University of Washington Magazine

The Journey Here

Robert J. Jones steps into the presidency and a new era at the UW

Backyard Buoys

Crews aboard the UW's R/V Jack Robertson deploy an ocean-monitoring buoy near La Push. The buoy is named Cháʔba·(pronounced "chay buh"), which means "whale tail" in the Quileute language. It monitors weather and ocean conditions as part of the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems, which is housed in the UW College of the Environment. The association works with coastal communities, including tribes, to share real-time ocean information critical to fishing fleets.
—Jackson Holtz / *Photo by Dennis Wise*

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PHOTO BY JOHN LOK

ON THE COVER
Living up to his reputation as a welcoming university leader, UW President Robert J. Jones was all smiles while taking a break from his cover photo shoot to visit with students and staff.

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From rural Georgia to the UW presidency, Robert J. Jones brings a lifetime of leadership to his new role, which began Aug. 1.
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uwmag.online

BURKE MUSEUM

HAPPY AS A CLAM
The Burke Museum recently welcomed Chowder, an ancient inoceramid clam that went viral when staff revealed it took 415 hours to piece it back together. One of the largest clams to have ever lived, Chowder is the star of a video viewed more than 2 million times. uwmag.online/chowder

JAMES SNEDDON

WASKY, THE BLUE-EYED HUSKY
Of course, you are familiar with Dubs I and Dubs II, and maybe even Prince Redoubt. But do you recall the most regal husky of all? That would be Wasky, who was the UW's mascot in 1946. uwmag.online/wasky

COURTESY DEREK SHEFFIELD

EVERGREEN POET
Washington's new poet laureate is Leavenworth's Derek Sheffield, '90, '99. He loves the outdoors and brings a passion for mental wellness. "Poems make for good medicine," he writes. uwmag.online/sheffield

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Forward

OPINION AND THOUGHT FROM **THE UW FAMILY**

BY **PAT CHUN**

Why the Big Ten Feels Like Home

Fielding thoughts about the benefits of the Big Ten Conference

From our very first days on campus, my family and the team around me were welcomed with warmth, generosity and a shared passion for what it means to be part of this extraordinary university and city.

This past year allowed us to truly embed ourselves in the UW community and participate in and appreciate what makes our community so unique. In this exciting new era for Husky athletics, our future is full of opportunity.

A year ago, we joined the Big Ten Conference. It's a bold new chapter for us, and one that aligns with who we are as an institution academically and athletically. For me, the Big Ten feels like home. I grew up in the Midwest and began my career in athletics administration at Ohio State University. Joining this conference is both professionally meaningful and a return to my roots.

Joining the Big Ten places us on the center stage of college athletics, with exposure that reaches across the globe. The conference also brings together many of the world's most respected universities—institutions where groundbreaking research, innovation and discovery thrive. Does that sound familiar? It's who we are at Washington—a global powerhouse—and now we stand shoulder to shoulder with peers who match our values, ambitions and impact. That alignment matters because at the UW, we don't believe in choosing between excellence in the classroom and excellence in competition. We expect both. We deliver both.

In our first year in the Big Ten, our student-athletes reached numerous academic milestones, including the department's highest combined GPA of 3.48, with 469 student-athletes earning a GPA above 3.0 and 304 earning academic All-Conference recognition.

On the field, our student-athletes had an outstanding year headlined by a national championship in men's rowing, four individual national titles and nine Big Ten individual championships. Women's rowing swept all seven Grand Finals at the Big Ten Championships, and 16 of our 22 teams advanced to postseason play. Record-breaking performances across programs were punctuated by 43 All-America and 80 All-Big Ten accolades.

At the UW, we don't believe in choosing between excellence in the classroom and excellence in competition. We expect both. We deliver both.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. To our alumni, generous donors, fans, corporate partners and friends across Seattle and the Pacific Northwest: Thank you. We feel your commitment as you fill the seats at Alaska Airlines Field at Husky Stadium, Alaska Airlines Arena and every venue where our teams compete. We see your dedication across the country wherever our teams go. You stand with our student-athletes as they proudly represent the Purple and Gold.

We look ahead with optimism. The programs we set out to build are gaining strength. The ones that were poised for success are thriving. Our path forward is one of opportunity and momentum. Together, we will continue to show the nation what it means to be a Husky.

Go Dawgs!

Pat Chun is the UW's Director of Athletics. He stepped into the role in 2024, as the University was transitioning into the Big Ten Conference.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY RUSSO

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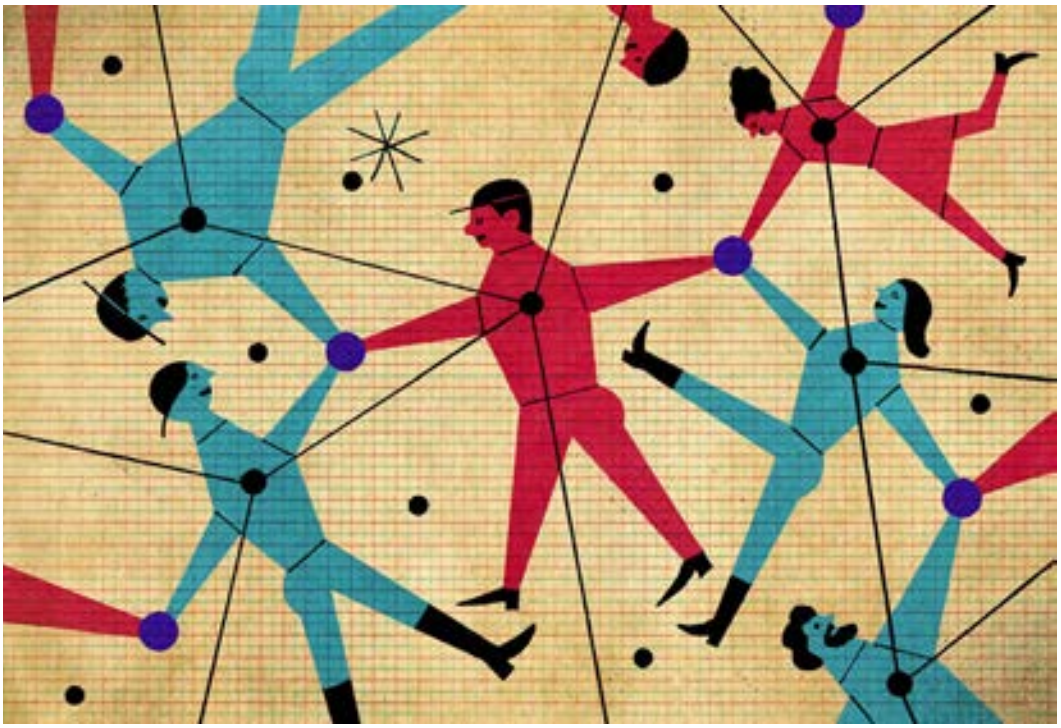

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID PLUNKERT

MESSAGE FROM THE **EDITOR**

There's a Lot to be Proud of

By Jon Marmor

These are undeniably challenging times—unpredictable, stressful and sometimes overwhelming. Which is why it is more important than ever to look around and notice the things that are going right. And here at the University of Washington, there's a lot to be proud of.

Last October, UW biochemist David Baker, director of UW Medicine's Institute for Protein Design, became the eighth UW faculty member to receive the Nobel Prize. He joins a group of UW-connected laureates that includes 13 alumni. It's another reminder that world-changing scholarship and innovation happen on our campuses every day.

The UW in July was rated by U.S. News & World Report as the No. 8 university in the world, and No. 2 among public universities. This recognition reflects work across many disciplines—from developing a handlebar sensor to help cyclists identify dangerous routes, to using coffee grounds and mushroom spores to create a 3D printed compostable alternative to plastics, to housing the country's only collaborative institute focused on Merkel Cell Carcinoma, a rare and aggressive skin cancer.

Our legacy of impact stretches back decades. Ceramic tiles for the Space Shuttle, pioneering bone-marrow transplants to treat leukemia, the development of home-based kidney dialysis and entire fields like bioengineering and pain medicine have roots at the UW.

But our University is not just about discovery; it's about people. At our 150th commencement this past June, 18,833 students received degrees across our three campuses. Among them were record numbers of transfer and first-generation students—proof of our long-standing commitment to access.

Our student-athletes continue to impress, too. This year, UW men's crew won its 21st national championship, and 10th in the past 19 years. Husky Track and Field finished fourth nationally in the NCAA indoor and outdoor track championships, winning national titles in the women's and men's 1500 meters and women's pole vault. And 169 student-athletes from 11 spring sports earned Big Ten All-Academic honors.

Remember that you are part of a thriving and deeply connected community. That's something in which we can all take heart.

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Forward

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(Letters may be edited for length or clarity.)

ROAR FROM THE CROWD

Kindness in Action

The Summer 2025 University of Washington Magazine is stunning. All of the articles are of high quality, displaying a diversity of recent alumni who graduated during the University's illustrious history. I especially enjoyed reading the Ana Mari Cauce farewell legacy article ("Leading on the Fly"). I have always admired Dr. Cauce's courage and willingness to step up during difficult times, and make good things happen in spite of the naysayers. That's what quality leadership looks like. I met President Cauce a few times following my active years at the University. She likely doesn't remember me but I will always remember her kindness and caring approach to everyone she met. The article is beautifully written and vividly shares in a creative way the 10 years she spent leading the UW through extraordinary times.

Dr. Elizabeth Reynolds

A Great Edition

I had almost given up on the readability of University of Washington Magazine. Imagine my surprise when I read the Summer 2025 edition. What a great edition—not only in readability but in choices of stories covered. I hope you will continue on this path and make us proud.

Nancy Holloway, '79, San Antonio, Texas

What Stereotypes?

Regarding the negative stereotypes letter [about the Jacob Lawrence paintings that were published with the article "The Northwest Legacy of Jacob Lawrence," Spring 2025], how can someone with not one but four UW degrees be so misguided as to view Jacob Lawrence's extraordinary artworks as having "negative connotations and stereotypes"?

Andy Patterson

Too Much Kenny Mayne

You wasted more than four pages on Kenny Mayne ("Never Kenough," Spring 2025), a person whose relationship to UW is totally insignificant. Why don't you contact people at UW's various colleges and departments about the latest, greatest research going on? I'd love to hear about the philosophy department or chemistry or law or forestry rather than see space wasted on someone like him.

Susan M. Wheatley, '73, Ellensburg

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Gen Z and the Job Market

They want autonomy. Employers want accountability. Can they meet in the middle?

By Hannelore Sudermann

Gen Z is stepping into the workforce with bold expectations—flexibility, balance and meaningful work—but they're encountering a job market that's more demanding than they had imagined.

"Right now, we're wrestling with a couple different issues," says Briana Randall, executive director of the University of Washington's Career and Internship Center. "It's actually quite difficult to get a job, and we're seeing more headlines about employers not loving Gen Z workers."

Born between 1997 and 2012, Gen Z is entering the workforce with different goals than previous generations. According to Deloitte's 2024 Global Gen Z and Millennial Survey, few Gen Z professionals want to climb the corporate ladder. Instead, most are prioritizing personal well-being and meaningful work. Financial stability remains a top concern as well.

Randall, who has been with the UW Career and Internship Center since 2004, has noticed a shift in mindset among recent graduates. "They're prioritizing security more than they have in the past and are looking for balance and flexibility," she says. "I really admire our graduating students for being more mindful of their well-being. But sometimes that focus may interfere with being accountable to teammates and coworkers."

Shaped by the COVID-19 pandemic and remote learning, this generation has experienced more flexibility and support from schools and institutions than earlier cohorts. "Higher education very much supports people's identities and well-being," Randall explains. "But now we have to prepare them for workplaces that might not care about that. Gen Z workers may not be able to delay a deadline or miss work because they're stressed." She tells them, "You have to understand that your team is relying on you."

She adds that many Gen Z employees expect the freedom to work the way they'd like. "They want to call their own shots—to have significant say in their tasks, schedule and where they work," she says. "But those things aren't typical in first jobs."

Despite the disconnect between expectations and reality, Randall points out clear paths to success. The most important credential? Internship experience. "Even if it's in a different field, it shows that you can be on time and be accountable," she says.

That helps counter perceptions highlighted in a recent Resume.org report, which found that about half of hiring managers believe new graduates lack key skills, struggle to work in teams and demonstrate poor business etiquette.

Still, the UW's own data offers encouragement. According to surveys from last year, more than 62% of recent graduates secured full-time jobs within a few months of graduation, while nearly 20% continued their education. Many found local work at the University of Washington, UW Medical Center, Amazon, Seattle Children's Hospital and Boeing.

This year, however, the job market has tightened. "It's more challenging," Randall says. Data from the New York Federal Reserve confirms that the labor market for recent graduates has deteriorated.

While most students who visit the Career and Internship Center hope to stay in Seattle and work for well-known companies, Randall and her team encourage broader thinking. "We remind them this is just their first job," Randall says. "Something that really fits their skills and long-term goals might be at a smaller company—or in a different place entirely, like Idaho."

Adding to the difficulty is a shift in employer preferences. "It's an employer's market right now," Randall says. "Some employers are talking about the challenges of managing Gen Z workers. Rather than hire someone who resists adapting to company culture, they might prefer to rehire a retiree—or do the work themselves."

Still, most graduating students just want a job—ideally one that connects to what they studied. For Gen Z to succeed in today's workforce, Randall believes compromise is key. "Employers need to be more flexible," she says, "and students need to be flexible as well."

ILLUSTRATION BY JOE ANDERSON

Gilded Age Garb

The Washington State History Museum in Tacoma showcases an era of rapid change in the Pacific Northwest through "Dressing the Gilded Age: Fashion From the 1870s to the 1910s." Margaret Wetherbee, '00, the museum's head of collections, helped restore items and develop the exhibit using artifacts within the museum's own collection. This wool-and-velvet afternoon dress dates from 1891. The exhibit will be on view through Feb. 15, 2026.

COURTESY OF WASHINGTON STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

Too Close for Comfort

A UW-designed bike sensor helps cyclists steer toward safer streets

By Stefan Milne

While factors like rain or hills might keep people from cycling on our city streets, one of the biggest barriers is the fear of getting hit by a car. It's hard to identify the safest routes to ride—especially for beginner cyclists—and all too often, dangerous streets are flagged only after multiple collisions have occurred.

A University of Washington-led team has created ProxiCycle, a system that logs when a passing car comes too close to a cyclist (within 4 feet). An inexpensive sensor plugs into bicycle handlebars and sends data about close passes to the rider's phone. The team tested the ProxiCycle with 15 cyclists in Seattle and found a significant correlation between the locations of close passes and other indicators of poor safety. Deployed at scale, the system could support mapping or navigating cyclists on safer bike routes through cities.

"Experienced cyclists have this mental map of which streets are safe and which are unsafe, and I wanted to find a simple way to pass that knowledge down to novice cyclists," says Joseph Breda, a doctoral student in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering and the lead author on a paper recently presented at the Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems in Japan. "Cycling is really good for your health and for the environment," Breda says. "Getting more people biking more often is how we reap those rewards and increase safety in numbers for cyclists on the roads."

To start, researchers surveyed 389 people in Seattle and found that cyclists of all experience ranked the threat of cars as the biggest deterrent to riding. They also highlighted a lack of road-safety data.

The finding motivated the team to design the sensor system that fits into the end of a bike's left handlebar. Costing less than $25 to produce, the device is a 3D-printed plastic casing that houses a pair of sensors and a Bluetooth antenna to transmit data to the rider's phone. The team's algorithm susses out what's a passing car rather than a person, another cyclist or a tree.

The team validated the system by first testing it in a parking lot with a car passing at different distances and then by outfitting seven cyclists with GoPro cameras on their handlebars as they rode through Seattle. Researchers compared the footage from these rides to the sensor output.

The team then recruited 15 cyclists through the Seattle Neighborhood Greenways newsletter. Each rider got a ProxiCycle sensor, a custom Android app and instructions. The cyclists took 240 bike rides over two months and recorded 2,050 close passes. Researchers then compared the locations of close passes with riders' perceived safety at different locations—which they measured by showing cyclists images of locations and having them rate how safe they felt at those sites—and with the locations of known automobile-to-bike collisions.

The team found a correlation between close passes and known safety risks. It also found that this measure of close passes was a better indicator of actual safety than the survey of perceived safety, which is the current standard used to study safety when collision data is insufficient.

Researchers hope to scale up to potentially account for other hazards, such as when cyclists are struck by car doors that are opened. With enough data, existing bike mapping apps, such as Google Maps or Strava, could include safer route suggestions based on real-world risks.

Some of those routes might involve only minor adjustments. "One study participant who was living down by Seattle Center was biking down Mercer all the time," Breda says. "It's this busy, multi-lane road. But ... there's a great bike lane on a quieter street just one block north."

MARK STONE

Although the UW campus is recognized as bike-friendly by the League of American Bicyclists, Seattle streets still pose challenges for cyclists. A UW team has developed a tool to help identify safer routes through the city.

TARA BROWN PHOTOGRAPHY

How Old Are You Really?

The UW-created Health Octo Tool measures biological age, offering a more accurate picture of aging and a guide for living longer and healthier lives

By Caitlin Klask

Regular exercise—like training for the annual Alaska Airlines Dawg Dash (above)—has the potential to slow down biological aging at the cellular level.

Elizabeth Sullivan claimed in 2015 that the secret to her 104 years was drinking three Dr. Peppers each day. Jessie Gallan, who was 109 when she died in 2015, attributed her long life to eating porridge, fitness and "staying away from men." New insights into healthy aging, according to UW researchers, can be found in eight health markers—including walking speed and your number of organ-specific diseases.

UW School of Medicine researchers have created the Health Octo Tool, a holistic assessment using individuals' health exams and lab tests that analyze 13 bodily systems. Using data from 45,000 survey participants, Dr. Shabnam Salimi, a physician-scientist at the UW Medicine Healthy Aging & Longevity Research Institute, and her team developed a method to calculate an individual's biological age, or how old your organs' cells are. Chronological age, which is how long you've been alive, provides a less complete picture of an individual's health and mortality risk. If your biological age is older than your chronological age, it might be time to make lifestyle changes.

Dr. Daniel Raftery, professor of anesthesiology and pain medicine, and Dr. Luigi Ferrucci, scientific director of the National Institute on Aging, are the senior co-authors of the Nature Communications paper that announced the tool.

The Health Octo Tool is named for the eight metrics Salimi and her team examined including body clock, body age, organ-specific health, walking speed and cognitive and physical disability. This tool can predict an individual's risk for disability or death based on their physical exam and test results alone with more than 90% accuracy. "This tool has the potential to help people better understand their rate of aging, optimize the use of health-care resources and track changes in their health over time," Salimi says.

The Health Octo Tool also allows for more targeted and personalized care plans. It could contribute to the development of new biomarkers and therapeutics that target organ-specific or whole-body aging.

Now the UW team is developing an app so patients and their health-care providers can check on their biological age—which measures an individual's physiological health and how fast their cells, tissues and organs are aging—and make such lifestyle adjustments as cutting back on alcohol or getting regular cancer screenings.

"My hope is that the Health Octo Tool will become part of a healthy lifestyle, empowering individuals to monitor their biological age and assess how lifestyle changes or medical interventions impact their long-term health," Salimi says.

As researchers unlock the science behind aging, instruments like the Health Octo Tool are shifting the focus from how many years we've lived to how well our bodies are holding up. Whether it's porridge or a personalized health assessment, the future of aging may lie in understanding—and acting on—our biological age.

JONATHAN VANDERWEIT

Entry Fees Are Out

By going free, the Henry Art Gallery renews its mission to serve artists and audiences

By Jason Clark

The galleries and courtyard of the Henry Art Gallery present a range of contemporary art—a two-story tapestry, an annotated collage of obituaries of influential women and even a three-panel display of anuses. Set within a 1927 Beaux-Arts building and its striking 1997 expansion, the Henry has long been a site for bold ideas and boundary-pushing work.

This summer, it added another: scrapping admission fees altogether.

"When I arrived, I found it confusing for visitors coming through the doors," says Kris Lewis, who joined the Henry in 2023 as the John S. Behnke Director. "There wasn't clear messaging—people weren't always sure, 'is admission free?' With fresh eyes, it was immediately clear to me: we needed to address this."

Free admission attracts more visitors without raising costs, according to a report released this spring by independent think-tank ReMuseum, which surveyed 150 art museums across the country. At a time when museums are attracting fewer visitors than they did five years ago, the report suggested that by charging admission to subsidize costs, most museums were reducing visitations.

The Henry's admission-free policy comes at a time when institutional commitments to equity are under attack. Going free, Lewis says, makes the museum more accessible to all and reaffirms values the Henry has held for decades. "Our core audiences and the artists we work with are, or feel, under threat," she says. "Our commitment is to continue showing up for them. So, how do we remove barriers that might prevent folks from coming in? Free admission is one clear way—it helps ease the financial burden and opens the museum to all."

The shift is already making a measurable difference. According to Tanja Baumann, director of communications and public relations, the Henry welcomed 5,482 visitors in June, a 40% increase from the year before. It has also seen 65,492 visitors over the past 12 months—the highest in over a decade.

The change comes as the Henry approaches a major milestone—its centennial—in two years. The gallery will step into its next chapter not by reinventing itself, but by building on what has sustained it for nearly 100 years: championing emerging artists, showcasing contemporary art and engaging the public around new art and ideas.

"We want to continue to deepen our relationship with the University community and be a welcoming place for students and faculty and staff," Lewis says. "We really strive to be a third home. Whether it's going to the cafe, playing ping pong in the courtyard, or spending time engaging with the art and learning something new."

New additions to the Henry's permanent collection are on display in the lobby, and "Passing On (2022)," a series of collaged newspaper obituaries of influential feminist activists and organizers, will be in the mezzanine through Sept. 25. A third exhibition, "Spirit House," features concepts of ghosts, hauntings and ancestry in the works of 33 Asian American and Asian diasporic artists and will be on view through January.

Tala Mandani's 'Be flat' was on view this summer at the Henry Art Gallery, which saw increased attendance after admission fees were dropped.

NEWS & RESEARCH

MAPPING THE NIGHT

Perched in the Chilean Andes, the Vera C. Rubin Observatory gave the world its first glimpse through the 8.4-meter Simonyi Survey Telescope in June. The Legacy Survey of Space and Time will help unravel the mysteries of dark matter, dark energy and the history of our solar system. The observatory is a joint initiative of the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy's Office of Science. UW faculty, students and engineers helped design the observatory, built its imaging software and developed algorithms to process the massive amounts of data it collects.

HELPING STROKE SURVIVORS

In a medical first, UW Medicine neurosurgeons have implanted a brain device to restore movement in stroke survivors. This study could reshape rehabilitation for the 800,000 Americans who have a stroke each year—and the millions already disabled by one. Says Dr. Jeffrey Ojemann, of the UW School of Medicine: "We want to see whether by stimulating the brain during rehabilitation sessions we can help them regain more function."

SEA STAR TRACKING

A marine heat wave hit the West Coast 10 years ago, contributing to the collapse of the sunflower sea star in the waters off California. Without sea stars to keep their population in check, native purple sea urchins surged in numbers, devastating kelp forests. Students in the Technology Innovation Master's program at the UW's Global Innovation Exchange developed an underwater robot and an AI-powered dashboard to improve the process of tracking sea star populations. The team is working with the UW Applied Physics Lab and Friday Harbor Labs.

GREENER CONCRETE

Researchers at the UW and Microsoft have developed a low-carbon concrete by mixing dried, powdered seaweed with cement, cutting the concrete's global warming potential by 21% while maintaining its strength. Cement production is responsible for up to 10% of global CO_2 emissions, but the inclusion of seaweed offers a more sustainable solution.

120-YEAR LEGACY OF LIBERTY

In 1905, the UW received its very first cash-endowed gift: the Philo Sherman Bennett Prize, a $400 bequest from the East Coast businessman. The money funded a $25 annual award to political science students for "the best essay discussing the principles of free government." Today, the endowment distributes about $1,000 a year.

THE JOURNEY HERE

From land-grant roots to national leadership, Robert J. Jones is shaping the future of public education. Now, as president of the University of Washington, he's moving into his biggest role yet.

BY **HANNELORE SUDERMANN**
PHOTOS BY **JOHN LOK**

NINTH GRADE WAS A GOOD YEAR for Robert J. Jones.

The son of sharecroppers in Dawson, Georgia, he started high school like most boys in his rural community—taking vocational agriculture classes. But unlike his classmates, he gained the nickname "Professor."

Jones was a curious kid who loved science and nature. His father, R.J., worked long days. During peanut harvest, he left the house at 6 a.m. and returned well past midnight, coated in Georgia red clay. His mother, Mamie, cleaned the home and cared for the children of the landowner. They had a side business raising hogs. Neither had made it to high school, but they were enterprising, hard working and adamant that education would come first for their children. "I had a sense of how difficult life was for my parents, but I never went hungry or ragged a day in my life," Jones says.

Walter Stallworth, Jones' high school vocational agriculture teacher, noticed a sharp mind beneath the polite demeanor. Dubbing Jones "Professor," he took him under his wing. He urged him to join the New Farmers of America, compete in livestock and soil judging, and rise to chapter president. When the NFA merged with the Future Farmers of America in 1965, Stallworth made sure Jones attended the first integrated meeting in Atlanta—buying him his first blue FFA jacket so he could show up looking the part. "He became my mentor as well as my instructor," Jones says. "And he made it clear: I would go to college."

That early mix of high expectations, hard work and well-timed encouragement set Jones on a path that would carry him from the segregated schools of Terrell County, Georgia to academic leadership on the national stage. Today, he brings the full weight of that journey to the University of Washington, where he serves as the school's 34th president.

COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ARCHIVES

AGRONOMY AND GRAMMYS

Jones found his voice in Minnesota, presenting his scientific research on corn and joining an acclaimed vocal ensemble.

JONES CHOSE Fort Valley State, a historically Black land-grant university. Mentor Malcolm C. Blunt took over his guidance, securing internships in soil and forest conservation for his top students. Those summer internships helped Jones pay tuition and deepened his passion for science.

"Mr. Blunt made it clear, 'You are going to get a Ph.D.,'" Jones recalls. He took that encouragement to heart and earned a master's degree in crop physiology at the University of Georgia. From there, he pursued his doctoral work at the University of Missouri, working on tall fescue, a grass important for forage and erosion control, in the lab of C. Jerry Nelson.

Jones stood out as a focused researcher and natural leader, says Nelson, who has clear memories of his student nearly 50 years later. After graduating, when Jones was an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota, he presented on his corn research at an agronomy conference. "His was the last paper of the afternoon," recalls Nelson. "The auditorium was packed with people standing in the back and out in the hall. I barely got in." Afterward, Nelson overheard students buzzing about the talk. "I was so proud," he says, adding that he is even more so today. "I made a phone call, gave him an offer and never dreamed it would lead here."

OVER THE NEXT DECADE, Jones built a research program at Minnesota focused on making corn more resilient to climate stress. His lab thrived with graduate students, technicians and postdocs, all writing grants, publishing research papers and running field trials.

But outside the lab, life in a mostly white city felt unfamiliar. He found community in a local church, and the church choir became his family. That connection led to an audition for Sounds of Blackness, an ensemble rooted in African American musical traditions. For the next 30 years, he performed with the group, touring nationally and internationally, opening for and recording with legends like Prince, Stevie Wonder, Luther Vandross and Quincy Jones, and winning two Grammy Awards.

As he built his lab and his life, Jones resisted moving into administrative roles, determined to fulfill his potential as a research scientist. But in 1984, an opportunity to serve as an academic and scientific consultant for Archbishop Desmond Tutu's South African Education Program pulled him from campus.

Tutu, believing that apartheid would soon fall, saw an urgent need to prepare young Black South Africans to step into leadership roles in a new democratic society. The initiative brought thousands of Black South African students to American campuses. Jones traveled to South Africa and Namibia each summer for 10 years, helping to identify promising candidates and facilitating their education and training. "That was one of the most profound experiences of my life," he says. "I know how it feels to be treated as the other. I take great pride in that work. In a small measure, it allowed me to play a role in bringing an end to one of the most atrocious systems in the world outside of slavery."

Back home with tenure, Jones gradually stepped into administrative roles. "After a few brief meetings, I recognized he was an extraordinary young leader," says Robert Bruininks, president emeritus of the University of Minnesota. When complex assignments came up, Jones was often his first call. "Few people are as value-centered, as courageous or as skilled at building trust and respect."

Jones led a statewide rural and small-town agenda while also working to connect higher education with urban communities. In North Minneapolis—home to Black and Hmong populations—academic research was common, but residents were rarely involved or informed. Jones changed that by leading the creation of the Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center, located in a former shopping mall at the heart of the neighborhood. The mission was simple but radical: to flip the model of public engagement. "Now the university partners with the community to solve the problems that matter to them," Jones says. "The community drives the agenda."

Opened in 2009, the center was one of the first of its kind. Later renamed in Jones' honor, it houses programs focused on health, education and economic development. "If you do public engagement right," Jones says, "you can't tell where the university ends and the community begins."

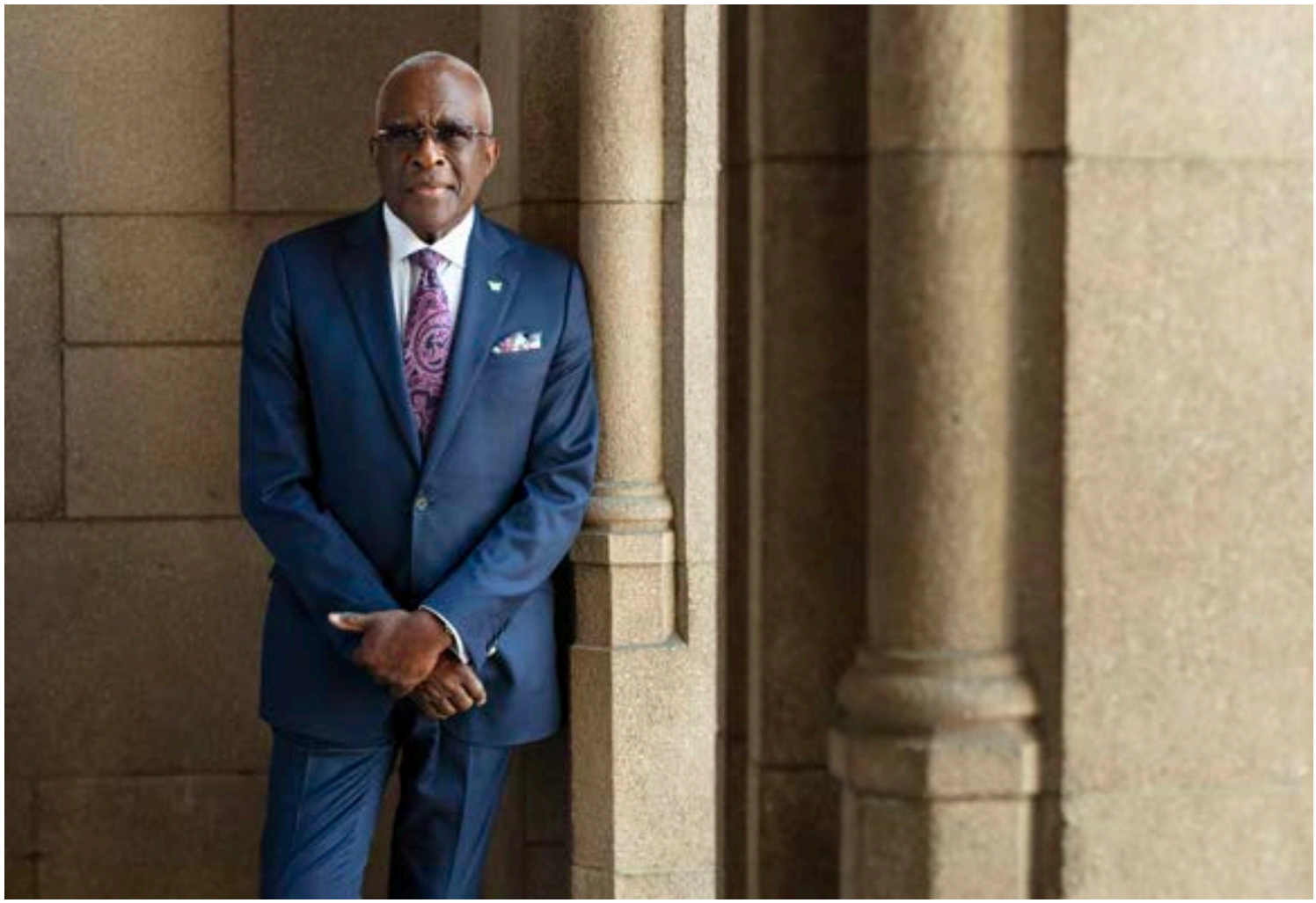
BY THE TIME HE LEFT MINNESOTA, Jones was senior vice president for academic administration. But after 34 years at one school, and serving in a multitude of roles, he was ready to lead a university of his own.

In 2013, he became president of the University at Albany, part of the State University of New York system. It was a major move—1,200 miles east—and over three years, he led a significant enrollment expansion and helped launch two major academic units.

His leadership helped set the stage for Albany to become a more comprehensive public research university. And it didn't go unnoticed. Before long, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign—Illinois' flagship public institution—came calling.

Jones took the helm at Illinois in 2016 and settled in for what would be a transformative nine-year term. He led a $2.7 billion fundraising campaign, committed to covering tuition and fees for all qualified in-state students and launched a new kind of medical school that combined engineering, data science and clinical care.

He blended strategic thinking with humor and optimism. He gained national recognition, chairing the boards of the American Association of



Universities and the Association of Public & Land Grant Universities and leading the Big Ten Council of Presidents and Chancellors. Few presidents have held all three roles.

As chair of the Big Ten Council, Jones helped navigate one of the most pivotal periods in the history of college athletics. He played a role in shaping media deals that boosted revenue and secured record-breaking payouts for member institutions. He contributed to the hiring of two commissioners and the expansion of the Big Ten from 14 to 18 schools, which included the UW.

Jones, at that moment, had no idea that after leading Illinois, one of the conference's founding members, he would soon be leading one of its newest. "It's been gratifying to help bring the UW into the conference," he says. And with issues like NIL (Name, Image and Likeness) reform and the House settlement reshaping college sports, he sees a rare opportunity: "a chance to do things differently—to treat student-athletes more fairly and build something stronger for the future."

BY LATE 2024, as Jones approached his ninth year as chancellor at Illinois, he started to think seriously about what came next. "Some people stay in these roles too long," he says, adding that he made it clear when he started that he wouldn't stay more than a decade.

Initially Jones planned to transition to a Chicago-based role where he could focus on key university initiatives. But as news of his decision spread, other opportunities emerged—including one from the University of Washington.

"At the end of the day, I asked myself: do I still enjoy this work? And I do. I enjoy leading a university ... to keep moving forward in a place that feels right."

"I wasn't sure I wanted to start over," he says. But after interviews with UW regents and leadership, he reconsidered. He saw in the UW a world-class university that aligned with his values: strengths in medicine and public health, a commitment to access and innovation and a strong tradition of shared governance. "The board understood the difference between governance and administration," he says. "They weren't interested in being in the weeds. That was the icing on the cake."

This, he says, is the right final chapter in his academic career. "At the end of the day, I asked myself: Do I still enjoy this work? And I do. I enjoy leading a university. It's too late to reinvent myself, but not too late to keep moving forward in a place that feels right."

Now Jones has arrived at the University of Washington carrying a life's worth of experience: the son of Southern farmers, a plant scientist turned national academic leader, a public servant, a tenor in a Grammy-winning group. His story is one of resilience, curiosity, mentorship and joy.

He tells students to be their authentic selves. To believe in their own promise. To find good mentors and listen to them.

Now, as president, he's here to do what he's always done: work hard, lead with heart and lift others up.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HOME SCHEDULE
DEC. 20 and 21 . . . . MINNESOTA
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JANUARY 3 and 4 . . . . . IDAHO
JANUARY 24 and 25 . . . . . O. S. C.
FEBRUARY 14 and 15 . . . . . W. S. C.
FEB. 21 and 22 . . OREGON
ROAD GAMES
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
PAVILION
ALL GAMES START AT 8 P.M.

HUSKY FEVER

AT 85, DAVE TORRELL IS THE HEART AND MEMORY OF HUSKY ATHLETICS. HE PRESERVES ITS LEGACY ONE ARTIFACT, ONE STORY, ONE METICULOUS DISPLAY AT A TIME.

BY MIKE SEELY | PHOTOS BY RON WURZER

Clarence "Hec" Edmundson Pavilion is one of four active Division I fieldhouses in the United States that still boast their original exterior. The other three are Phog Allen Fieldhouse at the University of Kansas, Hinkle Fieldhouse at Butler University and Cameron Indoor Stadium at Duke University.

I know this because Dave Torrell, '62, told me so upon meeting him late last year. He and his wife of 62 years, Karen, a Husky cheerleader in the early 1960s, are two of the most loyal Huskies you will ever meet. Torrell is a past recipient of both Don Palmer and Frank Orrico Awards from the UW Intercollegiate Athletics department. He was also a co-chair of the Campaign for the Student-Athlete, which was primarily concerned with raising money for the 1999 renovation of Hec Ed, home to the Husky Fever Hall of Fame.

Torrell is the Husky Fever Hall of Fame's volunteer curator and caretaker. These are roles that, at 85, he approaches with the vigor and attention to detail of a man a third of his age. A resident of Sammamish who crosses Lake Washington to check in on the Hall of Fame's well-being about every other week, Torrell is calm, wily, quick of wit and sure of purpose—and charming to the

HUSKY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025

MAKARE DESILETS WILSON

VOLLEYBALL, 1994-1997

- First team All-American in 1997, when she led the nation in blocks per set
- After UW: played professionally and for the U.S. National Team

BOB ERNST

ROWING COACH, 1974-2015

- Led men's and women's teams to eight total national championships
- Outside UW: Coached four U.S. Olympic teams, including the 1984 women's eights gold medalists

RAY HORTON

FOOTBALL, 1979-1982

- All-American at cornerback in 1981, when he set a school record for pass break-ups (15)
- After UW: played and coached in the NFL, winning three Super Bowls

BECKY NEWBRY

SOFTBALL, 1996-1999

- First three-time All-American in UW history
- Played in four Womens' College World Series

JAMIE REDD

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, 1996-99

- First UW player to score 2,000 career points, played in two NCAA tournaments
- After UW: Played in the WNBA for the Seattle Storm from 2000 to 2002

NICK TAYLOR

MEN'S GOLF, 2007-2010

- Won Ben Hogan Award as the nation's top collegiate men's golfer in 2010
- After the UW: Currently plays on the PGA Tour, where he has won five times

REGGIE WILLIAMS

FOOTBALL, 2001-03

- Holds UW records for career receptions (243) and career receiving yards (3,598)
- After the UW: Played five seasons in the NFL with the Jacksonville Jaguars

1987 & 1988 WOMEN'S VARSITY 8+ CREWS

WOMEN'S ROWING

- Won National Championships each year
- Team members: Trish Lydon, Kris Sanford, Alice Henderson, Lisa Beluche, Heidi Hook, Sarah (Watson) Peshkin, Fritzi Grevstad, Katarina Wikstrom, Linda Lusk, Stephanie Doyle, Chris (Van Pelt) Rosenauer, Gail (Dorf) Byrne Baber, Trudy (Ockenden) Taylor

point where one feels as though he invented the term.

"He's just so enthusiastic about all the athletes, all the games," says Marta Valdes, whose company, Doty + Associates, is responsible for producing the more polished elements of the Husky Hall, like the medallions with inductees' visages on them. "I'm astounded by his memory. What's contagious is Dave's joy and his thrill at every little artifact he obtains. He's the energizer bunny. He's just mind-blowing."

"I don't think we had an idea of his competency for this going into it, and we sort of found a gem," recalls Chip Lydum, UW's associate athletic director for operations and capital projects. "He's very precise. He has a high standard. He's really good with people. He loves the University and has a great grasp of history and has a super great personality and witty sense of humor. He gets it and has the discipline to follow through.

"Dave always has these little quips, how he talks about life. He has all these stories. He says things like, 'When Don James set an appointment, he wrote it in pen, not pencil.'"

Indeed, Torrell counted James and former UW men's basketball coach Marv Harshman among his friends. He and James were golfing buddies out at Torrell's home course of Sahalee, and the legendary Husky football coach once put Torrell on the spot by having him fill in for him at a Northwest coaching event in Portland, where Torrell lived for several years after graduation.

"Skip Hall (an assistant under James) calls me up and says, 'Dave, are you going to the coach's [event]?' I said, 'Uh, yeah,' and he says, 'Well, now you're Don James because he's not going.'"

Torrell says the event went "OK" despite the fact that the other coaches felt particularly slighted since James had just guided the Huskies to a win in the 1978 Rose Bowl against Michigan.

CELEBRATING 21 SPORTS WITH 500 ARTIFACTS

About that win: Among the Husky Hall of Fame's prized possessions is the ball Nesby Glasgow intercepted to clinch the 1978 Rose Bowl victory over Michigan. When Torrell initially approached Glasgow about housing the ball in the Husky Hall, the sensational ex-safety politely declined. But through perseverance, Torrell eventually won Glasgow over and got his ball.

This is not an uncommon occurrence.

"Dave is a master at getting to people's homes and sitting with them and getting their jerseys and stuff," says Lydum. "Dave is very committed to ensuring the quality of the hall of fame is updated every year and upgraded. He brings ideas to me before I have a chance to think of them. I don't think that physical space would have had many upgrades in 25 years without Dave. It would have been 99th on everybody else's to-do list. He has personally kept that space vibrant and up to date."

The football from a game-clinching interception is the sort of item one might expect to find in any hall of fame, but it's the smaller, more personal artifacts Torrell is able to source that puts the Husky Hall of Fame on a level all its own. There are shards of wood from the goal posts from victories in the 1960 and 1961 Rose Bowls; Player-Coach (in college!) Ralph Nichols' Big W blanket from the 1890s, the oldest piece of memorabilia in the Husky Hall; and a Western Union telegram from John "The Duke" Wayne to his good pal Paul Schwegler, a standout UW tackle in the early 1930s who would go on to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. (While this sampling is admittedly football-centric, rest assured that the Husky Hall features memorabilia from all sports,

AMONG THE MANY PIECES OF MEMORABILIA ON DISPLAY AT THE HUSKY HALL OF FAME ARE THE "COME ON WASHINGTON" SIGN (ABOVE) AND A PIECE OF A GOAL POST (LEFT) FROM WASHINGTON'S 1934 VICTORY OVER OREGON.

TORRELL SHOWS OFF THE WOOD DRIVER THAT CHARLES AINSLIE, '64, THE UW'S FIRST SCHOLARSHIP GOLFER, USED IN THE EARLY 1960S TO DEFEAT USC'S DAVE STOCKTON IN A CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH. LEFT: A METAL TRAIN SIGN FOR BOOSTERS HEADING TO AWAY GAMES.

including basketball, baseball, softball, track and field, swimming, wrestling and crew.)

And then there's the Jim Owens Martini.

The Husky Hall came into possession of this high-octane cocktail recipe—44 parts vodka, eight parts dry vermouth—when a UW alum named Dr. Charles Stipp called up Torrell and asked if he wanted to hear about his experience with Owens after the Huskies defeated Wisconsin in the 1960 Rose Bowl. Former Husky lineman Carl Fennema, one of Owens' best friends, met in person with Stipp and Torrell and presented Torrell with an ashtray that is now on display at the museum.

For most of the Husky Hall's existence, Torrell has had to actively chase such memorabilia down. But as the Hall has gained more fame, Torrell says "it has evolved to the point where people are coming in here with stuff [to donate]."

To wit, on one game day, the family of a Husky football player from Schwegler's era named Bill Smith stopped by the Hall to see if Torrell would be interested in some of the left end's keepsakes from his playing days. Included in this treasure trove were recruiting letters from the Green Bay Packers and Chicago Cardinals (this was before the NFL held a draft), extolling the virtues of their respective franchises and why theirs would be the best choice for Smith.

Smith would go on to play six seasons for the Cardinals, making first-team All-Pro in 1935, a campaign that saw him lead the league in field goals while pulling double duty as a placekicker. As for why he chose Chicago over Green Bay, it may or may not have had to do with the fact that the Packers addressed Smith's letter to Pullman instead of Seattle.

Q&A

WITH

Dave Torrell

Material for this Q&A came from a recent interview by Jon Marmor and an interview by Deanna Duff that appeared in a 2016 issue of Columns magazine.

How many Husky football games have you seen in person?
"All but one since the 1978 season. The only game I missed was in 1978 when I had a work commitment one weekend. I live for the Huskies."

Favorite memories?
"I saw seven Rose Bowl wins. Very few teams can say that. And any time we beat Oregon. How about when the Huskies beat Oregon three times in two years and beat Texas twice? In basketball, when the Huskies beat Arizona."

Best Husky team?
"1991. That team was unstoppable."

Most unusual Husky football game?
"The UW played at Oregon State [in 1970] on a very cold day in the pouring rain. Sonny Sixkiller was the quarterback and he threw six interceptions—and the Huskies still won the game, 29-20."

How many items are there in the Husky Fever Hall of Fame?
"500 pieces of memorabilia celebrating 21 sports plus more than 200 Husky Hall of Fame inductees."

Favorite items?
"I don't really have a favorite but the items from the Don James era are very popular. He's the all-time legend in Husky sports. Most of the items that are donated [to the museum] relate to a coach."

Tell us about your family connection.
"My son helped design the iconic 1990 homecoming "Dawgfather" football poster displayed in the museum. My wife is pictured as part of the 1962 cheerleading squad alongside a set of paper pom-poms."

Your philosophy?
"If something looks worn, all the better! We don't restore items. I wanted to include quarterback Marques Tuiasosopo's jersey after the Huskies won the 2001 Rose Bowl. His mother said she'd take it to the cleaners first. I asked her not to. It's more interesting all marked up."

Visitors?
"They tend to be reverent and speak quietly in the museum. I recall when a women's volleyball player told me that she came to the museum years ago and thought, 'If I'm going to get in here, I need to put it into high gear.' Her team ended up winning a national championship."

Ghosts *of the* Wilderness

What began with two snow leopards in a zoo grew into a global movement to protect mountain ghosts, rainforest recluses and the wild places they call home

By Hannelore Sudermann

ADOBE STOCK

SNOW LEOPARDS

are notoriously elusive. Known as "ghosts of the mountains," the solitary cats dwell high in the mountains of South and Central Asia. Their gray-spotted coats help them vanish in the rocky landscape, and their twilight habits only deepen the mystery.

In 1972, two of these shadowy felines crept into Helen Freeman's life. Nicholas and Alexandra, the pair of young, gray-coated creatures from Kyrgyzstan (Soviet Central Asia) had been brought to Seattle's Woodland Park Zoo. And from the moment she saw them, Freeman, then a zoo volunteer, was captivated.

"They changed my life," she wrote in her memoir, "Life, Laughter and the Pursuit of Snow Leopards," describing the cats curled up in the back of their enclosure. Alexandra had shattered her claws, likely from striking her crate during her transport to Seattle. Freeman's heart broke—and she found her purpose.

A student of animal behavior at the UW, Freeman began to spend hours quietly observing the creatures, starting with just an arm visible around a corner, slowly easing more into view as they grew used to her. She learned their body language—the flick of a tail, the puffing prusten greeting—and found herself in awe of what she called "a gentle animal with eyes that are large and fathomless."

Freeman didn't just fall in love with snow leopards, she reimagined how zoos and scientists care for animals, protect species and work with local communities. What began in a quiet corner of a city zoo has grown into a global conservation movement—one that reaches the Himalayas and the forests of Papua New Guinea.

Freeman was born to Greek immigrants in Everett in 1932. Her parents, who made their living running the London Café, encouraged her independence and supported her explorations beyond their tight-knit Greek community. She earned a psychology degree from Washington State University in 1954 and married Stanley Freeman, a Boeing safety engineer, three years later. As a stay-at-home mom in the 1960s, she put aside her academic interests until her sons were old enough to care for themselves. Then she enrolled at the UW to pursue her passion—animal behavior.

COURTESY OF THE SNOW LEOPARD TRUST

Helen Freeman, who studied animal behavior as a UW student, was captivated after meeting two snow leopards that were brought to the Woodland Park Zoo from Kyrgyzstan in 1972.

By the mid-1970s, Freeman's fascination with the snow leopards at the zoo had deepened into focused research. Few people had studied the species in captivity. So, after many hours of observation, she began documenting their behavior and then organized a collaborative program across five zoos, training volunteers to help "learn the snow leopard's secrets." It was painstaking work. "Observing them was like watching an intricate ballet," she wrote in her memoir. "But slowly and carefully, the information was teased out."

In 1973, her dedication bore fruit with the birth of the first cub, Pushkin. In the years that followed, more cubs arrived—including a set of triplets. Freeman had progressed from volunteer to research director and became a driving force at the zoo during a transformative era. Working with Director David Hancocks and veterinarian James Foster, Freeman helped turn Woodland Park Zoo from a traditional menagerie into a modern conservation institution.

They championed habitat-immersive exhibits and prioritized the animals' behavioral and psychological needs. Freeman read deeply—zoologists Konrad Lorenz and Niko Tinbergen, and biologist and naturalist E.O. Wilson—and helped rewrite the mission of what a zoo could be.

"David's ideas in architecture were casting the animals in a new light," says her son, Harry Freeman. "My mother and her colleagues were helping shape a more compassionate, more scientific approach to wildlife."

In the early 1980s, Freeman came to a crossroads. She realized that to truly advocate for snow leopards, she had to move beyond the zoo. With encouragement from her family—and a healthy list of pros and cons scribbled at the kitchen table—she took the leap and founded the Snow Leopard Trust, a conservation organization grounded in science, education and community partnerships. It was a bold move, especially for a woman navigating male-dominated fields and complex international politics. But Freeman was unstoppable.

She traveled the world, particularly to Central and South Asia, forging relationships with local communities, researchers and governments. At home, she coped with chronic bronchiectasis—a lung condition she developed in childhood—but she rarely slowed down.

"She would come home exhausted, sit on the back porch and talk it through with my dad over martinis," says Harry Freeman. "But she always kept going."

Today, the Snow Leopard Trust operates in 12 countries, supporting more than 150 Indigenous and local communities and advancing some of the most respected field science in conservation. Its leadership is global, its reach growing. Freeman's vision of protecting snow leopards in the wild—not just in zoos—has become reality.

Back at Woodland Park Zoo, the work Freeman and her colleagues had started continued. In the 1990s, conservation biologist Lisa Dabek, '91, '94, followed in their footsteps. A UW graduate student interested in animal behavior, she was drawn to an equally mysterious species: the Matschie's tree kangaroo of Papua New Guinea. These cinnamon-colored marsupials, dubbed "ghosts of the rainforest," had never been studied in the wild. Their fur blends with the mossy canopy, hiding them from both predators and people.

Dabek focused her thesis on their behavior and bonded with the animals at the zoo—mothers with joeys in their pouches. Mentored and inspired by Freeman, Dabek launched the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program, partnering with communities in Papua New Guinea. "I felt I could champion this little-known animal," she says. She didn't want to stop the hunting or cultural use of tree kangaroos, she says. "But I wanted to make sure there would always be healthy populations."

The approach was the same: collaboration, not control. Today, the program trains former hunters as trackers, engages villages in forest protection and uses remote cameras to study the elusive animals.

A new chapter is unfolding at the Woodland Park Zoo with the construction of Forests for All, an immersive habitat that re-creates the tree kangaroos' arboreal world. Thirty-foot-high netted enclosures, live trees and viewing areas will let visitors experience life in the canopy—echoing Freeman's philosophy of empathy through experience.

"She was a force of nature," Dabek says of her mentor. "Feisty, funny, brilliant. She filled my mind with ideas."

Though Helen Freeman died in 2007, her legacy lives on—not only in thriving conservation programs, but in the way zoos around the world now approach the care and study of wildlife. Her life's work continues to move outward—from the windy heights of the Himalayas to the cloud forests of Papua New Guinea and the

‘Helen was always 10 steps ahead. She believed that science and community could work hand-in-hand—and that you could have a safer population of snow leopards and support healthy communities.’

— Marissa Niranjan,
Deputy Director, Snow Leopard Trust

JONATHAN BYERS

shaded paths of Woodland Park Zoo. A life-sized bronze snow leopard sculpture stands at the zoo in Freeman’s honor, along with a plaque and a replica of her clipboard etched with field notes.

Helen, the snow leopard named in Freeman’s honor, died this spring at age 20. Over her long life, she became a matriarch in the zoo’s conservation breeding program. Her descendants still roam the zoo enclosures designed with Freeman’s ethos in mind—spaces that honor the animals’ wild instincts, dignity and need for rugged terrain. In keeping with Freeman’s belief that the animals should teach, the zoo donated the snow leopard’s remains to the Burke Museum. Her bones are now part of the research collection where they will continue to educate students, scientists and the public.

What began as two frightened animals in a cold enclosure became a global movement.

“Helen was always 10 steps ahead,” says Marissa Niranjan, deputy director of the Snow Leopard Trust and a UW alum. “She believed that science and community could work hand-in-hand—and that you could have a safer population of snow leopards and support healthy communities.”

Thanks to Helen Freeman’s vision, the zoo was one of the first in the country to embrace the full spectrum of conservation: captive breeding, habitat immersion, field research and community-led preservation.

The Snow Leopard Trust, too, has become a beacon of what conservation can be: science-based, community-rooted and culturally aware. With scientists, conservationists and educators working in places including Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, India and Mongolia, it protects not just a species, but a way of coexisting with the wild.

Tree kangaroos now populate through the Forests for All exhibit, and schoolchildren will soon look up in awe, hoping to glimpse the cinnamon-colored ghosts of the canopy. Dabek’s fieldwork is entering a new phase—non-invasive tracking, long-term community partnerships and forest preservation. The children of hunters are now becoming trackers and conservationists. The forests are not empty; they are watching, breathing, rebounding.

Freeman once wrote that “zoos have the power not just to display the wild, but to teach people how to love it.” That lesson endures, whispered in the puffing call of a snow leopard or the rustle of leaves as a tree kangaroo slips across the canopy.

Lisa Dabek was drawn to the cute yet mysterious Matschie’s tree kangaroo of Papua New Guinea. Her work, inspired by Freeman, is why tree kangaroos can be seen throughout the zoo’s Forests for All exhibit.

UNCOMMON GROUNDS

BY ANIKKA B. STANLEY
& HANNELORE SUDERMANN

Photos by University Photography

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON,

education extends far beyond the classrooms and lecture halls. From a 15th-century palazzo in the heart of Rome to a marine science outpost in the San Juan Islands, students are learning in some of the most remarkable environments on—and beyond—campus. These immersive locations are sites of fieldwork, research, creativity, inspiration and global connection.

This special feature spotlights some of the UW's most distinctive learning spaces, complete with maps and photos that bring them to life. Whether it's tracking stars from a ridgetop observatory, studying forest ecology in the shadow of Mount Rainier or diving into Roman history steps from Pompey's theater, these uncommon classrooms reflect the university's expansive vision of where—and how—education happens.

UW ROME CENTER

The historic Palazzo Pio, just off the Campo de' Fiori marketplace in Rome, has been the UW's classroom in Italy since the early 1980s. The 15th century structure, built on the foundations of Pompey the Great's theater, is rich in historical significance. The Rome Center was initially established for students of architecture and classics but has expanded to support diverse areas of study, including business, art and politics. It hosts about 400 students each year, steeping their learning in 3,000 years of history, architecture and culture.

PACK FOREST

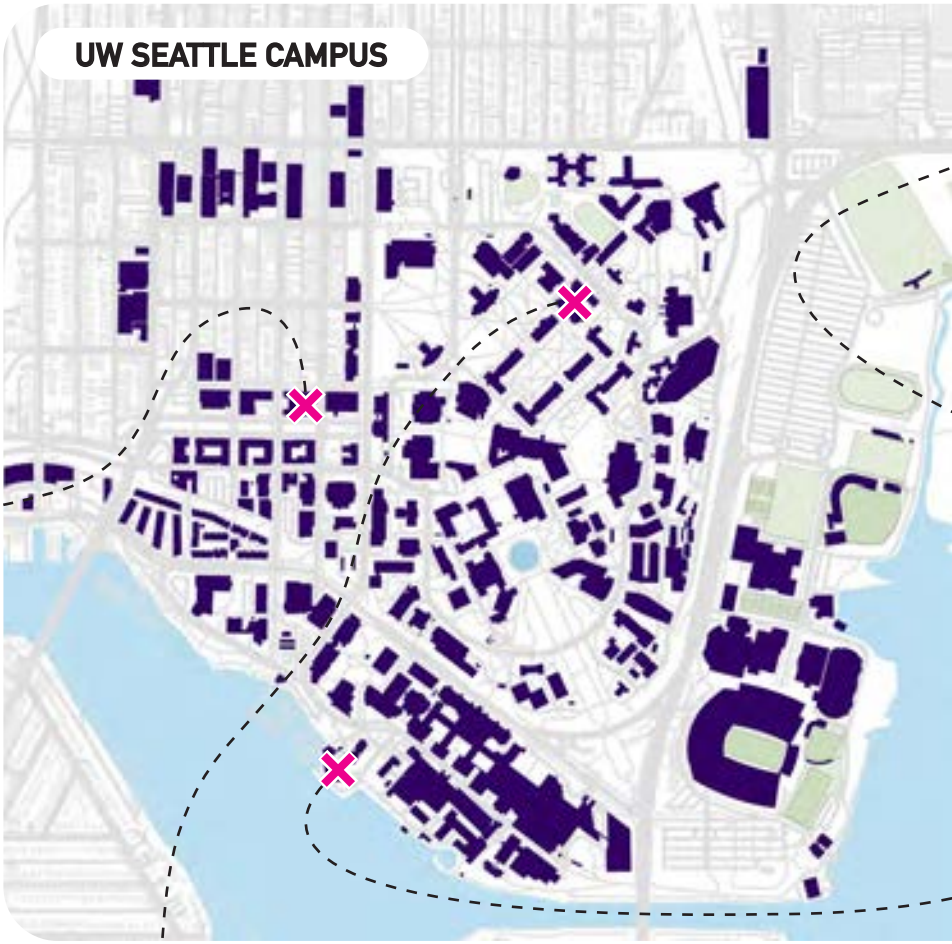
For nearly a century, Pack Forest has served as a wooded classroom supporting education, research and outreach for students and faculty of the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences. It started with 334 acres and has grown to encompass 4,300 acres of diverse forest landscape at the foot of Mount Rainier. This outdoor classroom is used for field-based research. The forest has expanded its original mission to include ecological, economic and social sustainability.

MANASTASH RIDGE OBSERVATORY

Perched on the remote basalt plateau of Manastash Ridge, a three-hour drive from Seattle, the UW's observatory has stood for more than 50 years as a research facility and an unusual learning space. Chosen in the 1960s for its clear skies east of the Cascade Range, the site was developed with support from the National Science Foundation, resourceful faculty and a salvaged 30-inch optical mirror. Today the observatory offers students the chance to study star clusters, variable stars and the Milky Way.

FRIDAY HARBOR LABORATORIES

Located in the pristine waters around San Juan Island, Friday Harbor Laboratories offers a stunning setting for studying marine ecosystems, with swift tideways, calm bays and rich intertidal zones of rock, sand and mud. These diverse habitats support a wide variety of marine life. Researchers and students can collect specimens from the shore or explore depths of up to 300 meters. The surrounding San Juan Archipelago adds to the appeal, with its rocky, forested terrain, glaciated valleys and freshwater habitats such as lakes, swamps and bogs all offering additional opportunities for scientific exploration. With 13 laboratory buildings, dormitories, two lecture halls and a dining hall, the UW facility is situated on a 490-acre biological preserve.



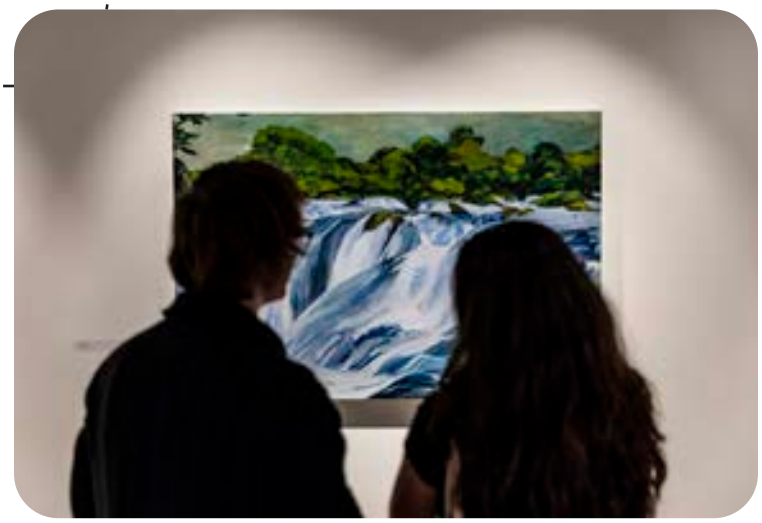
FLOYD AND DELORES JONES PLAYHOUSE

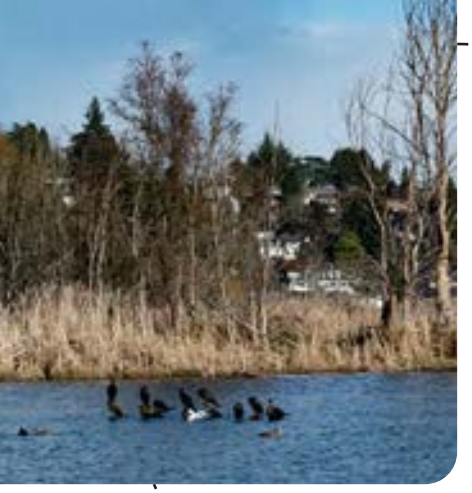
Originally a warehouse, the brick structure a few blocks from campus was remodeled into the Seattle Repertory Playhouse in 1930. But its controversial productions led the managers of the private theater to be investigated for un-American activities by the Canwell Committee in 1948. The curtains closed in 1950. It was then acquired by the UW, becoming home to School of Drama productions.

In 2007, Floyd Jones, a UW alumnus, donated $2 million toward the renovation of the theater, with the state contributing an additional $7.5 million. The key architectural change involved raising the building's roof for steeper, more intimate seating, improving both audience sightlines and stage connection. Working with a thrust stage that allows the audience to be seated around three sides, the theater serves as a laboratory where students can put their knowledge of acting, production, stage management and directing into practice.

JACOB LAWRENCE GALLERY

Named for the great American artist Jacob Lawrence, who joined the UW faculty in 1971, the gallery represents his interests in social justice and education. An instructional gallery within the School of Art + Art History + Design, it is a vibrant hub for education, social justice and artistic experimentation. Students can show their work, engage with the community, learn about curatorial practice and interact with exhibiting artists and faculty.





UNION BAY NATURAL AREA

Spanning 74 acres with 4 miles of shoreline, the Union Bay Natural Area's restored landscape (it was once Seattle's largest garbage dump) serves as a living laboratory for students and researchers. Managed by UW Botanic Gardens, the area supports hands-on learning in ecology, conservation and environmental science, offering students the rare chance to study native plants and wildlife in an urban setting.

It's also a popular birdwatching site in Seattle, with more than 200 species recorded. Here, students might conduct soil tests one day and observe migratory patterns the next. They experience how restoration and research go hand in hand.

UW FARM

The UW Farm is a 2.5-acre, student-powered hub for sustainable agriculture, hands-on education and community connection. The land, adjacent to the Union Bay Natural Area, produces more than 13 tons of organic fruits and vegetables each year for campus dining, the Husky Food Pantry and a community-supported agriculture program that redirects its earnings back to the farm program. Students from a wide range of disciplines come to the farm through classes, service learning and research, gaining practical experience in a living laboratory. Students can apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting.

R/V RACHEL CARSON

The R/V Rachel Carson plies the coastal waters of the Western U.S. and British Columbia, as well as Puget Sound. A 72-foot vessel, it can carry up to 28 people for day trips and 13 for multi-day journeys. The School of Oceanography owns it and UW scientists use it to conduct oceanographic and fisheries research (like temperature and depth sampling and plankton net tows). Students can participate in field research, collecting samples from the sea floor, examining water quality and extracting sediment cores for geological study.

Columns

NEWS FROM **THE UW COMMUNITY**

MATT HAGEN

Carver Gayton at home in Seattle. His new memoir, "Odyssey of a Seattle Native Son," weaves together family history, personal milestones and a lifelong commitment to community.

A Life Intertwined with History

Carver Gayton's activism and academic brilliance spring from a rich history of aspiration and achievement on both sides of his family

By Hannelore Sudermann

These days, Carver Gayton, '60, '72, '76, thinks a lot about his maternal great-grandfather, Lewis Garrard Clarke. When Gayton was a child, his mother read to him and his siblings from Harriet Beecher Stowe's account, "The Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin." The author pointed out that Clarke, who had escaped enslavement in Kentucky, was the prototype for her character George Harris in her novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Gayton first thought that Clarke's history was simply a story shared within his family. But as he grew older, he learned much more from a distant cousin, historians and his own research. Clarke had been a conductor on the Underground Railroad and later a national figure who traveled the North speaking out against slavery. Clarke's memoir was the first work by a former slave to be acquired by the Library of Congress and copyrighted.

"It's kind of otherworldly," Gayton says, adding that throughout his life, his great-grandfather has been both a presence and an inspiration. In exploring more of Clarke's life, Gayton realized he needed to share his own story for future generations. "Carver Clark Gayton: Odyssey of a Seattle Native Son" was published this spring by University of Washington Press.

Born in Seattle into a large, heritage-rich family, Gayton has a lineage that runs deep in the Pacific Northwest. His paternal grandfather, for example, was a civic pioneer who arrived in the city in 1889, became a respected local leader who founded several Black community organizations and served as the region's U.S. District Court librarian.

Gayton followed in those successful footsteps. He thrived at Garfield High School, earning All-State honors in football and serving as class president. He attended the University of Washington on a football scholarship and played in the 1960 Rose Bowl. But his journey through the UW would be about much more than football.

Gayton later taught high school and coached in Seattle before becoming the first Black FBI agent from Washington state. "I could have gotten a degree from what I learned in the FBI," he says.

After several years of federal employment around the country, Gayton returned to the UW in 1968 as its first Black full-time assistant football coach. Amid campus and team racial tensions, he recruited players and helped diversify the program. But in 1970, he resigned from the Athletics Department in protest over the suspension of several Black players. He stayed on campus, though, working as the first UW director of affirmative action programs. During this time, he also earned a Ph.D. in public administration.

Gayton began a tenure-track career at Florida State University but was soon lured back to Seattle by a position at Boeing, where he worked for 18 years in roles including corporate director of college and university relations. From 1997 to 2001, he served as the Washington state commissioner of employment security. Throughout his career, Gayton remained connected to the UW as a lecturer at the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance and through numerous volunteer roles.

In 2005, Gayton embarked on a new chapter, one that brought together his love of history and his commitment to community. He became the founding executive director of the Northwest African American Museum. Partnering with Barbara Earl Thomas, '73, '77, as deputy director, and Brian Carter, '08, as education director, he helped shape the institution from the ground up. For Gayton, this wasn't just a career move, it was a natural evolution of a lifelong pursuit, rooted in honoring the past and inspiring future generations.

Gayton's own story goes beyond career achievements or family legacy. It's a testament to community, learning and perseverance. From believing the schoolteacher who once told him he was smarter than he realized to watching his daughter, Cynthia, become a national figure in technology and law, to navigating personal loss, Gayton describes his path as a journey built on embracing opportunities.

"Expect nothing," he says. "Appreciate everything."

ILLUSTRATION BY OLIVIER KUGLER, INTERVIEW BY HANNELORE SUDERMANN

CINDY APPLE

The 2014 production of 'Trails' at the Village Theatre in Issaquah featured a standout set by Jennifer Zeyl, whose design has been praised for its elegant yet robust aesthetic.

Staging a Comeback

Jennifer Zeyl guides the Intiman through collaboration, education and a renewed sense of purpose

By Shin Yu Pai

To survive shifting cultural and financial tides, Seattle's theater companies have had to adapt. Declining donations and shrinking audiences have spurred new collaborations—Seattle Children's Theatre and Seattle Rep now share staff, for example. ACT and Seattle Shakespeare partner on programming. And Seattle Theater Group manages The 5th Avenue Theatre.

For the 52-year-old Intiman Theatre and its artistic director, Jennifer Zeyl, '03, the key to resilience has been through community partnerships.

At one time, Intiman staged productions at the Seattle Center's Intiman Playhouse but downsized in the last decade to match audience realities. The company cycled through venues like 12th Avenue Arts, the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute and the UW's Jones Playhouse. While helpful, the constant moving came at a cost. "If you change your location every time you do a show, you'll lose people," says Zeyl.

In 2019, Intiman began producing shows at Seattle Central College's Erickson Theatre and Broadway Performance Hall. Zeyl quickly saw more than just performance potential in the space—it had costume and scene shops, rehearsal rooms and classrooms that were largely underused outside of student programming. "There were resources for us to finally become right-sized and discoverable," she says.

COURTESY OF JENNIFER ZEYL

Zeyl pitched a residency to SCC's then-president, Sheila Edwards Lange, '00, '06. In 2020, Intiman became the college's professional theater-in-residence, offering students hands-on experience alongside members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees. In return, Intiman gained access to key facilities. The partnership runs through July 2026.

Nationally, theater support has dwindled and seasonal subscriptions have all but disappeared. "The pandemic sped up some things," Zeyl says, "but this was happening before then. The funding landscape 50 years ago is not the one we are living in now."

Zeyl believes many regional theaters have strayed from their core purpose: storytelling that builds empathy and understanding. "We think our central purpose is to maintain the monologue—or to preserve institutions at any cost. But Intiman isn't more important than the people it serves," she says. "I'm always open to our purpose being fulfilled in new ways."

To stay connected, Zeyl listens closely—sometimes literally. She often wanders among theatergoers during intermission to hear how stories land. "I want to know if we're reaching communities that have been historically excluded."

Trained as a set designer at the UW, Zeyl still builds productions from the ground up. "You build the world first. That determines its emotional quality and how people will move over, under and through a space," she says. Her recent set for "The Things Around Us" used piled-up cardboard boxes to shape a dynamic landscape. She has designed more than 200 shows and is frequently the first choice of local directors for her ability to visually interpret a director's vision.

Her time at the UW led to enduring creative partnerships. With alumni Marya Sea Kaminski, '04, and Mark Kenison, '04, she co-founded Washington Ensemble Theater, now in its 20th season. She also became involved in Smoke Farm, a rural arts venue in Snohomish County, where she hosted residencies that blended installation and performance art.

That experience inspired her to co-found the Canoe Social Club in 2009 in Seattle's Chinatown–International District. She and her husband, Matt Starritt, '05, transformed the former Wing Luke Museum on Seventh Avenue into a creative hub for the artists' collective.

"One intentional outcome of the club was incubating art bosses," Zeyl says. "We bridged gaps between administrators and artists. It created space for great conversations."

Looking ahead, Zeyl is excited for the Intiman's production of "SHe Said," a musical by Seattle artist Jen Ayers, in 2026. The piece explores identity, self-discovery and love. Zeyl hopes it sparks national interest—and keeps Intiman's mission alive and evolving.

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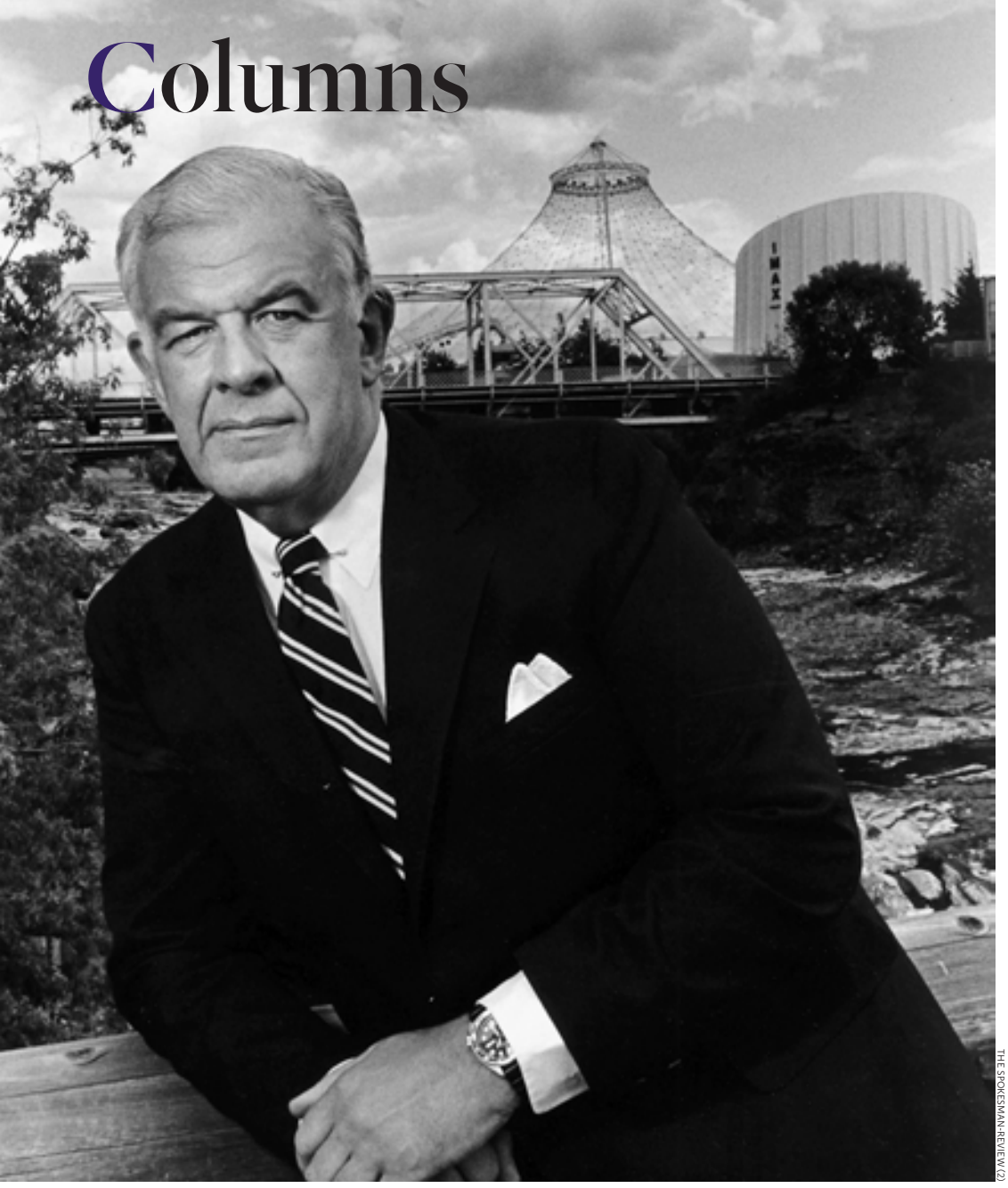


THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW (2)

Bipartisan by Nature

A new biography of Tom Foley harkens back to an era of cooperation in politics

By Hannelore Sudermann

Above: Congressman Tom Foley at Spokane's Riverfront Park in 1986. He would go on to serve as Speaker of the House from 1989 to 1995. Right: Foley remained connected to his Washington roots—seen here hunting duck.

In the late 1940s, Tom Foley boldly decided to leave his hometown of Spokane, drop out of Gonzaga University—his father's alma mater—and enroll at the University of Washington. It was, in some ways, a political move, the first on a path to one of the most powerful positions in Washington, D.C.

University of Washington Magazine caught up with Kenton Bird, co-author of "Tom Foley: The Man in the Middle," as he travels the region discussing the book after recently retiring as a professor at the University of Idaho. The book covers a time in American politics when dignity, cooperation and cross-party respect were the norm. Political scientist John C. Pierce co-authored the biography of the congressman who served 30 years in the U.S. House—including 5½ as Speaker. Pierce worked for a time in Foley's congressional office in the early 1970s.

More than a profile of a civic leader from the Democratic Party, the biography captures the broader story of Congress from the 1960s through the 1990s, showing what politics used to be—and could be again.

Foley's desire to serve his community had deep roots. He was born in 1929, the son of a long-serving Superior Court judge and a daughter from a farming family in rural Washington. Though they raised him in one of the city's more affluent neighborhoods, his parents encouraged his awareness of Spokane's economic inequalities. He witnessed the Great Depression from the passenger seat of his father's car as they drove to see the shantytowns and breadlines firsthand. These early scenes left an impression and helped shape Foley's belief that public service was a way to create opportunity and social justice.

His fresh start at the UW paid off. Foley completed his bachelor's degree in history in 1951 and then, after a few detours, graduated from the UW law school in 1957. He began his legal career back in Eastern Washington, first practicing law with his cousin Henry Higgins, then working in the Spokane County prosecutor's office. By 1959 he had become an assistant attorney general. In 1961, Sen. Henry Jackson, '35, brought him to Washington, D.C., to work on the Senate Interior Committee.

Two years later, almost at the last minute, Foley decided to run for Congress. The biography tells the story of how, in two days, he made the decision to run, had a night of celebration in Seattle, got a late start to Olympia because his friend overslept, had to deal with a flat tire and arrived to file just 25 minutes before the deadline. In the space of 29 hours, "suddenly, I had decided to run, gone to Olympia, filed and found myself the nominee," he told Bird in a 1995 interview.

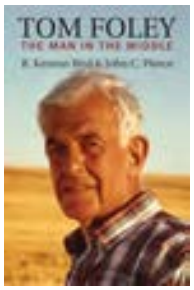
Foley proved an appealing candidate: a young man with rural roots in the east side of the state and educational ties in the west. "He was young, vigorous, a new face and very Lincolnesque in appearance," Bird says. "He had the bearing of a congressman even when he was in high school."

His intellect, self-deprecating humor and grace fueled his rapid ascent. Bird describes him as "incredibly smart, yet incredibly humble. Even though from the mid-1970s he was on this rapid roller coaster up to the highest ranks of Congress, he never forgot his roots in Eastern Washington."

"Even the people who disagreed with Foley politically found him gracious and charming and friendly," Bird says. "It was impossible to get anybody to say anything critical about Tom Foley, even when I offered to go off the record."

Bird first became fascinated with Foley while serving in Washington, D.C., as a fellow with the American Political Science Association. He happened to be there when Foley's predecessor resigned as Speaker. Two weeks later, Foley took the gavel. That moment "cemented my interest in him," Bird says. Later, while in graduate school

at WSU, Bird was hired to process Foley's 30 years of congressional papers—an exhaustive task that gave him insight into the man and the institution he served. Bird also conducted more than 100 oral-history interviews with Foley, his friends and political peers.



One of Foley's closest friends in Congress was Republican Robert Michel of Illinois, the House Minority Leader during Foley's speakership. "It was a time when people could disagree without being bitter enemies," Bird says. "He had a great ability to work with Republicans and create bipartisan cooperation." During his time as Speaker, the House passed landmark legislation, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

Still, politics caught up with Foley. By 1994, his lengthy tenure was considered by some a liability. "We saw the lingering effects of term-limits initiatives and the perception that Foley had been in office too long," Bird says. The National Rifle Association also targeted him, despite his being a gun owner and bird hunter. After a mass shooting south of Spokane at Fairchild Air Force Base, Congress enacted a 10-year ban on semi-automatic assault weapons—a move that prompted the NRA to spend an estimated $300,000 campaigning against Foley. He lost his long-held seat by a narrow margin.

"What struck me was how gracious he was in defeat," Bird says. "The following morning, he went to the microphone and began by thanking his constituents for giving him the privilege of representing them for 30 years." That, Bird concludes, was the ultimate Tom Foley: "Grace, humility and appreciation that we don't see today."

The biography is both a tribute to a remarkable statesman and the 1992 recipient of the University of Washington's Alumnus Summa Laude Dignatus, the University's alumni lifetime achievement award. It's also a reminder of what's been lost in the changing landscape of American politics. "This is not just the story of Tom Foley," Bird says, "but the story of Congress itself, and a reminder that one person can still make a difference."

MEDIA

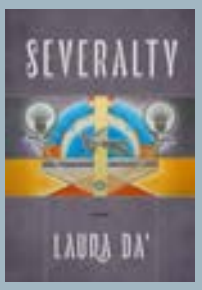
BOOKS

The AI Con: How to Fight Big Tech's Hype and Create the Future We Want

By Emily M. Bender and Alex Hanna

Harper Collins, 2025

With their sharp critique of today's artificial intelligence boom, UW Professor Emily M. Bender and her co-author, sociologist Alex Hanna, seek to expose the hype around technology known as AI and the potential societal harms it brings. Readers will also get a view to the potential of a more equitable digital future.



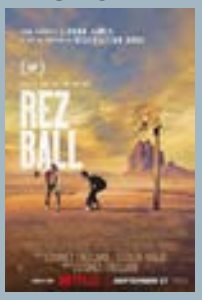
Severalty

By Laura Da', '01

The University of Arizona Press, 2025

In her third poetry collection, teacher and poet Laura Da' explores Indigenous endurance in the face of dislocation, cultural loss and the erasure of Native peoples from our living land. The author makes connections between colonization and its epigenetic impacts across generations to explore what it means to endure and persist.

TV SHOW



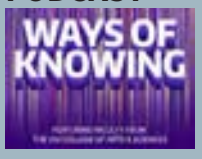
Rez Ball

Devin Sampson-Craig, '25, (Yakama/Paiute)

Netflix, 2024

Sampson-Craig plays Bryson, a member of the Chuska High School Warriors. The Navajo Reservation basketball team loses its star player in this drama about its journey to a state championship.

PODCAST



Ways of Knowing

This UW podcast highlights how studies of the humanities can reflect everyday life. Through a partnership between The World According to Sound and the UW, each episode features a faculty member from the UW College of Arts & Sciences, the work that inspires them and resources for learning more about the topic.

Connection is Key

Sabrina Taylor benefited greatly from her family & community to become the youngest UWAA president

By Jon Marmor

Were it not for the University of Washington's Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity and the Educational Opportunity Program, Sabrina Taylor, '13, would not be where she is today: vice president of affiliate and business affairs for ROOT Sports and the new board president of the University of Washington Alumni Association.

The California-born, Mount Vernon-raised Taylor was brought up by parents who worked labor-intensive jobs. Her acceptance to the UW was contingent upon her completing the Summer Transition Program, which is designed to help incoming first-year students, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds.

Her older brother helped with everything from scholarships to financial aid applications as she navigated the path to college. But she also credits her broader community. "I come from Hawaiian and Filipino roots, where food, laughter and togetherness are core values," she says. "People who showed up for one another and created a sense of belonging.

"That experience of connection and community is what I carry into everything I do," says Taylor, who is the youngest UWAA board president. "I see the alumni association as an extension of that same spirit: building spaces where people feel supported, where we can celebrate one another and where we can make sure opportunities reach those who need them most."

And what a heady time to take the lead of the 60,000-member alumni association. "We find ourselves at a pivotal moment, not only for our alumni association but for higher education itself," she says. Her top goals for the 2025-2026 academic year are to deepen the connection throughout the alumni network, build a strong relationship with new UW President Robert Jones and increase the collective impact of alumni advocating for higher education via UW Impact.

Sabrina Taylor (below) credits the support of the UW's Office of Minority Affairs & Diversity for her college success. Below, she joins husband Cam and daughter Riley in front of Husky Stadium.

PHOTOS BY ANIL KAPAHI

MEET THE NEW UWAA PRESIDENT

Name: Sabrina Taylor

UW Degree: B.A., Journalism, 2013

Did you know: She was a first-generation college student

Currently: Vice President, Affiliate & Business Affairs, ROOT SPORTS

Born and Raised: Born in San Luis Obispo, California, raised in Mount Vernon, Washington

As a UW student: Panhellenic President, served on ASUW Board of Directors, internships with Husky Intercollegiate Athletics

Highlight: Cut the ribbon opening the HUB after its 2010 renovation

HUSKY PICKS

SCORE BIG WITH SIMPLY SEATTLE

Don't fumble your outfits this fall. Visit the locally based Simply Seattle sports retail store in U Village to stock up on merch that'll put the pep in your purple-and-gold step! It's your one-stop shop to score big with Husky gear, fresh styles and exclusive events. Simply put? Shop UW at Simply Seattle.

Visit the U Village Simply Seattle store: **simplyseattle.com**

RealDawgsWearPurple WearPurple UWearPurple

DENNIS WISE

Showing Up

Ellen Ferguson,'78, recipient of the 2025 Gates Volunteer Service Award, is a lifelong learner and relationship builder with deep Husky connections

By Malavika Jagannathan

Visitors to the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture often see Ellen Ferguson, '78, leading tours or stopping by to say hello on her way to a campus event. Even if they haven't, they've felt her impact.

"When you talk about the Burke, there isn't a single person who doesn't mention Ellen," note Sarah Gonzalez and Gabriela Chavarria, the Burke's interim and former executive directors. "And when you talk about Ellen, there isn't a single person who doesn't mention the Burke."

Since she stepped into the museum as a graduate student in 1975, Ferguson has worn many hats: educator, volunteer, board member, development director and co-chair of the Campaign for the New Burke. Both through her family's foundation and in her own name, this third-generation Husky has also championed and supported causes across the University's three campuses, including wəɬəbʔaltxʷ – Intellectual House, the School of Public Health, University Libraries & UW Press and many more.

This year, the University of Washington Foundation is honoring Ferguson with the Gates Volunteer Service Award, recognizing her lifetime of philanthropic giving, volunteerism and impact.

The following conversation with Ferguson has been edited for style and length.

Tell us about your family's connections to the UW.
The ties go back quite far. My grandfather George, a young engineer, was involved in the creation of Frosh Pond [later to become Drumheller Fountain]. My grandmother Ruth, an artist, attended the UW when it was downtown. I grew up in a Husky household. Both my parents attended the UW, and visiting campus was just part of life.

When did you fall in love with museums?
I'm an only kid who traveled a lot with my parents when I was young. I would ride around on my dad's shoulders at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu—one of my favorite museums and similar to the Burke. The Bishop's original wing is spectacular, and it was just a magical experience.

How did that early experience lead to a graduate degree in museology at the UW?
My mother was an anthropology major and loved her classes. I had an inherent curiosity about humans, cultures, and the similarities and differences in how people are impacted by their landscapes. Anthropology and archaeology weren't quite the direction for me, but I

> "Ellen's community-first mindset, rooted in humility, exemplifies the kind of philanthropy that equitably supports causes with direct, meaningful impacts on the lives of American Indian, Alaska Native and underrepresented community members. She consistently centers the community's needs above her own recognition."
>
> Rickey Hall, Vice President for Minority Affairs & Diversity
> University Diversity Officer

had a fantastic UW counselor who told me about this great new master's program in museum studies, knowing it'd bring my interests together—and to a profession that embodied those interests.

And that turned out to be the case. I had a significant mentor in Professor James Nason (Comanche), curator at the Burke and founder of the museum studies program. And we'd take classes with Bill Holm, the world-famous scholar on Northwest Coast Native art and curator at the Burke. He also became a mentor and friend.

You were the Burke's first development director and later co-chaired the $100 million Campaign for the New Burke. Tell us about that campaign's vision.
The average visitor sees less than 5% of any museum. The Burke has 16 million artifacts and specimens, but people saw the tiniest fraction due to space. Our most popular event was when members were invited to visit the collections and meet curators and graduate students doing research. People just loved it. [Then–executive director] Julie Stein had a vision of turning the Burke inside out, bringing the behind-the-scenes work out front, so visitors could see and understand as much as possible. It was such a dynamic idea.

How did supporters—and the state of Washington—get behind that vision?
We began a concerted effort to expand our base. Many early supporters already knew the Burke and were excited by what it could be. We formed the Burke Museum Association, our outreach arm, to bring friends closer to the museum. And every week during the legislative session, my colleagues and I would meet in the Burke parking lot at 5:30 a.m. to drive to Olympia to attend Heritage Caucus meetings and meet with legislators. We'd bring artifacts from every district in the state. It began to build exponentially.

How has that vision been fulfilled now that the new Burke is open?
We've really stepped into the role of a leading museum, not only locally but nationally. I see kids come through who are wowed by it. People of every age and from all over the world come. One goal was to show so much that people would visit frequently—and that's happening. They're watching someone preparing fossils in the paleontology lab, and they want to come back to see how far along they are.

I've been associated with the Burke for 50 years, and the consciousness on how we work with communities whose objects we're going to care for has changed. We were thinking of a new museum for 20 years, and I'm glad it took that long, because this is a much better museum—one that's accessible to all and tells the stories of everyone.

You've supported the campaign for wəɬəbʔaltxʷ – Intellectual House, a gathering space for Native students, staff and faculty. What drew you to this project?
Education is a great equalizer. The UW is a fantastic university, but it's daunting for any incoming first-year student. I love the idea of more Native students being able to attend and feel they have a home here. Intellectual House is a tremendous addition to campus. I'm deeply appreciative of the tribes who have supported it and am looking forward to the next phase of the project.

What spurred you and your parents to start the Hugh and Jane Ferguson Foundation in 1987?
My dad and mother supported individual causes in smaller ways. I learned about family foundations through the Burke and suggested it to my parents as a way to support the community we care so much about. It turned out we enjoyed doing it together. Our foundation's mission—supporting natural preservation and cultural heritage—sounds like the Burke's mission for good reason. My dad was "mister natural history guy" who climbed every mountain in the Olympics. My mom went to summer camps in Montana, where she got to know Native families. Though my parents have passed, we had so much in common, it's easy to know what they'd want.

What would you advise people who want to support the UW but aren't sure where to begin?
The UW is an incredible force of good, and there is literally something for everyone. Whatever you care about, it's happening here. Start with baby steps, like sitting in on classes, then meeting that professor or students. Be willing to do any task and be helpful. I often think about good advice I received early on from respected community leaders: "If you want to be involved in our communities, you've got to keep showing up and build trust over time." So start wherever is comfortable, find your place—and show up.

About the Gates Volunteer Service Award

One of the most distinguished honors given by the UW and the UW Foundation, the Gates Volunteer Service Award is presented annually to people whose time, service and philanthropy have shaped the University's path—and who encourage others to do the same.

The award was named in 2002 for the singular vision and generosity of the William H. Gates family, whose commitment of volunteer service, time and philanthropy continue to advance the work of the UW in profound and enduring ways.

DENNIS WISE

By Chelsea Lin

Risky Business

In the UW Climate Risk Lab, business students get the sustainability savvy to help future employers deal with increasing natural disasters

Severe storms. Rising temperatures. Floods. Catastrophic weather events like these cause havoc for people and communities—as well as for business and the economy. They can impact everything from the global supply chain to an employee's ability to get to work, and many companies simply aren't ready to deal with the fallout. But a group of students from the University of Washington's Foster School of Business is learning how to help companies better weather the storm, figuratively and literally.

In the UW Climate Risk Lab, Foster undergraduate and graduate students learn how extreme, costly weather events might affect businesses—and what businesses can do about it. Last spring, for example, MBA candidates Joe Garan, Anna Kemmerer, Monica Kunzel and Spenser McDonald spent 10 weeks acting as consultants, analyzing how likely it was that wildfires would disrupt Amazon's facilities in Washington state, and developing recommendations to make the company more resilient to climate risk.

The students examined Amazon's supply chain details, the region's public services and safeguards, and fire forecasting data from the Climate Risk Lab's wiki—an open-source community website where researchers can keep data current and aggregate this important information for free public use. Combining these resources, the student team was able to forecast how wildfires might affect the operations of an Amazon facility: Will power or water be turned off? Will highways be shut down? Will employees be able to make it into work?

The Climate Risk Lab is led by Professor Phillip Bruner, '05, who joined the UW faculty in 2023, when the lab was little more than an idea. He brought extensive experience helping worldwide businesses incorporate mapping data into their financial decisions, and that expertise gave him the tools to turn the lab into its current reality. It's a cross-campus initiative to compile data on climate-related risks—for example, heat maps of potential wildfire zones—and provide access, analysis and tools for anyone to use.

The wiki was launched in May and funded by a $500,000 gift from Amazon. Bruner teaches students how to apply the valuable information it contains, calculating climate risk for real-world scenarios at data centers, on tribal lands, in real estate and beyond. By making this information publicly available and at zero cost, Bruner hopes to enable other businesses to plan for their future, for the good of communities and the economy.

L to R: Professor Phillip Bruner and MBA candidates Anna Kemmerer, Joe Garan, Monica Kunzel and Spenser McDonald

> "A lot of my students have climate anxiety. But they're looking for practical solutions and to tackle climate risks specific to each industry."
>
> Phillip Bruner, UW Climate Risk Lab

"We have a very good understanding of the climate science," Bruner says, "but not how to translate that data into dollars." He credits the UW with being the kind of innovative, interdisciplinary institution where it makes sense to try out a relatively new idea, like taking climate risk beyond the realm of scientists and teaching it to business students. In building out the Climate Risk Lab, Bruner formed a cross-campus steering committee including professors Jan Whittington of the College of Built Environments, Kristie Ebi of the School of Public Health and Dale Durran of the College of the Environment. A team of interns from the College of Engineering helped build the wiki, which grew in scope and sophistication with the addition of three full-time staff members hired last summer with Amazon's financial support.

The need for a generation equipped with data-driven climate solutions has become clear. Forty years ago, U.S. weather-related disasters like hurricanes or floods that caused over a billion dollars in damage (in today's currency) would happen every 16 weeks, according to the Fifth National Climate Assessment, a report on climate change impact conducted in 2023 by the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Today, a similarly expensive disaster happens about every *three* weeks. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that in 2024 there were 27 climate-related disasters costing more than $1 billion each. (That number will no longer be calculated in the current administration.)

Bruner says there's more student interest in working on lab projects than his team has capacity to manage. "We're seeing a significant amount of passion and interest in tackling this problem through business, and a willingness to engage with the material, which is inherently complex," he says. "A lot of my students have climate anxiety. But they're looking for practical solutions and to tackle climate risks specific to each industry." It helps, he notes, that the program puts these students and their creative solutions in front of potential employers.

Student Joe Garan, who graduated in June, emphasizes that climate risk is not "some distant, abstract problem reserved for the world of environmentalists and scientists." He says, "No matter the industry, strategy or value proposition of a business, they need to consider the changing climate as they predict and plan for the future. Business students shouldn't see this as just valuable, but as *critical* to their skill set."

Learn more at **foster.uw.edu/uw-climate-risk-lab**.

CYRUS MCCRIMMON

Putting Passion Into Action

By Ken Denman, '86
Chair, UW Foundation Board

It's been an honor to serve as the chair of the University of Washington Foundation Board of Directors. As I wrap up my time in the role, I'm reflecting on our diverse Husky community. We may not come from the same place, have the same experiences or share the same interests, but our collective strength is the passion each of us brings to what we care about.

There's no better example of putting passion into action than Ellen Ferguson, this year's recipient of the Gates Volunteer Service Award. Ellen's visionary support, enthusiastic leadership and tireless advocacy have made the UW a better place, and I'm thrilled that the University is celebrating her impact.

Ellen's service and philanthropy have spanned decades and come in many forms. She's a consummate volunteer and networker who brings people together for meaningful change, like the successful campaign for the New Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture. Her commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is a model for all—centering and supporting excluded or marginalized communities. She listens with humility and authenticity, seeking to understand the community's needs and how she can fuel efforts to meet them, furthering the UW's public mission to serve Washington state. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she's equally passionate to connect others with the causes *they* care about.

When I told Ellen she'd be receiving this award, she was surprised and moved to learn she'd inspired so many others. Humility at every turn! I hope you're as inspired as I am. And I echo Ellen's advice: Start wherever you can and show up in ways that work for you. Find what matters to you and dig in. Even the smallest contribution, whether of money or time and labor, adds up when we combine our efforts.

While Ellen's story is remarkable, I've seen the same commitment to service and impact from so many of you. With your continued generosity and engagement, I'm optimistic that the UW will continue to be a powerful force for good in this world. Let's continue to show up for each other, for the greater Husky community and for the University that brings us together.

Impact

Right of Play

Luis Carmona, ’17, ’22, fell in love with the Seattle Sounders professional soccer team when he was an eighth grader at Wapato Middle School in the Yakima Valley—but he never dreamed he’d one day be sharing the same turf.

His older brother was a Husky, the first in the family to attend college, and Carmona soon followed in his UW footsteps. He earned his bachelor’s degree in the Foster School of Business, and returned a few years later thanks to a scholarship that paid his tuition for the yearlong Master of Education program in intercollegiate athletic leadership. While there, he worked as a graduate assistant at the UW Tyee Club, Husky Athletics’ philanthropic arm—and then an internship connected him with the Sounders.

After graduating, Carmona was hired as communications and development manager at RAVE Foundation, the nonprofit arm of Sounders and Seattle Reign FC, where he works with communities throughout Washington to help give kids access to play. The job includes coordinating with sponsors like the University of Washington to create educational programming for students from preschool through high school.

Carmona’s work continues to ignite him because he sees so much of himself in the students. “As a kid, whatever you’ve got going on in your life, when you’re out on a field—for me it was playing soccer—you forget about it for a little bit,” he says. “We just want to make sure every kid has that right to play.”

By Chelsea Lin
Photo by Mark Stone

Read more (in English or Spanish):
uw.edu/boundless/luis-carmona-sounders-rave

From Bohemian Castles to Andean Peaks and Arctic Wonders

Start packing your bags! Extraordinary journeys await you in 2026.

Bohemian Wonders – A River Cruise in Czechia
June 9-18, 2026
Tour operator: AHI Travel
This eight-night land and river adventure will take you through the wonderful Czech Republic. Explore Prague and cruise the enchanting Vltava and Elbe rivers for six nights. Watch romantic landscapes glide by and visit a Bohemian castle adorned with art, medieval armor and royal furnishings. Cross into Germany to tour Dresden, including its historic castles and the Baroque Dresden Zwinger complex. You'll discover architectural gems in Litomerice, one of Bohemia's oldest cities, savor a winery tour and tasting, and visit a brewery to sample Czech beers and lagers. All meals are included aboard your first-class, exclusively chartered river ship.

Check out these highlighted trips and plenty more at Washington.edu/alumni/travel.

Machu Picchu to the Galapagos
March 31-April 15, 2026
Tour operator: Odysseys Unlimited
Machu Picchu's enigmatic ruins and the fascinating Galapagos Islands rank among South America's greatest treasures, and a small group tour is the ideal way to experience both. This singular 16-day adventure begins with Lima's highlights. After exploring the Sacred Valley, overnight at astounding Machu Picchu, absorbing its mystery on two tours. Encounter the history and beauty of the Ecuadorian capital, Quito, a UNESCO site. Then spend four nights on beautiful Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos, cruising by private yacht with an expert naturalist guide to nearby islands to observe their fascinating wildlife. Discover the Amazon with an exceptional four-day/four-night pre-tour option.

Polar Bears of Churchill
November 2-7, 2026
Tour operator: Orbridge
Churchill, Canada is known as the polar bear capital of the world. Each fall, about 1,000 of these fascinating creatures congregate around this seaport town while they wait for wintertime's sea ice to form over the Hudson Bay. On this extraordinary adventure, you'll venture out into the stark landscape aboard a custom-designed, wildlife-viewing vehicle, stopping to admire the scenery as you search for arctic hares, snowy owls, ptarmigans and arctic foxes. You'll visit Churchill's Itsanitaq Museum for an exploration of Indigenous ways of life and meet an energetic team of sled dogs before bundling up for an exciting dog sled experience.

REAL DAWGS WEAR PURPLE

W. SCOTT TRIMBLE, '03
PUBLIC ARTIST

Growing up in California, W. Scott Trimble developed a DIY ethos driven by fierce independence and limited resources. A "fabricator at heart," he came to the University of Washington to study sculpture as a graduate student. More than 20 years later, this accomplished Husky's large-scale, site-specific art pieces — some built from repurposed materials, like electric motors, construction debris and houseboat siding — have appeared around the Pacific Northwest. Some are designed to be interactive community gathering spots; others, like a sine wave sculpture erected in 2014 on the UW campus in Seattle, are more ephemeral. Either way, this dedicated Dawg's work marries art and architecture, turning materials that some might consider trash into communal artistic treasure.

W. Scott Trimble enjoys the view from the sculptural bench he designed for Chestnut Ridge Park in Kent, Washington.

RealDawgsWearPurple WearPurple UWearPurple

Columns

NEWS FROM **THE UWAA**

Welcome to the UW Family

Autumn quarter at the University of Washington is filled with the excitement of new classes, friends and experiences. Today's students need guidance, support and opportunities. From the moment students walk onto campus, the UW Alumni Association is there to help.

Career-focused events provide students with access to alumni working in different industries, while talks and podcasts support professional development. UWAA's annual Huskies@Work program matches interested students with alums to discuss career journeys one-to-one, and UW Husky Landing's tools and prompts makes networking online easy.

Huskies show their purple and gold pride by joining the UWAA. Every member makes a positive difference by supporting student scholarships, mentorship programs, and more.

From big-name speakers to K-pop dance classes, UWAA creates opportunities for Huskies of all ages to come together for fun, learning and community. Students, alumni and friends can come together at UWAA Nights at museums and theaters, cheer on the Dawgs with fellow sports fans or read together in our online book club with Huskies from around the world.

If you are already a UWAA member, thank you. Not a member? Join us! Now more than ever, our UW community matters.

Top: Students enjoy study treats at a UWAA pop-up in the Washington Commons.
Bottom: Posing with Harry at the Alumni-Student Husky Skate Night.

COURTESY SHORELINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Leader of the Band

Former Husky Marching Band member Ken Noreen was one of this area's best music teachers

By Jon Marmor

Everyone knows what a music hotbed the Pacific Northwest is. But they may not know the role Ken Noreen, '64, '68, played in making that happen. The Everett native, who earned two degrees in music education from the UW, was one of the most influential music teachers in Seattle history.

During his 48-year career, he served on the Husky Marching Band staff from 1965 to 1982 (after he played in the marching band from 1960 to 1964). That was in addition to teaching generations of students in his 24 years as the band director at Shorecrest High School and another 24 years as the band director at Shoreline Community College.

Noreen was so highly regarded throughout the Evergreen State that he served as president of the Washington Music Educators Association in the 1980s and was later inducted into its Hall of Fame. But his community commitment didn't stop in the classroom. A founding member and president of the Shoreline Breakfast Rotary Club, he also helped found the Shoreline Arts Council and Shoreline Public Schools Foundation. He supported a multitude of other local institutions ranging from the Dale Turner YMCA to the Shoreline Community College Foundation. No wonder he needed to make room among his musical instruments for awards including the Christa McAuliffe Award for Educational Leadership from the state of Washington in 1991.

Then there was the joy he brought to the public. In addition to working with the Husky Marching Band, he was the director of music for the Seattle SuperSonics. His work with the Sonics was such a slam dunk that he was recognized by the performing rights organization Broadcast Music Inc.

Music wasn't his entire life, however. Noreen was a real estate agent, travel agency owner, real estate investor and ardent traveler. A Seattle Mariners season-ticket holder for over 40 years, Noreen inspired this reflection in his Seattle Times obituary: "He never passed up a chance to cheer on his team or enjoy a root beer float from Dick's Drive-In." He died April 22 at the age of 82.

RECOGNITION

YOSEF KULINKO, SEATTLE UNIV.

Anne V. Farrell, '60, was one of Western Washington's most revered community leaders. As the CEO and president of The Seattle Foundation from 1983 to 2003, she worked with Seattle's growing tech industry to expand the foundation's impact, increasing its endowment from $10 million to $300 million. In addition, she served on the boards of such local institutions as REI, Washington Mutual, the Seattle Public Library Foundation and the Pacific Science Center. She died June 14 at the age of 89.

Richard "Dick" Crews, '58, made UW history when he became the first Black player on the Husky basketball team in 1955. As a UW sophomore, Crews played in 15 games. A year later, Lou Coaston, Crews' former Garfield High School teammate, became the Huskies' second Black player. Crews later worked in the UW ticket office and served as assistant director of development. He also served on the UW Alumni Association Board of Trustees. He died May 5 at the age of 89.

Columns

In Memory

ALUMNI

MARY DUNNELL
Natchez, Mississippi, Jan. 2

TOM ENGLANDER
Dallas, Texas, March 1

DENNIS MCKNIGHT
Edmonds, age 77, April 19

JAMES H. PATTERSON
Nov. 5

DONALD L. PETERSON
Seattle, age 90, April 20

BETTY HEALY SHERIDAN
Pasadena, California, age 100, May 25

1940

YVETTE M. GUNTHER
'45, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, age 102, March 15

PATRICIA LEE HANDLIN
'48, Shelton, age 99, May 1

LAUREL ANN WEBER OLIVER
'48, Bainbridge Island, age 97, March 22

ROBERT CARL OLIVER
'48, '49, Bainbridge Island, age 88, November 2013

1950

JACK JOSEPH CORDOVA
'50, Mercer Island, age 95, June 5

RODNEY L. LOVELESS
'50, Skykomish, age 99, April 17

EILEEN YVONNE O'BRIEN
'50, Bellevue, age 95, April 6

KIEFER DAN BOLLES FOBES
'51, Seattle, age 98, June 6

JEANINE LAAKSO ITURBIDE
'51, San Leandro, California, age 95, May 30

RUTH E. BECK
'52, Seattle, age 94, May 9, 2024

JAMES WALTER HAYES JR.
'52, Mobile, Alabama, age 94, June 1

DAWNELL CROSBY LAMB
'53, Redmond, age 93, May 5

DAVID G. NOVAK
'53, Bothell, age 92, Feb. 21

MARILYN ALICE MATHIS
'54, Mercer Island, age 102, March 26

DENNIS PETERSON
'54, Olympia, age 91, May 21

JOYCE SMITH STEVENS
'54, Carmel, California, age 97, June 14, 2024

JERRY THONN
'54, Seattle, age 93, May 11

GRAHAM ANDERSON
'55, Ketchum, Idaho, age 92, June 2

EVA MAE BEST
'55, Novato, California, age 92

WALLACE W. CHINN
'55, Mercer Island, age 96, March 28

ROSEMARY SAVAGE CLARK
'57, Redmond, age 90, April 24

LUVERNA HILTON
'57, Kalispell, Montana, age 90, April 26

RAYMOND JOURDAN LEE
'57, Everett, age 95, April 24

ANA MARIE JUSTIN
'58, '60, Anchorage, Alaska, age 89, June 13

MURRAY C. NICHOLS
'58, Preston, Idaho, age 94, March 26, 2024

TOBY ATTERBURY
'59, Anacortes, age 88, March 26

PAUL HAMPTON HOERLEIN
'59, Bothell, age 96, May 25

DAN KUSAKA
'59, Seattle, age 87, July 12, 2024

PAUL FREDRICK SANDS
'59, Mesa, Arizona, age 90, May 15

1960

MARCIA TANK
'60, Lake Forest Park, age 86, Dec. 10

LARRY KALLANDER
'61, Mercer Island, age 88, May 31

BILL KAVANAUGH
'61, Seattle, age 87, May 4

DOROTHY "POO" PENROSE
'61, Shoreline, age 84, May 7

ALICE SIEGAL
'61, '67, Seattle

JOE TAPPERO
'61, Renton, age 89, May 24

ROBERT E. WENDEL
'61, Bainbridge Island, age 88, March 30, 2024

RICHARD WHITE
'61, Feb. 8

PATRICIA ANN THORNBURGH
'62, Arcata, California, age 88, May 8

JOHN HENRY VOLPONE
'62, Everett, age 84, April 6

JUDITH RAYMER
'63, Seattle, age 84, March 15

THOMAS HERBERT CLAYTON
'64, Kingston, age 82, March 12

ROBERT EICHLER
'64, Hunts Point, age 83

NANCY HULL EDQUIST
'65, '81, Seattle, age 82, June 5

CARMEN LUCAS STEELE
'65, Vancouver, Washington, age 82, April 17

JILL W. PRINCEHOUSE
'66, Seattle, age 82, March 1

DON STARK
'66, Seattle, age 81, April 29

SARA HART
'67, Seattle, age 82, March 9

JOAN ELLEN MARICICH
'67, Seattle, age 90, March 20

KATHRYN JEAN MCDEVITT
'69, '78, Blaine, age 78, Feb. 12

1970

ELEANOR E. BARNHILL
'70, Seattle, age 77, May 26

GARY GENE CRAIG
'70, '73, '79, Mercer Island, age 77, April 15

GERALD ABLEIDINGER
'71, Auburn, age 75, May 22

PATRICK J. RUSSELL
'71, Seattle, age 77, April 20

HELEN S. GASTINEAU
'72, Port Orchard, age 74, Feb. 27

IRMA ELIZABETH GROSS
'72, Lake Stevens, age 73, June 14, 2023

REMY L. NEWLAND
'72, Ajijic, Jalisco, Mexico, age 75, May 7

LAWRENCE BLAKE
'73, Lynnwood, age 77, April 27

RANDALL DUBOIS
'73, Bellevue, age 77, Feb. 21

KRISTEN D. FORSTER
'73, '84, Snohomish, age 78, June 3

LANE HIMMELMAN
'73, Lake Cavanaugh, age 75, May 22

THOMAS OGLE
'73, Poulsbo, age 81, Dec. 1

MARIA HERNANDEZ PEELER
'73, Matanzas, Cuba, age 75, Feb. 16

DONALD ZEEK
'73, '79, '04, '09, Seattle, age 75, March 4

YASUKO KINOSHITA ARATANI
'74, Renton, age 93, May 27

NANCY RUTH BENNETT
'74, '76, Sammamish, age 73, April 8

HELEN CURRAN KELLY
'74, Seattle, age 82, April 24

NINA MERENDINO-SARICH
'75, age 71, May 22

DEAN E. FROST
'77, March 6

KATHLEEN LIBERTY
'77, Seattle, age 77, May 26

RICHARD W. AUSTIN
'78, Tacoma, age 69, March 20, 2024

DAVID M. NORRIS
'78, Carson City, Nevada, age 74, April 6

SCOTT BRIAN PENNINGTON
'78, Spokane, age 73, March 29

1980

PAUL ROBERT FLETCHER
'80, Seattle, age 72, June 15

JON WALTER NELSON
'83, Seattle, age 67, March 26

RENATA CAROLINE LILLIG
'84, Seattle, age 96, March 20

WAYNE ALEXIS PALSSON
'84, Seattle, age 69, April 19

DAVID HARUO TANAKA
'86, Seattle, age 66, Nov. 13

KAREN HOWICK MEADOWS
'89, Seattle, age 81, May 18

1990

JAMES MCMURRER JR.
'92, Lake Forest Park, age 95, October 2024

MARTHA SILANO
'93, Seattle, age 71, May 5

BRIAN JOHN WARNEKE
'98, Orlando, Florida, age 50, May 8

2000

CHERI WARNER-FRIEND
'00, Olympia, age 77, May 21

RUSSELL JOHN DE MENT
'03, Seattle, age 69, June 3

YING LIU
'12, Redmond, age 44, April 3

NOAM NICHOLSON
'18, Seattle, age 35, July 15, 2024

SOPHIA DAVIDSON
'24, Bothell, age 37, May 15

FACULTY AND FRIENDS

NANCY JEAN AMIDEI taught in the UW School of Social Work from 1992 to 2008, exploring the role of political advocacy as a tool for promoting social justice. The inaugural recipient of the UW-UWRA Distinguished Retiree Excellence in Community Service Award, she was a founder of the Partnership for Youth, which supports efforts to provide shelter, food, clothing and health care for homeless youth in the University District. She also founded the Civic Engagement Project. She died April 8 at the age of 83.

BARBARA LYNN BENNETT was the wife of UW pediatrics professor Forrest Curt Bennett. She worked at NOAA and the UW as an academic editor, preparing scientists' manuscripts for publication. She died April 11 at the age of 81.

JOAN BOWERS spent 16 years on the faculty of the UW School of Nursing, retiring in 1998. She taught psychosocial nursing to undergraduate students. She later joined the UW Retirement Association and was active in its travel club. As she became concerned about climate change, she stopped taking trips that required flights. She died Nov. 11.

BARBARA BROTHERTON, '94, was the longtime curator of Native American Art at the Seattle Art Museum. She studied with renowned UW scholars Bill Holm and Robin Wright and learned Salish language and culture from Vi Hilbert.

She was named a research associate at the Burke Museum to work on the Native American Graves Protection & Repatriation Act. She died in June 2025.

DION BROWN was one of the most athletic dunkers in Husky men's basketball history, although he was often overlooked because his teams did not have winning records. The 6-foot-5 forward played at Washington from 1988 to 1991 and was the team's captain and MVP as a senior. He died May 2 at the age of 57.

JOHN FRANCIS BURGGRAFF worked as an engineer at the UW after working at Boeing. He became manager of the UW Design Division, responsible for renovations and alterations of campus buildings. He later managed the campus utility infrastructure and served the UW for 30 years. He died April 27 at the age of 88.

ELLEN ELIZABETH CHAPMAN worked on staff at the UW. She died Feb. 28 at the age of 84.

JOSEPH CHASTEEN was recruited to serve as associate dean for clinical affairs at the UW School of Dentistry in 1989 and later held the role of director of educational technology. After 17 years at the UW, he retired in 2006. During his career, he oversaw programs that provided free dental work to disadvantaged children, taught at three universities, wrote five textbooks and 75 research papers. He died April 7 at the age of 82.

RICHARD "RICK" LEROY COCKER, '74, worked for U.S. Rep. Lloyd Meeds and later served as press secretary to Sen. Henry Jackson, '35. After Jackson died, Rick and his wife, Pam, returned to Seattle, where he led communications for the Port of Seattle before opening his own public relations firm, The Cocker Co., which became Cocker Fennessey when he partnered with Anne Fennessy. There, he represented a wide range of clients and industries, from aviation to maritime to education to Native American tribes and all levels of government. He died April 3 at the age of 72.

CATHERINE DOWD worked at the UW and was a longtime member of the UW Retirement Association. She died May 20 at the age of 89.

SANDRA WHITEHEAD DYER, '59, was a nurse and nursing administrator in the Bellevue School District. She and her late husband, Pete, were also major donors to Husky Athletics as well as the UW School of Nursing. She was active in the Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic for almost 30 years, holding multiple leadership roles. She was also a supporter of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center among other community organizations. She died April 18 at the age of 88.

AVERY MASON GUEST spent 31 years as a professor in the UW Sociology Department. The New York native, who retired from the UW in 2003, was a board member of the Population Association of America, editor of the journal Demography and director of the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology. He died May 27 at the age of 84.

WALTER H. HAGEMAN JR., '54, graduated with his law degree from the UW and joined the Air Force ROTC program, committing to two years of active duty after law school. He was a member of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity, Big "W" Club, Tyee Club, the Husky Ski Club and the Husky tennis team. After law school, he reported for active duty at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. He later went into law practice and served in many community organizations. He died April 12 at the age of 92.

TIMOTHA "TIMMIE" HELLY HOLLOMON was a former UW student and a major supporter of the UW. She died April 21 at the age of 87.

ROBERT L. HOWISEY, '80, completed his surgical training at the UW and held a teaching appointment in UW Medicine's Department of Surgery. He was a pioneer in laparoscopic surgery, performing Seattle's first laparoscopic gallbladder removal in 1990. He trained many surgeons in minimally invasive techniques and was an advocate for breast-conserving surgery and sentinel node biopsy. He died March 28 at the age of 76.

PHIL HUNT served in the Air Force before joining the UW Student Activities Office, serving as a student activities adviser and working with the ASUW student government. After retiring, he worked as a school bus driver, community recreation center attendant and volunteer guardian ad litem with the Court Appointed Special Advocate program. He also volunteered on the UW Retirement Association's Scholarship and Fellowship Committee. He died March 10 at the age of 71.

JEAN TERU ISHII was born in 1930 and was incarcerated during World War II with her family at the Minidoka War Relocation Center. She later graduated from Garfield High School and went to the UW, where she studied to become a dietician. She was head dietician at Maynard Hospital in Seattle before she retired to start her family. She died March 29 at the age of 94.

PHILLIP JACOBSON was a prominent Seattle architect who served as a professor in the UW Department of Architecture from 1962 to 2000. The Santa Monica, California native served in the Army's 24th Infantry Division during the occupation of Japan after World War II. As a partner and design director at the Seattle firm TRA, he worked on such projects as the Washington State Convention and Trade Center, the state Capitol campus in Olympia, the King County Aquatics Center and the Albuquerque International Airport. His product design included furniture, lighting fixtures and jewelry as featured in the book "Elegant Explorations," published by UW Press. He died May 17 at the age of 96.

MURRAY JOHNSTONE, '67, was a Pacific Northwest native who came to the UW for training as an ophthalmologist. He joined UW Medicine's Ophthalmology faculty as a clinical professor in 2010, and he continued his groundbreaking research to identify the cause of glaucoma and to improve treatment. He died April 11 at the age of 86.

DAVID KEYT was a professor emeritus of philosophy who taught at the UW from 1957 until his retirement in 2013. He taught courses in logic and ancient Greek philosophy. He died Jan. 31 at the age of 94.

JAMES MISH'ALANI was a professor emeritus of philosophy who taught at the UW from 1963 to 1999. Colleague Ron Moore wrote, "He had an almost magical rapport with his students, helping them to feel philosophy's appeal and appreciate the pertinence of philosophical study. … He had a great baritone voice, an easy smile and, more often than not, a wry sparkle in the eye." He died March 29, 2023 at age 89.

MICHAEL EDWARD MAYO spent 30 years as a professor in UW Medicine's Department of Urology, where his work included surgical practice, teaching and research. He retired in 2005 as professor emeritus. He died April 19 at the age of 85.

LYNN HANKINSON NELSON was a professor emerita of philosophy who taught at the UW from 2003 to 2016. She produced many scholarly articles as well as several books and textbooks. She died in the summer of 2024.

JOHN THOMAS QUINLIVAN was a longtime Boeing engineer who became vice president and general manager of the 747/767/777 programs for Boeing Commercial Airplanes. He also served on the visiting committee of the UW Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He died April 10 at the age of 83.

COLLEEN JOAN ROHRBAUGH, '58, served as general manager of the University of Washington Faculty Club. There, she planned events and services for the University community. She was elected president of the International Association of College and University Clubs, which presented her with the Distinguished Service Award in 2006. After almost 30 years at the UW, the Husky Marching Band appeared at the Faculty Club to celebrate her retirement. She died May 22 at the age of 88.

DAVID A. ROTHROCK III was a mechanical engineer who trained at Princeton University and the University of Cambridge. He accepted a position at the UW for a new project, the Arctic Ice Dynamics Joint Experiment. He later continued his career at the UW Applied Physics Lab. He died June 8 at the age of 82.

DONNA D. SCHRAM, '64, '70, spent more than 20 years as an adjunct instructor in criminal justice at the UW. She died April 18 at the age of 82.

MARY SELECKY was a clinical professor at the UW School of Public Health who also served as the Washington Secretary of Health. As the state's top health official, she helped reduce the rate of smoking and increased the number of vaccinated children. She died April 7 at the age of 78.

MARK SOLLEK, '00, trained in nephrology at the UW and received a Master of Health Administration degree from the UW in 2000. A former battalion surgeon in Vietnam, he served as an associate professor in the UW School of Public Health. He died May 14 at the age of 82.

ROBERT STAHLEY worked at the UW as a systems analyst for UW Medical Center-Montlake. He died Jan. 28 at the age of 73.

SUSAN ELLEN SUTTON worked as a nurse at Harborview Medical Center. She died April 4 at the age of 78.

ROBERT BRUCE TAYLOR, '88, served as the editor of The Daily in 1986 and turned a UW class project into the first fantasy football magazine in the U.S. On the first day of fall quarter in 1986, The Daily printed a campus map that intentionally mislabeled buildings, sending hundreds of students to the wrong lecture halls. "It's for their own good," he told a local TV reporter. "We're just trying to teach them that they can't believe everything they read." His obituary says, "He bled purple and gold and took great satisfaction in the countless failures of the Oregon Ducks." He died June 4 at age 59. *Read more at uwmag.online/bruce*

JOHN TUFT, '58, played for the Husky basketball team from 1954 to 1958. He died April 27 at the age of 90.

HOWARD RAY TUTTLE, '94, worked at the UW in information systems management. He liked to wear colorful attire. He died at the age of 68.

HOWARD MICHAEL UMAN worked as a UW Medicine pediatrician and pediatric hospitalist. He died May 2 at the age of 77.

DIXIE WILSON, '77, volunteered at Seattle Children's and served on the Seattle Children's Guild Board of Trustees and the Tyee Board for Husky Athletics. She also served on the UW Foundation Board. A major supporter of the UW, she died June 11 at the age of 69.

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THINGS THAT DEFINE **THE UW**

UW PHOTO

When Husky Stadium Hit Its High Note

The largest crowd in UW history turned out 30 years ago when the Huskies faced … Army?

By Jon Marmor

The largest crowd ever to pack Husky Stadium to the gills wasn't to watch the Dawgs face Oregon, Washington State, USC, Notre Dame, Michigan, Ohio State or some other powerhouse or rival. On Sept. 23, 1995, 76,125 fans showed up to watch the Huskies play … Army.

And no, it wasn't because the No. 22 Huskies were 26-point favorites over the opponents from West Point, who traveled cross country. It was Band Day.

Early every fall at a nonconference game, the Huskies host Band Day, when oodles of high school bands show up in their regalia and join the Husky Marching Band at halftime. On that September afternoon 30 years ago, more than 3,200 high school band members flooded into Husky Stadium for a game that was already a sellout at more than 73,000.

The athletic department built scaffolded extensions on the east ends of the lower bowl of the stadium, which boosted the overall seating capacity. Those seats were sold to fans, while the high school bands were seated in the horseshoe end, then known as the "fun zone," as well as being jammed into a couple thousand folding chairs on the track, also around the horseshoe end. "As I recall," recalls recently retired Husky Marching Band Director Brad McDavid, "those extensions (which came at the request of Coach Jim Lambright) were in place for a couple of seasons." McDavid would know—1995 was his second year directing the marching band.

That record crowd will stand forever. Why? Because the 1995 Band Day occurred long before Husky Stadium underwent a badly needed renovation in 2013. Before that, the playing field was ringed by a running track that was used for Husky track and field. That track—which became home to some added seating—was removed to bring the stands closer to the field.

The only drawback that sunny and musical September afternoon on Lake Washington was that the Huskies struggled mightily to escape with a 21-13 victory over the Black Knights. "[Army] ran for almost 300 yards on our defense that day, and they had the ball for 36 minutes, 46 seconds to our 23:14, running that wishbone [offense]," recalls quarterback Damon Huard, '95. "I remember being frustrated as we were not on the field much, but we found a way to win."

UW ATHLETICS

The mid-'90s were a busy time at Husky Stadium (above), regularly drawing crowds of more than 74,000 fans. But it was quarterback Damon Huard's (left) senior season in 1995 that saw five of the largest crowds in Husky Stadium history.

HIGHEST ATTENDANCES AT HUSKY STADIUM

YEAR	OPPONENT	ATTENDANCE
1995	Army	76,125
1997	Arizona State	74,986
1995	USC	74,421
1997	Washington State	74,268
2000	Miami	74,157
1995	Washington State	74,144
2001	Michigan	74,080
1995	Oregon	74,054
1987	Washington State	74,038
1995	Notre Dame	74,023

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