places in the world to grow mussels. In 1975, the Jefferds family opened a fishery on the cove that has become Penn Cove Shellfish, Inc., the oldest and largest commercial mussel farm in the country. Marine mussels use their beards, or byssal threads, to tether themselves to rocks, docks, boat hulls and—in the case of shellfish

farming—long ropes tied to rafts like the one pictured here. That attachment allows them to hang on in relative safety, dine on microscopic sea creatures and grow. Since 2014, UW biology professor Emily Carrington and her graduate students have been working with Penn Cove Shellfish to study mussels and their ability to attach and stay attached from the time they grow their earliest byssal threads to 14 months later, when they are large enough to be harvested. *Photograph by Mark Stone*





A tall, modern skyscraper with a grid-like facade of windows, many of which are illuminated from within, creating a warm glow against the dark blue twilight sky. The building is identified by a small sign at the top as 'HYATT REGENCY'. To its left, another building is partially visible, also with some lit windows. The foreground is a dark, out-of-focus area, possibly a street or plaza. A large, stylized, light blue geometric shape, resembling a hexagon with internal lines, is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Purple and Gold is in our DNA'.

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# I GIVE FOR A SUSTAINABLE PLANET

**Sara D.** / Mother, environmentalist, food writer

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# University of Washington Magazine

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QUINN RUSSELL BROWN (2)

Ecologist Christopher Schell downloads footage from a motion-activated camera that he uses to track urban coyotes around the city of Tacoma.

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When “No-No Boy” was republished without the permission of the author’s family, Professor Shawn Wong wouldn’t stand for it.

By Vince Schleitwiler

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Coyotes are often unwelcome in urban areas. A UW Tacoma professor connects that fear and suspicion to the black experience.

By Julie Davidow

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Change is coming to the UW’s front door. What will the opening of light rail, upzoning and development mean for all of us?

By Misty Shock Rule

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A yellow, three-story U District boarding house was home to 11 UW students whose friendships have remained strong to this very day.

By Jim Caple

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CURTIS DICKE

### HAVE THE ROBOTS ALREADY WON?

For our new video series spotlighting faculty research, we ask law professor Ryan Calo five questions about A.I. “When we can get videos to play reliably in PowerPoint presentations,” Calo says, “that will be the day I worry about a robot takeover.”



### AN AUTHOR FOR ALL AGES

Just about every 10-year-old in America will come across the work of Jason Reynolds, a rock star of young people’s literature and two-time National Book Award finalist. He came to campus on Halloween for a talk hosted by the iSchool. His message: If we want kids to respect adults, adults first need to respect kids.



# HUSKY PICKS

IN THE KITCHEN



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# Forward

OPINION AND THOUGHT FROM **THE UW FAMILY**



MESSAGE FROM THE **DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS**

## Becoming a Husky

By Paul Seegert

While a college admissions scandal has been playing out across the country this fall, we here at the University of Washington have been pursuing our values-driven admissions process. The freshman class of 2020 will bring about 7,000 new Huskies to the Seattle campus alone.

This month, our students will be home for winter break, enjoying family and their communities. If the topic of college admissions should come up, we want to assure you that at the UW, preparation and academic performance are the primary criteria,

while we do include a more in-depth review. We consider what students have accomplished outside of the classroom, as well as barriers they have had to overcome. We carefully read every application and personal statement. It takes more time to do this, but it is important because it allows us to also consider potential and opportunity.

As the state's flagship university, we make Washington residents our priority. They comprise two-thirds of the entering freshman class on our Seattle campus.

Some of your friends may tell you that out-of-state students take spaces from Washington residents, but that's not true. The UW is required to enroll at least 4,000 freshmen from Washington each year and, given state funding, we enroll as many more as we can. This year, we enrolled more than 4,400 Washington students at the Seattle campus. Out-of-state students, hailing from more than 80 states and countries, competed for the remaining 2,600 spots. And of the more than 500 first-year students at UW Tacoma and more than 800 at UW Bothell, over 90% are from Washington.

That's not saying it's easier to become a Husky these days. This is due, in part, to the quality and number of our applicants.

**Not only can we be proud of our admissions policy and process, we can also be proud of the results.**

We now receive about 45,000 freshman applications for fall quarter. The UW also receives about 6,000 transfer applications for some 1,200 spots.

Our candidates are impressive, which makes the selection of the class difficult. Fortunately, the UW's admissions process is founded on values of which we can all be proud. We are not more selective for the sake of selectivity or to chase higher college rankings. Instead, the UW strives to enroll undergraduate classes rich in intellectual abilities, academic commitments, and diversity of perspectives, backgrounds and talents—all of which contribute to a stimulating educational environment.

The alignment of our admissions process with the University's commitment to access and excellence is evident in the results. Over the past 10 years, our classes have grown ever more diverse and academically prepared. For example, 25% of our freshman class will be first-generation college students, 14% will be underrepresented minority students, and, for the middle 50%, the high school GPA is 3.70 to 3.95. Our newest University of Washington freshman students are amazing—they are talented and diverse, and they are sure to make Husky Nation proud.





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MESSAGE FROM THE **EDITOR**

## The Enduring Power of Pictures

By Jon Marmor

When I was a photography student in the School of Art in the early 1990s, fine art photography really wasn't my thing. I much preferred photojournalism. Ever since I can remember, I've been most impressed by the ability to create an image that could communicate without the need for many (if any) words, an image that could grab you by the throat, make your heart skip a beat, or freeze you in your tracks.

Visual storytelling has been a crucial component of our university's magazine, first as Columns, and especially since our makeover in September into University of Washington Magazine. One of the most significant features of this new design, as I'm sure you noticed, is that it provides more opportunities to do the type of visual storytelling this university deserves.

Having more places and more ways to tell stories with storytelling imagery translates into a more powerful way to connect with readers. We realize that you already

know a lot about the UW. But the University is always on the leading edge of serving the greater good, be it in the arts or humanities or exploring the heavens or health care. I am incredibly impressed by what goes on here, and I am equally driven to tell these stories in the most eye-opening ways possible.

As someone with a degree in visual arts, I believe photography (and other imagery, for that matter) wields the most power to reach our hearts and souls. Just think of the most memorable images you have seen, and how they made you feel. But I also know how a well-crafted story can inspire the same reactions. Some articles that have appeared in this magazine over the years still make my heart beat faster. But deep down, I believe visuals hit us on a visceral level. That, after all, is our goal: to create content that resonates with you, makes you think, and makes you proud to be connected to the UW.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOE ANDERSON

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## Readers Respond to Our New Design

The new University of Washington Magazine, a continuation of 111 years of publications produced by the UW Alumni Association, landed in mailboxes in September. Many readers reached out to share their thoughts and ideas about our new format. Their comments and criticisms ranged from the new name (which replaced the 30-year-old Columns, and prior to that, the Washington Alumnus) to the larger size and glossier paper.

### Cheers

"Now you have shown the road to highlighting the UW is masterful storytelling," wrote **Stanley Huseland, '56**, of Carmel, Indiana. He pointed out our stories on Henry M. (Scoop) Jackson, the new Burke Museum, and the profile of medical student Mara Hazeltine as among his favorites.

"Typically, I cringe when I receive a paper-based document or magazine from a public entity. My initial thought is why not just deliver the message digitally?" wrote **Mike Newton, '96**, a UW Bothell alum. "This thought process changed when I began to flip through ... Each page provided a new concept that I sought to explore further."

**Robb Weller, '72**, who is known for helping invent "The Wave" at Husky Stadium, wrote, "Just got our copy of the new mag! Wow, what a terrific change ... Also, really liked the quick little features early on in the book for us short-attention-span folks."

"The presentation alone makes me want to pick it right up! Thanks so much for your efforts!" wrote **Victoria Cobos, '88**.

**Gregg Harrington, '67**, offered, "At first glance I am duly impressed by—and enjoying—the range of story content, the photos, art work and layout ... I appreciated the two-page photo inside the front cover."

"I loved it and wanted to commend you for the new look," wrote **Leila Mozingo, '79**. "Change is always difficult and I would imagine that you and your team had to overcome some obstacles during the transition! Great job to everyone of you!"

"Just received my copy of the new UW magazine and had to let you know how impressed I am with it," wrote **Susannah Young, '77**. "Beautiful format, great articles and photos. I actually sat down and read it cover to cover."

### Critiques

Other readers were less enthused about the new publication. "It could be from any university anywhere," wrote **Anne Guthrie, '67**.

"I cannot stand the feel of the Fall 2019 issue because of the finish of the cover," offered **Nancy Edmonson Jensen, '75**.



And **Nancy Gould-Hilliard, '75**, expressed regrets about the name change. "I send condolences on the new generic name of the magazine. Columns was such a perfect metaphor for who we are, where we've been and where we are going."

### On Readability

Some readers said the new approach was harder to read. "The paper, binding and color saturation are nice, but the most important factor, readability, has been sacrificed to small font size and very dense page content," wrote **Dick Almy, '79, '81**.

But others expressed the opposite. "Hooray. Someone finally decided to consider us older alums whose vision couldn't deal with pink print on an orange background. Your new magazine has great articles in a very readable print," wrote **Ken Claar, '58**.

"I like the new format of the University of Washington Magazine. Good job. It makes it even more of a pleasurable read," wrote **Jena Gilman, '74**.

Finally, several readers wrote in to offer ideas about stories and direction. **Larry Wilhelmsen, '60**, of Longview, Washington, asked us to be more balanced in our climate reporting. "The world is getting greener and you should report on that."

**Alfred Dickson**, who was a surgical resident at the UW from 1960-67, took inspiration from Judy Rantz Willman's article about the old Shell House to suggest that we add to our coverage of the "Boys in the Boat" to tell more about the fates of the oarsmen who won the gold medal at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

*Above: The cover of the debut issue of University of Washington Magazine. Left: A spread features the new HUB section, which highlights news and research from around the University. The slightly wider format offers more room for stories and images.*







# STRONGER TOGETHER

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# TheHUB

NEWS AND RESEARCH FROM THE UW



LEOFRANCIA/ICR

## Roman Revival

Renovating the Palazzo Pio, the UW's home in Italy

By Hannelore Sudermann

One of Patrick Ringland's favorite memories is of sitting in a classroom in the Palazzo Pio in the center of Rome. The students are reading a Latin text describing an elaborate Roman dinner party. "It was hot, and the Campo de Fiori [a square filled with restaurants and market stalls] was just outside the window," he says. "You could smell the very same ingredients wafting in."

As a student at the UW's Rome Center in spring of 2003, Ringland was dazzled by the history-rich city. He and his classmates spent their evenings exploring or sometimes just kicking a soccer ball around the lively Campo after dark. "You have this living classroom around you. There would be a third-century B.C. pillar stuck in a medieval wall on a 20th-century apartment building," he says. "It was just so cool."

And the Palazzo Pio, the building everyone calls "the Pio," was the heart of it all. The palatial 15th-century building with a 16th-century facade fronts a small cobblestone piazza in one of the city's most

vibrant neighborhoods. For the past 35 years, it has been the site of the UW's Rome Center. Now a three-year project is underway to update the structure to serve students and faculty for decades to come.

Every inch of Rome has its history, but the Pio is in a particularly historic place, says Alain Gowing, a classics professor who first brought students to Rome in 1988. Swiveling his chair in his Denny Hall office, Gowing calls up an illustration of ancient Rome on his computer screen. He points to the site of Julius Caesar's assassination, which took place at one side of a theater complex that once covered the area of the Pio and much of the neighborhood nearby. "There's where Caesar was killed," he says. He moves his hand to the opposite end of the ancient complex. "Today, that's the site of the Pio."

The connection between the UW and Rome dates to 1970, when Professor Astra Zarina, '53, started bringing her architecture students to Italy to study and work on restoration projects, says Professor

Emeritus Tom Bosworth, former chair of the School of Architecture who also taught classes in the Pio. In the early 1980s, Zarina lit upon the building as a home for herself and as a site for architecture classes. At the time, several floors had been abandoned. Zarina made a deal to rent the floors for a reasonable price, and in return, the University would fund and lead renovations and repairs.

"She and her students, as a class project, developed a design to accommodate the architecture department's needs and more," says Bosworth. They designed studios, an office, a library, bathrooms and faculty apartments.

"She did things frugally, but beautifully," says Gowing. "Simple things like the shutters in the windows were spectacularly beautiful. If something was old but still serviceable—like a 17th-century door on an apartment—she used it."

Zarina had found and furnished the perfect spot. Like Rome itself, the Pio is magical, according to generations of students and faculty. It opened in 1984 with a focus on architecture and classics, and expanded its offerings in the 1990s to include business, art, food, politics and English.

"To be able to take students there was an unbelievable privilege," says Gowing. "It is amazing that we have that facility. It's a real jewel in the crown of our study-abroad programs."

Today, the center includes a large conference room with a fresco on the ceiling,

**Every inch of Rome has its history, but the Pio is in a particularly historic place.**

classrooms, a small library, offices and a few apartments for faculty.

Despite several updates and renovations over the decades, it now needs a deeper restoration, says Amity Neumeister, the resident director of the Pio. The renovation broke ground in January and work is expected to continue through fall of 2022.

"This is an amazing, outrageous, beautiful space," says Neumeister. "But it needs a lot of love and attention so it can be great again."

*Since 1985, the Palazzo Pio, the building on the right, has been a classroom to UW students of architecture, history and art. Today, it houses programs from across the University.*



## Magnificent Mural

"Synecdoche," an installation at the new Burke Museum, was created by RYAN! Feddersen of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Okanogan/Arrow Lakes). The mixed-media mural of nearly 300 icons spans three stories of the natural history museum. The images represent nature, technology and culture, generating a visual language that explores the interconnections between disciplines of study and our everyday experience. The Tacoma-based artist creates interactive artworks to honor an Indigenous perspective on the relationship between artist and community. *Photograph by Dennis Wise*





*Shadow, a Great Dane rescue dog, and her family were among the first participants in a study to explore the genetic and environmental influences on aging.*



## Calling All Dogs

Our canine pals may hold the answers to healthy aging

By Hannelore Sudermann

The story between humans and their dogs is one of the most enduring and least complicated, and it's the underpinning of a new UW-led national study on aging.

More than 12 years ago, Daniel Promislow, an evolutionary geneticist, read a scientific article about the role a single gene has in making some dogs as big as Great Danes and others as small as Chihuahuas. The piece prompted him to think about the role the same gene might have in the life span of dogs. "It reminded me that in dogs, the larger breeds are shorter-lived," he says. That is not the case for most mammals, where larger species usually live longer. For example, some very large whales have a life span of more than 150 years while a typical medium-sized orca may only live to be 70.

Thinking about life span put Promislow

on a path to explore how genes and environmental factors contribute to how long and how well dogs live. Today, he is the principal investigator of a major National Institute on Aging study called the Dog Aging Project that started recruiting participants—dogs and their owners—in November. The results of the \$22.8 million, five-year study, based on data collected from 10,000 dogs, will not only improve our understanding of canines, Promislow says, but could also provide insights into human aging.

"Dogs get the same diseases humans do. They live in the same environment that humans do. And they have a health-care system that is second only in sophistication to humans," he says. Yet they're far easier and less expensive to study than humans. So when it comes to studying aging in a

real-world setting, Promislow and his research partners see dogs as a bargain.

The diseases dogs get differ from breed to breed. So do their behaviors and their life spans. "We saw an opportunity to really tease apart all the factors that contribute to not only what diseases they get, but also which dogs will be healthy agers and why others will not," Promislow says.

The researchers are interested in all dogs—large and small, young and old, male and female, spayed and neutered or intact. And they need owners to complete a survey about their dog's health and life experience. Both Dubs I and Dubs II as well as President Ana Mari Cauce's Cavalier King Charles Spaniel have joined the research pack.

This is a way of bringing people together around a scientific pursuit and a common interest, Promislow says. "We all share a love of dogs."

About 10,000 dogs will move on to the next phase of the study: genome sequencing and the sharing of medical records. The owners are partners in the study, acting as citizen scientists by collecting and contributing data. Because it is an open science project, all of the information collected will be made anonymous and available in the public domain.

From that cohort of 10,000, about 1,000 will share more of their biology, including samples from their fecal microbiome and blood and more details about their environments. The biomarkers from all this will help with prediction, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention. "This is doing precision medicine," says Promislow. "Only with dogs."

Matt Kaeberlein, professor of pathology and co-director of the project, will lead a double-blind study of a drug called rapamycin that could improve the dogs' health and life spans.

**It will improve our understanding of dogs and provide insights into human aging.**

The project is what Promislow describes as "big team" science and includes experts from the UW schools of medicine and public health, the College of Arts & Sciences, Seattle Children's and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The NIA grant funds the first five years of what the researchers hope will be at least a 10-year study. *To enroll your dog, visit [dogagingproject.org](http://dogagingproject.org).*



# Happiness Is ...

*This fall, Tabitha Kirkland, a social psychologist, taught a freshman colloquium on happiness. She explains to her students that when psychology became a field of scientific study in the 1800s, it focused on dysfunction and disorder. More than a century later, psychologists began to explore mental well-being. The modern field of positive psychology explores what causes us to flourish, be happier and more fulfilled. In her classrooms, Kirkland explores which strategies nurture our own happiness and emotional health. Here is what she recommends:*

## **Live close to work**

People pursue a lot of things in search of happiness. Some want a big house—though it comes with a long commute—or they take a job with long hours to earn lots of money. But those things don't make us happy. A long commute, for example, is known to decrease happiness. Studies show that for every 15 minutes added to your commute, there's a measurable drop in your happiness. And then you're hardly at home to enjoy it.

## **Choose experience over objects**

Any sort of fancy toy that we go after doesn't make us happy. Sure, we experience some initial joy when we first obtain it, but then we get used to it. And we're back where we started. Spending money on experiences is more effective at creating happiness. Research shows that experiences have a lasting benefit.

## **Spend less time on the phone**

In the service of convenience, we do all these things like sending texts and buying goods that does away with human connection. But it's something we need. If we're always on the phone, we miss out on a lot of the human face-to-face connections, which we know are restorative to our bodies.

## **Temporarily feeling down?**

Try reaching out to other people and try going outside. Social connection is a huge theme in my happiness class. One thing you can do is talk to a friend, neighbor or coworker and just make contact, get out of your own head and your own problems, maybe even help someone else. And go outside, because there's something really special about being in nature and finding things that give us broader vistas.

## **What about people who say happiness is overrated?**

There are lots of ways to find meaning in life. Some people equate happiness with hedonism. But there are many people who go through experiences that aren't fun or pleasant, like protesting for a cause or parenting. Yet these add richness to life. It means thinking about happiness as something more than just positive emotions. It could come from pursuing meaning.

*Photo by Jovelle Tamayo*





PHOTO BY BRIAN BIRCHIE

## It's All About the Possibilities

New Population Health building named for hopeful Swedish scientist

By Hannelore Sudermann and Jake Ellison

It's not as bad as we think. And, with a bit of effort, it could be even better.

Hans Rosling, a renowned Swedish doctor and professor of international health, was always making these points in his campaign to debunk misperceptions on overpopulation, poverty, life expectancy and endangered species.

After spending the early part of his career as a physician and public health worker in Africa, Rosling embarked on a mission to fight ignorance and help people understand how the world really is. In 2012, Time magazine named him one of the world's 100 most influential people.

He was famous for using real data in an entertaining way—with talks, videos and lectures that included cocktail tricks, buoyant bubble charts and sword swallowing—to give a truer picture of global health. Using real numbers, Rosling showed how, overall, health and quality of life in developing nations were improving. He also explained that extreme poverty could be eradicated in 15 years, and how now is the best time for humans in history.

In that spirit of possibility, the University of Washington's Board of Regents has named the newest building on the Seattle campus the Hans Rosling Center for Population Health. The \$230 million building—funded in part with \$210 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and \$15 million from the state—is a key component of the University-wide Population Health Initiative, an endeavor to improve the health and quality of life for people everywhere.

The building, which is under construction along 15th Avenue N.E. and will open in September 2020, will house portions of the School of Public Health, the Department of Global Health and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. The eight-story structure is designed to bring together experts, scientists and students in a common space for collaboration. Rosling, who died in 2017, was a professor of international health at Karolinska Institute in Sweden. He was a friend and inspiration to Bill and Melinda Gates, who often commented on his influence. In one video, Bill Gates credits Rosling for “taking the wonderful progress that has been made and making it understandable.” The Gates family proposed naming the new UW building after Rosling in honor of his rigorous analysis of the true state of the world and passion for improving health. “This is a fitting tribute to an extraordinary man,” says Melinda Gates. Where others saw dry data, Rosling saw the chance to tell the story about human progress against poverty and disease.

*By making statistics fun through colorful presentations, Hans Rosling, a doctor and lifelong public health advocate, helped his audiences understand more of the human condition worldwide.*

### RESEARCH ROUNDUP

#### PEAK SEASON FOR POWER SURGES

'Tis the season for superbolts—lightning a thousand times more powerful than the average bolt. A new UW-based study has found that superbolt strokes are far rarer and 1,000 times stronger than the bolts that appear over dry land. Unlike typical lightning, which appears in the summer, superbolts are most prevalent from November to February. While most lightning occurs over land, these bolts are most frequent over the north Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea.

A global survey published by Robert Holzworth, UW atmospheric and space scientist, and his colleagues explains that the bolts happen mostly over water and descend from the heavens in a different pattern than their less-powerful cousins. Holzworth manages the World Wide Lightning Location Network, which operates nearly 100 lightning-detection stations around the world.



#### HUMPBACK COMEBACK

Whaling in the 20th century nearly brought the South Atlantic humpback whale to extinction. By the 1950s, only 450 remained. But now the population has rebounded to a count of 25,000, astonishing even the marine mammal ecologists who have spent their careers studying the whales.

In the mid-1980s, the International Whaling Commission issued a moratorium on all commercial whaling, offering safeguards for the struggling population. Now a new study led by Alex Zerbini, '06, and co-authored by Grant Adams, John Best and Andre Punt of the UW School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences shows the western South Atlantic humpback population has grown back almost to pre-whaling conditions.



# Eye is for Innovative

By Chelsea Yates



Nearly all eye droppers create droplets that are too big for an eye to absorb. The drops spill down a user's face, wasting the medication and sending people back to the pharmacy for refills more frequently.

Sound fair? Allisa Song, '15, didn't think so. After reading a news story about this problem two years ago, the psychology and biology alum decided to intervene. She enlisted the help of

bioengineering student Mackenzie Andrews and pharmacology Ph.D. student Jennifer Steger. Song's partner, Elias Baker, a mechanical engineer, joined the effort, bringing his design and prototyping expertise.

"There has to be a simple solution, we thought," remembers Andrews, '19. "Over-the-counter eye drops might not seem to cost too much, but glaucoma drugs—which are taken daily to prevent blindness—can cost hundreds of dollars every month. Why should they pay for medication that's just being wasted?"

The team isn't the first to take on this challenge, but what's made them unique is their approach: Instead of designing a new bottle, they created a small device that screws on to existing eye-drop bottles and controls the size of the droplets produced. The smaller—generally three-quarters of the original size—are just as effective.

The 2-inch-long gadget, named the Nanodropper, can be used on nearly any eye-dropper bottle, eliminating waste and saving patients money. The team says that, depending on their medications, Nanodropper could save consumers anywhere from \$5 to \$2,500 per medication a year.

After winning the 2019 UW Health Innovation Challenge, hosted by the Foster School's Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship, they started searching in earnest for investors.

Now Song is in medical school at the Mayo Clinic, Steger is completing her Ph.D., and Andrews and Baker are the company's first full-time employees. They have moved the business into UW's CoMotion Startup Hall.

The device has FDA approval and, with more than \$300,000 in investments, prize money and grants, the startup is gearing up for manufacture and distribution. They hope to get the first Nanodroppers into eye clinics in January and have them in retail pharmacies by 2021.

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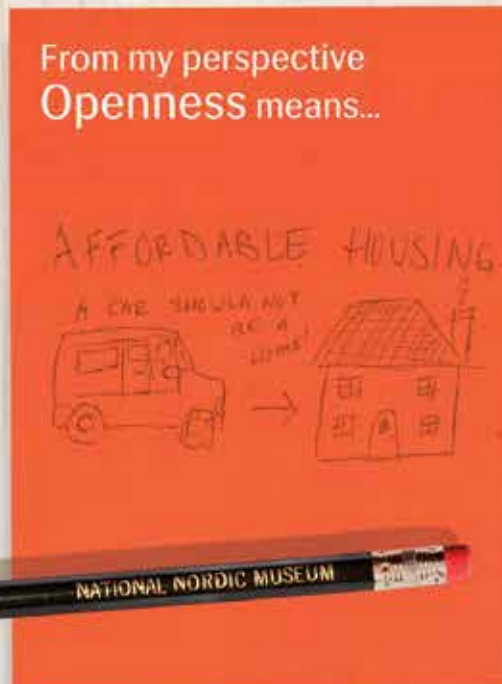
[www.HuskySeniorCare.com](http://www.HuskySeniorCare.com)

# The Nordic Perspective

25%  
Innovation

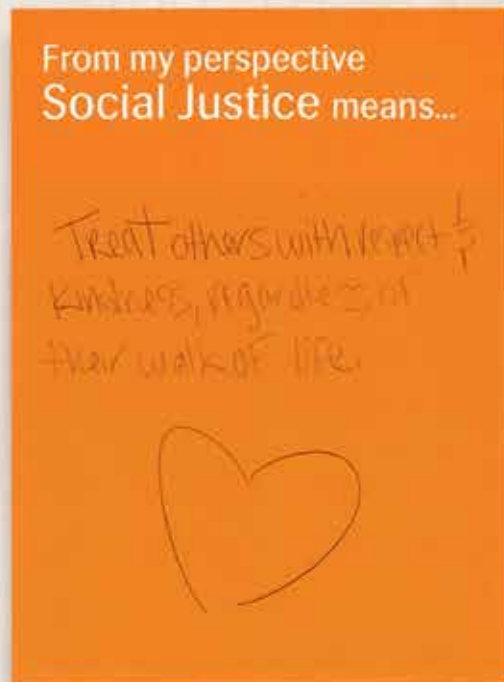


From my perspective  
Openness means...

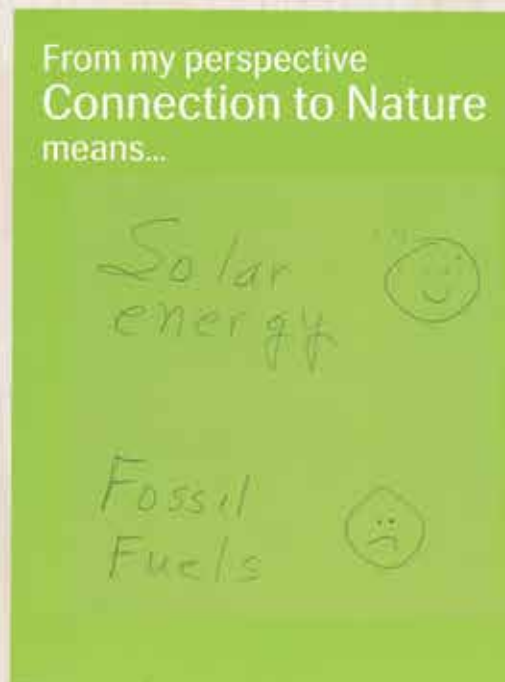


25%  
Openness

25%  
Social Justice



From my perspective  
Connection to Nature means...



25%  
Connection to Nature

Four elements, equal in measure, combine to express a single way of life. The National Nordic Museum, which opened in its new location in Ballard last year, sought to capture these core values of contemporary Scandinavia. Visitors are invited to join the dialogue and their written opinions become part of the exhibit. Terje Leiren, UW professor emeritus and chair of the museum's content committee, said the museum's team wanted to do more than display artifacts of Nordic heritage. They aimed to suggest how Scandinavia's concern for the environment and commitment to openness, social justice and innovation are integral to the American story as well.



## Connecting Campus to Community in Tacoma

Last year, as a senior at UW Tacoma, Ashley Richards worked with teens to map the streets around their schools. Using geographic information system mapping and heat maps, they were able to define where kids spent their time, and where they felt unsafe.

Through the Action Mapping Project, she engaged the children in math, science and community development, and provided a report city leaders and activists could use to understand the experiences and needs of a group often overlooked in planning and development. The mapping project, led by Urban Studies Associate Professor Matthew Kelley, is one of dozens of projects out of UW Tacoma that deepen the University's service to South Puget Sound communities.

This summer, bolstering the Tacoma campus' mission as an urban-serving university, the UW Regents approved UWT as a School of Urban Studies.

When the Tacoma campus opened in 1990, it was designed to create and serve urban leaders and community advocates through teaching and research. The construction of UW Tacoma helped revive an area of industrial buildings and bring people to a nearly abandoned part of the city. The revitalization earned national acclaim for its historic preservation, restoring and transforming six historic warehouses that dated from the late 1800s and early 1900s.



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## Building for Better Health in Spokane

Spokane's University District is about to get bigger with a new Regional Health Partnership building that will be jointly used by the UW and Gonzaga University. A four-story, 80,000-square-foot building will serve UW Medicine's first- and second-year medical students based in Spokane as well as a UW physician assistant's program known as MEDEX Northwest. Gonzaga students in the human physiology program will also use the building. Both MEDEX and the medical student program known as WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) were created to provide and support medical care for underserved populations, especially in communities and states with a shortage of physicians.

The new \$60 million structure at the south end of Gonzaga's campus will be developed and owned by McKinstry and leased by the universities. It is scheduled to open in August 2022.

## Veterans Visit Vietnam

Last summer, a group of current student veterans, recent alumni veterans and Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, '76, '91, joined members of the Office of Student Veteran Life on a trip to Vietnam. The visit was led by Seattle nonprofit PeaceTrees Vietnam, which works to remove landmines and supports education and communities. The trip was, in part, to promote friendship and reconciliation between people from both countries. At right, travelers listen to a guide in the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam, just north of Khe Sanh.



## RESEARCH ROUNDUP



### UW Center Seeks Youth Jail Records

The juvenile jail in Cowlitz County is one of three sites in the country where Immigration and Customs Enforcement holds immigrant teens. The youth may be picked up in other states, transported to Washington and detained in the jail for periods longer than 72 hours—and sometimes for months. Now, through public records requests, the UW Center for Human Rights is seeking information about the young people being held.

In its contract with the county, ICE describes the youth it detains as disruptive or "chargeable as a criminal." But that's different than actually being charged or convicted of a crime, says Angelina Godoy, director of the UW center. A recent news story in the Seattle Times reported that since 2013, about 30 juveniles have been detained by ICE in the Cowlitz facility. The UW center wants to know the legal basis for holding undocumented youth in criminal detention and whether the young detainees have been able to communicate with their families or have access to advocates and attorneys. The UW team requested the juveniles' criminal histories with personal information redacted, but has been blocked by ICE. The agency insists that federal law prohibits the release of information about any person held for ICE. At ICE's request, the issue may be moved to federal court, where the Center for Human Rights can either withdraw its information request or defend its right to the information. The issue made national news and was recently highlighted in an interview with Godoy by Anderson Cooper on CNN in late October.



## A Story of Triumph

Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss felt right at home when she sat down to have her portrait taken by University of Washington Magazine. That's because Schloss, the stepsister of precocious writer Anne Frank, worked as a photographer in the 1950s. She took photos for whiskey ads, British Airways campaigns and giant billboards around London. After five eventful years, she retired. "I had too many kids," she said.

Schloss was captured by Nazis on her 15th birthday and taken to Auschwitz. Now 90, she shared the stage with President Ana Mari Cauce on the night of Nov. 6, connecting her experience as a refugee to people today who are trying to escape war-torn countries. "Ships are trying to leave from Asia or Africa, and the world just doesn't care, and the people drown. This is not acceptable anymore in the 21st century." Before 1940, Nazi policy sought to force the Jewish population out of the country. But many countries refused to accept Jews in significant numbers, and Hitler eventually conceived of a "Final Solution." Schloss' family went into hiding in 1942. She was friends with Frank during the war, and her mother later married Frank's father. She was invited to tell her story at UW by Chabad, the Jewish student organization. *Photo by Quinn Russell Brown*



# Building the Bones

*Husky fans love Chip Lydum's work—even if they don't know his name. Lydum, '84, is the UW's associate athletic director for operations and capital projects. During his 34 years at the UW, he has been involved in every facility that serves Husky Athletics: the remodel of Husky Stadium, Hec Edmundson Pavilion, Husky Ballpark, Husky Track and Field facilities, Husky Softball Stadium, you name it. Interview by Jim Caple.*

## **You played with Husky star Joe Steele in high school.**

It was otherworldly from a football perspective. He was incredible. I describe him as an Amtrak train going by. He was really a great guy and literally and figuratively above everybody else. He was much bigger, faster and a great player.

## **You served three years in the Marines after high school.**

It was a good time to grow and mature. There was some adversity, some challenge to it. I think it allowed me to grow up, come back to school and be more focused. I also got to continue playing basketball, softball and flag football in the Marine Corps.

## **You wrote for The Daily. What was that like?**

It was a great experience. I think that was my creative destiny, to be some kind of journalist. That led to The Daily. The people writing the stories were almost as good as the ones we were writing about. I was a little older student, but I loved being there.

## **How did you start working in the UW athletic department?**

When I was writing for The Daily and covering baseball, I came down here and interacted with the sports information department. I volunteered to work in the press box and finally made a move to become a student assistant. Then they needed somebody to become the editor of the football game program.

## **What role did you play in remodeling Husky Stadium?**

Part of the story is, how did a journalist become involved in the facilities? It's almost absurd. However, somebody saw that I could communicate with people and move things forward. My role is more programmatic. I feel proud to have the role in assembling the people for the programmatic elements to get done.

## **What is your favorite part of Husky Stadium?**

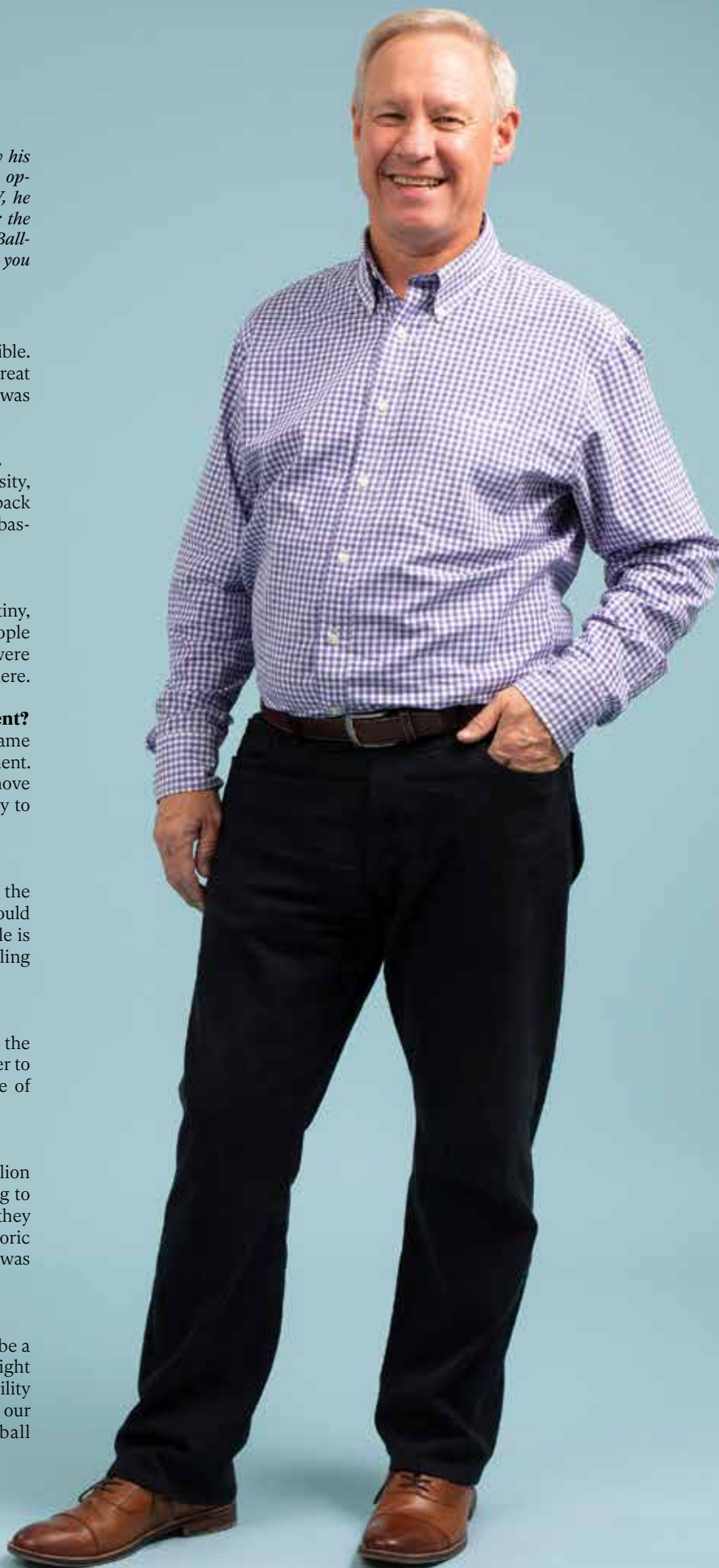
I like that we modernized it without losing the upper deck, the roofs and the view of Lake Washington. The stands are closer to the field; I like that a lot. The natural beauty of the state of Washington just pours into the stadium.

## **Talk about the renovation of Hec Ed.**

I felt a ton of pride that we brought Hec Edmundson Pavilion back to life. We didn't realize how great it was. It took going to Duke and Kansas to see two comparable facilities where they were winning at the highest level. They embraced their historic facilities. We decided to embrace Hec Ed, and I thought it was a great decision.

## **What future facilities are planned?**

We have a sports-performance center for softball. That will be a three-lane hitting and pitching facility that will be built right outside the stadium. We're currently looking into the feasibility of upgrading our student-athlete wellness spaces, as well as our training facilities for our men's and women's basketball programs.





## SPORTS REPORT

### IN THE REAL TRENCHES

You won't find Deming Bronson's name in the Husky Hall of Fame. But you will find it on the Medal of Honor memorial at the end of Memorial Way. That's right, the forestry major who wasn't a very good football player during his time at the UW from 1912-1916 was a World War I hero.

On the first day of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive near the village of Eclisfontaine in France on Sept. 26, 1918, Bronson was wounded three times—by a grenade, rifle and artillery shell—and still continued to fight. He even refused medical evacuation so he could stay with



STUDENT VETERAN LIFE

his company and help capture an enemy machine gun position. That earned him America's most prestigious honor for bravery in battle. President Herbert Hoover presented Bronson with the medal in a ceremony on Nov. 19, 1929.

Bronson, who changed his major and earned his UW bachelor's degree in political science in 1916, returned to the states after the war. He became an executive with an Ohio paint company before moving back to the Pacific Northwest to work for his family's Oregon lumber business.

One of eight alumni to receive the Medal of Honor—no other non-service university has as many—Bronson died in 1957 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Be sure to stop by the Medal of Honor memorial to pay tribute to the man from Rhinelander, Wisconsin, who was not tough enough to earn a varsity letter in football, but was brave enough to be a war hero.

## Huskies Having a Sand Blast

The UW's newest sport is also one of the best to watch in person. The Husky women's beach volleyball team, which started play in 2014, opens its sixth season in March with some home matches at Alki Beach in West Seattle.

"We get some attendance from people who know volleyball. And friends and family," coach Steve Whitaker says. "Some of the volleyball community around the area come out and are supportive. A lot of it has to do with what kind of day it is. If it's pouring down rain, we don't get much of a crowd. But if it's nice at the beach, we get a nice-sized crowd."

Each team has five two-player squads who play one game per match. And the UW is playing many more matches now. "It is slowly but surely growing," Whitaker says. "We went from playing two matches that first year to a full schedule. We're playing over 20 matches a year now." The team includes some members of the UW's great indoor volleyball team, who join the beach team after the indoor season ends in January.



ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS (2)

"It is amazing to me how much these student-athletes can do and how physical the game is becoming," Whitaker explains. "The level of play keeps getting better every year. A lot has to do with the Olympics and how much it's being covered there. They've done a good job of promoting the sport. It's really fun."

*UW player Shayne McPherson digs in the sand.*

## Gallimore's Goodbye

Sadly, UW women's soccer coach Lesle Gallimore is retiring after 26 years, the longest run for a coach in the Pac-12. "It's obviously been the biggest joy of my life," she says. "We have invested our heart and soul in this place, so it's going to be difficult to leave."

After a stellar career as a player at Cal, where she was a four-time All-American defender, and coaching at San Diego State for a few years, Gallimore came here in 1994. She went on to take the Huskies to 14 NCAA tournaments. She also led them to the Elite Eight in 2004 and 2010, which she says are some of her best moments coaching the team.

"Obviously, winning the Pac-10 for the first time in 2000 was awesome," she says.



"Our two Elite Eight runs were great. We knocked off No. 1 Portland one of the years we went to the Elite Eight. ... And even the heartbreak of twice being one game away from getting to the College Cup is something where you get that feeling where you just want to get back there."

While Gallimore, 55, will be leaving the UW, she won't be officially "retiring." She has other career ideas but isn't certain what she will do yet. "I don't feel fearful or stressed or worried about deciding what it is quite yet. But whatever it is, I plan to have fun and do something where I can have an impact and continue to grow as a person," she says. "Every other day I look forward to it, and every other day I get really sad about thinking about this coming to an end. But it's all good."

# GETTING







# THE STORY RIGHT

By Vince Schleitwiler

*The original 1950s  
jacket design for John  
Okada's classic novel,  
"No-No Boy."*

## THE LEGACY OF "NO-NO BOY"

*How a UW alum penned  
a great American novel.  
And how a UW professor  
built a foundation for  
Asian American literature.*

Shawn Wong knows the power of a good story. The longtime English professor has edited anthologies, written novels and helped turn one book into a film. He has taught literature, fiction and screenwriting, and through the Red Badge Project, teaches storytelling to veterans suffering from PTSD and related disorders.

But Wong's place in literary history was already secured in the 1970s, even before his first novel was published. Along with a small group of writers, scholars and activists, he rediscovered and reprinted overlooked classics by Asian American authors, demonstrating to the world that Asian American literature was a distinct, proud tradition.

So last spring, when the publishing behemoth Penguin Random House released a new edition of one of those books, John Okada's "No-No Boy," while ignoring the rights of the Okada family, he knew how he would fight back. On social media, he posted an image of the copyright claim he'd filed in 1976 for the author's widow, and shared memories of his adventures as a do-it-yourself publisher, hawking copies of the novel from the trunk of his yellow Mustang.

"What Penguin doesn't understand is that books belong to people, to families as well as writers," Wong wrote.

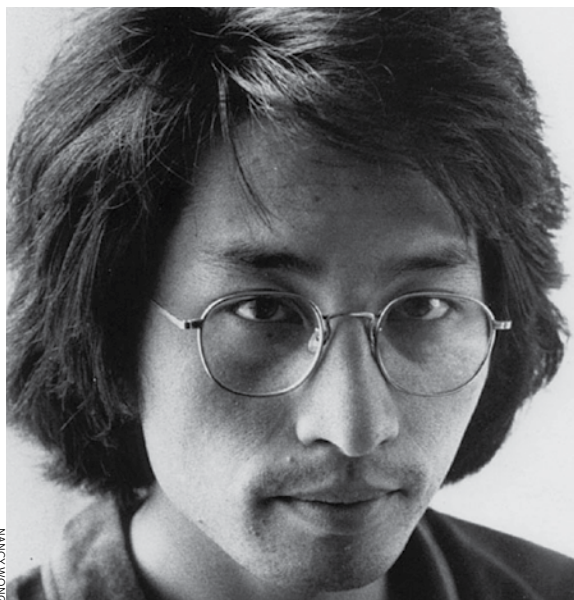
The literary community responded, and Wong's campaign to push Penguin to recognize the Okada family's rights went viral. Statements of support appeared from prominent writers like Viet Thanh Nguyen, David Henry Hwang and Jamie Ford. Influential booksellers, including the Elliott Bay Book Company and the University Book Store, returned their copies to Penguin and reordered the long-standing

edition, authorized by the Okadas, from UW Press.

Within days, articles appeared in the national media, including The New York Times, Los Angeles Times, NBC Asian America and the front page of the Seattle Times. How could they resist a good David-and-Goliath story—one man facing off against a giant multinational conglomerate?

Sure enough, Wong's campaign succeeded. By the end of summer, Penguin reached an agreement—UW Press continues to sell the novel exclusively in the United States, and, with the Okadas' approval, both publishers are working together to facilitate international sales.

Stories are powerful. As with most good ones, though, there's still much more to be told.



NANCY WONG

*When he was a graduate student, Shawn Wong and a group of Asian American scholars and writers rediscovered John Okada's book in a Bay Area shop.*

■ ■ ■  
In 1971, a 47-year-old UW English alum named John Okada died of a heart attack. A chain-smoking, workaholic father of two, he'd been a "Mad Men"-era advertising copywriter, a technical writer in the Cold War defense industry and a mild-mannered librarian.

Meanwhile, on the side, he'd published a novel with a small publisher based in Japan and Vermont. The Charles E. Tuttle Co. printed "No-No Boy" in 1957 in a hard-back run of 1,500 copies and still hadn't sold them all when Okada died. In the meantime, he had been slowly working on a second novel about the Japanese American immigrants of his parents' generation, which he left unfinished.

His widow, Dorothy, couldn't find any

takers for his manuscripts, so she threw them out. "I have him in my heart, and I have him in my head," she explained later. "What more evidence do I need?"

The literary life can be cruel, and not all good stories reach an audience.

Indeed, Okada's own story was remarkable, as Frank Abe, Greg Robinson and Floyd Cheung revealed in "John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy," a 2019 American Book Award winner from UW Press.

The night after Pearl Harbor was attacked, Okada, then an 18-year-old undergrad, girded himself for the impending war and racist backlash by writing a poem. "I Must Be Strong" was published anonymously in The Daily four days later. That February, the FBI came to the family business—the Yakima Hotel in Seattle's International District—to arrest Okada's father, Yoshito. Separated from the family, Yoshito was thrown into a detention center, and eventually sent to a camp near Missoula, Montana.

Meanwhile, Okada, his mother, four siblings and other Seattle Japanese Americans, were incarcerated, first in barracks at the Puyallup fairgrounds, and subsequently at the Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho. His family was still there when Okada volunteered for the Army, where he flew 24 missions intercepting Japanese radio communications for the Military Intelligence Service.

Japanese American MIS veterans were sworn to secrecy after the war, so Okada couldn't tell his own story in his novel. Instead, he drew on the memories of an old classmate from Broadway High and the UW, Hajime Jim Akutsu, one of a number of Japanese Americans who'd resisted the draft while their families remained behind barbed wire.

For this act of conscience, they were tried, convicted, imprisoned. Then, despite a postwar presidential pardon, they faced decades of ostracism within their community. In "No-No Boy," Okada fashioned a somewhat different story, of a bitter and confused resister fresh from prison, the slowly dying veteran who befriends him and a community still reeling from the trauma of incarceration.

Good stories Okada had in abundance. But a once-vibrant Japanese American literary scene had been devastated by the war, and Okada died before he was able to find his audience.

Then, a few months later, a scruffy group of young Asian American writers came calling.

■ ■ ■

Shawn Wong knew he was going to be a writer while still an undergrad at San Francisco State University. Unfortunately,

he later wrote, "I realized I was the only Asian American writer I knew (and I wasn't very good)."

His mentor, the legendary novelist Kay Boyle, introduced him to a graduate student, Jeffery Chan. Through Chan, he met Frank Chin, another writer. Together, they hunted through used bookstores for evidence of other Asian American writers.

In an anthology of Fresno, California, poets, they found Lawson Inada, who was teaching in Oregon. The four of them founded CARP, the Combined Asian American Resources Project, and befriended a who's-who of 1970s writers of color, including Ishmael Reed and Leslie Marmon Silko.

They also dug up an older generation of writers, including Toshio Mori, Hisaye Yamamoto and Wakako Yamauchi. Soon, they had enough new and rediscovered material for an anthology, "Aiiieeeee!," which was rejected by numerous presses before Howard University Press' Charles Harris finally agreed to publish it.

But of all the books they rediscovered, the most influential—the proof-of-concept for their vision of an Asian American literary tradition—was "No-No Boy."

Tragically, they just missed meeting the author, but they made a pilgrimage to see his widow, and began to spread word about the book like missionaries. When it went out of print, they enlisted the Japanese American community in a letter campaign to get it reprinted.

They targeted the University of Washington Press, which asked them to raise \$5,000 to fund the printing. Instead, they decided to publish it themselves. They pooled savings, scrounged money from Okada's brothers, and took out an ad in a Japanese American newspaper, offering a discount for advance purchases.

And the readers showed up. The first CARP printing sold out before it arrived, and they ordered another. Realizing they'd missed out on a hit, the folks at UW Press called back, but Wong insisted that the press republish other authors first. They agreed, beginning a partnership that has continued for over 40 years, giving rise to an unparalleled catalog of Asian American classics.

Eventually, Wong agreed to let the press take over the reprint of Okada's novel, and introduced the press to the Okada family. "We've built a trusted relationship with them since we first published "No-No Boy" in 1978 and we've run all major decisions by the Okadas," says editor-in-chief Larin McLaughlin. "We've sold over 160,000 copies of the book, and sales since 2014 have increased every year."

In recent years, the press has been updating its Classics of Asian American



In 1957, the year “No-No Boy” was published, John Okada worked as a technical writer. He died in 1971 and never got to enjoy the success of his book.

COURTESY THE TOSHIO OKADA FAMILY



Literature line with new editions of authors like Carlos Bulosan, Toshio Mori and Bienvenido Santos. This year, the press released an expanded version of David Wong Louie’s “Pangs of Love,” with a foreword by Viet Thanh Nguyen, and reissued works by Mary Paik Lee. Others are forthcoming.

■ ■ ■

Bigger news is on the way. Wong is going back to his publishing roots, collaborating on a new UW Press fund to support Asian American titles. The first of these “Shawn Wong books” will be a reissue of Louis Chu’s “Eat a Bowl of Tea,” with a foreword by novelist Fae Myenne Ng. Meanwhile, in November, UW Press released a third edition of “Aiiieeeee!,” the CARP anthology that reintroduced Okada and others in 1974. Ironically, the release was made possible by a separate decision by Penguin, which ceded the book’s rights.

“Aiiieeeee!” is long overdue for reconsideration by readers and scholars. University of Oregon professor Tara Fickle, who wasn’t born when it was first published, wrote a foreword and has been helping to digitize Wong’s impressive archives. “Working with Shawn and the archive has given me a completely new perspective on the editors and the historical moment that gave birth to this anthology. There are so many more voices here,” she says. “I hope our newest edition really pays tribute to them as well.”

After all these years, now it’s Wong’s

own efforts that are being rediscovered. Along the way, he joined the UW faculty, influenced countless students and, with scholars like Steve Sumida and Sam Solberg, helped establish the foundations of the Asian American literary field.

As his colleague Anis Bawarshi explains, Wong’s work has included institutional leadership on equity and inclusion in various capacities, including a stint heading the English Department. “He is so unassuming, it is sometimes easy to forget that we have a legend in our midst,” says Bawarshi, the current chair. “But at a time when we in English and other humanities departments are thinking critically about disciplinary boundaries and their organizing epistemologies—what they include and exclude—Professor Wong has played a crucial leadership role in helping us understand how centering equity can transform and enrich our disciplines.”

One man against a multinational corporation? A struggling author dying in obscurity? Maybe these stories were never as lonely as they seemed. The real story, in 2019 as in the 1970s, is that the audience for Asian American literature is big, passionate and growing.

That’s the power of a good story—it can reveal a whole world that you hadn’t realized was there. —*A fourth-generation Japanese American, Vince Schleithner, ’03, ’08, is acting assistant professor of American Ethnic Studies; he teaches Japanese American studies and comparative ethnic studies at the UW.*

## Get Involved with the UW Alumni Book Club

“No-No Boy” is the current selection of the online UW Alumni Book Club. Discussions began Nov. 14, but readers are encouraged to join at any time. We recommend purchasing the book from the University of Washington Press. All UWAA members get 30% off at UW Press; non-members have access with a 20% discount by using the code WABOOKCLUB.

## You’re Invited

**No-No Boy: The Story of How a Novel Goes from 1,500 Copies Sold to 158,000 Copies**

Shawn Wong, Professor, UW Department of English  
Jan. 30, 7 p.m., | UW Libraries, Kane 210

In the early 1970s, Shawn Wong and a group of young Asian American writers discovered the novel “No-No Boy” by John Okada, in a used bookstore for fifty cents. Originally published in 1957, it had not sold out 15 years later. No one had read the novel and the author had died believing his novel was rejected and forgotten. Wong will share the story of “No-No Boy,” its rediscovery and how young Asian American writers urged a new audience to recognize the book’s importance and launched its journey from obscurity to canonical work in Asian American literature.





# IF I CAN TELL YOU THAT COYOTES ARE LINKED TO RACISM, I GOT YOUR EAR.

Coyotes and African Americans share something in common, believes **Christopher Schell**—the experience of being viewed with fear and suspicion *By Julie Davidow Photos by Quinn Russell Brown*

Christopher Schell will tell you he's a black nerd. He'll tell you he was up at 3 a.m. the night before a conference because his infant son would not sleep. He'll tell you the students who work in his lab at the University of Washington, Tacoma are paid rather than expected to volunteer. He'll tell you social and economic inequality is an ecological issue.

And he'll tell you that studying the behavior of coyotes in cities reveals how race and class shape the neighborhoods and natural environments where people and animals live.

For Schell, an urban ecologist, recognizing all of these realities at once and sharing his story—all of his story—is crucial to challenging expectations about what a scientist looks like, sounds like, acts like and prioritizes. “Just being about the science is not good enough,” he told a roomful of wildlife experts in June.

Schell's talk at the opening session of the International Urban Wildlife Conference in Portland wove pop culture references—including the films “Jurassic Park” and “Black Panther”—and social-justice critiques into an argument about the inextricable links between the social and natural sciences. “You’ve become part of a bigger universe. You just don’t know it yet,” he said, quoting Nick Fury, Samuel L. Jackson’s character from the movie “Iron Man.” “Does that sound familiar? It should.

It’s very much like ecology,” Schell says.

Schell, who joined UW Tacoma last year as an assistant professor, is determined to use the charismatic species he studies to deliver a message about racism and inequality. As his work and interests have evolved, Schell says he finds it harder to ignore that everything is connected. If you pull one lever, another moves. That’s how he can get from urban wildlife to social justice in just a few steps. “If I can tell you that coyotes are linked to racism,” he says, “I got your ear.”

Although he is cautious about drawing direct connections—there is a history of scientific racism associating people of color with animals—he does see coyotes and the human reaction to them in urban areas as a metaphor. African Americans also are often met with fear and suspicion, he says, especially when they’re perceived as being somewhere they do not belong.

“I liken [coyotes in urban areas] to the experience of being black in America because they’re hyperpolarizing,” Schell says. “They’re hated on. They’re feared. People try to eradicate them from an environment. They don’t leave. They learn quickly and figure out ways to survive in cities.”

• • •

Schell grew up in Altadena, a Southern California suburb north of Pasadena where residential streets lined with adobe-roofed homes back up to canyons and wilderness.

Cougars, raccoons and coyotes share the landscape with human beings. He loved animals and grew up hiking the trails with his family’s dog.

He was a smart kid, good at school and science. For a middle-class black college student with professional aspirations, that meant pursuing a pre-med track when he started at Columbia University. The respect and financial security of becoming a doctor seemed like a safe bet, especially when compared to a career in the natural sciences. Plus, the scientists on the nature shows he liked to watch were all white men. “If you have no cultural touchpoints to somebody who does work in the field, how would you know it’s an option?” he says.

Except, as he soon realized after volunteering at a hospital, he hated studying medicine.

So he changed his major to psychology, found an adviser in animal behavior, flirted with a focus on wolves and ultimately opted to study coyotes—a less well understood and more adaptable species of canid. He finds their ability to adjust to new surroundings “exceptionally endearing.”

“Coyotes are big enough to be the apex predator in cities,” he says, “but still small enough to navigate those cities.”

• • •

At its most fundamental level, urban ecology is the study of how people and nature interact. The field is relatively new,

*Urban ecologist Christopher Schell sees himself in the science.*

launched in earnest about two decades ago. It is an area of scientific research that lends itself, perhaps more than most, to a deeper understanding of the ways cities take shape around human priorities that benefit some people and animals more than others.

In Portland, wildlife scientists from around the world shared their research on topics like foraging behaviors of urban otters in Singapore, the impact of light pollution on tree frogs in Syracuse and conflicts between birds of prey and humans in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Urban ecologists who ignore the geography of race and income in a city do so at the peril of their science as well as to the detriment of the people who live there, Schell told them. "If you only measure species in rich environments and make inferences across the city, you're missing the point," he says. "There's in-city variance that's influenced directly by social inequality."

Redlining, for example, divided cities by race and income, relegating people of color to areas with fewer resources. Homeowners in more affluent neighbor-

hoods planted trees and gardens, creating green environments that are healthier for people and attract a greater variety of urban wildlife.

on those topics, "We just ran with it," Gallo says. They invited Deeohn Ferris, vice president for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at the National Audubon Society, and Bob Sallinger, director of the Portland Audubon Society, to join Schell on stage.

During the Q&A, a professor asked the group how he could help a graduate student get through a program in which she is the only African American. Schell said he's been there. He watched the number of students of color studying ecology alongside him dwindle from five when he was an undergrad to one in graduate school. And that person eventually dropped out. "It's lonely sometimes," he said.

Then Schell told a story.

While driving back to the University of Chicago from his fieldwork in Utah, he was pulled over by the Highway Patrol. It was a routine stop—license, insurance, do you know how fast you were going—with a twist. The officer told him to wait in the patrol car while he asked Schell's then-girlfriend (now his wife), who is white, some questions. He wanted to know how long the two of them had been a couple, did they live together, were they married, did

possible. I tell them straight up, 'Look, sometimes I cry in my office. It's damn hard. Sometimes, the kids didn't sleep,'" Schell explained in Portland. "I let them know that I am human. I am flawed. I make mistakes. And you all can do that in my office, too."

Schell's openness set the tone for a different kind of conversation than is typical in academic settings. "I had never seen Chris speak before," Gallo said. "He blew me away. I had goosebumps."

• • •

Schell feels a kinship with coyotes—and not just because he watched pups grow up during his graduate work. A framed photo of the puppies from his study—with their big ears, playing in the dry grass—hangs on his office wall. On the shelf below, an empty raccoon cage hints at his next project.

Schell knows he moves through the world as a suspect, much like the animals he observes. So he adapts. He smiles more. He carefully selects his clothes—a sport coat and collared shirt rather than the cargo pants and flannel so common among older, white ecologists. He never goes out to do

## URBAN ECOLOGISTS WHO IGNORE THE GEOGRAPHY OF RACE AND INCOME IN A CITY DO SO AT THE PERIL OF THEIR SCIENCE.

hoods planted trees and gardens, creating green environments that are healthier for people and attract a greater variety of urban wildlife.

By recognizing inequalities that persist today in urban areas, "we do our science better," Schell said.

The audience, scientists whose careers are dedicated to studying wildlife in the least wild of settings like street corners in the Bronx and Chicago city parks, was hooked. They cheered in person and gushed on social media.

"Thank you @cschell\_canids for one of the most inspirational talks I've heard at a wildlife meeting in years! Way to show us how and why representation matters," Madhusudan Katti, an evolutionary ecologist at North Carolina State University, wrote on Twitter.

Sharon J. Hall, an ecosystem ecologist at Arizona State University, posted that the opening session was "one of the most authentic conversations about inclusion I've experienced in a conference setting."

The topics of diversity and inclusion are often relegated to specific panels at large conferences, says Travis Gallo, an urban ecologist at George Mason University. When the Portland organizers gave Schell and Gallo the go-ahead to plan a full day

they have children.

"It had nothing to do with the science, but it hurt," Schell recalled. "It still hurts to this day."

• • •

For Schell, being a research scientist is about fieldwork, teaching and publishing. But it is also about supporting students of color who feel out of place and overlooked in predominantly white classrooms. And it means helping set an environmental-justice agenda based on the needs and priorities of marginalized communities.

To those multiple ends, Schell tries to live his ideals.

Last fall, Schell's lab launched the Grit City Carnivore Project with the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, Northwest Trek and Metro Parks Tacoma. The long-term research project recruits scientists to track and collect data about Tacoma's urban wildlife. He's also working with a new group of other researchers in his department at UW Tacoma to understand how Tacoma residents in the city's racially diverse neighborhoods define the most pressing environmental issues in their communities.

And when students come to him afraid that they don't belong, he is frank about his own struggles. "I think about how to be as vulnerable and authentic with them as

fieldwork alone. "I'm not scared of coyotes, but [hearing] cop sirens when I have an anesthetized animal at 3 a.m.—that'll raise my hackles." He wears a jacket that says "Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Staff," which "gives me some credibility beyond just being a black person out in nature."

Before the 1920s, North American coyotes lived exclusively in the Great Plains. But after wolves were hunted almost to extinction, coyotes expanded their territories and are now found throughout the country, pushing past rural areas and deep into cities. There's even a sizable population in Manhattan.

Schell, who keeps a life-size replica of a coyote in his office, explains that they fall between wolves and foxes on the canid carnivore food chain, but loom much larger in the popular imagination—both in size and threat. Adults weigh an average of 25 pounds and are about the size of border collies, although their winter coats can make them appear much bigger. Wolves, by comparison, weigh up to 120 pounds. And though they do hunt cats and small dogs (domestic cats make up 20 percent of an urban coyote's diet, according to one estimate), they almost never attack people.

When humans spot coyotes hunting in backyards and trotting down residential

*The skull of an adult coyote, measuring a mere four inches wide, is shown here at actual size.*





streets, they often suspect the canids are out of place and up to no good. They rarely ask which human habits—allowing cats to go out of doors, setting pet food out on the porch, building roads and new homes covering what was once open space—encourage coyotes to stick around and adapt, Schell says.

Experts already knew that urban coyotes were bolder around people than their rural counterparts when Schell started his graduate work. But they did not know why. After observing eight coyote families at a federal research facility in Utah, Schell found that coyote pups learn not to fear humans by watching their parents. “Each generation is bolder than the last,” he says. “Soon you have a litter of puppies that, by the time they become adults, are city slickers.”

If Schell notices a coyote too close to homes or a nature trail, he walks toward it, clapping and shouting. Coyote specialists call this hazing and it’s the best way to head off conflict with humans. Those canid encounters might endanger people, but are more likely to end in removal or death

### **SCHELL KNOWS HE MOVES THROUGH THE WORLD AS A SUSPECT, LIKE THE ANIMALS HE OBSERVES.**

for the coyotes, Schell says. “If we do this hazing as a community, making sure the animals have a healthy fear and caution around people, then they survive longer, the population stays healthy, and we still have coyotes in our city without fearing them.”

As a young, black ecologist, Schell believes he has an edge. He’s already more practiced than most scientists at modulating his message based on the audience. He sees connections and possibilities where others see discrete conditions and natural divisions. He wants to be an ambassador for his field, a bridge between urban ecology, sociology, history and urban studies.

“That code-switching is something that urban ecology should adopt,” Schell says. “Traditional ecologists marveled at how wildlife adapted and completely ignored the inequality that exists in cities.

“I feel like it’s my calling and my job to say, ‘Let’s reconsider this.’”—*Julie Davidow is the staff writer at University of Washington Magazine. She has written for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer as well as newspapers in Northern California. Her articles have appeared in Crosscut and the Seattle Weekly. She has a Ph.D. in U.S. history from the University of Pennsylvania.*





# COMING SOON: THE NEW U DISTRICT CHANGE IS COMING TO THE UW'S FRONT DOOR. WHAT IT MEANS FOR ALL OF US.

By Misty Shock Rule Photos by David Oh







# IT'S A WHOLE NEW ECONOMIC CORRIDOR THAT DIDN'T EXIST A YEAR AGO

Exploring the University District and being in the thick of city life is a big part of what I came to love about attending the UW. I got up to no good with friends, I saw classic films at the Varsity Theatre, and I bought records for a buck at Second Time Around, my favorite record store.

I'm a Korean adoptee raised in a largely white community. I didn't learn to use chopsticks until my first boyfriend taught me during one of our visits to China First on the Ave. I first tasted Korean food at a tiny spot called the Korean Kitchen, which was run by a Korean grandma and her family.

Back then, those were just new experiences. But now, I see that I was unlocking parts of myself that would form the basis for who I am today.

The U District has changed a lot in the 23 years since I came to the UW. But it is about to change even more dramatically. In 2021, a Sound Transit light rail station will open in the heart of the U District at N.E. 43rd Street and Brooklyn Avenue N.E. Light rail will transform the U District into a neighborhood that is exponentially more connected, making it a desirable place to live, work and play. Developers have taken notice, especially since the Seattle City Council upzoned the neighborhood in 2017, raising maximum building heights up to 320 feet in some areas.

Between N.E. 41st and N.E. 50th streets, west of the Ave—where building heights were raised the most—nine towers up to 30 stories high are in development or planned. Dozens of other projects are in the works across the neighborhood, ranging from townhouses to mixed-use buildings.

The University of Washington's Campus Master Plan includes intentions to further develop the University's campus near UW Medical Center, south of N.E. 41st Street and west of 15th Avenue N.E. to the University Bridge. The plan calls for 6 million square feet of new construction, including academic, athletic, research and office space, over the next 10 years and beyond.

Private and public development will drastically alter the U District's skyline. Seattle's booming economy means neighborhoods across the city are experiencing the opportunities and pain of prosperity.

All of this leaves me wondering: What will these changes mean for the unique character and community of the neighborhood I love? What scenes will form the backdrop for iconic moments in the lives of future UW students?

Allison Joseph, '90, has owned Four Corners Art & Frame on the Ave for 26





**PREVIOUS**

*Says Allison Joseph, owner of Four Corners Art & Frame: "The gift that the Ave gives is that you look at how difficult life can be and say, 'Let's smile at each other.'"*

**RIGHT**

*Many forms of life take wing in the alleys of the U District.*

**LEFT ABOVE**

*Buildings along the Ave possess their own personalities.*

**LEFT BELOW**

*Mark Crawford sees the University District "fundamentally becoming a new place." He is the interim executive director of the U District Partnership.*



years. She first started working there when she was 18. She remembers coming to the Ave in the late 1980s and finding a vibrant neighborhood that drew people from all over the city. Tiny restaurants sat beside a Nordstrom Place Two and high-end boutiques like Nelly Stallion. Older people wandered down from their apartments in the morning followed by students and urban professionals as the day wore on.

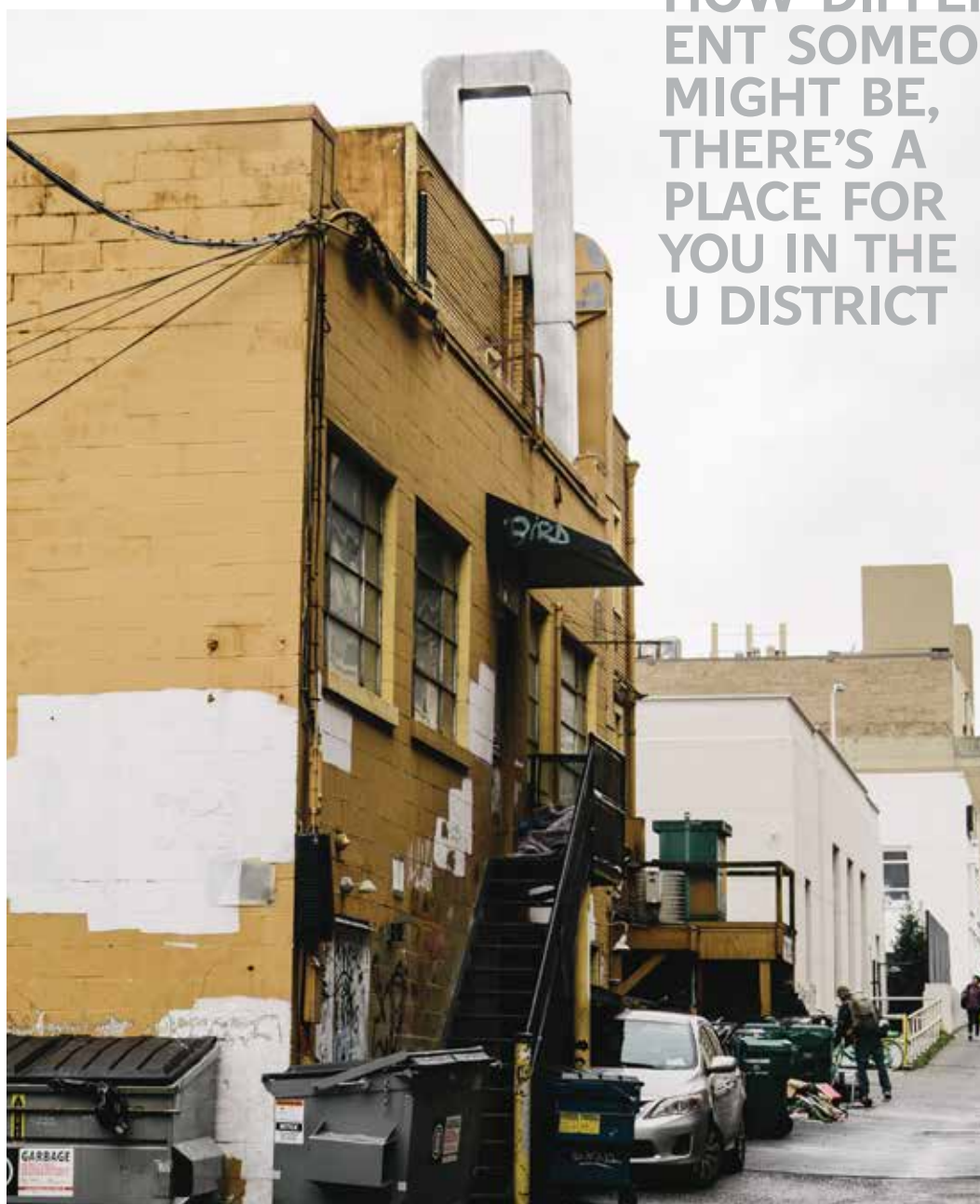
“As I was buying the business, we went through a major recession. We went through the street being torn up and redone. But for some reason, my view has stayed the same. I look out my door and see Shiga’s,” Joseph says, pointing across the street to Shiga’s Imports, which has occupied the same space since 1962.

“When I open my door and hear snippets of conversation, I’ve heard different versions of the same thing for 32 years: What young people are always interested in, what old people always complain about. ... The gift that the Ave gives is that you look at how difficult life can be and say, ‘Here we are all with something to offer to each other. Let’s smile at each other. Let’s hold the door open.’”

For many, the character of the U District is captured by the Ave, the central business district that runs parallel to the UW’s west edge. The Ave is the home to many “firsts.” Big Time Brewery, which opened in 1988, is Seattle’s oldest brewery. The U District Farmers Market is the oldest farmers market in the city, and the U District Street Fair is the longest-running street festival in the country. Founded in 1975, legendary Café Allegro wasn’t the city’s first espresso bar, but it is the oldest. Howard Schultz has described the café as a prototype for Starbucks.

Much of the Ave north of N.E. 50th has already changed drastically, with sparkling new, tall buildings. And the upzone between N.E. 41st and N.E. 50th streets west of the Ave requires buildings to include retail at ground level. The nine towers planned for that area will change the U District’s commercial landscape, creating what Mark Crawford calls a new “spine” for the neighborhood. Crawford is the interim executive director of the U District Partnership, a nonprofit that represents business, residential and community interests.

“It’s a whole new economic corridor that didn’t exist a year ago,” Crawford says. “So when we think about what we love about the Ave, their monopoly is going away. The question becomes what is needed in the district to support the growing residential, commercial and employee base, and what it is that we continue to cherish



NO MATTER  
HOW DIFFER-  
ENT SOMEONE  
MIGHT BE,  
THERE’S A  
PLACE FOR  
YOU IN THE  
U DISTRICT

about what’s on the Ave? ... The district is fundamentally becoming a new place.”

Louise Little, ’81, CEO of University Book Store, is excited about the opportunities ahead. “We’re writing the story of the U District now,” she says. “I don’t think we had a compelling story 20 years ago. ... You could come to theaters and you could literally eat yourself around the world. ... There were fun little family-operated restaurants where you get to know the owners and meet their families and they become a part of the community. You don’t see that anywhere else. ... I don’t think we did a good job of telling people what we

had and why they needed to come.”

Some businesses are excited about the changes that are coming but others are worried about their place in the new U District. The conflict is coming down to the fate of the Ave. The U District Small Business Association, a collection of business owners and volunteers who want to preserve the unique characteristics of the U District, has joined with a community organization called U District Advocates to launch the “Save the Ave” campaign.

While the Ave is currently zoned for 65 feet high, most buildings are half that size. The city proposed upzoning the Ave just

#### ABOVE

*Some aging U District buildings are not always in the best shape.*

#### RIGHT

*Rocky Yeh embraces the area’s renewal: “Part of the character of the Ave is that it does change.”*





one story higher to 75 feet. Fearing displacement, small businesses successfully lobbied to postpone the upzone in 2017, asking for more time to study how it would affect them. In May, when the City Council upzoned 27 additional neighborhoods, it again excluded the Ave, citing the need for further analysis.

The Save the Ave campaign is fighting the upzone of the Ave. It wants to preserve its “human-scaled” environment so that it will remain vibrant, livable and recognizable. But some wonder: If developers haven’t built up the Ave already, what difference will 10 additional feet of height make?

“Any time you raise the height limitation, you’re going to put pressure on the properties to be developed to that height because there’s an economic incentive to do it,” says Chris Peterson, ’85, ’98, owner of Café Allegro and a member of the U District Small Business Association. “I don’t think one extra floor will make that big of a difference ... but there’s no guarantee that doesn’t change in the future.

“We’ve already given up more development capacity than any other neighborhood. Why can’t we just preserve one small section that people have a deep affection for?”

Peterson and other U District supporters want the Ave preserved as a historic district, citing the fact that 80% of the buildings between N.E. 41st and N.E. 50th streets were built before 1930 or are otherwise significant. In Seattle, each historic district is regulated by a citizen board. Even minor changes like exterior paint color might require formal approval.

A 2017 study by Steinbrueck Urban Strategies surveyed 123 small businesses on the Ave and surrounding areas. A large majority of businesses in the study are managed by their owners, and over half employ just one to five people. Sixty-five percent are women- or minority-owned, and 70% employ minorities, immigrants or both. Only 10% own their space, and nearly 15% are on month-to-month leases, making them more vulnerable to displacement.

At least one business, Pho Tran, decided to close after 15 years due to rising rents. Dean Hardwick of venerable hardware store Hardwick & Sons, founded in 1932, sold his property on Roosevelt Avenue N.E. to a developer for \$17.2 million. He’ll continue to operate the store until summer 2020, when construction will begin on a 22-story high-rise. He will then move the business to Post Falls, Idaho, closer to his wife’s family.

Lois Ko, ’04, was born in the United States to Korean immigrants and grew up



in South Korea before returning to the U.S. For 10 years, she ran the Haagen-Dazs franchise on N.E. 43rd Street and the Ave before opening her own ice cream shop, Sweet Alchemy, there in 2016. She understands the fear of other small-business owners whose landlords don't have a connection with the area. Some landlords have even used scare tactics to bully business owners, she says.

But it's not a fear she has. "The first time I got any wind of upzoning, I called my landlord to see what his plans were. He is so supportive of me, and he is so supportive of immigrant business owners and women business owners," she says of her landlord, who has even offered lower rent if needed.

As a member of the U District Partnership board, she is keeping a close eye on what's happening in the neighborhood. She keeps her neighbors informed, some of whom are immigrants who might face language barriers, and are hesitant to advocate for themselves.

"The more I'm in business," Ko says, "the more I'm astounded by how much I need to be involved in politics."

Sally Clark, '90, '04, is the UW's director

of Regional & Community Relations. When she was a UW student, she remembers that, for the University, "the end of the world was 15th Avenue N.E."

"There was a change at some point to recognize that our students, staff and faculty are in and out of the U District every day and that UW can be a more intentional force for good in the neighborhood," Clark says. "You've seen the University go beyond 15th metaphorically in terms of being much more involved with conversations the city has sponsored around zoning and supporting efforts like the U District Partnership. You've also seen the University look at 15th as too much of a physical barrier and change that with new development." Both the Burke Museum, which opened in October, and the Population Health building, which is set to open in 2020, sit right on 15th Avenue N.E. and feature more open designs integrated into the neighborhood.

The light rail station at Husky Stadium has already transformed Rainier Vista as a gateway to the UW. Likewise, N.E. 43rd Street is slated to become a major University entrance and thoroughfare between the U District light rail station and campus. The UW plans to build a roughly 12-story

building above the station that will be used for office space.

If fully implemented, the Campus Master Plan will allow the University's square footage to grow a third larger. The additional 6 million square feet will become academic, office and research space needed to accommodate 7,000-plus students and employees. It allows towers up to 240 feet high in some places and two new green spaces on the Montlake Cut and Portage Bay, including a 7½ acre park on west campus.

Half the growth will take place at west campus, which is envisioned as an "innovation district." Legally, the campus can only be used for functions that fulfill the mission of the University, which range from traditional academic facilities, like classrooms and labs, to other uses, like housing and industry partnerships. "We're going to try our hardest to make a really great neighborhood, a place where people want to be and where they are looking for unique, authentic experiences," Clark says.

The City Council and the UW agreed to a provision in the Campus Master Plan for the UW to build 450 units of affordable housing for lower-wage employees. The

#### RIGHT

*Sweet Alchemy ice cream shop owner Lois Ko is struck by the need to become involved in local politics, not just business.*

#### LEFT BELOW

*Café Allegro owner Chris Peterson would love to see the U District preserved as a city-sponsored historic district.*

#### RIGHT BELOW

*The razing of local churches doesn't sit well with University Heights' executive director Maureen Ewing, who points out that one demolished church formerly housed a dozen nonprofits.*







## PART OF THE CHARACTER OF THE AVE IS THAT IT DOES CHANGE

UW had already announced a partnership to develop up to 150 of those apartments in the U District.

In 2016, 60% of U District residents were below the poverty line. In 2014, with the average rent for U District apartments at \$1,241, students called on the City Council and the mayor to form a student housing affordability task force. It's unclear if the increased market-rate housing will help relieve pressure on U District renters. Recently announced developments largely consist of high-end student housing or luxury apartments.

As part of the upzone and the city's Mandatory Housing Affordability legislation, developers must include affordable housing in their buildings or contribute to

an affordable housing fund. Most opt to contribute, which means there is no guarantee of affordable housing staying in the U District.

Nancy Amidei, senior lecturer emeritus at the UW School of Social Work, has been advocating for the homeless for more than 20 years. She remembers a man named Hal, who "adopted" the Social Work building in the 1980s. He was working on a book and became part of the U District-University Partnership for Youth, an initiative Amidei helped start, and dropped by monthly meetings, took notes and interviewed people. When Hal died, one of the local churches hosted a memorial service for him, and Amidei and her colleagues took part in honoring his memory.

It's an example of how the community has come together to care for all of its residents. "No matter how different someone might be, there's a place for you in the U District," Amidei says.

The U District attracts vulnerable youth because they can blend in easily. It's common in other college areas, too, Amidei says. Sometimes, they're even part of the UW student body. In May, a tri-campus study led by Rachel Fyall, assistant professor in the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, found that 160 students reported that they lived in a car, shelter or "other area not intended for habitation," and 4,800 to 5,600 students experienced housing instability at some point during the year, at the time of the study in 2018.

In response, the U District is home to services supporting homeless youth and adults. But like the residents who live in the neighborhood, those services could also be displaced.

Many services are housed in churches with shrinking congregations and rising costs. A task force convened by the U District Partnership found that more than 50% of churches providing homelessness services are at risk of losing their space. University Christian Church, which sat on N.E. 50th Street and 15th Avenue N.E., has already been demolished, displacing a dozen nonprofits.

University Temple United Methodist Church on 15th Avenue N.E. and N.E. 43rd Street houses ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, the largest shelter of its kind in Washington, and Urban Rest Stop, a hygiene center for the homeless run by the Low Income Housing Institute. The church's property is being redeveloped into two towers, one 22 stories and the other 12 stories, which will house retail with the church below and private student housing above. Thanks to a supporter, ROOTS and Urban Rest Stop have found a home in an old fraternity

house on 19th Avenue N.E., and they will move next year.

"We weren't fully appreciating the work churches were doing to keep the social safety net together. I don't know what we're going to do," says Maureen Ewing, executive director of University Heights, the U District community center that offers space to nonprofits below market rate. "Who is filling the gap of these faith-based communities? The U District is the canary in the coal mine, and a city-wide assessment should be conducted to prevent further loss of critical community services."

This September, I sat down with my friend Rocky Yeh, '01, to get his perspective. He bought his condo in the U District in 1999, and he's not afraid of change in the neighborhood. "The U District is ideal to become a neighborhood where you don't need a car. This can be a transit hub of its own outside of downtown that can serve north Seattle and Ballard and points east since you have 520 right there," he says.

"I can't fault the upzone because the neighborhood's supposed to be a transit corridor. It needs renewal. ... Part of the character of the Ave is that it does change."

Right now, the scale of the change is still somewhat in limbo. Most of the development so far has happened in spots that were gas stations and parking lots. Ko opened a new Sweet Alchemy shop in Ballard but she is committed to staying in the U District. "The diversity of not just people, but their stages of life, who might come in because of the new housing—it will ultimately be better for our neighborhood," she says. "I'm going to find a way to survive. I came to school here. I grew up here. I'm raising my family here. This is my neighborhood."

I recently brought my 6-year-old daughter Penny to the U District. We ate chicken wings at Bok a Bok, the new Korean fried chicken place on N.E. 52nd Street and the Ave. Thinking back, I realized that I didn't usually come this far north when I was a student. More businesses are populating the upper part of the Ave, no doubt attracted by the development there. Penny and I walked around wondering what other businesses would come here. There are a lot of Korean places on the Ave. I'm happy that Penny can learn about Korean food in the U District, just like I did when I first came to the neighborhood 23 years ago. —Misty Shock Rule, '99, is a communications and media editor at the University of Washington Alumni Association. In addition to her work for UW Magazine, she writes for the International Examiner, the nation's oldest Asian-community newspaper. Check out her U District food blog: [eatingtheave.com](http://eatingtheave.com).









# THE HOUSE

## AT 5030

Nearly 40 years ago,  
11 friends moved into a U District boarding house.  
The bonds they made remain strong as ever.

**By Jim Caple**

*The 5030 Gang*  
*Back row, from left: Chuck*  
*Sheaffer, Sheila Harvey-Ver-*  
*hulp, Deb Struzyna, Monica*  
*Jolley, Cathy Blackburn, Lau-*  
*rie Olliges and Paul Olliges.*  
*Front row: Karla Tofte, Jim*  
*Caple and Elizabeth Jolley.*  
PHOTO BY RON WURZER

In autumn quarter 1981, I was a sophomore living in a cluster on the fifth floor of McMahon Hall. It was my second year there. Late that quarter, two friends in a cluster down the hall—Sheila Harvey and Deb Alford—wanted to room together. But when they couldn't convince their cluster mates to trade rooms, they decided to move out of McMahon.

Looking for a place to live, Sheila spotted a nearby 11-bedroom house available for a reasonable rent. She asked several of us in McMahon if we would join her in moving there. And we did. In

late December 1981, the three-story house at 5030 17th Ave. N.E. became home to six women and five men. Joining me were Chuck Sheaffer, my high school friend and McMahon roommate; cluster mates Jordan Kleber and Paul Olliges (both swimmers on the UW team); and Tom Verhulp, who lived in another McMahon cluster. The women in the house were Deb and Sheila plus their cluster mates Karla Tofte, Cathy Blackburn, Laurie Thompson and Monica Jolley. “I was a bit surprised that we were able to get everyone to agree so quickly,” Sheila says. “Cathy and Laurie were freshmen, too. I imagine their parents weren’t amused.”

We loved 5030 and all of its charm: three bathrooms, two kitchens, a large dining room with a big table and a living room. And the location couldn’t be beat. “I just loved walking to campus,” Deb says. “I loved walking down 17th. It felt really grown up. We had our own place. We weren’t in dorms anymore. And we loved being all together.”

My small room on the third floor was sandwiched between the ones Sheila and Monica took. Debbie, Laurie, Cathy and Karla—we nicknamed her Snarla—moved into four rooms on the second floor (Cathy’s was the best room in the house). Meanwhile, Tom lived on the first floor while Jordan, Paul and Chuck inhabited the three rooms in the basement (which was also home to a filthy bathroom. But we didn’t care).

For rent, we each paid about \$125 a month, including electricity and water. Also, back then tuition was less than \$1,000 a year. Still, several of us needed to work to pay our bills. Karla, Cathy and Laurie worked evenings at the Design-a-Burger in McMahon, while Jordan was the pool manager at the Seattle Tennis Club. He got me a job as a janitor there that summer.

We ranged in age from 18 to 21, the tail end of the baby boomer generation. “Back then,” Deb says, “we would have thought people who were 57, 58 or 60 were over the hill and life was boring.” Guess what age we are now. (Speaking of older people, one night back then, a woman in her 70s or 80s stopped at our house and wanted to come inside. Though the woman was suffering from memory issues, it was quite memorable for us to invite her in and meet with her.)

Since it was the early ’80s, none of us had computers in the house. Or cellphones, which did not exist. Streaming didn’t either. But we had a TV in the living room and we would gather on the old couch to watch “Hill Street Blues” and “Late Night With

# THE 5030 GROUP

## Cathy Blackburn

’87, B.A., ANTHROPOLOGY

## Jim Caple

’86, B.A., COMMUNICATION

## Sheila Harvey-Verhulp

’96, B.A., PSYCHOLOGY

## Tom Verhulp

(DECEASED)

## Elizabeth Jolley

## Monica Jolley

’05, B.A., INTERDISCIPLINARY  
VISUAL ARTS

## Jordan Kleber

’85, B.A., ENGLISH

## Laurie G. Olliges

(FORMERLY LAURIE THOMPSON)  
’86, B.A., BUSINESS

## Paul Olliges

’84, ’01, B.A., ART (FIBERS), MBA

## Charles (Chuck) Sheaffer

’86, B.A., ENGLISH

## Deb Struzyna

’85, B.S., MECHANICAL AND  
INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING

## Karla Tofte

’05, B.A., ENGLISH

David Letterman.” Fond memories. “My favorite times were late at night when everyone would be in the living room and Cathy would bring burgers from her job,” Monica recalls. “We would all sit around watching Letterman and talk about our day or just BS in general. I felt really comfortable with everyone in the house. It was just so cool to know that there would be a bunch of people at your house at the end of the day that you could eat and laugh with. It was sort of really a ‘Friends’ moment!”

We also would walk to movies at nearby theaters. “Jim and I, in particular, watched a lot of movies together, but other housemates often came along, and there was always lots of intense discussion afterward,” Chuck says. “People now watch more film and television than ever—but they carry the screens in their back pockets. This isn’t all bad, by any means. But I miss the collective space around the 5030 TV set, and the shared experience of eating popcorn and watching movies with friends at the old Neptune.”

Music was also big with us—on a radio instead of a smartphone. Among the 1982



COURTESY SHEILA HARVEY-VERHULP

*When Tom Verhulp died of cancer in 2017, his 5030 housemates were heartbroken. As one said, “I just can’t stop crying.”*

hit songs I recall chatting about with housemates were “Centerfold” by the J. Geils Band and “Leather and Lace” by Stevie Nicks. These were the notable lyrics, first from “Centerfold”:

*“The years go by, I’m looking through  
A girlie magazine  
And there’s my homeroom Angel  
On the pages in between.”*

And from “Leather and Lace”:

*“I need you to love me, I need you to stay,  
Give to me your leather,  
Take from me my lace.”*



Like those lyrics, many of us in the house were attracted to each other. Not that the women I was interested in wanted to date me. But three of those women hooked up with three other guys. And that resulted in three marriages!

The first were Deb and Jordan, who married that summer. They had two kids—daughter Austin was born in 1983 and son Drexel came a few years later. They were married for more than three decades before divorcing. Deb then married Dieter Struzyna, father of Hans Struzyna, who rowed on the Husky crew and for the U.S. at the 2016 Summer Olympics.

One night while we were having a party at 5030, Laurie and Paul were chatting at the bottom of the stairway. It was the start of their relationship. They married in 1985 and have two kids—Ryan, CEO of Elevated Materials, a carbon fiber product manufacturer, and Hannah, a UW graduate who works as a software engineer for Microsoft. Finally, Sheila and Tom married in 1986. Not long after that, they moved to the Bay Area, where Tom worked for Nordstrom and Sheila worked for Equifax before they moved back to Seattle in 2005.

The rest of us did not marry each other but became close friends. One day, we decided to meet for lunch at a restaurant on Lake Union, and we dressed up and posed for a picture (this was decades before the word “selfie” existed). But our life in the U District wasn’t always wonderful. One night, someone from a fraternity party next door sneaked in and stole a chunk of our rent money from Sheila’s room. Fortunately, Deb and Tom persuaded the fraternity to pay us back.

Come the summer of 1982, things started to change. A few housemates moved out and were replaced by other friends. Among them were Monica’s sister, Elizabeth Jolley, plus Husky football players Dave Whitenight and Dennis Maher. Meanwhile, summer living offered other challenges. It occasionally was so hot in the house, especially on the top two floors, that a couple of us slept on the flat rooftop above the second-floor kitchen. Fortunately, we did not roll off the roof while asleep. After August, the rest of us moved out as well. Several of the 5030 women moved into a house while I shared an apartment with Cathy’s brother, Mick, another UW student who now teaches.

After finishing at the UW, we all went on to great and unexpected careers.

Deb, who majored in mechanical and industrial engineering, went to work in IT for IBM and then for Microsoft, where she is director of Business Programs. She and



*Jordan Kleber (who wasn't in town to join the group photo shoot) did pretty well for someone who lived in the basement of 5030. He's a teacher.*

Jordan also moved to Portugal from 2001 to 2014, and started a lodging business for tourists called VisitingPortugal.com that their daughter Austin still runs.

Sheila is vice president for Global Client Solutions at Randstad, an employment & recruiting agency. Laurie is a vice president and West region ATM manager for Chase Bank. Cathy is the Post-Award Grant Manager at the UW School of Nursing. Her oldest daughter graduated from UW Tacoma, while her youngest daughter just started at the UW this year. Monica, who has a degree in art, is a tree pruner while sister Elizabeth works in IT for Coinstar.

In the mid '80s, Snarla moved to Los Angeles to try the entertainment business and spent a year working for Julie Andrews—yes, the Oscar-winning actress! She moved back here and now is assistant to the chair of the UW English Department. That's when she isn't killing it doing stand-up comedy. Jordan recently became a math teacher in San Antonio while Paul helped develop boats for Bayliner and now is general manager at the local Sea-Dog Co. Chuck, once a smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service, has a Ph.D. and teaches film history at Seattle's Cornish College of Arts. He is married to Autumn Moser, a physician.

As for me, I went into sportswriting, starting at The Daily. After I graduated, I moved to Minneapolis in 1989 and covered the Twins. Minnesota is where I met my wonderful wife, Vicki, who worked in IT. In 2000, we returned to Seattle, and I worked many years for ESPN, covering sports on six continents.

Nearly four decades after moving into 5030, we remain good friends and get together occasionally. But there were long stretches when many of us could not connect with each other. “If we had social media in the '80s, we never would have lost touch,” Sheila says. “In those days, your phone number changed every time you moved and no one had an email account.

But Facebook and LinkedIn provided us the means to come together again.”

Sadly, Tom died in 2017 from cancer. Sheila emailed this to us: “He loved you all and it was the greatest pleasure that we all had a chance to spend some time together after such time apart. We have always looked at our 5030 friends as the most special of friendships.” As Karla replied: “I just can't stop crying.”

Sheila held a memorial service for Tom near their home, and most of us housemates attended. She also holds a community blood drive in his memory. We miss Tom so very much. As sad as his passing is, the rest of us still fondly recall our time together at 5030, which is still there and still being rented to college students, albeit for far more money than we paid. A friendly young woman living there now showed me around the house this summer.

This past September, we got together at 5030 for a photo shoot. It was the first time we had all been back at the house since moving out so very long ago. Two weeks after that, most of us went to see Snarla perform her standup routine at the Laughs Comedy Club in the U District. Unfortunately, Jordan was unable to join us at the photo shoot or the comedy club. But he was in Seattle the previous September to meet his son at a cafe in University Village.

“As I sat facing west, treasuring every moment in my heart, the dorms and the 5030 neighborhood loomed before me in the predawn light, the pool not far to the south, the Seattle Tennis Club only a bit farther,” he recalled. “The moments of my story there seemed compressed and arrayed like the petals of a flower or like the layered elements of a 3D View-Master image, or like voices in a tiered choir. It made me feel rich.”

The 5030 house may now be 110 years old, but it looks virtually the same as in 1982, inside and out. It remains one of the highlights of my life. And perhaps some of us former housemates might live there again. During a lunch this year at the Northlake Tavern, Deb, Sheila, Cathy, Karla and I joked about moving back together after we got older and retired. But Snarla said, “With our age, we have to move into the 5070.”—*Jim Caple, '86, is a native of Longview. His father went to the UW before and after serving in World War II. Caple frequently writes for University of Washington Magazine and still loves to grab a bite on the Ave. By the way, if you're an alum who remembers the 5030 gang and would like to contact them, Sheila has set up an email at 5030alum@gmail.com*

# Columns

NEWS FROM THE UW COMMUNITY



COURTESY COX FAMILY

## A Sense of Justice

Military service inspired Ronald Cox's search for nonviolent solutions

By Julie Davidow

Around 8 o'clock the morning of Dec. 15, 1968, armored personnel carriers in Ronald E. Cox's Army company emerged from the woods into a clearing near the Vietnam-Cambodian border. Automatic weapons fire erupted, killing one soldier immediately. Cox, the company's commander, spent the next few hours returning fire and arranging artillery support. Two other American soldiers were killed. For his leadership that day, Cox was presented a Bronze Star—one of three he would receive for his service in Vietnam.

When Cox returned to the United States a year later, the country had changed, and so had he. A decorated officer and graduate of West Point, Cox now questioned whether he wanted a career in the Army. After all, Cox's graduating class at West Point suffered more casualties during the decade

of U.S. combat in Vietnam than any other—30 of its 5,790 graduates were killed in action.

"When you're put at risk and you know people who are put at risk, you have to think about whether this is worth doing," says The Hon. Ronald E. Cox, J.D. '73, U.S. Army. Cox is the recipient of the UW's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Veteran Award.

Cox did not come from a military family. His father, an immigrant from the West Indies, met his mother in her hometown of Philadelphia. When Cox was 2 years old, the family moved to Honolulu, where his father had accepted a civilian job working as a carpenter at Pearl Harbor. A talented student, Cox graduated from the Punahou School, the same prestigious college-prep high school President Obama later attended.

When Cox joined his classmates at West Point in fall of 1962, he became the first in his family to go to college. "It was a great opportunity, and I did well," says Cox, who joined junior ROTC in high school. At West Point, he was one of three black cadets in the freshman class.

In 1968, he left for Vietnam with an offer from the Army to pursue a master's degree and teach history at West Point upon his return. By the next year, however, mounting public opposition to the war at home and his own experience overseas prompted

The law "offered opportunities for peaceful resolutions of disputes without guns."

him to consider other ways he could help people. "Coming back to the U.S. and seeing the turmoil added to my sense of unease about what I was doing in the Army, and I began to look for something else," he says.

Another incident—this time in a military courtroom—stuck with him as well. During his first assignment in Germany, Cox was the only African American officer in his battalion. One day, a black soldier came to him for help. The soldier faced court-martial charges for ignoring his commanding officer's order to disband a peaceful march at the U.S. Army base after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in April 1968.

At the time, Cox had no legal training, yet new officers were often called on to represent or prosecute enlisted soldiers for non-felony cases. He lost the case. "I'll never forget. (The soldier) turned to me and said, 'That's OK, sir. I'm not holding you responsible,'" Cox says. "That stuck in my mind as something I wish I could've done better."

Two years later, he resigned from the Army and enrolled at the UW Law School. The law "seemed to be a profession that offered opportunities for peaceful resolutions of disputes without guns," he says. After graduation, he worked as a litigator at the Seattle law firm Preston, Gates and Ellis, and later became its first African American partner. Before retiring in 2018, he also served as a judge on the Washington State Court of Appeals for 23 years.

*The Distinguished Alumni Veteran Award is given to a living UW alumnus veteran who made a positive impact on the local, national or international community, the UW or the veteran community. It is presented annually by the UW and the UW Alumni Association.*



# PAUL HANSEN

'83, PERCUSSIONIST

INTERVIEW BY SHEILA FARR, ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVIER KUGLER

**THE**  
COMIC PERCUSSION  
IN CARTOONS AND  
SPIKE JONES RECORDS  
WERE WHAT INTERESTED  
ME THE MOST,

SO THAT'S  
THE DIRECTION  
I NATURALLY  
WENT IN.

- THEN  
MY PROFESSOR  
DAD GAVE ME A  
HARRY PARTCH ALBUM  
WHEN I WAS 10,  
AND THE REST IS  
HISTORY.

HUB CAP

ZYMO-XYL  
(CREATED BY  
COMPOSER  
HARRY PARTCH)

## WHILE

STILL A STUDENT AT UW, I TOURED AND PERFORMED  
WITH JOHNNY MATHIS, QUINCY JONES, LIBERACE - EVEN  
MR. ROGERS. SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN A MAINSTAY IN THE  
ORCHESTRA PIT AT THE PARAMOUNT AND FIFTH AVENUE THEATERS,

AND ALSO PLAY REGULARLY  
WITH SEATTLE SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA, PACIFIC NORTH-  
WEST BALLET AND AUBURN  
SYMPHONY - AND, IN MY  
SPARE TIME (HA!),  
THE PACIFIC RIMS  
PERCUSSION QUARTET,  
WHICH I CO-FOUNDED.

I ALSO  
COMPOSE SCORES FOR  
MY WIFE, FILMMAKER  
AND DIRECTOR JANICE  
FINDLEY.

LIQUOR AND  
WINE BOTTLES







## Making Wishes Come True

Bringing joy to children and their families is the driving force for two alumnae

by Ina Zajac

*The local Make-A-Wish chapter's Vice President of Wishes Trina Cottingham (left) and Chief Evangelist Melissa Arias play a key role in providing children with critical illnesses a way to smile.*

When children with critical illnesses in Washington and Alaska make a wish, they turn to two alumni of the UW College of Arts and Sciences: Melissa Arias, '97, and Trina Cottingham, '96.

Arias and Cottingham are part of the executive team leading the local chapter of Make-A-Wish, the nonprofit that grants the wishes of children with critical illnesses. In their roles—Arias as president, CEO and “chief evangelist,” and Cottingham as vice president of wishes—they provide children living with critical illnesses an experience that transforms their lives and affects many others who rally around them to make wishes come true.

“A wish has tangible effects not only on a child’s mental and physical health,” Arias says, “but on their family—moms, dads, brothers, sisters and grandparents. And on the greater community that surrounds them, including volunteers and donors.”

Wish Kids, as they are called, have so much to worry about—not only their diagnosis but the implications of their health on parents and siblings. Arias says the wish-granting journey becomes a promising focal point, a much-needed distraction from worry, fear and frustration that provides hope and healing.

With more than 15 years of nonprofit

experience, Arias is not only a dynamic communicator but a born collaborator who knows how to make things happen. She credits her UW degree in political science with expanding her social awareness and guiding her professional pursuits. “The UW was such an inspiring place,” she says. “It was that experience that put me on a path of a lifetime of service.” She worked as an attorney in private practice and served as director of development for the Domestic Abuse Women’s Network. Most recently, she was at UW Bothell, where she spent several years as associate vice chancellor for advancement and external relations.

Arias continues to be amazed with how often a young person’s wish focuses on giving back to the community. Some kids have asked to renovate a local food bank or put together care packages for those in need. One remarkable Wish Kid even asked to create a video that helps children understand what it’s like to be diagnosed with cancer. “It’s inspiring and moving to see how selfless and pure of heart many of their wishes are,” she says.

Cottingham’s efforts as vice president of wishes don’t include carrying a wand or fairy dust but she creates smiles of amazement and wonder all the same. She joined Make-A-Wish in 1999 as a wish coordinator and has been honing her

wish-granting skills ever since. She, too, appreciates her UW education, as she uses her psychology degree every day when working with families who are stressed, struggling and often in crisis. “Granting wishes takes a very special skill set that is a blend of excellent project management, creativity and relationship development. It’s all about creative problem-solving, because each wish child, their family, their medical condition and their wish are completely unique. Every wish is like an event with many moving parts and dozens, if not hundreds, of different people involved.”

Making wishes come true isn’t easy. Cottingham and her team delicately manage all kinds of details for every child and their family—including medical needs, dates, venues, personalities and transportation. The time to plan these one-of-a-kind experiences can range from months to weeks to even days depending upon the complexity of the child’s condition, the type of wish and myriad other dynamics.

How does it all happen? Dedicated volunteers, and lots of them. Cottingham’s team works with more than 700 volunteers—many of whom are UW students, parents and alumni—who are essential throughout the entire wish-granting process. They help with everything from working with the wish child to understand their most heartfelt desire for a wish to working with the Make-A-Wish staff to determine the plan for the wish, to keeping the child and family informed and engaged throughout the process.

This work is crucial to the success of the organization. It requires Cottingham to keep an eye on both the strategic and tactical aspects of relationship development, staff supervision and board support, all while managing \$5 million in cash and in-kind

**Every wish is like an event with many moving parts and dozens of people involved.**

wish-granting budgets. No small feat, but the perfect job for her. “I love that no matter how good or bad my day is,” she says, “I get to spend it doing something good for someone else. I have the privilege of touching every single wish we grant at some point in the process.”

For more information about Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington, go to [akwa.wish.org](http://akwa.wish.org). —Ina Zajac is a Seattle-area freelance writer and author of “Please, Pretty Lights.”

PHOTO BY MERYL SCHENKER





## Television Trailblazer

by Sheila Farr

In the 1950s, when television was the hot new technology, Jean Walkinshaw was not impressed. She and her husband, Seattle attorney Walt Walkinshaw, considered sitting in front of the tube a “vacuous waste of time.”

How ironic, then, that in 2019, the Northwest chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences presented the Gold Circle award to Walkinshaw for more than 50 years of outstanding achievement. Her long career as a producer sprang from Walkinshaw’s urge to make the medium more substantial, provocative, creative and informative.

As a pioneer of TV documentary filmmaking, she wove stories about people and places, particularly her place, the Pacific Northwest. Walkinshaw’s work profiled well-known creators and cultural leaders, but also ordinary people struggling to get by. The first weekly show she produced in the 1960s, “Face to Face,” featured African American educator and actor Roberta Byrd as the host. It was one of the first local shows in the nation to offer a minority perspective.

Walkinshaw’s friend Stimson Bullitt, then-president of KING Broadcasting, suggested she try working as an interviewer for a daytime talk show in the early 1960s. Previously a public-school teacher, with a B.A. from Stanford and teaching certificate

from UW, Walkinshaw soon realized she was unprepared for television. She returned to UW to study communication and was inspired by classes with broadcast journalist and professor Milo Ryan, a founder of KCTS.

At that time, KCTS broadcast from a studio on the UW campus, and students received hands-on training in all aspects of production. Walkinshaw developed “Face to Face” there and took it to KING-TV. Then, in the early ’70s, she created the series “Faces of the City” for KCTS, based on ideas and encouragement from author and broadcaster Studs Terkel. The show won Walkinshaw her first Emmy. A grant from the National Endowment for the Arts allowed her to film her first documentary, “Three Artists of the Northwest,” about painter Guy Anderson and sculptor George Tsutakawa.

Walkinshaw produced 40 documentaries with KCTS, including “To Write and Keep Kind,” about writer Raymond Carver; “In the Shadow of the Mountains,” on climber Jim Wickwire; “In the Spirit of Cooperation” about Japanese volunteers and American Peace Corps workers in Ghana; and “Rainier, the Mountain,” which debuted high-definition programming at the station.

Walkinshaw’s archive of film, video and documents now resides at the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections, where a selection of tapes can be viewed. Some of her programs can be screened at the American Archive of Public Broadcasting. —*Sheila Farr is the former arts critic of The Seattle Times and a regular contributor to University of Washington Magazine.*

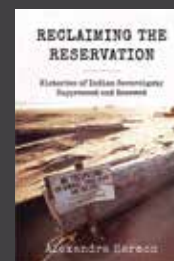
PHOTO BY ANIL KAPAHI

## BOOKS



**The Cassandra**  
By Sharma Shields  
Henry Holt and Co.,  
February 2019

Spokane-based fiction writer Sharma Shields, ’00, follows her debut “The Sasquatch Hunter’s Almanac” with “The Cassandra,” the story of a woman cursed with the ability to see the future but who is never believed. In 1944 she goes to work at the Hanford nuclear site in South Central Washington and can predict the dark outcomes of the top-secret work there. In his New York Times Book Review critique, writer Daniel Kraus calls out “Shields’ skillful tweaks” to the original Greek myth.



**Reclaiming the Reservation: Histories of Indian Sovereignty Suppressed and Renewed**

By Alexandra Harmon  
UW Press,  
July 2019

In the 1970s the Quinault and Suquamish, like dozens of Indigenous nations across the United States, asserted their sovereignty by applying their laws to everyone on their reservations. This included arresting non-Indians for criminal offenses. Two of those arrests triggered federal litigation that carried big implications for Indian tribes’ place in the American political system. Alexandra Harmon, ’91, ’95, professor of Indian Studies, writes about the battles of tribal governments to uphold their own laws on their reservations. Harmon opens up the subject from Native American points of view.

## SOUND



**Melia Watras: Schumann Resonances**  
Planet M Records,  
2019

Violist-composer Melia Watras’ latest album, “Schumann Resonances,” features world-premiere recordings of her own compositions. The UW music professor has helped expand the viola repertoire through composing, commissioning and debuting new works. Rather than a full album of Schumann material, the record also celebrates works by Watras, Cuong Vu and Richard Karpen.

## MUSIC AND DANCE

### Midori with Jean-Yves Thibaudet

Jan. 23  
Katharyn Alvord Gerlich Theater,  
Meany Hall  
Grammy winner Midori joins pianist Jean-Yves Thibaudet to present an all-Beethoven recital program in honor of the composer's 250th birthday.

### Jazz Innovations, Part 1

Feb. 12  
Brechemin Auditorium  
Student jazz ensembles pay homage to the icons of jazz and break new ground with original progressive jazz compositions.

### Niyaz: The Fourth Light Project

Feb. 28  
Katharyn Alvord Gerlich Theater,  
Meany Hall  
Known for its electroacoustic trance music, Niyaz is "an evolutionary force in contemporary Middle Eastern music," according to the Huffington Post. With The Fourth Light Project, Niyaz pays tribute to Rabi'a al-Basri, the first female Sufi mystic and poet. Persian folk songs and poetry meld with artist Jérôme Delapierre's multimedia projections and the sacred dance of the dervish to create a sensual and devotional experience.

### Fantasies, Folk and Fairy Tales

March 1  
Brechemin Auditorium  
Piano professor Robin McCabe produces this series highlighting music by composers inspired by fantasies, folk and fairy tales and performed by top UW music students and special guests. This performance features music by Tchaikovsky, Ravel and others and a pre-concert lecture by Olga Levaniouk, professor in UW Classics.

## ART

### These are Their Stories

Dec. 7 – March 8  
Henry Art Gallery  
Seattle-based artist Samantha Scherer's ongoing series of watercolor drawings depicting victims from the television crime drama "Law and Order." Rendered from video stills of the post-crime scene, each drawing is numbered according to the season of the series and episode. The images examine the artist's and the culture's fascination with vulnerability and loss.

## DRAMA

### Jomama Jones: Black Light

Dec. 12, 13, 14  
Katharyn Alvord Gerlich Theater,  
Meany Hall  
A musical production developed by UW Creative Research Fellow Alexander Jones, starring Jones' alter ego, singer Jomama Jones. The show fuses the Black American Freedom movement, Afromysticism and goddess mythology with the influences of Prince, Sade, Diana Ross and Tina Turner.

### The Best of Everything

Feb. 1 – 16  
Floyd and Delores Jones Playhouse  
UW Drama faculty member Valerie Curtis-Newton directs a cast of graduate actors in Julie Kramer's adaptation of Rona Jaffe's funny, candid look at the lives of working women in 1950s New York.

### The Women of Lockerbie

Feb. 29 – March 15  
Glenn Hughes Penthouse Theatre  
The story of a group of women from Lockerbie, Scotland, who fought U.S. government bureaucracy to accomplish a simple, humane goal: washing and returning the clothes of the victims of Pan Am flight 103 to their families. The flight, with 259 people onboard, was bombed midflight over the small town in 1988. Playwright Deborah Brevoort uses the structure of Greek tragedy and second-year MFA student Kristie Post Wallace directs.

## SCANDINAVIAN TALKS

Scandinavian 30 is a series of free, 30-minute talks by UW Scandinavian Studies faculty. The talks are held at 7 p.m., the second Thursday of each month at the Nordic Museum, 2655 N.W. Market St., Seattle, WA 98107.

### Viking Y2K: Ragnarök, Doomsday, and the End of the World (as We Know It)

Presented by Lauren Poyer  
Dec. 12

### Money Can't Buy You Hygge

Presented by Kristian Næsby  
Feb. 13

### Tom of Finland: Out of the Shadows into the National Spotlight

Presented by Hanna-Ilona Härmävaara  
March 12

### Cabin Fever: Crime and Horror in Norway

Presented by Ellen Rees  
April 9

## Grupo Corpo

Feb. 20, 21, 22

Katharyn Alvord Gerlich Theater, Meany Hall

Combining the sensuality of Afro-Brazilian dance forms with the technical prowess of ballet, Brazil's leading contemporary dance company Grupo Corpo returns to Meany.







*Kay Stelter leads monthly events for The Writing Den at Mary's Place in Seattle, where guests gather to handwrite cards and letters to connect with loved ones, employers, housing contacts and others.*

## Handwriting, Hope and Change

**The Writing Den, a national nonprofit with an outpost in Seattle, connects those in need with the power of the pen**

By Ina Zajac

There's a reason why greeting card commercials bring people to tears, and why emails aren't printed out and displayed on bedside tables. "Handwriting," Jill Higson explains, "has the power to transform relationships."

Higson, '86, is executive director and co-founder of The Writing Den, a nonprofit that provides those in need, primarily homeless individuals, with the opportunity to communicate and connect with loved ones, employers, housing contacts, city officials and others through handwritten cards and letters.

"Through self-expression, handwriting has the power to transform relationships," explains Higson, who holds a bachelor's degree in communication from the UW. "Improved relationships can create possibility for hope and change, and provide the opportunities for work and sustained housing."

The Writing Den conducts eight monthly "writing dens" in three cities with the largest homeless populations in the U.S., New York (No. 1), Seattle (No. 3) and San Diego (No. 4). The Writing Den partners with each city's established homeless social-service and community organizations to help those in need.

Higson's commitment to improving the lives of those in need goes back to her experiences as a member and president of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. The Mercer Island native co-founded The Writing Den with Christian Michaels, her partner since 2016, in honor of Michaels' late mother, Ernestine "Tina" Diesing. She was passionate about writing in her diary and letters to U.S. friends and family as well as those in her native home of Austria. Michaels oversees operations in San Diego, Higson in New York, and volunteer Kay Stelter, '87, '90, a Kappa Alpha Theta alumna, in Seattle.

Although small in size, the organization's impact has been large since its August 2017 launch. More than 2,400 guests have stopped by to write and chat for 200 hours at 100 writing dens.

Here are some examples of gratitude and hope shared by guests as well as recipients of their writing:

"Thank you for helping me reconnect with my father."—Gabriela, daughter, via telephone, July 2018.

"My mother and I did not know our brother was alive until we received his letter. Thank you."—Tina, sister, via email, June 2018.

Since launching its first writing den in Seattle in February 2019 at Mary's Place, a day program for women in transitional housing, The Writing Den's events have gained popularity each month. Guests gather around a table laden with paper, pens, postcards and greeting cards, and start writing.

Marty Hartman serves as the executive director of Mary's Place. She says Stelter's visits are quite popular. "The women love working with Kay," Hartman says. "It's an opportunity for them to feel acknowledged during what can otherwise be a very isolating experience." Hartman also sees the great benefit each participant receives in addition to reconnecting with family. "It's cathartic—the time our guests can spend reflecting on their lives and relationships can be incredibly healing," she says.

Adds Higson: "We provide a much-needed emotional outlet: time to ponder, plan and hope, as well as to create."

Higson—who in her day job is chief curator and founder of The Art Arsenal, a New York City-based interactive art boutique—and Michaels remain hopeful about the future. However, their personally funded labor of love is now reaching the point where they are not able to explore adding sites due to the financial limitations of current operating expenses. They are pursuing funding via individuals, corporations and grants from organizations.

For more information, to volunteer or donate to The Writing Den, visit [www.writingden.org](http://www.writingden.org) or call 917-664-4616. Connect with them on Facebook at [writingden.org](https://www.facebook.com/writingden.org) and Instagram at [thewritingden](https://www.instagram.com/thewritingden).

## UWAA TRAVEL

Autumn is one of the best times to explore Europe and all of its food, wine, culture and education. Robb Weller, '72, the national TV host and former Husky cheerleader who invented The Wave, will be the host for the trip to Spain.



### Flavors of Chianti Sept. 24 – Oct. 2, 2020

Here's your chance to meander through Tuscany's colorful cities, cypress-studded hilltop towns, classic cucinas and idyllic vineyards in a small-group journey. What awaits you are Etruscan ruins, the Renaissance town of Pienza, the Villa Vignamaggio—the childhood home of Lisa Gherardini, immortalized as the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci—and Sienna and its bustling Piazza del Campo.



### Spain—Andalucia in a Parador Oct. 8 – 16, 2020

Weller, the renowned TV host who brought Husky fans to their feet as the inventor of The Wave at Husky Stadium, will be your host on this adventure to southern Spain. There, you'll enjoy the legacy of Moorish Spain in the heartland of Andalucia. You'll see Granada, Cordoba, Sevilla and Ronda, and get the chance to embrace the passion of flamenco and sip wine in the Andalucia countryside.

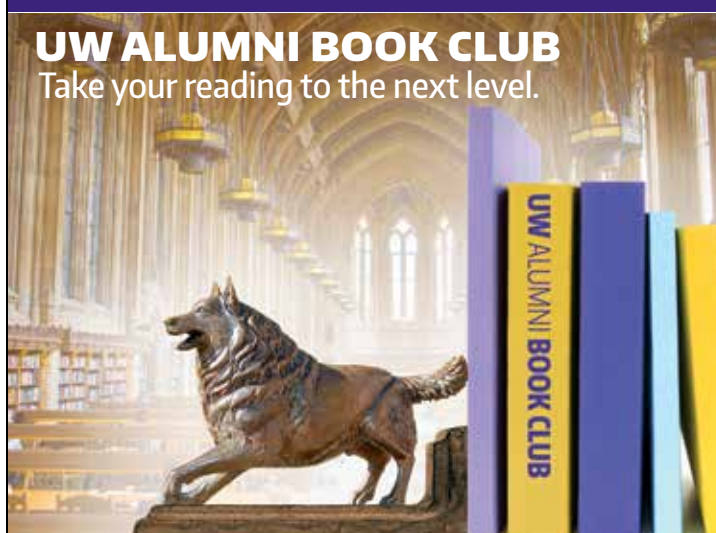
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## 2020 History Lecture Series: “Life, Death, and the Gods”

Is this life it, or is there more? What is the relationship between the dead and the living, our world and an afterlife? Four UW historians share how past societies confronted the ultimate questions to seek new perspective on modern approaches to death and the human condition, in all its commonalities and variations.

Join us for the History Lecture Series, one of the UW's most popular lifelong learning programs. Lectures take place Jan. 22, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb 12 in Kane Hall 130. Single tickets and series passes are available at [uwalum.com](http://uwalum.com)

### **The Body as Offering: Making Meaning of Sacrifice in the Aztec Imperial Past** Jan. 22

Adam Warren, Associate Professor, History, UW

The Aztec Empire looms large in the popular imagination for its practice of human sacrifice. But how much of its use was exaggerated by Spanish invaders? Explore how those living under Aztec rule made sense of the relationship between the living, the dead, and the divine.

### **Skeletons and Dining Couches: Eating and Dying in the Roman Empire** Jan. 29

Mira Green, Lecturer, History, UW

From stuffed dormice to recreational vomiting, modern ideas about ancient Roman eating practices fall back on images of decadent excess, set against a backdrop of violence and disease. But what does the evidence say about how the ancient Romans actually lived?

### **Death and the Ancestors: The Religion of the Family in China** Feb. 5

Patricia Ebrey, Professor, History, UW

The powerful of ancient Chinese society went to great lengths to communicate with their dead ancestors, seeking their advice and keeping them informed of events. These practices spread throughout Chinese society to shape the everyday life of ordinary people, even in more recent centuries.

### **Ancient Iran: Heaven, Hell, and the Good Life** Feb. 12

Joel Walker, Associate Professor, History, UW

Ancient Iran possessed a deep and complex culture that possibly influenced Jewish, Christian and Muslim views of the afterlife and the cosmos. Explore Zoroastrianism—the “Good Religion” in ancient Iran—from its founder’s homeland in prehistoric Central Asia to communities in contemporary India and beyond.

## Nominations sought for ASLD, highest honor for an alum

The UW Alumni Association invites you to recognize members of our UW community who have inspired, achieved and served with distinction.

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Since the award’s inception in 1938, more than 70 alumni who personify the University’s tradition of excellence have received this prestigious honor. The list includes Nobel Prize winners, internationally recognized scientists, artists, business leaders, educators and many other influential figures.

Nominations are open to the public. The deadline is Jan. 10, 2020. To learn how to nominate an individual, go to [Uwalum.com/awards](http://Uwalum.com/awards).



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## A Tern for the Worse

**Feeding the wrong food to chicks could spell disaster for several species of the seabird**

By Catherine Arnold

It's a place of sky, sea and granite-island edges where seabirds wheel and feed their young. But sometimes that food is the wrong kind.

At a well-established tern colony on Appledore Island, six miles off the New Hampshire and Maine coasts in the Gulf of Maine, Jennifer Seavey, '97, and other biologists are concerned that adult birds are feeding chicks food that is hard to digest.

Appledore hosts the largest tern colony in the 36,000-square-mile Gulf of Maine as the result of a restoration project begun in 1997. But several subspecies of terns—including the roseate and the least—remain endangered or threatened. The wrong food isn't helping. In recent years, adult terns are increasingly feeding chicks butterfish, thin, saucer-shaped fish too wide for young beaks; they spit them up, and miss a meal. Butterfish are associated with warming waters—and in big butterfish years, the survival rate of young terns is worse. (In a 2013 video from Maine's

Project Puffin and Hog Island Audubon Camp, a young puffin chick tries and fails to eat a butterfish brought by a parent.)

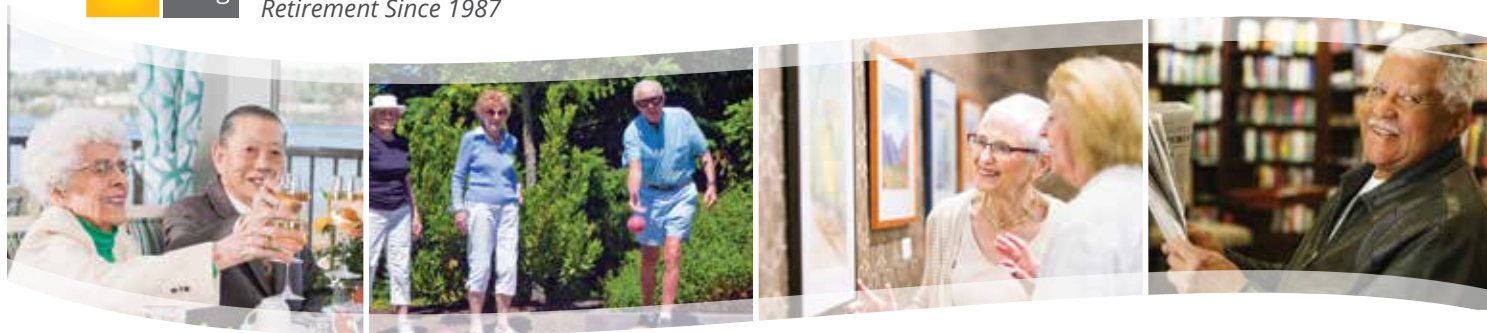
"Why do we care about the terns? They are excellent indicators of the fisheries' health," Seavey explains. "The birds are basically fisheries biologists—they are sampling the fishery and telling us how healthy it is." For instance, although butterfish are doing well, three key fish in the area—herring, hake and sand lance—are threatened. Those are important food sources for terns and other seabirds; herring are also the No. 1 bait used by the lobster industry, which brings in \$1 billion to Maine alone, according to a 2016 study by Colby College and the Maine Lobster Dealers' Association.

As executive director of Shoals Marine Lab on the 95-acre island, Seavey notes that the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99% of the world's oceans. "It's upsetting, but it's also an opportunity for research and addressing important challenges," says Seavey, who has overseen the undergraduate-focused marine lab since 2014 as a faculty member at Cornell University and the University of New Hampshire. She arrived from Florida, where she was assistant director of Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory (now called the Nature Coast Biological Center), an hour from Gainesville.

These days, Seavey, who has a master's degree in wildlife science from the UW, researches the tern colony, but her lab also hosts programs for undergrads and the community in a wide range of topics: sustainable engineering, ornithology and marine science. There's a Washington connection, too: The lab shares many students and researchers with UW Friday Harbor Laboratories. "Maybe because they look at equivalent temporal zones (northern, cold waters) but different oceans, I'd say Friday Harbor is probably the most common lab that people travel to and from at Shoals," she says. Seavey's own research program is influenced by her graduate work in the UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences and by her time as a research assistant for Professor Julia Parrish, a seabird ecologist. "Dr. Parrish's important work on seabirds as indicators for long-term ocean health influenced me greatly; it's one reason I'm so interested in terns," Seavey says. "They are important indicators of what is happening here and in oceans worldwide."



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## AND HUDDLE UP



## Dining with Dawgs

**Local Huskies host students for conversation and camaraderie**



*Nora and Myron MacDonald host students for an evening as part of UWAA's Dinner with the Pack program.*

For Myron and Nora MacDonald, '71, '86, opening their home to a group of students for dinner and conversation may not have felt that out of the blue. Nora, a longtime UWAA member, spent her career teaching world languages to students at Roosevelt High School. Now retired, she recently

headed back to class at UW as part of Washington's ACCESS program.

"I love school, I love the U, and I love young people," she says.

So on a February night, a group of students—strangers to each other—arrived at the MacDonalds' home as part of

UWAA's Dinner with the Pack program. Around the same time, 27 similar dinner parties took place across the city, connecting alumni and friends with students looking to build their own community.

At the MacDonald home, conversation focused on UW experiences and how to choose a major.

### "Students want to feel welcome."

"A few mentioned they were studying what their parents wanted them to study," Nora recalls, a reminder of her time as a student.

After she and Myron met at a HUB dance, they both left school, Myron entered the Army and Nora traveled the world as a flight attendant.

"When I returned to UW, I was more focused, and I realized Latin was my first love. My mother tried everything to get me to major in business. She thought I'd never have a job, but I was a teacher for 40 years, doing what I adored. So I gently told them: it's so much more important to choose something they are passionate about. There is a way."

For some, the notion of hosting strangers might sound daunting. "Just do it," says Nora. "The students just want to feel welcome. It was so much fun."

Dinner with the Pack will take place again in February. For more information, visit UWalum.com.

### UWALUM.COM/EVENTS



#### **UW IMPACT 2020 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW** **JAN. 9 | HUB LYCEUM**

Learn what's next with Washington's Workforce Education Investment Act. Panel participants include UW President Cauce, State Rep. Drew Hansen and others.



#### **DINNER WITH THE PACK** **FEB. 21, 22, 28, 29 | SEATTLE**

Local alumni and friends in the Seattle metro area host small groups of students in their homes or at an area restaurant for a casual meal and conversation.



#### **SHORT TALKS: HOME** **MARCH 5 | THE KEXP GATHERING SPACE**

Casey Wynecoop, '16, Assistant Director of UW's Intellectual House, hosts an evening featuring four storytellers who will share their personal stories of "home."





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## Where Art and Science Meet

**UW lecturer and artist Timea Tihanyi is pushing the boundaries of ceramics with 3D printing—bringing together art, math and coding in the process.**

By Nancy Joseph

In a studio filled with ceramic art, Timea Tihanyi concentrates on creating a porcelain vessel. But she's not building the piece by hand or throwing it on a potter's wheel—she's monitoring a 3D printer that layers coils of clay to produce an artwork based on her specifications.

The shelves of the studio are lined with more works built using a 3D printer, from round vessels with arrays of tiny raised bumps on their surfaces to twisting towers of clay with intricate patterns of negative space. No two pieces are exactly alike; all reflect Tihanyi's vision and careful oversight.

"Ceramic 3D printing requires interaction," says Tihanyi, a senior lecturer in the

UW School of Art + Art History + Design. "You by no means push a button and then walk away."

### NEW TERRITORY

Tihanyi first learned about 3D printing eight years ago, when she took a UW architecture course on digital fabrication, with support from a Milliman Award from the School of Art + Art History + Design. "I thought I should learn about the technology because this is going to be the future," she recalls, "but at the time I didn't have much use for it." What changed her mind was a summer spent at the European Ceramic Work Centre in the Netherlands, where she had access to 3D printers for ceramics. After returning to Seattle, she ordered her own 3D printer and launched Slip Rabbit Studio, a place for experimentation. That was three years ago.

From the start, Tihanyi has invited student interns to join her in exploring the possibilities of 3D technology. "It's like any other tool," she says. "When you first use it, why would you know what to do with it to get the desired effect? That first year, it was a shared trying and learning. Things that were interesting to me or to the students were the directions we took."

An ongoing challenge has been the unpredictability of clay. The 3D printer uses pressure to extrude a steady stream of it, much like how caulk is extruded from a caulk gun. But moisture in the clay can vary depending on the weather, affecting how it behaves. And air bubbles in the clay



can cause unanticipated hiccups as the printer extrudes the material. Tihanyi embraces that unpredictability.

"3D printers were designed as production tools, with everything staying the same, but printing with clay is not like that," Tihanyi says. "It's not unusual for me to print something a few times to learn what the particular challenges of the form are. If I'm lucky, I'll get one good piece. It's not a manufacturing process by any means."

### 3D COLLABORATION

What intrigues Tihanyi most about this technology is the potential for collaboration. In the past few years she has partnered with faculty colleagues and hosted more than a dozen undergraduate and graduate



*A three-dimensional artwork brings together math, coding and clay.*





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PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK STONE

students from visual communication design, industrial design, mathematics, computer engineering, informatics, psychology and other fields.

One such collaboration was with Sara Billey, a UW mathematics professor and the John Rainwater Faculty Fellow. Billey and mathematics students translated discrete mathematical algorithms into complex two-dimensional patterns on the computer; Tihanyi then turned those patterns into textures using the 3D printer. Daria Micovic, '18, a math major and Slip Rabbit intern for two quarters, helped with the coding.

The collaboration with Billey was made possible through the Bergstrom Award for Art and Science, which supports faculty projects that enhance the student experi-

ence and bridge the intersection of art and science. "It is amazing that a donor would think to facilitate this type of collaboration," says Tihanyi. The award helped cover the cost of materials, grad student support, and Tihanyi and Billey's time. "It gave us the impetus to have a research group throughout the year, with undergraduate and graduate students in mathematics and my art interns," Tihanyi says.

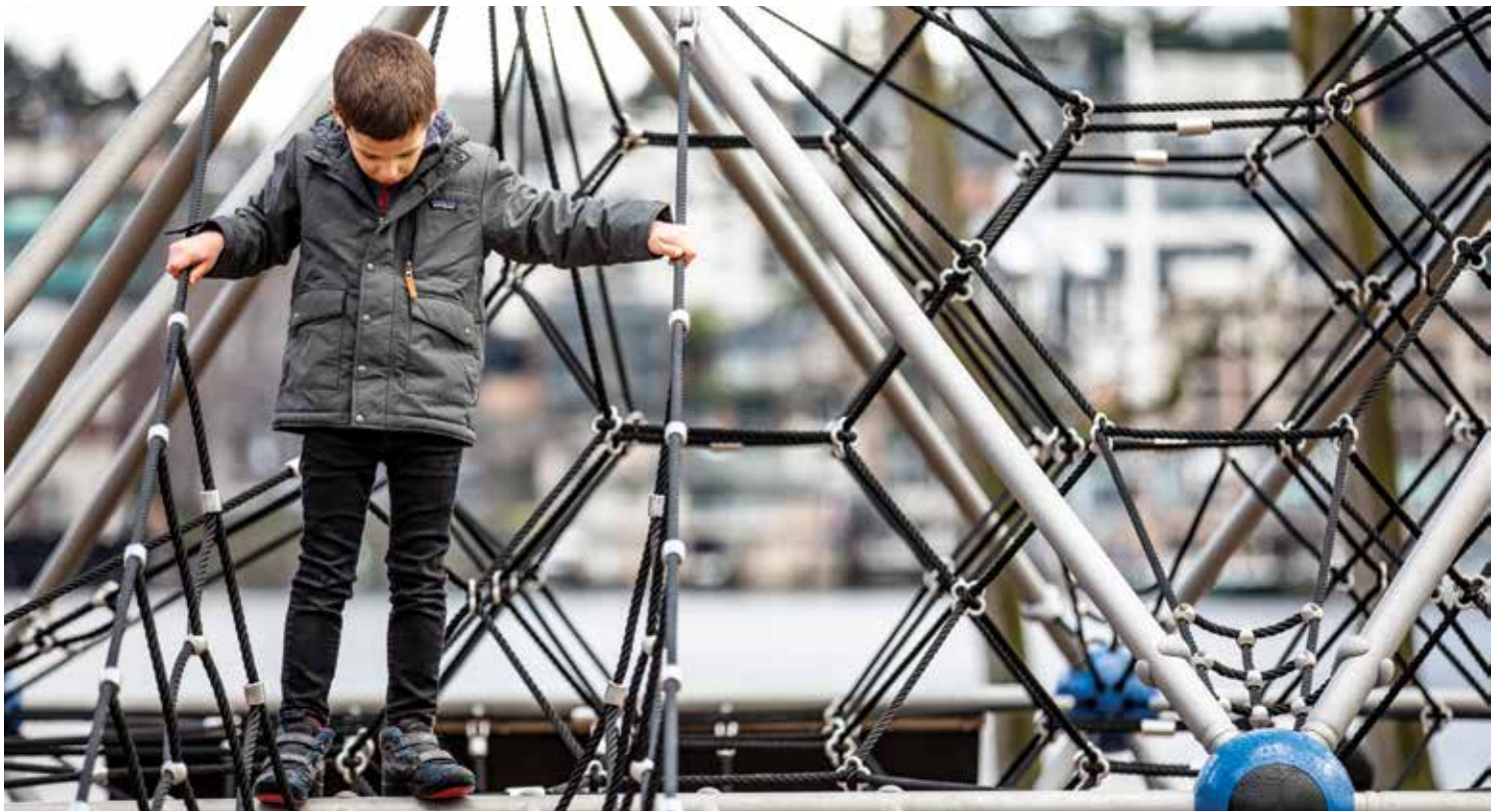
Tihanyi and Billey have spoken about their collaboration in professional settings and co-presented a talk at the UW's annual Math Day in the spring. To introduce 3D printing to more students, Tihanyi offers a course through the UW's Interdisciplinary Visual Arts program: Maker Practices, Maker Cultures. She

also offers summer workshops for educators at Slip Rabbit Studio.

Despite the interest, there are still those who criticize 3D printing in clay as a threat to the arts. Tihanyi wants to ease their minds.

"There's often a huge fear in any maker community that if a new technology comes in, it will take away something from the hand," she says. "I don't think it does that. I can't really make things with the 3D printer that would replace anything I would make by hand. But it gives us so many new possibilities that didn't exist before."

*Printing with clay is a challenge, says Timea Tihanyi, founder and director of Slip Rabbit Studio, a nonprofit digital ceramics studio. "3D printers were designed as production tools, with everything staying the same, but printing with clay is not like that."*



PHOTOGRAPHS BY DENNIS WISE

## Caring for Every Child

**The Sunderlands were changed forever by the UW's groundbreaking support for children with autism. They want to help all families access the same opportunities.**

By Meg Cressey

Gareth had a good day.

The 6-year-old swung on the monkey bars during a trip to the park with his grandpa. Back at home, he played with his brother and sister under the watchful eyes of their parents, Bill and Alyssa Sunderland.

It would have been a typical Saturday for many kids. But for Gareth, who has autism, good days can be precious.

Nationwide, about one in 59 children are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. At the University of Washington, a groundbreaking exploration of autism—from genetics research to diagnoses to inclusive learning—centers on helping children of all abilities get the resources and education they need to thrive.

For Gareth and his family, the UW's work is creating more good days.

### LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

Gareth was a happy baby, but his growth and language development didn't show the usual forward trajectory. "We knew something wasn't right as early as seven months," says Alyssa. "He would say a word or gain a skill, then lose another."

When Gareth was 15 months old, the Sunderlands' pediatrician recommended screening for developmental delays. One option stood out: the UW's Haring Center for Inclusive Education.

### LEARNING TOGETHER

Founded in 1964, the Haring Center is one of the country's oldest centers for research on, and education for, children with disabilities. Staff members study, test and disseminate best practices for inclusive learning—and train teachers from across the country.

"One problem we continue to face in the U.S.," says center director Ilene Schwartz, Ph.D., "is that children with disabilities are more likely to be educated in segregated settings and excluded from extracurricular and school-based activities."

That's despite studies showing the immense benefits of inclusive classrooms—they lead to higher graduation rates and a greater likelihood of employment and more independent living.

After Haring Center staff found that Gareth was behind in development, the Sunderlands enrolled him in the Infant and Toddler Program at the center's Experimental Education Unit (EEU).

To ensure an inclusive environment, EEU teachers provide personalized help to students. For children with autism, that care often stems from one of the center's largest research efforts, Project DATA (Developmentally Appropriate Treatment for Autism).





**Support inclusive education.** When you give to the Haring Center Fund for Inclusion, you can help kids of all abilities access the services they need to succeed in school and in life. [giving.uw.edu/haring-center-inclusion](http://giving.uw.edu/haring-center-inclusion)

Gareth spent half his day with typically developing peers and the other half receiving individualized instruction. If he struggled, teachers would map out a new strategy for the next day. The Project DATA model has been adopted by teachers in more than 25 states.

### A CRUCIAL EARLY DIAGNOSIS

When Gareth was about 2 years old, Haring Center staff recommended visiting the UW's Center on Human Development and Disability (CHDD), where he was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and underwent genomic sequencing to find a potential genetic source of his autism.

Testing revealed a likely cause: a new mutation of the ZNF292 gene. Since then, Bill—who received his doctorate from the UW Department of Physiology and Biophysics in 1998—has worked with researchers at the UW and Seattle Children's Hospital to understand the gene's function.

The Sunderlands attended parent workshops at the UW Autism Center, a unit of the CHDD. With faculty and staff from the School of Medicine, College of Arts & Sciences and College of Education, the Autism Center conducts research and trains UW students and community professionals in providing services.

"We can identify the signs and symptoms in almost every case of autism before children are 24 months old," says Annette Estes, Ph.D., the center's director, "but the average age in the U.S. for diagnosing autism is 4 to 5 years old."

Those few years can make a huge difference. "Evidence-based early interven-

tion has been shown to move the needle tremendously," Estes says.

### INCREASING ACCESS

Gareth, who now attends his local public school, continues to make progress—thanks largely to ongoing therapy with UW graduate students.

The Sunderlands understand how fortunate they've been to access and afford Gareth's care. Bill was often struck by the distance many families traveled to get to the CHDD.

But, says Estes, "The people I'm most worried about are those we don't see at all."

### A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE

The Sunderlands are supporting two major efforts to ensure that all families with children on the spectrum can access life-changing care.

At the UW, they're supporting Access to On-Time Intervention, a partnership between the Haring Center and the UW Autism Center to help children from low-income and underserved families receive autism intervention and support.

They've also joined UW Foundation Board member Mike Halperin, M.D., in supporting the new Autism Spectrum 360 Initiative, a collaboration between Seattle Children's and local organizations to expand autism resources for families across Washington state.

Says Bill, "There are a lot of kids who could benefit from the services Gareth received, and there's no reason why they shouldn't be easily accessible."

Because every child deserves as many good days as possible.



*Opposite page: Gareth was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder when he was about 2.*

*Right: The Sunderland family in their playroom, from left: Yuri, Keziah, Alyssa, Bill and Gareth.*

*Ledger: Children with and without disabilities learn and play together in the Haring Center's inclusive classrooms.*



**Founded in 1964, the Haring Center for Inclusive Education is one of the country's oldest centers for research on, and education for, children with disabilities.**

 **1 in 59**

**1 in 59 children in the U.S.** have been identified with autism spectrum disorder.

**50%+** 

**Over 50% of children** with a developmental disability will never be in a classroom alongside their typically developing peers.

 **100%**

**All children** benefit from inclusive education.

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK STONE

## Supporting the Spirit of Discovery

By Korynne Wright *Chair, UW Foundation Board*

In early September, I visited the UW campus in Seattle for our quarterly UW Foundation Board meeting. Even summer school had ended, and our walkways, classrooms, libraries and labs were nearly empty. As beautiful as campus is in late summer, it was too quiet without students!

It was appropriate, then, that our guest speaker, Provost Mark Richards, reminded us of one pillar of our mission: to support the spirit of discovery in our students, in every way we can. Under the leadership of Richards and Graduate School Dean Joy Williamson-Lott, the UW recently launched a \$5 million initiative to strengthen the graduate student experience across campus—through financial support, training and more.

UW graduate students are the heart of our research mission. They collaborate with faculty. They conduct crucial research. They help unlock important discoveries. Some teach classes. Many, however, face the significant hurdle of mounting debt—carried with them from their undergraduate degrees or accrued while studying here. This new initiative will help us recruit the very best graduate students and pave the way for them to stay focused on their important work.

The University is active on multiple fronts to support graduate students as they work to be experts in their fields. Another such initiative is GO-MAP, the Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program. GO-MAP is one facet of the Graduate School's commitment to creating an inclusive and equitable campus environment for students from underrepresented minorities. The program provides outreach, recruitment, funding, advising, professional development and more.

Educational excellence extends far beyond the classroom. Across the UW, you'll find programs that bolster our students—undergraduate, graduate and professional—whether through scholarships, tutoring, internships, or coaching to help them figure out their dream careers.

We believe that when students rise to the challenge at the UW, finances should not stand in the way of their academic aspirations. When you support the scholarships and programs that guide and nurture our students, you play a critical role in how they'll change the world.

*Civil and environmental engineering graduate student Yasmine Farhat traveled to Cambodia to research how rice—the country's most important crop—will be impacted by the introduction of hydropower dams along the Mekong River.*





# Powering Education

**Raised as a shepherd in Ghana, Francis Abugbilla didn't see a computer until he was 17. Now he's a Jackson School doctoral candidate bringing solar electricity to his home village.**

By Mary Andom

In the dark of night, students in the Ghanaian farming community of Kpantarigo huddled around kerosene lamps or flashlights to complete their homework. The lack of electricity, let alone computers, dimmed the prospects of a bright future for children in Francis Abugbilla's village.

That was until Abugbilla, now a third-year doctoral candidate at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, brought them electricity in the form of solar power.

"The world is technologically driven. I want to empower the children in my community by giving them a quality education," says Abugbilla. "I don't want them to lag behind the world."

## DETERMINED TO LEARN

Growing up in Kpantarigo, Abugbilla worked as a shepherd and didn't begin his formal education until age 12—but he was determined to excel. He walked nearly two hours a day to and from the elementary school in another village. His family scraped together money for the kerosene to illuminate his studies.

When he was 17, Abugbilla participated in a French competition in the regional capital of Bolgatanga. That day changed his life: It was the first time he saw a computer.

"At first, I thought it was a TV because of the desktop monitor," Abugbilla says, laughing. "I needed to know how it worked and how I could use it."

Abugbilla began attending a high school with computers, and he was mesmerized by classmates pounding keys, information magically appearing on the screen. He wasn't confident enough to try it, though—until his instructor publicly shamed him for not knowing basic computer functions.

"My self-esteem was quite low," says Abugbilla. A friend helped him learn to type, and soon Abugbilla bought his own laptop as part of an academic scholarship he earned at the university.

## BECOMING A GLOBAL STEWARD

Abugbilla flourished as a college student, earning a degree in French with a minor in English at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, and then a master's in French at the University of Arizona. He was one of five from his village to graduate from college and the only one to obtain a master's degree—but he wasn't finished. He wanted to earn a Ph.D.

"I chose the Jackson School because of the accelerated nature of the program," says Abugbilla. "It is not like the traditional doctoral program. I wanted to experience academia and the practical side of the policy world."

Making his UW education possible was the Henry M. Jackson Doctoral Fellowship, funded by the Henry M. Jackson Foundation, which annually supports a deserving doctoral student with promising potential.

## WHERE THERE IS A VISION

While achieving his academic goals, Abugbilla never forgot the young people in Kpantarigo.

"I had this idea of bringing electricity to my village through solar panels," he says. "It was this daunting task. I didn't know who to reach out to, where to turn. How would I fund this?"

Abugbilla shares a Ghanaian proverb: "The gods that look for yams for a child in the forest will look for a hoe for digging the yams." Where there is a vision, there is a provision.

In 2018 he found that provision, thanks to the UW Marcy Migdal Endowed Fund for Educational Equality. Associated with the Center for Global Studies, the Migdal Fund helps exceptional students engaged in finding meaningful solutions to global problems. With the funding, Abugbilla installed a solar panel in the village school, allowing teachers to prepare lessons and students to have computer instruction and return to school in the evening to do their homework. He also initiated an annual global-studies competition at the school.

Jackson School Professor Emeritus Joel Migdal, who established the Migdal Endowed Fund in his late wife's name, says, "I couldn't think of a project that Marcy, who was an educator and social justice activist, would have found more meaningful than that of Francis'. It brought tears to my eyes."

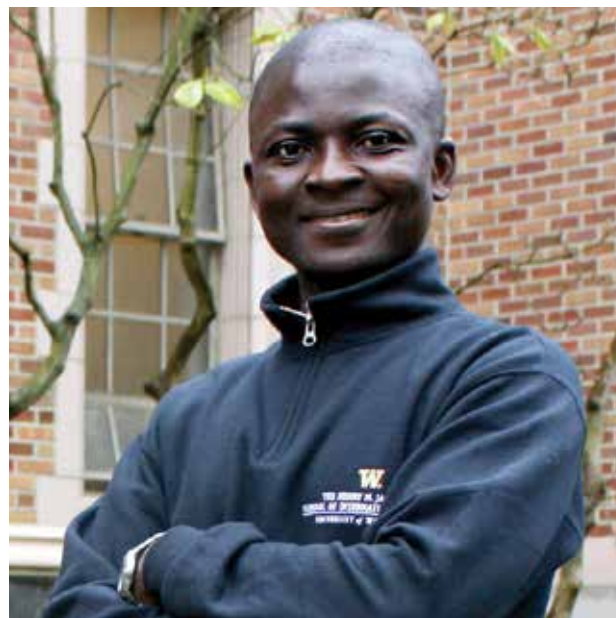
Abugbilla is using GoFundMe to expand the solar panel project. He has been overwhelmed by the support he's received from UW students and professors and others in the community. "The Marcy Migdal Fund was the tool to get me to dig the yam," Abugbilla says.

## TEACHING OTHERS AT THE UW AND BEYOND

Abugbilla is excelling in his studies at the Jackson School, and he's spoken at global leadership conferences across the U.S. He'll also be helping teach a course on energy interventions in sub-Saharan Africa through the Donald C. Hellmann Task Force Program, an experiential-learning capstone for undergraduate international-studies majors at the UW.

While he plans to continue his research at the Jackson School with a focus on peace, violence and security, Abugbilla's heart is still in Ghana.

"The goal is to electrify the schools and then scale it up to the entire community. I want to spur them into thinking innovatively and outside the box," he says. "It is important that people take their destiny into their own hands and effect the needed change in their lives."



PHOTOGRAPH BY MARY ANDOM

# Columns

## In Memory

### 1930

**RUTH ELIZABETH KOPLAN**

'37, '38, San Leandro, California, age 97, July 17, 2012

### 1940

**BARBARA LOUISE COLLINS-SLATER**

'43, Yuma, Arizona, age 98, Aug. 27

**PERNY LUELLA LUTHER**

'43, Susanville, California, age 94, March 8

**PATRICIA COWAN**

'48, Yakima, age 93, Aug. 31

**ROGER LAWRENCE WILLIAMS**

'49, '50, Forestville, California, age 95, Sept. 8

### 1950

**JEAN B. DAVANZO**

'50, Suffolk, Virginia, age 90, Feb. 11

**E. KENNETH SOLID**

'50, Medina, age 93, June 13

**JOAN O'SULLIVAN STRAND**

'50, Seattle, age 90, May 28

**BETSY A. RUSSELL**

'52, Mercer Island, age 88, March 23

**ARTHUR ROBERT WILLIAMS**

'52, Napa, California, age 92, Aug. 14

**ROBERT A. YALE**

'52, Samish Island, age 91, June 30

**GLORIA CHAPMAN MORROW**

'53, Whidbey Island, age 87, Jan. 22

**JOAN RUTH OLDS**

'53, Arroyo Grande, California, Dec. 25, 2009

**JOHN A. YORK JR.**

'53, '54, Edgewood, age 91, June 10

**EVALYN L. BYERS**

'54, Vancouver, Washington, age 86, Dec. 13, 2017

**GORDON KATZNELSON**

'54, San Francisco, age 89, Aug. 7

**W. JAY MCGARRIGLE**

'55, '56, Huntington Beach, California, age 85, Dec. 3, 2018

**MARGARET "PEGGY" CORLEY**

'56, Seattle, age 88, May 11

**PAUL R. DUCLOS**

'57, Anchorage, Alaska, age 84, Aug. 9

**HARLEN EDWIN "BUD" SHASTEEN**

'57, Seattle, age 84, April 29

**BARBARA M. BRAY**

'58, Edmonds, age 82, Aug. 11

**PERRY GRANT KEITHLEY**

'58, Lacey, age 83, April 9

### 1960

**CHAUNCEY A. RICHARDSON**

'60, Whidbey Island, age 89, April 9

**ELAINE BETH BAKKE**

'62, Mount Vernon, age 79, May 1

**DENIS GOODALE**

'62, '73, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, age 95, Aug. 11

**VERN TOLSTEDT**

'64, Helena, Montana, age 87, June 13

**BRUCE MAHLON BARR**

'65, Seattle, age 75, Aug. 10

**CHARLES ROBERT NELSON**

'65, Hayden Lake, Idaho, age 76, Jan. 9

**JAMES CAMMACK**

'67, Port Angeles, age 74, Aug. 8

**ELIZABETH COLLIER NEAVILLE**

'67, Seattle, age 100, June 3

**ROBERT S. FLEMING II**

'68, Shoreline, age 83, April 26

### 1970

**BARBARA COLE**

'70, Medina, age 71, Dec. 7, 2018

### 1990

**KIRSTEN GLEB**

'90, Ocean Park, age 55, Aug. 27

## FACULTY AND FRIENDS

**LAWRENCE C. BLISS** was an ecologist and chair of the UW Botany Department from 1978 to 1987. An expert in tundra ecology and high arctic ecosystems, he led a study of the revegetation of Mount St. Helens in the wake of the volcano's eruption in 1980. He died July 7 at the age of 89.

**JOHN BODOIA**, '72, was a professor of mechanical engineering who developed the UW's first solar engineering courses and retired in 1991. He raised six children, loved fast cars, motorcycles, running marathons and collecting books and old tools. He died March 31 at the age of 85.

**JACK CLAY** led the Professional Actors Training Program at the UW School of Drama from 1986 to 1991 and established the Jack Clay Endowed Fellowship to help MFA acting students pay for their studies. He died Sept. 2 at the age of 92.

**STEVEN MCGREGOR DEMOREST** spent 21 years on the faculty of the UW School of Music, where he conducted the Men's Glee Club and focused on music education. He believed that singing was a way for everyone to celebrate, find joy, mourn and serve as an outlet for personal expression. In 2014, the Midwest native left the UW to join the faculty at Northwestern University, where he was coordinator of its music education program. He died Sept. 22 in Evanston, Illinois. He was 60.

**CHARLES V. "TOM" GIBBS**

'54, '66, was a civil engineer whose career was devoted to the clean water movement. As an engineer for King County Metro, his projects in the 1960s stopped the flow of raw sewage into Lake Washington and Puget Sound. He also helped write the federal Clean Water Act, led the creation of Metro Transit and served on the board of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. A Seattle Times profile called him "Metro's Mr. Clean." He died June 19 at the age of 87.

**KATHERINE "KAPPY" JEAN YOUNG GRAHAM**

'54, '67, '72, '78, was a national leader on public health and quality-of-life issues, a nursing professor and chair of the UW Department of Community Health Care Systems from 1988 to 1995. As a graduate student, she helped develop the System Distress Scale, which gave patients a tool to more effectively communicate their pain and discomfort to health-care providers. She died July 19 at the age of 86.

**JOHN HANSEN** was a researcher at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and attending physician at UW Medical Center. His groundbreaking work revealed how genetic differences in the immune system contribute to the success of bone-marrow transplants. He also helped establish registries worldwide for bone-marrow and blood stem-cell donors. He died July 31 at the age of 76.

**NORRIS HARING** was a UW professor and pioneer in special education whose work established the Experimental Education Unit, one of the first programs in the country to serve children with learning and severe disabilities. In 2009, a gift from Haring and his wife helped create the Haring Center for Inclusive Education, a special-education research and teaching center. He died June 27 at the age of 95.

**RONALD L. HJORTH** was dean of the UW Law School from 1995 to 2001 and a member of the UW law faculty for

45 years. He grew up in a Mennonite community in northeastern Nebraska, where his first memory was the quiet while watching his father till a field. During his UW tenure, he helped raise funds for the construction of William G. Gates Hall and established six endowed professorships and an endowed chair. He died May 6 at the age of 83.

**KENNETH PAWULA** was an artist who started teaching at the UW School of Art in 1965. His paintings are in the collections of the Seattle Art Museum and the Henry Art Gallery. He died June 29 at the age of 84.

**FRED RIBE** was an expert in nuclear fusion who worked at Los Alamos National Laboratory in the decades following World War II. While at Los Alamos, he helped monitor the 1952 test of first hydrogen bomb, which destroyed the island in the Eniwetok atoll where it was detonated. He was a professor of nuclear engineering at the UW from 1977 to 1989. He died June 19 at the age of 94.

**KOJI WILLIAM TADA**, '56, graduated from West Seattle High School in 1940 and was forced to relocate with his family to the Minidoka internment camp near Hunt, Idaho, during World War II. In 1944, he was drafted into the Army and was awarded a Bronze Star for his service. He worked as an accountant and volunteered after his retirement helping seniors prepare their tax returns at the West Seattle Senior Center. He died April 12 at the age of 97.

**LAUREL WILKENING**, UW provost and vice president for academic affairs from 1988 to 1993, was a planetary scientist and an expert on comets and meteorites. She became the UW's first woman provost after a stellar career at the University of Arizona. She left the UW when she was named chancellor at the University of California, Irvine, the third female chancellor in UC history. In 2013, an asteroid discovered by NASA researchers at the University of Arizona was named in her honor. She died June 4 at the age of 74.





## A Soulful Artist

**Marvin Oliver recognized the challenges facing Native students**

Four decades ago, artist and UW professor Marvin Oliver established an annual dinner to celebrate graduating American Indian students. At Raven's Feast, as it came to be called, each graduate received a print from Oliver. He wanted to recognize the challenges Native American students often face in higher education.

"It sometimes brings tears to my eyes to see these students come up and get their print," said Oliver, a leading figure in Native American contemporary art. He died on July 17 at the age of 73.

The coveted memento from Oliver is the reason Iisaaksiichaa Ross Braine, director of the UW's Intellectual House, finished his undergraduate degree after leaving school for a time. "I don't know where my (diplomas) are, but my prints are (hanging) right next to each other," says Braine, '09, '15, who received a second print when he finished his master's degree at the UW.

Born in Shelton, Oliver grew up in the Bay Area. His mother was an Isleta Pueblo Indian, and his father was a member of the Quinault tribe in Washington. After completing his MFA at the UW in 1973, Oliver

continued on as a professor of American Indian Studies. As professor emeritus, he mentored students and other artists and served as consultant curator at the Burke Museum. To recognize his work on behalf of equity and diversity, Oliver received the UW's 2019 Charles E. Odegaard Award. It is the only University- and community-selected award and is regarded as the highest achievement in diversity at the University of Washington.

Oliver's prints and sculptures are treasured landmarks at the UW, throughout Seattle and beyond the Pacific Northwest. He used a variety of media in his work, including wood, glass, steel and abalone shells. "Mystical Journey," a steel- and-glass piece featuring a mother orca and her baby, hangs inside Seattle Children's Hospital (above). His 30-foot bronze orca fin, "Sister Orca," is displayed in Perugia, Italy.

Oliver's work is an inspiration for Native people who often feel erased by contemporary culture, says Polly Olsen, Yakama tribal liaison to the Burke Museum. "When we enter these international spaces, we see him, we feel his presence," says Olsen, '94. "And we find a voice."

*The Native American community admired Marvin Oliver for his artwork and his support of Native American students who attended—and graduated from—the UW.*

PHOTO BY KAREN ORDERS

### RECOGNITION



PHOTO BY MARY LEVIN

**BILLY (BILL) W. HILLIARD** came to campus in the early 1960s as an undergraduate, and went on to become assistant vice president for what is today the Office of Minority

Affairs & Diversity, helping to steer the organization for much of its debut decade. Hilliard later worked for wide-sweeping change as a public servant, directing our state's Human Rights Commission, for example, and mentoring young black men across the city. He died Oct. 2 at the age of 78.



PHOTO BY DAVID KANTILAN

**ANN NELSON** asked the physics community the blunt question "Are you part of the problem?" in a 2017 op-ed about diversity in the sciences. A beloved professor,

mentor and renowned researcher, Nelson called representation "a critical issue of civil rights in our field," and like the fundamental physics puzzles she investigated, she felt driven to solve it. Nelson died Aug. 4 in a tragic backpacking accident at 61 years old. In her honor, let's keep asking ourselves the hard questions; giving.uw.edu/AnnNelson.

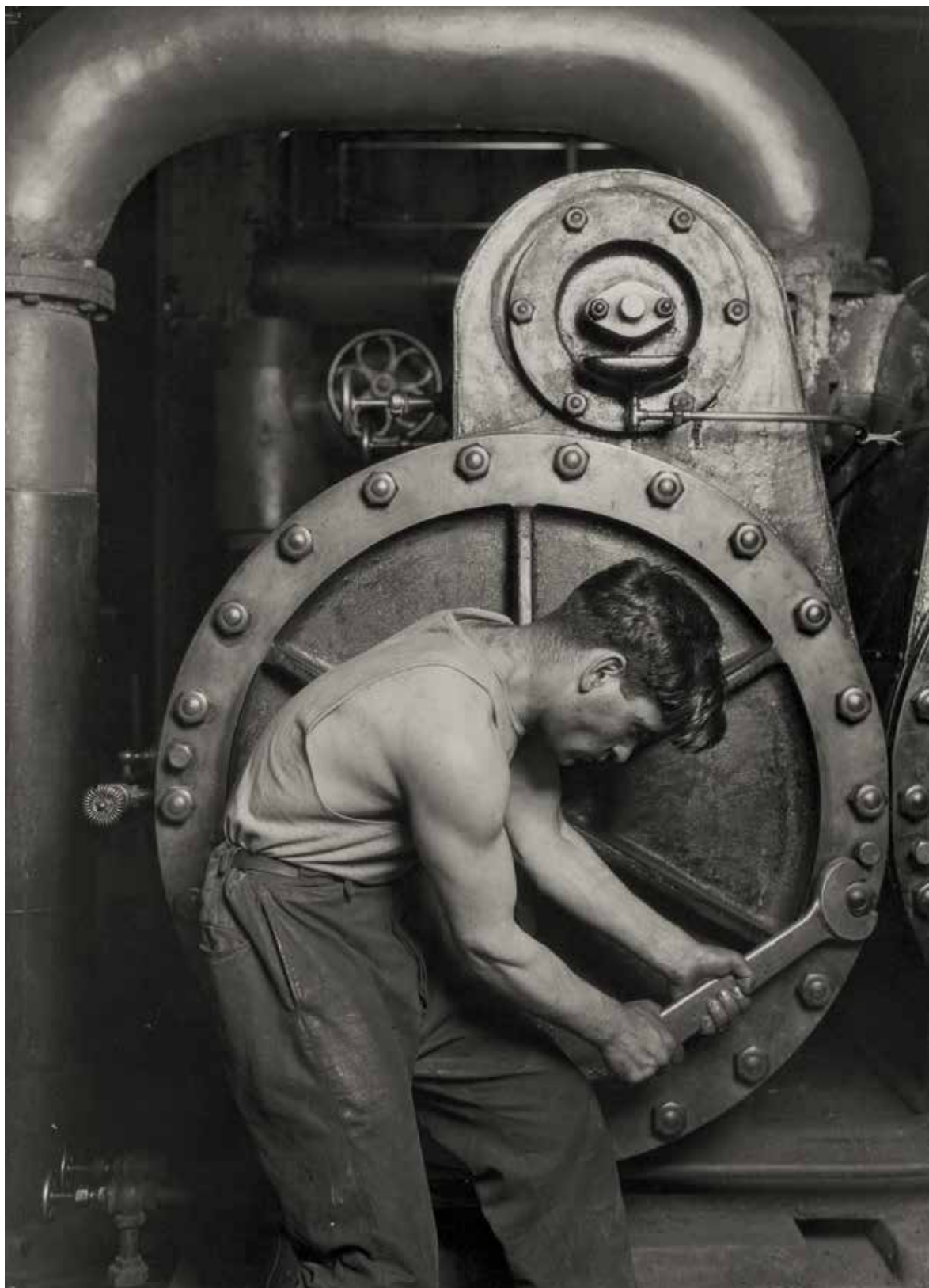
## The Picture of Generosity

The Henry Art Gallery is home to one of America's premier photography collections, and we have UW faculty members Joseph and Elaine Monsen to thank for it. Though both are no longer with us—Elaine died in 2014 and Joseph died Aug. 2 at the age of 88—their generosity in providing their collection to the Henry means we have access to some of the seminal photographs made.

Joseph developed an early appetite for collecting art. Seeking out ceramics and Asian art, and, later, photography, he relished the opportunity to learn the art forms. That gave Joseph, a UW business professor, an entrée into a colorful community of collectors, and he made his travels with Elaine even more pleasurable by hunting for new pieces.

Joseph was first struck by the power of art in an undergraduate art history class when the professor brought in her own original Japanese prints, he said in a 1986 oral history interview at the Seattle Public Library. He loved the design as well as the transcendent quality of the work.

*"Powerhouse Mechanic" by Lewis Wickes Hine, 1921, was a gift to the Henry Art Gallery from Joseph and Elaine Monsen and the Boeing Company. Hine's photographs—the Henry has six, thanks to the Monsens depicted American city life and industrial workers between 1905 and 1930.*





A few years later, he was just starting to collect Asian art and American pottery when he met Elaine in graduate school at University of California, Berkeley. She happily joined in, and the couple became early serious collectors of fine art ceramics. "It was a key period in the history of American ceramics and in the history of world ceramics," Joseph said.

When asked why he started collecting in the first place, he replied, "I guess I was obsessed somehow and I thought it was fun. I was interested in the new ideas that were being worked out."

In 1963, the Monsens joined the UW faculty—Joseph in business and economics, Elaine in nutrition. A year back east on fellowships at Harvard University brought a new interest into focus, one that would ultimately benefit the Henry Art Gallery and its visitors. Over lunch, the head of the Harvard art history department persuaded Joseph to expand his collecting to photography. "I immediately started studying it," he said. At the time, there were almost no dealers and very few books on the subject, but the Monsens found a few galleries in Boston and New York and, in 1969, began seeking out the works of Edward Weston. "We collected before things became terribly expensive," Joseph said. Still, "you're always buying more than you can afford."

They first collected works that showcased the development of American photography, and later broadened their approach to include European photography. Theirs became one of the most important photography collections in the country.

In 1975, the director of the Seattle Art Museum approached the Monsens about developing an exhibition. At that point, they had a full outline of the history of American photography. Four years later, the Monsens gave the Henry Art Gallery the first 100 of more than 1,280 photographs from their collection. That included images by Mathew Brady (his 1864 portrait of Abraham Lincoln), Carrie Mae Weems, Ansel Adams, Diane Arbus, Weegee, Imogen Cunningham (UW class of 1907) and Chuck Close, '62.


"They joined the ranks of a handful of collectors worldwide who assembled a historical collection of masterworks from the earliest days in photography to now," Sylvia Wolf, director of the Henry Art Gallery, wrote in a letter to board members and patrons in memory of the Monsens. After Elaine died, Joseph and his daughter, Maren, continued to fill out the collection.


"Through decades of visionary leadership, the Monsens have had an indelible impact on shaping the Henry's collection," wrote Wolf. "Moreover, the excellence of works in their collection, the depth of their connoisseurship, and their exceptional generosity have inspired others in the region to collect and to appreciate the art of photography."


## REAL DAWGS WEAR PURPLE

Husky Rachel Kerr rocks her Purple Pride and inspires others to pursue a world-class college education. As head school counselor at Evergreen High School, Rachel is fulfilling her dream of making an impact in the lives of youth — a desire born during her high school and college years as a YMCA camp counselor. A degree from the University of Washington in Art History allowed this first-generation college graduate and proud Husky to move from camp counselor to school counselor and become a powerful purple force for a world of good.

**RACHEL KERR, B.A. '08**

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