

# University of Washington Magazine

## Roberto Maestas

From rural New Mexico to the front lines of Seattle's civil rights movement, his life reshaped a city





## Earthquake Evidence

Brian Atwater, right, an affiliate professor at the UW and an emeritus scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, interprets tree roots and muddy sediments as signs of an earthquake in 1700, during a recent field trip along an arm of Willapa Bay. Participants included state and county emergency managers, forest ecologists, members of the Northwest Scientific Association and a Chinook tribal leader. In the 1980s and 1990s, Atwater was among the geological sleuths who identified the Cascadia Subduction Zone as a source of great earthquakes, magnitude 8 to 9. His coworkers included tree-ring scientist David Yamaguchi, '86, who dated the deaths of western red cedars that the most recent of the earthquakes had killed at southwest Washington estuaries. That dating identified a Cascadia earthquake in 1700 as the trigger of a Pacific Ocean tsunami that caused flooding and damage in the Pacific Northwest and Japan.

—Gillian Dohrn

*Photo by Dennis Wise*





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## FIRST-CLASS PHOTO

Craig Goodwin, '91, snapped a photo of a bald eagle with two eaglets that will go down in postal history. [uwmag.online/eaglets](http://uwmag.online/eaglets)



SUJIN WITHERSPOON

## A NOVEL ROMANCE

Fans who loved "Bingsu for Two" will also enjoy the second novel from young-adult romance author Sujin Witherspoon, '22. [uwmag.online/witherspoon](http://uwmag.online/witherspoon)



## MENTAL HEALTH HERO

UW Medicine renamed its behavioral health center in honor of the late Frank Chopp, '75, who helped bring the project to life. [uwmag.online/chopp](http://uwmag.online/chopp)

## ON THE COVER

"Roberto Presente," a portrait honoring civil-rights leader Roberto Maestas, was painted by Seattle Chicano artist Jake Prendez, '00, who drew inspiration from a 1972 newspaper photograph of Maestas at a Seattle City Council meeting.



COURTESY CLEMENT MORIN, NOBEL PRIZE OUTREACH

*Mary Brunkow, '83, recipient of this year's Alumna Summa Laude Dignata Award and the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, holds up the chair she signed during Nobel Week 2025. Nobel laureates traditionally sign chairs at the restaurant of Stockholm's Nobel Prize Museum.*

## 20 Graduating Without Debt

By combining scholarships, campus jobs and careful planning, UW students work their way to an affordable college education.

By **Hannelore Sudermann**

## 24 Out of Sequence

From fruit flies at the UW to the Nobel stage in Stockholm, Mary Brunkow followed her curiosity wherever it led.

By **Hannelore Sudermann**

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The UW's teachers of the year excel at providing instruction. But their impact as mentors and advisers makes an even greater impact.

By **Jon Marmor**

## 30 'I Want to Make History'

Roberto Maestas grew up in a small New Mexico town but became a Seattle legend as a UW student and social-justice leader.

By **David Volk**

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# Forward

OPINION AND THOUGHT FROM **THE UW FAMILY**



BY **CHRISTOPHER DAMMAN, M.D.**

## Trusting Your Gut

**Ozempic and Wegovy reveal the metabolic costs of modern diets**

Weight-loss and diabetes drugs like Wegovy and Ozempic are often described as breakthroughs. They help people lose weight, control blood sugar and reduce heart disease risk.

In the past two years, they have moved beyond specialty medicine into everyday conversations about weight and appetite. They also raise a deeper question: What system in the body are these drugs replacing?

As a gastroenterologist, I study how food and the gut microbiome shape metabolism. From that perspective, these medications don't just treat disease—they restore signals that modern diets have steadily diminished.

For most of human history, appetite was

not just a matter of willpower. It was regulated, in part, by a relationship between what we ate and the trillions of bacteria in our lower gut. The bacteria feed on indigestible fiber and plant compounds called polyphenols, transforming them into signals that regulate hormones for appetite and metabolism. These hormones include GLP-1, the human hormone that Wegovy and Ozempic are designed to mimic.

GLP-1 and other hormones help control blood sugar, slow digestion and tell the brain when enough is enough. Together, this system acts as a natural brake on appetite. Modern diets have weakened it.

Processed foods—engineered for shelf stability and taste—often strip away the

bioactive compounds that help regulate this system. The result is a less diverse gut microbiome and weaker metabolic signaling. Calories are absorbed quickly, but the body receives fewer cues to regulate hunger and fullness. The shift may be contributing to the rise in obesity and type 2 diabetes.

Wegovy and Ozempic reinvigorate our natural brake. Mounjaro has gone a step further and combined GLP-1 with a second hormone analog derived from the upper gut called GIP. Studies are showing this combination therapy to be even more effective at promoting weight loss.

These drugs complement other measures like gastric bypass surgery that are used in more advanced cases of metabolic disease. Despite the success and prospect of these drugs to help populations that may benefit most, current prescribing practices have raised questions. Should people who are only a little overweight use these drugs? What are the risks of prescribing these drugs to children and adolescents for lifelong weight management?

For many patients, the results are transformative, but they are not without tradeoffs. Common side effects include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and constipation; rare complications include pancreatitis and delayed stomach emptying. Some patients lose muscle, particularly in the absence of exercise. And when the drugs are stopped, weight often returns, raising further questions about long-term effects and how best to transition back and manage weight using only lifestyle.

For those living with obesity or diabetes, these therapies can be lifesaving. But they also highlight that metabolism is not just treated, it is continuously shaped by our diets and behaviors. Despite our hopes for quick fixes, a healthy lifestyle remains an indispensable component for managing metabolic disease and overall health. This includes exercise, sleep, stress management and a balanced diet.

For the majority of individuals aiming to prevent metabolic disease, supporting the gut's appetite controls through minimally processed foods rich in fiber and plant compounds may be one of the best routes to a healthy metabolism.

These drugs can restore signals we've lost. The question is whether they will lead us back to a healthier metabolism—or make it easier to live without one.

*Christopher Damman is a UW Medicine doctor and an associate professor with expertise in nutrition and the microbiome.*

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**Anjali Patni** is a doctoral student at the Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine

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MESSAGE FROM THE **EDITOR**

## Aiming High With the UW

By Jon Marmor

Wildfires. Floods. Superstorms. Earthquakes. Drought. Snowpack loss. And on and on. The Earth and its billions of living creatures have suffered greatly as natural disasters have become more extreme, more destructive and more frequent.

We desperately need a better understanding of Earth to improve our ability to foresee these terrifying events and mitigate disasters. That's why NASA has turned to the University of Washington to lead satellite space-science missions to find the answers.

"NASA uses the unique vantage point of space to study our home planet to deliver lifesaving data into the hands of disaster response and decision-makers every day for the benefit of all," says Nicky Fox, associate administrator of NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "By understanding Earth's surface topography, ecosystems and atmosphere, while also enabling longer-range weather forecasting, these missions will help us better study the extreme environments beyond our home planet to ensure the safety of astronauts and spacecraft as we return to the moon with the Artemis campaign and journey onward to Mars and beyond."

Two UW teams of scientists—the STRIVE

team (Stratosphere-Troposphere Response using Infrared Vertically-resolved light Explorer) and the UW-affiliated EDGE team (Earth Dynamics Geodetic Explorer)—will carry out NASA's Earth System Explorers Program mission as identified by no less than the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

The UW beat out three other finalists for this prestigious role. "For many of us, it is a dream come true," says Lyatt Jaeglé, UW professor of atmospheric and climate science, who is leading the STRIVE Team. Its instruments can make more than 400,000 observations in exquisite detail each day, which will help researchers understand how air pollution circulates following a wildfire or volcanic eruption, for example.

The EDGE team uses lasers to observe the three-dimensional structure of Earth's surface as it changes. "The EDGE data will have implications for sea-level rise, natural hazards monitoring, water resource and forest management, and wildfire response," says Benjamin Smith, '05, senior principal physicist at the UW Applied Physics Laboratory.

To sum up: Hugely important missions, led by the UW. It's a story we see every day.

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## Terrific Teacher

Congratulations to Gabriela Nuñez Whitmarsh on her selection as Washington State Teacher of the Year. And congratulations to your fine magazine for highlighting her accomplishments.

**Rafael Meléndez**, '86, Grove City, Ohio

## Thanks, Dr. Foege

Thanks for the great reminder of how Dr. William Foege was instrumental in ending smallpox, battling measles and using the power of vaccines to save millions of lives ("Trust, Science and Saving Lives," Spring 2026). Sadly, the lack of trust and misinformation threatens to bring back disease and end the "herd immunity" that has kept us safe. Let's honor Dr. Foege's memory by speaking up for the power of vaccines to those around us and our members of Congress. Lives depend on it!

**Willie Dickerson**, '73, '94, Snohomish

## An Impressive List

Your spring issue is a banner production! What an impressive list of UW folks and local luminaries highlighted: Horsey, Guterson, Iritani, Foege, Schrempf and



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numerous more. And who in medicine could resist reading about our stellar Harborview, where so many of us did part of our training. You and your staff hit the ball out of the park.

**Robert C. Hauck**, '66, '68, Emeritus Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, Shoreline

## Kindness From the Bench

I argued my one and only State Supreme Court case in 1983. I was so nervous that I tripped over my own name when introducing myself to the panel. Chagrined, I looked up and my eye caught Justice Carolyn Dimmick ("A Keen Mind, A Driven Spirit," Spring 2026) wearing a pink collar under her judicial robe and giving me an encouraging smile. That pink collar and smile calmed me down and gave me a lasting appreciation of her kindness.

**Diane Clifford**, '70

## A Special Institution

This is regarding the article about Harborview Medical Center ("Beyond Trauma," Spring 2026). I did labor relations work for the UW from 1992 to 2012. I represented the UW in contract negotiations with the union that represented the registered nurses, imaging technicians, social workers and nurse practitioners at Harborview. The union team began by having the union's Harborview employee team members make a presentation about their dedication to the mission of Harborview and how all patients irrespective of their status were treated with dignity and respect. It was obvious that they, along with everyone else at Harborview, made the hospital a very special institution we

are fortunate to have.

**Daniel Kraus**, Seattle

## An Honorable Life

I was not an athlete or on scholarship while at the UW from 1967 to 1969 but like most males of that era, I was deeply affected by the Vietnam War and the upheaval it caused ("From Husky Stadium to Vietnam," Winter 2025). The draft was of major consideration for male students because you had to maintain sufficient credits each quarter and a high-enough grade-point average to prove you were seeking an education and not making college a career or dodging the draft.

I enlisted in the Naval Reserve at South Lake Union and shortly thereafter was transferred to the Naval Air Station at Sand Point. I graduated from the UW on Aug. 26, 1969, and was in boot camp Sept. 1. My commitment was one year in the reserves, two years active duty, two additional years reserves and then one year inactive reserves, for a total of six years. I obtained my degree and a teaching credential from the UW and the Navy sent me to San Diego, where I was the instructor in the Navy brig, teaching confinees who were awaiting trial. The Navy offered a program to some enlisted personnel: If one volunteered for a year in Vietnam, the remainder of your enlistment would be eliminated. I volunteered and served on a riverboat base in the Mekong Delta in September 1971. In March 1972, I returned to the U.S. and received my honorable discharge. Life has continued to get better and better after the UW and military service.

**Michael Egan**, '69



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# The Hub

NEWS AND RESEARCH FROM THE UW



HUSKY ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

## Pitch Purple

The UW joins the world's biggest sporting event—the World Cup

By Hannelore Sudermann

*The UW's soccer field is ready to welcome some of the world's best players as a World Cup training site this summer. The upgraded facility is part of Seattle's spotlight on the global stage, connecting athletics, research and community during the soccer event.*

One of the first visible signs that the FIFA World Cup was coming to Seattle appeared last summer just east of Husky Stadium, where crews began transforming the University of Washington's well-worn soccer field into a world-class training facility.

The \$3.8 million renovation will allow the UW to serve as a venue-specific training site for visiting international teams during the 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup. Teams practicing at the UW will then head downtown to compete at Lumen Field.

"There was a full reconstruction of the playing surface and sub-grade drainage and a new sprinkler system," says Dan Erickson, UW associate athletic director and the project manager. The upgrades also included retrofitting the field's four light poles with LED fixtures—though one pole was delayed

because of a uniquely Seattle complication. "It had an osprey nest, so we had to wait until they cleared out," Erickson says.

Additional improvements include a new covered bench area and ball-control netting. Along the Lake Washington side of the field, it will keep stray shots out of the water. The renovated facility is expected to host 10 to 12 practice dates during the six matches scheduled from June 15 to July 6, with some teams sharing the venue on the same day. The practices will be closed to the public, but Erickson says the opportunity is still remarkable.

"It's really cool that we're going to have some of the best players in the world on our field," he says. "Just to play a small role in the World Cup being here in Seattle, with Seattle being such a soccer city, it's great to

have this legacy gift."

But the UW's connection to the World Cup extends far beyond the pitch. Across all three campuses, faculty, students and alumni are engaging with the global event through research, civic partnerships and cultural programming.

Law professor Anita Ramasastry, an expert in business and human rights, became an independent adviser on FIFA's Human Rights Subcommittee following concerns surrounding the welfare of workers supporting the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Meanwhile, several UW alumni hold leadership roles on the Seattle FIFA World Cup 2026 Organizing Committee, including Ann Romero Kawasaki, '83, Leo Flor, '13, '15, and Felipe Mendez, '05.

At UW Bothell, Professor Ron Krabill teaches courses on the cultural studies of global sport and is co-leading an interdisciplinary summer program focused on Seattle's World Cup experience. Organized through the Office of Undergraduate Research, Seattle's World Cup: Storytelling Through Community Mapping will deploy students to document the social and cultural impact of the tournament through podcasts, photo essays, video, journalism and digital-mapping projects.

As excitement builds around Seattle's role as a host city, students have signed up to volunteer for opening ceremonies and fan events throughout the region. UW Medicine physicians are also working with World Cup organizers to prepare for the arrival of players and visitors from around the globe. And the University itself is a Host City Supporter of the local organizing committee's efforts.

The tournament is also creating opportunities to spotlight alumni-owned businesses across the region. This spring, small UW alumni-owned businesses received illuminated "Sea Beacons"—neon whale-tail displays signaling their connection to Seattle's World Cup celebrations and local community partnerships. Among them are Top Pot Doughnuts, Tai Tung Restaurant and the Georgetown Brewing Company.

As Seattle prepares to welcome the world this summer, the UW has helped shape what that welcome will look like—on the field, in classrooms and throughout the broader community. The tournament also offers the University an opportunity to demonstrate its role as the region's global academic and knowledge engine, connecting research, innovation and public partnership on an international stage.



## DINO DISCOVERY

With Ice Age megafauna and the only real dinosaur fossils on display in Washington state, the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture on the UW campus invites visitors to explore science, culture and history up close. One of the museum's newest arrivals—a duck-billed hadrosaur—is currently being prepared in the paleontology lab, and the public can watch the process in action. The Burke team is also gearing up for summer camps, including July's Fossil Detectives, where preteen campers will sort real Hell Creek microfossils, and August's Dino Detectives for younger explorers. It's a cool escape on warm summer days, and admission is free on the first Thursday of each month. Hannelore Sudermann

*Photo by Chris Snyder/Burke Museum*

## RESEARCH

### HYPNOSIS AND CHRONIC PAIN

UW researchers are studying a new way to provide relief for people suffering from chronic pain from spinal-cord injuries. Hypnotic suggestion could help lower the overall perception of chronic pain. “Often the tissue can be healed but the brain is still on high alert,” says Charles Bombardier, ’79, UW clinical psychologist and professor in Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology.

### SMART AS A RAVEN

For years, researchers assumed that common ravens, who are notorious scavengers, were following wolves in Yellowstone National Park to get their scraps. But John Marzluff, UW professor emeritus of environmental and forest sciences, found that ravens don’t follow wolves, they remember common hunting grounds and regularly check them by relying on spatial memory to monitor the wolves’ favorite hunting grounds.

### BORDERLAND VIOLENCE

Fatal police violence against Indigenous people is concentrated in and around reservations. Roughly three in four Native people killed by police from 2013 through 2024 were on or within 10 miles of a reservation, despite only about 50% of Indigenous people living there, researchers at the UW and Drexel University found. They published their findings in the *Journal PNAS*. “My prior research has documented how policing on and around reservations functions as a form of sovereignty threat—where Indigenous peoples, their movement and their presence on their own lands are treated by law enforcement as problems to be managed,” says Theresa Rocha Beardall, co-author and associate professor of sociology. “This is the first study to measure what that looks like at the national level.”

### SECOND HAND

Devin Murphy, an electrical and computer engineering student in Assistant Professor Yiyue Luo’s Wearable Intelligence Lab, is trying to capture the sense of touch. The OpenTouch Glove Project, part of a collaboration with two labs at MIT, uses flexible circuit boards embedded across the hand to measure pressure at multiple points, transmitting data wirelessly to generate a real-time “heat map” of how force is applied during grasping.



### SEISMIC SHIFT

More than 1,100 years ago, an earthquake on the Seattle fault reshaped the Puget Sound region. Researchers estimated that this fault will produce a large earthquake every 5,000 years or so. However, a recent UW analysis pushes that estimate back to 11,000 years.



# Sex Edified

The UW’s most popular class is turned into a book

By Hannelore Sudermann

Nicole McNichols teaches the most popular course on campus: Psych 210—The Diversity of Human Sexuality.

Every quarter, hundreds of students pack into Kane Hall’s largest lecture room for a sex-positive, science-based course delivered with clarity and candor. Hundreds more attend the course online.

Altogether, more than 4,000 students take the course each year, many arriving with questions about their bodies, relationships and identities. Some have never had the courage or the language to ask them out loud. McNichols, who completed her UW Ph.D. in social psychology in 2009, has focused her teaching to meet the students’ curiosity with facts and compassion.

About 12 years ago, she took over the course from Professor Lois McDermott, expanding on the research-backed content McDermott taught to generations of UW students. Now the associate teaching professor of psychology has turned her expertise into a new book, “You Could Be Having Better Sex: The Definitive Guide to a Happier, Healthier, and Hotter Sex Life” (S&S/Simon Element, 2026).

“All of the topics in the book are tied directly to my course curriculum,” McNichols says. “But in a less academic way of explaining the very concepts and research that are the core content pillars of the class.”

The book is for all the people who can’t sit in her classroom but want to know what the research really says about bodies, relationships, kinks, fantasies and sexual

identities, says McNichols. “I aimed to write it in a warm, fun, inviting, accessible way, where people feel inspired but also informed reading it.”

From the time of its release in February, the book has received positive reviews and national attention, with interviews on outlets such as CNN, NPR and The New York Times Modern Love podcast, as well as the Mel Robbins podcast.

Structured as both a guide and an invitation, the book draws on years of research and student questions. At its core is the “Hierarchy of Sexual Needs,” a framework that begins with foundational elements of understanding one’s body and cultivating presence and expands into communication, connection and exploration. Rather than prescribing a single model of intimacy, it encourages readers to discover what works for them.

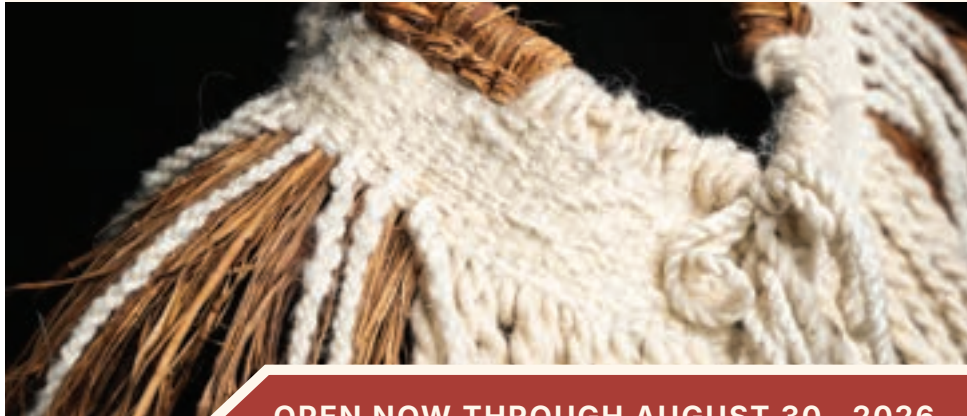
Despite its growing reach, McNichols’ central message remains simple: sexual well-being is not a luxury. It is an essential part of overall health, deeply connected to emotional and physical vitality.

“We live in a culture where we assume sex is a treat—a dessert,” she says. “But sexual wellness is part of our overall well-being and should be part of our conversations about health span. Research shows it’s linked to immunity, improved cardiovascular outcomes and even protection against degenerative brain diseases. That doesn’t even begin to cover the psychological benefits of having a connected, healthy sexual experience.”

*Nancy Joseph contributed to this story.*

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MARK STONE

## Suzzallo Library gets a seismic makeover

By Hannelore Sudermann

On a bright afternoon in April, Benjamin Franklin peered from his niche on the west face of Suzzallo Library while staying hidden behind a veil of scaffolding and black netting. For months, one of the University of Washington's most iconic buildings and its statues and galleries have been wrapped up, their collegiate Gothic grandeur hidden while crews prepare the structure for the next big earthquake.

Widely known as one of the country's most beautiful and architecturally significant college libraries, Suzzallo has inspired students and faculty since its construction was completed in 1926. Its sky-high arches, intricate stonework and beloved reading room draw visitors from around the world. But those same delightful details, the parapets, finials and statues, also pose a risk.

"In a major earthquake, pieces of that masonry could break loose and fall," says Andrew Ellis of GLY Construction, manager of the \$21.5 million seismic improvement project. "They become projectiles." When the 2001 Nisqually earthquake shook the region, Suzzallo held strong structurally—but four decorative finials did fall 70 feet, crashing to the steps below.

The library's makeover focuses on its oldest wings, dating to 1925 and 1935.

Crews are stitching the building together with thousands of steel pins so its layers of brick, sandstone, terra cotta and cast stone can move together during seismic activity. The towers are being reinforced from within, finials anchored to the roof, and Ben Franklin and the 17 other exterior statues, secured in place.

With scaffolding already put up, the project has become a rare opportunity to give the century-old exterior a long-overdue refresh. Crews are tackling decades of grime and cracked masonry while removing the ferns that have taken root in damp crevices. Roofing is being replaced. Even the 35-foot leaded and stained glass windows are getting attention.

At peak, dozens of workers ranging from masons to structural engineers and specialty preservationists have joined the effort. But when the scaffolding finally comes down in late 2026, their efforts should be nearly invisible. And just in time for the celebration of the structure's centennial.

The netting and scaffolding now will be worth the inconvenience, says UW project manager Pasqual Contreras. "We're preserving the building for the next 100 years."

*Misty Shock Rule contributed to this story.*

*Suzzallo Library, with its iconic facade, is undergoing a \$21.5 million seismic improvement and restoration project. Scaffolding and mesh cover the building's exterior for safety.*

## NEWS

# A Stranger Among Us

A little-known parasite is circulating in local wildlife

By Gillian Dohrn

A parasite is spreading across the Puget Sound region, carried by coyotes and capable of causing a slow, devastating disease in both dogs and humans. It is circulating more widely than expected.

A recent UW-led study found *Echinococcus multilocularis*—known as the fox tapeworm—in 37 of 100 coyotes tested around Puget Sound. The findings, published in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, mark the first confirmed detection of the parasite in a wild host on the contiguous U.S. West Coast.

Long considered rare in North America, *E. multilocularis* has become an increasing public-health concern over the past 15 years as infections in humans and dogs have appeared in Canada and the Midwest.

“This parasite is concerning because it has been spreading across North America,” says lead author Yasmine Hentati, ’25, a wildlife ecologist. But “that we found it here in one-third of our coyotes was surprising.”

The parasite’s complex life cycle can involve coyotes, rodents and occasionally dogs and humans. Coyotes can carry thousands of worms in their intestines without becoming ill, shedding eggs through feces. Rodents ingest the eggs, developing cysts in their livers. Humans and their dogs become accidental hosts through exposure to contaminated food, soil or feces. In severe cases, the parasite causes alveolar echinococcosis, a disease marked by slow-growing,



A UW-led study captures the arrival of the parasitic tapeworm *E. multilocularis* in the Puget Sound region.

cancer-like cysts that can spread through the liver and other organs. Symptoms may take five to 15 years to appear, making diagnosis difficult. Untreated infections can be fatal. The World Health Organization considers this one of the world’s top neglected tropical diseases.

Despite the high infection rate in coyotes, researchers say transmission to humans and pets appears limited. Since 2023, only seven canine cases and no human cases have been documented in the region.

Researchers recommend preventing dogs from hunting rodents, maintaining routine veterinary care and using parasite-prevention medications. “The main takeaway,” Hentati says, “is that *Echinococcus multilocularis* is here, it’s prevalent in local coyotes, and people should be aware of the potential risks.”

## BELONGING IN BRIEF

### PLANT GEEKS WELCOME

Are you a plantlover? Curious about urban landscapes and environmental sustainability?

The Miyawaki Micro-forest at UW Tacoma welcomes plant enthusiasts with an interest in getting their hands dirty while helping tend a dense forest designed to thrive in urban spaces. Learn more: [microforest@uw.edu](mailto:microforest@uw.edu) for more info.

### BEYOND THE BELLS AND WHISTLES

Wonder how emerging technology shapes society—and how we shape technology in return? Society + Technology at UW is a cross-campus,



cross-disciplinary initiative that connects researchers, students and the public through events, conversations and collaborations at the critical juncture of society and tech. Join the mailing list for news and upcoming programs: [uwmag.online/society-tech](http://uwmag.online/society-tech).

### RECOMMENDED READING

The UW Alumni Book Club is a community of Huskies connecting over great books. The online forum presents five books a year, providing suggested timelines and discussion prompts, as well as UW campus connections. To Be Read: personal stories, timely topics and transformative fiction. New members are always welcome. Sign up: [uwalum.com/bookclub](http://uwalum.com/bookclub).

### A HEALTHY ALLIANCE

Ten years after launching their regional partnership, Gonzaga University and the University of Washington continue to expand health-care training in Eastern Washington.

In 2022, an 80,000-square-foot center for medical education, health sciences and innovation opened at 840 E. Spokane Falls Blvd. Today, the UW School of Medicine–Gonzaga University Health Partnership supports more than 500 clinical partners across the region.

### MUON MOMENT

Physics professor David Hertzog and Professor Emeritus Peter Kammel are part of an international team that won the 2026 Breakthrough Prize for Fundamental Physics. The \$3 million award is shared among roughly 400 scientists, including 17 other researchers from the UW. It celebrates decades of work to better understand the muon—a subatomic particle with anomalous properties. This collaborative effort could ultimately lead to the discovery of entirely new particles.

### CAUCE HONORED

President Emerita Ana Mari Cauce received of the 2026 Charles E. Odegaard Award, the UW’s highest honor of leadership in diversity, equity and inclusion. She is recognized for a long career at the UW defined by a belief in the dignity of every individual and the transformative power of education. She has been a champion for access and fostering belonging for underrepresented and marginalized students.

### PEACE CORPS PRESTIGE

The UW is again ranked No. 3 on the list of top volunteer-producing institutions since the international program launched in 1961, trailing only the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. More than 3,175 UW graduates have gone on to service opportunities abroad as volunteers.

### WILDLIFE CHAMPION

Iroro Tanshi, a Nigerian conservationist working as a UW postdoctoral researcher, has earned global recognition after turning a personal encounter with wildfire into a successful campaign to protect a rare bat species. She was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in April for her work safeguarding the endangered short-tailed roundleaf bat, which she rediscovered in Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary nearly 50 years after it was last seen.

## QUICK HITS

### QUOTABLE

“I’m next to Myles Garrett? That’s crazy. When I sit down I’m going to have to scoot my chair over, give him some space.”

—Denzel Boston, former UW wide receiver, seeing his locker after being drafted by the Cleveland Browns.

### LANGLEY’S STAYING PUT

Women’s basketball coach Tina Langley, who has led the Huskies to back-to-back NCAA Tournament berths, had her contract extended. The six-year, \$7.1 million deal keeps Langley at the UW through 2032. The Huskies’ 22 victories this past season were the most since the 2016-17 season.

### SOCIAL JUSTICE HONORS

Men’s basketball player Franck Kepnang and women’s track and field athlete Rhonda Newton were the UW’s recipients of the Big Ten’s Jackie Robinson Community & Impact Award. Kepnang, who is from Cameroon, completed his fourth season with the Huskies. He manages the Franck & Family Foundation, supporting orphanages in Cameroon and providing care packages to people experiencing homelessness. Newton, a first-generation college student from Tacoma, completed her fourth season as a Husky sprinter. She is a community advocate for social justice who works for the Seattle Clemency and Parole Project.

### CLIMBING HIGHER

Junior Hana Moll was named the National Women’s Indoor Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association after winning her third NCAA title in the pole vault and her second indoors. She also won the award for the 2025 outdoor season. Her sister Amanda was the 2025 Indoor National Field Athlete of the Year.

### BY THE NUMBERS

# 165

seconds the Husky Men’s Varsity Crew won the Windermere Cup by, narrowly defeating defending Olympic gold medalists Great Britain.



RON WÜRZER

## Family Swim

The Colellas just kind of fell into the pool as kids. What a stroke of luck that turned out to be

By Mike Seely

Richard Colella Sr. had been selling concrete in the Seattle area throughout the 1950s when his company decided to get him a membership to Sand Point Country Club. Along with the requisite venues for schmoozing, a golf course and a bar, there was a newly constructed swimming pool.

Colella swam recreationally in Green Lake as a child, back when doing so didn’t put the swimmer at immediate risk of an algae infection. To him, it was nothing more than a fun thing to do, and when his kids first splashed into the Sand Point pool, that was their take, too.

Swimming is still fun for most of Colella’s four children, all of whom graduated from the University of Washington and who today range in age from 58 to 75. But it wasn’t long after taking their first competitive strokes that each realized they had a serious gift for the sport, one which would propel the two oldest Colella kids to Olympic podiums and the youngest pair to All-American honors at the UW.

The Colellas grew up in Wedgwood and attended Nathan Hale High School. By the time baby brother Pete got there, swimming was a sanctioned high school sport, but

his older siblings were restricted to swimming for Cascade Swim Club, one of the area’s oldest year-round programs that operates out of facilities like Edmonds’ Yost Pool, which Pete now manages in conjunction with his duties as a Cascade swim coach.

Rick Jr., now 74 and an accomplished masters swimmer, recalls that, as a kid, he was “good at swimming and never anything else.”

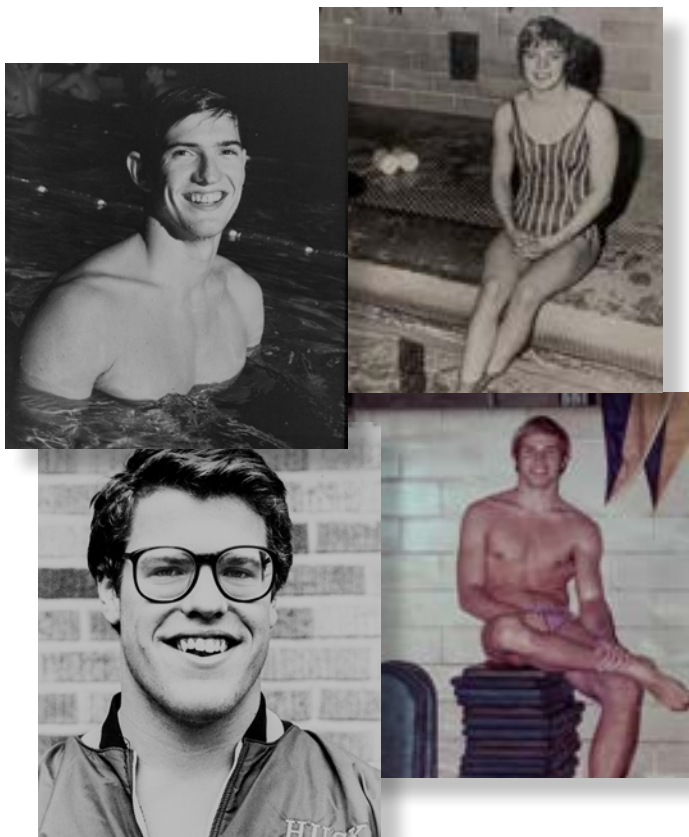
“It was a stroke of luck that I fell into that,” he says, wading his way into a pun.

Rick made the U.S. Olympic team in the 200-meter breaststroke in 1972, finishing a heartbreaking fourth at the Munich Games. After graduating with an engineering degree, he stayed on to pursue a master’s degree and, critically, kept on training. When he competed in the Montreal Olympics in 1976, he made it to the podium, earning breaststroke bronze.

Rick’s big sister, Lynn, was ahead of him at the UW, where she was also an engineering student. A testament to the athletic sexism of the times, women’s swimming was merely an intramural sport at the UW while Lynn attended.

“We sold peanuts to make some money to go to a swim meet at Stanford one year,” recalls Lynn, now 75, who would train with the men’s team at the old pool in Hec Edmundson Pavilion.

*Sibling swimmers who had quite a run at the University of Washington gather at an Edmonds pool. From left are Pete, Lynn, Rick and Steve Colella. Lynn and Rick went on to win Olympic medals.*



*Clockwise from top left: Rick Colella, Lynn Colella, Steve Colella, Pete Colella*

As a senior at Nathan Hale, Lynn missed making the 1968 Olympic team by three-tenths of a second. Four years later, in Munich, she avenged this disappointment, earning a silver medal in the 200-meter butterfly.

“When I was 10 years old, swimming for Sand Point, it was the 1960 Games,” she says. “I saw the swimmers on the podium during ‘The Star-Spangled Banner,’ and that was when I made a goal to make the Olympics. [Munich] was the culmination of 12 years. It actually came true.”

While Rick still swims competitively and Pete coaches at Cascade, Lynn viewed training as “a necessary evil” and shifted her sporting interest to soccer after her prime years in the pool. Meanwhile, Steve Colella, now 71 and formerly on the brink of making the Olympics in the 400-meter individual medley, considers swimming his “form of meditation.”

“Swimming’s kind of like a fraternity, and I didn’t join a fraternity in college,” he explains. “Swimming always gives you an outlet to talk to people about various things, to network well, to learn how to connect with people emotionally and intellectually. Lynn and I tended to be more of the mathematical, scientific people. We would always talk about how we would solve our math problems while we were swimming.”

It runs a little deeper than that for Steve,

who retired to Tacoma after working in the energy industry in Texas.

“I just got through cancer treatment at Fred Hutch—I spent two years on a trial program and swam all through that,” he says. “I kind of feel like swimming saved my life. When I was going to face this health issue, I was able to survive it much more readily because of swimming.”

Pete, 58, is the lone English major among the swimming Colellas and the least likely to take things too seriously. When he was 7, he broke his elbow ice skating at a birthday party and couldn’t straighten his arm out. His doctor gave him the choice to have it rebroken or to start swimming as a form of physical therapy.

“It wasn’t a hard decision for me,” quips Pete, who specialized in sprints. “I won the city championship for 8 and under and figured, ‘Well, this is a pretty good thing to do.’ I was a little more of a goof-off in workouts than my siblings. At the UW, I became a hard worker. I was a more natural talent, which irritated a lot of people who work very hard.”

Of his upbringing, Pete says, “We were so far apart, it was almost like having extra parents. I was 13 years behind Steve and 16 and 18 behind Rick and Lynn. Growing up, I just thought everybody had Olympians in their household and got to wear Olympic medals around to show and tell.”

# 5 Reasons to Sell a Business

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# Beyond a Shadow of a Debt

Students are proving that a UW degree is not financially out of reach

By HANNELORE SUDERMANN



Twice a week last winter, Ebubechi Abonyi pulled on her lab coat to run experiments for her work-study job. In the spring, she staffed campus events, handing out swag and talking to prospective students as an ambassador for the University of Washington Alumni Association. And in the time between the classroom and the homework, she posted content for a small brand partnership and worked with pre-college students interested in STEM careers. “Ever since my sophomore year, I’ve had a minimum of three jobs,” she says.

Hers isn’t the traditional version of college: four uncomplicated years of self-discovery, classes, friends and football games. It’s something more considered and more affordable. Through a patchwork of scholarships, campus jobs and some family support, the architectural design major from Moses Lake has managed to cover her costs and is graduating in June without student loan debt.

But her experience doesn’t fit the national narrative about higher education. A viral debate is playing out on platforms like YouTube, Facebook and Reddit. Powerful voices—including Elon Musk,

the founder of Tesla—have dismissed college as “for fun,” not for learning. At the same time, others, like Tesla’s former head of human resources, argue that a college degree is more valuable than ever.

The data shows a college degree still leads to higher lifetime earnings, greater job security and better health outcomes. And it’s better for communities because college graduates demonstrate higher civic participation and contribute more in taxes.

But the public isn’t sure. According to the Pew Research Center, roughly seven in 10 Americans now believe the U.S. higher

education system is heading in the wrong direction. The reasons are familiar: ideological indoctrination, a suspicion that a four-year degree no longer guarantees a well-paying job, rising costs and shocking stories of six-figure debt.

Students like Abonyi—in fact, roughly 70% of UW undergraduates—are proving the opposite. They’re leaving campus this year with a wealth of knowledge, useful skills, job experience and no student loan debt. The rest leave with a cumulative debt of about \$21,000. Nationally, average student borrowing lands around \$25,000 to \$26,000—significant, but far from the six-figure nightmare.

From Tim Wold’s vantage point as interim executive director of financial aid and scholarships at the UW, families encounter the same sticker shock each year. Tuition—more than \$13,000—is where it starts. Add in housing, food, transportation and textbooks, and the number—nearly \$37,000—can feel unmanageable. “When you look at the full cost of attendance,” he says, “it can be daunting.”

# 70%

of UW students graduate without student loan debt despite significant increases to cost of living over the past decade. The following figures represent nine months of expenses for students on the Seattle campus who are residents of Washington.

2015-16

**\$27,034**

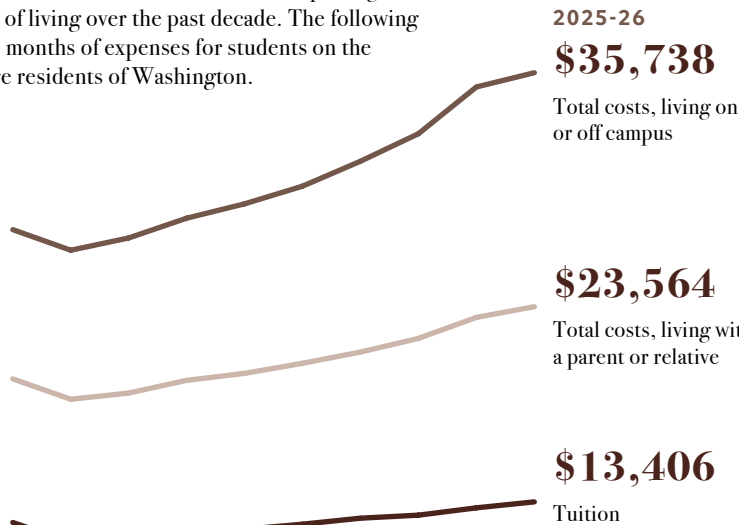
Total costs, living on or off campus

**\$19,279**

Total costs, living with a parent or relative

**\$11,839**

Tuition



SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRIOR YEAR BUDGETS

## BY THE NUMBERS

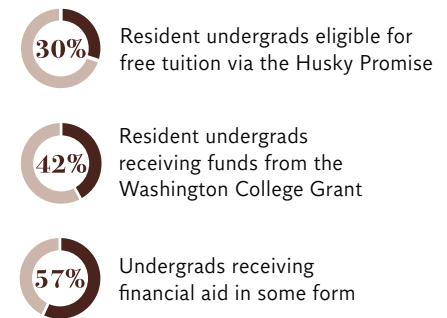
The percentage increase in tuition cost since 2015 is dwarfed by increases in inflation and cost of living over the same time period:

Tuition at the UW (Seattle campus): +1.3%

National inflation: +40.5%

Average rent in King County: +52.8%

However, UW students are receiving financial aid from a number of sources:



SOURCES: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, UW RUNSTAD DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE

But it doesn't have to be what students actually pay, he says. Federal financial aid, state support, institutional grants and scholarships reshape the equation. "And while we're now at 70% of students who don't need to borrow, we're figuring out how to grow that number," Wold says. It's a goal for UW President Robert J. Jones that every Washington student might graduate debt-free.

The gap between perception and reality has become one of the defining features of the college debate. It fuels skepticism, even as students engineer ways to make the math work.

Wold, '89, understands that tension. "Picture a first-generation kid from Spokane whose parents didn't graduate high school and had a fixed income. And he was able to attend the UW as debt-free as possible," he says. "That was me in 1984." Wold worked his way through school. His student job in the financial aid office became his career.

Students have always needed scholarships and loans. The difference today, says Wold, is that the strategy required to manage the financial challenges has become more complex. "There's a perceived narrative and there's what's real. A Washington education is affordable," he says. "You can make it affordable by the choices you make."

Those choices—often overlooked in the

broader debate—are where the real story lives. Natalia Lizarraga, for example, is a senior majoring in health studies at UW Bothell who has treated college as a network of opportunities. While studying, she landed a class-connected internship with the Latino Educational Training Institute, facilitating community discussions on topics like health, wellness and safety. That internship turned into a part-time role and will become a full-time job after graduation. Along the way, she worked as a barista and led campus orientation tours, layering income streams and experience in a way that made her degree immediately relevant in the labor market.

The University is adapting to the new reality. Programs like the nearly 20-year-old Husky Promise guarantee that in-state students with financial need can have tuition and standard fees at the UW covered through grants and scholarships. State programs such as the Washington College Grant and the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship underpin that support, while federal benefits like the GI Bill help more than 1,300 students on the Seattle campus alone, with another 1,000 across Tacoma and Bothell. Another crucial pocket of support comes from donor-funded scholarships, about 600 of which are given out each year.

"We really want to encourage working

with our office and completing an aid application, whether you think you will or will not qualify," Wold says. Even Washington residents who might not be eligible for federal aid because of their citizenship status may still get Washington state support. "We have a robust financial aid program. Right now, throughout our UW system, 25,600 students typically receive some form of financial aid.

"We also try to award support into those higher middle-income categories," he says. In those cases, the family income is too high for the student to be eligible for federal need-based grants.

Wold has heard anecdotally of students dropping out for financial reasons. "I hope they are reaching out to us first, though," he says. "Let us get in there and look at the specific case. We can make adjustments for loss of income. The hardest part is that students don't always reach out."

More concerning to him are changes

"There's a perceived narrative and there's what's real. A Washington education is affordable. You can make it affordable by the choices you make."

-TIM WOLD,

Interim Executive Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships

## Managing the Costs of College



### Ebubechi Abonyi

- Architectural design major from Moses Lake
- Worked in a research lab and held other part-time jobs
- Combined scholarships, campus employment and family support
- Graduating without student loan debt



### Natalia Lizarraga

- Health studies major at UW Bothell
- Lived at home and used public transportation for two years
- Turned an internship into a job pathway
- Avoided debt by working as a barista and campus tour leader



### Samuel Peña-Rojas

- Business administration major at UW Tacoma
- Started at community college to lower costs before transferring
- Received support through the Dressel Scholars program
- Held a paid internship and student government role while earning his degree debt-free

happening beyond campus. New federal borrowing limits could push more students and families toward private loans, often with higher interest rates and fewer protections. “It keeps me up at night,” he says. “The ability of students to access reputable, low-interest loans—I fear we are heading back to increased private borrowing.”

That anxiety complicates the otherwise optimistic data. Because while the long-term returns of a college degree remain strong, the path to those outcomes is becoming narrower, more dependent on planning.

Samuel Peña-Rojas’ first move toward college was both financial and social. Realizing that a four-year residential experience isn’t the only path to a four-year degree, he started at a community college where he could explore his interests at a lower cost and in a supportive environment. After two years, he transferred to UW Tacoma to complete his bachelor’s in business administration. Along the way, he earned several different scholarships, secured a paid internship at a tech company and took on a compensated student government role.

Free to enter the workforce unencumbered by debt and eager to gain some real-world experience before pursuing his MBA, Peña-Rojas feels he was smart about his choices and his experience. “Community

college was a cost-effective option,” he says. “And because of that support, I felt I had all the tools necessary to excel at the UW.”

Wold remembers when Huskies spent their summers working on fishing boats and in canneries in Alaska, earning enough to cover tuition, housing and books. Today, they stay closer to home, pursuing internships tied directly to their fields—positions that not only generate income but also serve as pipelines to full-time employment.

These stories share a common thread. The students aren’t just going to college; they’re navigating it deliberately by stacking financial aid, seeking paid experience and making pragmatic decisions about where and how to study. Can you live at home? Do you have to have a car? Will you pack yourself a lunch? Can you work part-time or land a paid summer internship?

The popular critique of higher education often misses the mark. It treats college as a single, overpriced product with a fixed outcome. But Washington students are finding options, price points and strategies.

“I have been able to maximize my time here because of the support I was able to get,” Peña-Rojas says. “College can be expensive, but that shouldn’t prohibit you from pursuing it.”

# Donors Help Fill the Gaps

In December, an anonymous donor gave \$50 million to help every student in the Medical Laboratory Science Program cover tuition during their final two quarters. At a time when they are completing demanding 40-hour-per-week clinical rotations, the gift removed the need to balance coursework, clinical training and outside jobs while helping them avoid taking out additional loans.

“It took a second for me to process ... then I felt a lot of relief,” said Jasmine Wertz, a senior in the program whose comments to a UW Medicine writer made national news. The gift is expected to generate annual disbursements over the next 50 years.

Across the UW, private philanthropy is increasingly filling the gap between the real cost of attendance and what students and families can afford. Each year, the Office of Student Financial Aid awards about 100 new students the UW Undergraduate Academic Excellence Awards, a partial tuition waiver based on academic merit and financial need. The office also awards about 600 privately funded undergraduate scholarships.

Companies and corporate foundations contribute significant support. Costco, for example, funds a competitive scholarship program that awards \$10,000 to high-achieving, high-need students from underrepresented communities.

Privately funded student support extends to career development, research opportunities, basic student needs and emergency aid. In 2020, UW professors Julie Kientz and Shwetak Patel established the Kientz & Patel HCDE Student Emergency Support Fund to help students in the Human Centered Design & Engineering Department facing sudden financial hardship.

Students can also pursue experiential opportunities like the Mary Gates Endowment for Students, which provides \$2,500 a quarter to support undergraduate research and leadership projects.

For many students, donor support means more than financial relief. It creates the freedom to focus on learning, research and clinical training. And it helps them begin life after graduation without a significant burden of debt.



*Mary Brunkow, '83, accepts the Nobel Prize in Stockholm, Sweden. The pioneering immunologist, whose discoveries transformed the understanding of autoimmune disease, is this year's Alumna Summa Laude Dignata, the UW's highest honor for alumni.*

ALUMNA LAUDE SUMMA DIGNATA

TACGATGCCGTATAGC  
ATCGATGCGCATCGAT  
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CGATSEQUENCETAGC  
GCGCCGATTACGATGC



Mary Brunkow's unconventional journey from UW student to Nobel laureate was shaped by a love of discovery

By Hannelore Sudermann

Walking across the University of Washington campus one day, Mary Brunkow, '83, spotted her genetics professor sitting on a bench in the sun and decided, somewhat against her nature, to stop and chat.

A pre-med student from Portland, Brunkow loved the energy and anonymity of the sprawling university. The professor was Larry Sandler, whose genetics course had become the unexpected highlight of her schedule.

She had been captivated by his ability to animate a difficult subject. He wove complex science together with colorful stories about the people behind the discoveries. Brunkow was on the edge of her seat listening to the "big guy from Brooklyn, whose gold rings clanked as he brought his hands together to punctuate his points. "It was a tough subject, she recalls. My classmates scores were low, but I was nailing it for some reason—and he knew that.

Determined to follow in her grandfather's footsteps and become a doctor, she pushed past her natural introversion and approached Sandler. Did he know of any labs where she might work and strengthen her medical school applications?

"Right away, he said, 'Come work in my lab,' she says. "I couldn't believe it. I would never have been bold enough to ask.



MARK STONE

She hadn't planned on a future in genetics. But once she joined Sandler's lab—assisting a graduate student studying fruit flies, learning to anesthetize them, examine their wings and track genetic crosses—her ambitions shifted. Plans for medical school faded away.

"It was just magical," she says of the Sandler lab. The door often stayed closed to keep fruit flies from invading a neighboring yeast lab. Inside, a small, lively group of graduate students, visiting scientists and a technician worked under the professor's generous, boisterous leadership. "I couldn't have been happier."

More than four decades later, a lobby television at the Institute for Systems Biology in Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood plays footage from Stockholm. Onscreen, Brunkow in a shimmering dress stands amid a sea of tuxedos, waiting to accept her Nobel Prize.

Brunkow still struggles to process it. She first learned the news on a dark October morning, when a photographer knocked on her door. A call with the Nobel Foundation followed a few minutes later, and then several months of phone calls and press interviews. She struggled to find her new normal as she prepared to travel to Sweden in December with her co-winners in Physiology or Medicine, Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi, to be recognized for their groundbreaking

discoveries identifying regulatory T cells, which prevent the body's immune system from attacking its own tissues.

It was profound, but not the capstone of her career, she realized. It was the beginning of a new chapter.

**M**ary Brunkow grew up as the middle child in a happy Portland household, attending Catholic school and excelling in math and science. But by her senior year of high school, she says, "I was crawling the walls. I was ready to get out into the world."

She arrived at the University of Washington at a moment of scientific expansion and early biotech momentum. In a packed lecture class in Kane Hall, she watched as her teacher, biochemist Benjamin Hall, walked in one day to a standing ovation. News had just broken about his work with transgenic yeast, research that would eventually lead to important vaccines and ultimately generate millions in research support for the University.

"It was a very exciting time," Brunkow says. "Biotechnology was just coming onto the scene. And at the UW, especially, there was a sense that something big was happening."

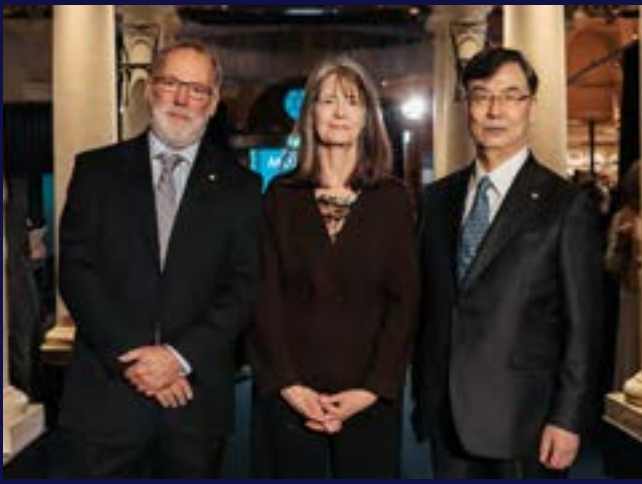
Nurturing her skills as a scientist as well as her

ambitions, Sandler encouraged her plans to pursue graduate school, steering her toward programs strong in fruit fly genetics. She landed at Princeton—but once there, her interests evolved.

A lecture by molecular biologist Shirley Tilghman changed her course. "I was blown away," Brunkow says. "She was so dynamic and enthusiastic." Tilghman's work on gene expression—then at the frontier of molecular biology—drew Brunkow in. Just as important, Tilghman was a powerful example of something still rare at the time: a senior woman scientist leading a major research program.

As one of the first graduate students in Tilghman's Princeton lab, Brunkow immersed herself in molecular biology. The work was rigorous, the expectations high and the environment unusually collaborative, with a notable number of women—whom she describes as patient and kind but also brilliant—among its ranks. There, she learned not only techniques like tissue culture and using transgenic mouse models, but also how to think like a scientist, how to design experiments, navigate setbacks and persist.

Tilghman recently described Brunkow as courageous for taking on a risky project: the study of a newly identified gene called H19. It might have led nowhere. Instead, it became the first identified example of a non-coding RNA gene, helping open



COURTESY CLEMEN MORIN, NOBEL PRIZE OUTREACH

*Mary Brunkow, '83, shares the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with former colleague Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi, a Japanese immunologist. Their discovery of regulatory T cells and the FOXP3 gene revolutionized our understanding of the body's autoimmune response.*

of Japanese scientist Shimon Sakaguchi, who had recently identified regulatory T cells, which maintain stability in the immune system.

Together, the findings revealed a fundamental mechanism: how the immune system restrains itself from attacking the body it is meant to protect. It opened an entirely new field of immunology. "It was a eureka moment," Brunkow says.

Their work became foundational, eventually cited by hundreds of labs studying regulatory T cells. Their discovery has improved treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases like lupus and type 1 diabetes. "We knew it was exciting," she says. "But we couldn't have imagined what it would become."

Darwin Molecular eventually closed in 2004, as many early biotech startups did. Brunkow moved on to new roles and to raising a family, including twin daughters born a few years later. For the past 16 years, she has worked at the Institute for Systems Biology, where she is currently a researcher and program manager in a lab focused on the immune system. With her daughters off to college, she was finding more time for baking, gardening, traveling and spending time with her husband, Ross, and dog, Zelda.

Now, Brunkow finds herself in fresh territory. She is no longer just a scientist or a project manager or a mom. She's a public figure. "I'm still trying to figure out what to do with this platform," she says.

"I want to use my voice in a way that does some good," she says. "To share something useful. To open pathways into science." She has been speaking about the importance of basic science and the foundational work that makes breakthroughs possible. She talks about funding, collaboration and the long pathway from obscure questions to life-saving therapies.

And she talks about women in science. "I owe a huge amount to the women who came before me—the Shirley Tilghmans of the world," she says. "I never felt discrimination. But you don't often see women at the very top."

From a conference room at the Institute for Systems Biology, she looks out over South Lake Union, a neighborhood that in the past three decades has transformed from rail yards and warehouses into a vibrant hub of research and technology.

Likewise, the Nobel Prize has shifted the frame of her career. In Stockholm, standing among laureates, Brunkow was struck by how different her path had been. She and her collaborators were not traditional academics and principal investigators, but private-sector scientists working across roles and disciplines, contributing pieces to a larger puzzle.

Looking back, Brunkow points to timing as much as anything else: the maturation of the field, the tools made possible by the Human Genome Project and the network of people working toward similar questions. "Reconstructing it," she says, "you can see how many things had to line up." An unexpected path, a sunny bench outside a lecture hall, a janitor's closet filled with mice—all leading her to the stage in Stockholm.

She pauses. "And how unlikely it is that you'd predict it from the start."

'WE KNEW IT WAS EXCITING, BUT WE COULDN'T HAVE IMAGINED WHAT IT WOULD BECOME.'

a new frontier in biology.

The experience sparked in Brunkow a lasting fascination with mouse genetics. And it gave her the highly technical skills needed to alter a genome and watch biology respond in real time. Her post-doctoral work at a research institute in Toronto deepened that expertise, particularly in manipulating large segments of DNA and working with mouse mutants as new technologies rapidly expanded what researchers could do.

But after four years, she needed a change. As she sat in seminar after seminar on developmental biology, her impatience grew. The science was elegant, but "I had to find a way to turn my research into something closer to application in the real world."

By the early 1990s, Seattle, like Boston and the Bay Area, had emerged as a growing hub for biotechnology. Research at the UW and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center anchored a vibrant scientific community.

Brunkow wanted to return to the Northwest. She found her opportunity at Darwin Molecular, a biotech startup focused on using genomics, sequencing and bioinformatics to develop new therapies for cancer, AIDS and autoimmune disease.

She joined in December 1994 as one of roughly 30 employees, arriving as the company's labs were

just coming online in a quiet office park in Bothell. Each morning, she drove her Subaru Impreza to work with a packed lunch, heading into long, intense days that she remembers as both demanding and exhilarating.

Inside the unassuming buildings, teams worked at the cutting edge of genomics and immunology. Collaboration was key. Brunkow led a molecular biology group that worked closely with immunologist Fred Ramsdell and his team.

At one point, her group took delivery of a shipment of "scurfy" mice from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee—animals carrying a mysterious mutation that caused severe immune dysfunction: scaly skin, swollen lymph nodes and a shortened lifespan.

Maintaining a mouse colony with those conditions was no small task. Initially, Brunkow housed the animals in a converted janitor's closet—tight quarters, but enough space for a small rack system and a sink. As the research evolved, the team expanded to a larger space across the parking lot.

By 1998, Brunkow and Ramsdell's teams were zeroing in on the gene responsible for the scurfy phenotype, which they named FOXP3. Brunkow's group handled the molecular biology—cloning and identifying the gene—while Ramsdell's team focused on immunological function. Their work was informed by global research, including that

# 2026

## Teachers of the Year

By Jon Marmor | Photos by Mark Stone

Every June, the UW honors teachers from all three campuses who provide instruction and inspiration, expertise and empathy and a human connection that makes students successful in a range of fields. Introducing this year's recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award.



### Megan Callow

Teaching Professor, English, College of Arts & Sciences,  
UW Seattle | **YEARS TEACHING:** 4

**WORTH KNOWING:** She is the founding director of Writing@UW, a comprehensive program that centralizes writing support services for faculty teaching at all three UW campuses. Writing@UW received the Exemplary Emerging Program Award from the Association for Writing Across the Curriculum in 2025.

**QUOTE UNQUOTE:** “The core tenets of my teaching philosophy are founded on the realities that a) writing is a form of social action, and can be used to harm, transform and liberate; and b) ways of knowing and communicating vary widely across disciplines and other discourse communities.... Everything I teach—whether it’s science writing to undergraduates or writing pedagogy to faculty—is in service of the foundational understanding that deft communicators must be able to recognize and respond to expectations that shift depending on audience and situation.”



### Wes King

Assistant Teaching Professor, Information School,  
UW Seattle | **YEARS TEACHING:** 13

**WORTH KNOWING:** They teach core classes in informatics to undergraduates in the UW Information School. Their research expertise is in AI and religion; religion and gender; internet dating for LGBTQ+ Christians; and what it means to be human in relation to AI. They hold a master’s in ministry leadership from the Portland Seminary.

**QUOTE UNQUOTE:** “I design peer-based activities that foster collaboration and expose students to diverse perspectives, creating dynamic learning environments beyond traditional lectures. ... Trauma-informed pedagogy is woven throughout my practice. In the Internet Dating course, students critically examine how dating apps reproduce neoliberal ideals of whiteness and heteronormativity. As an openly queer instructor, I strive to model authenticity and support marginalized students, inspiring them to envision success.”



### Hannah Jordt

Associate Teaching Professor, Genome Sciences,  
UW Seattle | **YEARS TEACHING:** 7

**WORTH KNOWING:** She is the only teaching-track professor in the Department of Genome Sciences. In the past two years, she wrote letters of recommendation for 107 students. She also serves as a facilitator for the UW School of Medicine’s Research Mentor Program, using content developed by the Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research.

**QUOTE UNQUOTE:** “One of the great joys of teaching is in building a classroom community that promotes positive, trusting, intra-classroom relationships. Indeed, my own experience and most recent research has convinced me this is one of the most important ingredients for a successful course. One way I do this is by randomly assigning students to groups that sit and work together in both lecture and quiz sections for the entire quarter, which allows all students to build camaraderie and a shared sense of purpose with others.”



### DISTINGUISHED TEAM TEACHING AWARDS

#### *Community Engaged Civil Engineering and Urban Design Capstone*

**BARA SAFAROVA**, Assistant Professor, UW Tacoma School of Urban Studies  
**NARA ALMEIDA**, UW Tacoma School of Engineering and Technology

This team integrates rigorous technical learning with projects rooted in authentic community needs and complex real-world challenges. The interdisciplinary capstone course (CollabCapstone) brings together civil engineering and urban design students to work directly with University partners, city stakeholders and local firms to help create a new vision for UW Tacoma's 2050 Master Plan.



### DISTINGUISHED TEAM TEACHING AWARDS

**SARAH COLLIER**, Assistant Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
**JENNIFER OTTEN**, Professor, Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
**MARIE SPIKER**, Assistant Professor, Epidemiology

Collier, Otten and Spiker worked to build an interdisciplinary educational program for future professionals in the rapidly evolving field of food systems. Their collaboration produced much of the curriculum for UW's Food Systems, Nutrition, and Health major.



## Jill Purdy

Professor and Entrepreneurship Center Director,  
 UW Tacoma Milgard School of Business  
**YEARS TEACHING:** 30-plus

**WORTH KNOWING:** She is the only female full professor in the Milgard School of Business. She is known for developing new course materials, particularly class exercises that support student development. At the Center for Entrepreneurship, she created a curriculum that focuses on the habits and mindset that will make students successful.

**QUOTE UNQUOTE:** "Any time people join together to accomplish something, they become part of an organization, so what I teach can have a big impact on students' well-being and future success. My field of organizational management is complex, interdisciplinary, and sometimes overwhelming, so I tell students that the answer to every question in management is just two words: "It depends."



## Casey J. Self

Teaching Professor, Biology, College of Arts & Sciences,  
 UW Seattle | **YEARS TEACHING:** 7

**WORTH KNOWING:** As a first-generation college student and McNair scholar shaped by federal TRIO programs, she has served as chair of the Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning, shepherding legislation through shared governance to promote teaching effectiveness across the University. She also served the wider STEM teaching community by developing a continuing-education course for high school teachers and community-college faculty.

**QUOTE UNQUOTE:** "I am committed to dismantling system barriers to equity in higher education. My work centers on evidence-based teaching practices, which I believe are essential for creating equitable learning environments. ... Whether through team-based learning in anatomy or lively group quizzes, I aim for classrooms where students debate, question and collaborate. I create spaces where curiosity drives the conversation."

## Georgia Roberts

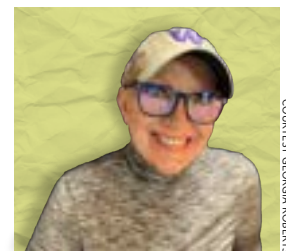
Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, UW Bothell | **YEARS TEACHING:** 20

**WORTH KNOWING:** A first-generation college student who became an interdisciplinary scholar of literature and culture, she teaches courses at the intersection of American literature and music, with a focus on hip-hop. Before joining the faculty, she received the UW Excellence in Teaching Award for her work as a graduate TA. She also was the recipient of the UW Bothell Associated Students Faculty of the Year Award.

**QUOTE UNQUOTE:** In one student's words: "I have taken several courses with Professor

Together, we figure out what the answer depends on and what to do next. I empower them to look at issues from many angles, reframe questions, leverage existing knowledge, and think creatively."

Roberts, and her classes will be one of the things I will miss most. Throughout my time on campus, I struggled with anxiety. [In] my first course with Professor Roberts, [I] was instantly put at ease; her kindness and inclusivity made me feel that not only could I use my voice but that it could be heard. I would not be leaving with my degree without her."



COURTESY GEORGIA ROBERTS



**'I WANT TO MAKE**

**HISTORY'**

## Roberto Maestas' drive for social justice knew no bounds

By DAVID VOLK

*Growing up in poverty in New Mexico, Roberto Maestas experienced discrimination and inequality firsthand, inspiring him to understand the systems behind them and work toward change.*

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**I**f you're a Seattle newcomer, you could drive the Evergreen Point Floating Bridge for years before discovering that it's named the Gov. Albert D. Rosellini Bridge and even then, you might not know that he got the honor because he advocated for its construction. Or you could marvel over the fact that the Smith Tower was once the tallest building west of the Mississippi River without knowing it was named after the typewriter and shotgun manufacturer who paid for its construction.

You can't say that about Beacon Hill's El Centro de la Raza, however. Even though El Centro's campus isn't named after him, it's almost impossible to visit the center of Seattle's Latino community without learning who Roberto Maestas, '66, '71, was. More than a decade after his death, many of the people who regularly visit the campus still remember the civil rights leader.

It's hard not to and it's not just because there's an altar on the main floor with a large poster featuring the likeness of the bearded founder sporting his trademark tinted sunglasses and black hat cocked at a jaunty angle. After all, children in neighborhood schools are taught about his contributions to the community, a nearby street is named after him, and there's a statue of him on the campus and even a corrido (Mexican ballad) about him.

The funny thing is, Maestas himself probably wouldn't have wanted his name or likeness on any of it, says his widow, Estela Ortega.

"My board of directors wanted to change the name of El Centro to Roberto Maestas whatever and I said, 'I know for a fact he would not want that to happen,'" says Ortega, the current executive director of the center.

It's not that Maestas doesn't deserve the recognition.

It's just that he wasn't interested in the limelight, his daughter, Adriana Maestas, says. She still recalls one of the pearls of wisdom he shared with her as she grew up: "All the glory in the world can fit in a kernel of rice. I think what he was meaning to say is that all the glory really doesn't matter."

A high-powered attorney with a multinational corporation, Adriana still remembers asking him why he didn't eventually take a more lucrative, private-sector job after years of running El Centro. His response: "I don't want to make money. I want to make history."

He accomplished that goal many times over.

### REWRITING HISTORY

In his youth, the kid from a disadvantaged Mexican family in rural New Mexico didn't seem the most likely candidate to have an impact on the history of a city so far away. His father left before he was born, his mother died of tuberculosis before his first birthday and he grew up in a three-room house where his grandparents raised him and 16 other children. Then, they lost their subsistence farm in the New Mexico village of San Agustin del Valle de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, a town so rural that the nearest big town was Las Vegas, New Mexico, with a population of 14,000.

"We were pushed off our land and then became essentially slaves in the fields," the El Centro website quotes Maestas as saying. "It was clear to me that I needed to learn as much as I could about this system."

His education also came from the school of hard knocks with him working as a migrant laborer throughout Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming before making his way to Seattle at 15. He became one of the first Chicanos to attend Cleveland High School, where classmates frequently asked him to speak Spanish because it amused them. He loved school but had to drop out to take a series of jobs before finally graduating with a diploma from an adult education program. He then went on to the UW, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history while working evening shifts at Boeing.

Even his 1965 graduation and decision to teach Spanish at Franklin High School in 1966 seemed conventional until a series of events on campus in March 1968.

Maestas might not have considered himself political until two male African American students were suspended for fighting with a white male student one day and two female African American students who came to school wearing their natural hair were sent home the following day. Larry Gossett, '71, then-head of the UW's Black Student Union (BSU) and a future friend, said the girls were sent home with notes that said, "Your daughter will not be able to attend Franklin High School until she looks like a lady again."

In response, the BSU and many of the school's Black students staged a sit-in, demanding the suspensions be withdrawn, portraits of famous African Americans be hung on the walls, an African American history class be added and the school district hire a Black principal. The school canceled classes in the middle of the day and sent students and teachers home.

"The only teacher in the whole school that stayed in the hallways because he was not scared was Roberto Maestas," says Gossett, who became a civil-rights advocate and politician.

In his 2015 book "Gang of Four," which told the story of Maestas and three other Seattle civil-rights leaders, another future civil rights activist, Bob Santos, said that Maestas had already felt a kinship with students of color in his classes and had reached out to them. The protest gave the Spanish teacher the opportunity to talk to students and Gossett about their concerns.

Looking back on his meeting with Maestas, Gossett jokes, "He looked like a white boy to me. The students said, 'No, he's Mexican, he's our teacher, we love him and he's really cool.'"

It wasn't the last time the students would discuss Maestas with Gossett.

"The next morning, the Black students called me at the BSU office and said, 'Mr. Gossett, Mr. Maestas has done gone crazy.' They meant his consciousness was awakened because he went into the teachers' lounge at Franklin and announced, "From this day forward, I will no longer respond to Bob or Robert. When addressing me, my name is Roberto."

From that point on, many of the things he did reflected his politics.

He spent the following summer teaching in the Upward Bound Program in Bellingham, where he helped low-income and minority students prepare for college. It wasn't long before two students who were members of the Nisqually Tribe told Maestas and their classmates about the Native Fishing Rights movement. He was so intrigued that he met with leaders of the movement to find out more.

Along the way, he also met UW professor Joseph Sommers, who pushed Maestas to focus on Latino issues, according to the book "Gang of Four." The creator of the University's Latin American Studies Program found a grant to send Maestas to a Latin American education conference in California as well as a fellowship to cover his UW graduate school costs.

"For the first time in my life, I could study without having to work," Maestas said in an interview with Frank Chesley for Seattle's history website, HistoryLink. "I did OK with my academic work, but the most exciting things were happening in the political arena on campus—the anti-war movement, the Mexican American Student movement, the Black student movement, the Asian student movement."

While a radicalized Maestas was returning to the UW, one of the first groups of Chicanos on campus was experiencing it for the first time during the great upheaval of the late 1960s. Even the group that represented their

**'The only teacher in the whole school that stayed in the hallways because he was not scared was Roberto Maestas.'**

**—Larry Gossett, '71**  
Civil rights advocate and politician



*Larry Gossett (left) and Roberto Maestas were two UW alumni who were part of the famous "Four Amigos" who pushed the University and city of Seattle to address inequity and social justice.*

MOHAL, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER COLLECTION  
PHOTO BY TOM BARLET

interests, the United Mexican American Students, was changing its name to MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan) to match its members' growing ethnic pride.

It was an exciting time for the new arrivals, but also intimidating, recalls Rogelio Riojas, '73, '75, '77, executive director of Sea Mar Community Health Centers, which provides comprehensive health, housing, educational and cultural services to diverse communities, specializing in serving Latinos in Washington state.

"I didn't know anything about the University of Washington. I didn't know anything about what I was going to do. I just came," Riojas says. He was thankful that the school had placed Chicano students together on the same floor of Lander Hall, so they wouldn't get lost. The dorm placement also made it easier for leaders like Roberto to organize them and ensure an active minority-student association.

Riojas first heard Maestas speak about injustice and discrimination at one of the group's many gatherings in a dorm lounge. "He was very active and very vocal talking



*From the ground up, Roberto Maestas worked with underrepresented communities on social justice and equity. An admittedly “OK” student, he was most excited about what was happening in the political arena on the UW campus.*

MOHAI, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER COLLECTION  
PHOTO BY TOM BARLET

about the injustices and discrimination that were happening around the country,” he recalls. “He was very articulate. He spoke with a lot of confidence. We weren’t used to that.”

Maestas looked beyond Chicano community issues. He supported a wide range of minority and ethnic causes. He protested at job sites when local trade unions refused to hire workers of color, he supported International District community leader Bob Santos’ effort to create good, low-income housing for seniors in the International District as the Kingdome was being built and he supported Native American activist Bernie Whitebear’s attempt to take over Fort Lawton to get a tribal community center.

The four civil rights leaders—Gossett, Maestas, Santos and Whitebear—worked together so closely that they came to be known as the Gang of Four or the Four Amigos.

After graduating from the UW with a master’s degree in 1971, Maestas returned to teaching with a side of social justice when he began teaching English as a second language at South Seattle Community College. The program became a de facto Latino community center until budget cuts forced the program to close in 1972.

Maestas then turned his eyes to Beacon Hill Elementary, an abandoned building owned by Seattle Public Schools, and hatched a plan to turn it into a community center where Latinos could receive social services rather than driving all over for assistance, according to the book “Gang of Four.” As the story goes, someone called to inquire about leasing or buying the property and wanted a tour. When a district staffer unlocked the building on the morning of Oct. 11 (Columbus Day), 70 people who had been in hiding rushed in and occupied the school. Once they took over, Santos’ book says, they filed articles of incorporation and called their nonprofit organization El Centro de la Raza.

The group knew it was in it for the long haul and occupied the building in shifts for months. Riojas remembered spending two or three days at a time despite the building’s lack of electricity and plumbing. “There weren’t any beds. So, we laid on the floor. It was cold,” Riojas says. There

## A Life Dedicated to Social Justice

**July 9, 1938:** Roberto Felipe Maestas is born on a subsistence plot in the village of San Agustin del Valle de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes near Las Vegas, New Mexico. He was six months old when his mother, Lina, died of tuberculosis. He was raised by his maternal grandparents, Don Isidoro and Dona Emilia Virgil, along with 16 other children in a three-room house.

**1952:** Roberto’s passion for social justice blooms as he senses the “manifest unfairness” of being forced into the migrant stream when he was 14. “We were pushed off our land and then we became essentially slaves in the fields,” he would recall. “... it was clear to me that I needed to learn as much as I could about this system, its history, and its functioning.”

**Early 1950s:** Roberto leaves New Mexico, eventually landing in Seattle. He attends Cleveland High School and works as a gas station attendant, elevator operator, Boeing factory worker and Spanish teacher at Franklin High School.

**1966 and 1971:** Roberto graduates from the University of Washington with a bachelor’s degree in Spanish and journalism (1966) and master’s degree in Romance Languages (1971). He was one of the UW’s first Chicano graduates.

**1969:** Roberto takes part in Tyree Scott’s peaceful takeover of construction sites using exclusionary practices for Black workers and joins the Puyallup Indian Tribe in demanding respect for their fishing rights treaty. He supports strikes for Boeing employees and garbage workers, and he joined the Asian community protest against the Kingdome’s encroachment on the Chinatown/International District.

**October 1972:** Roberto helps orchestrate the peaceful occupation of the abandoned Beacon Hill School and Seattle City Council chambers, where, at a mock hearing, participants began “negotiating” the creation of a “center for the people”—and El Centro de la Raza was born.

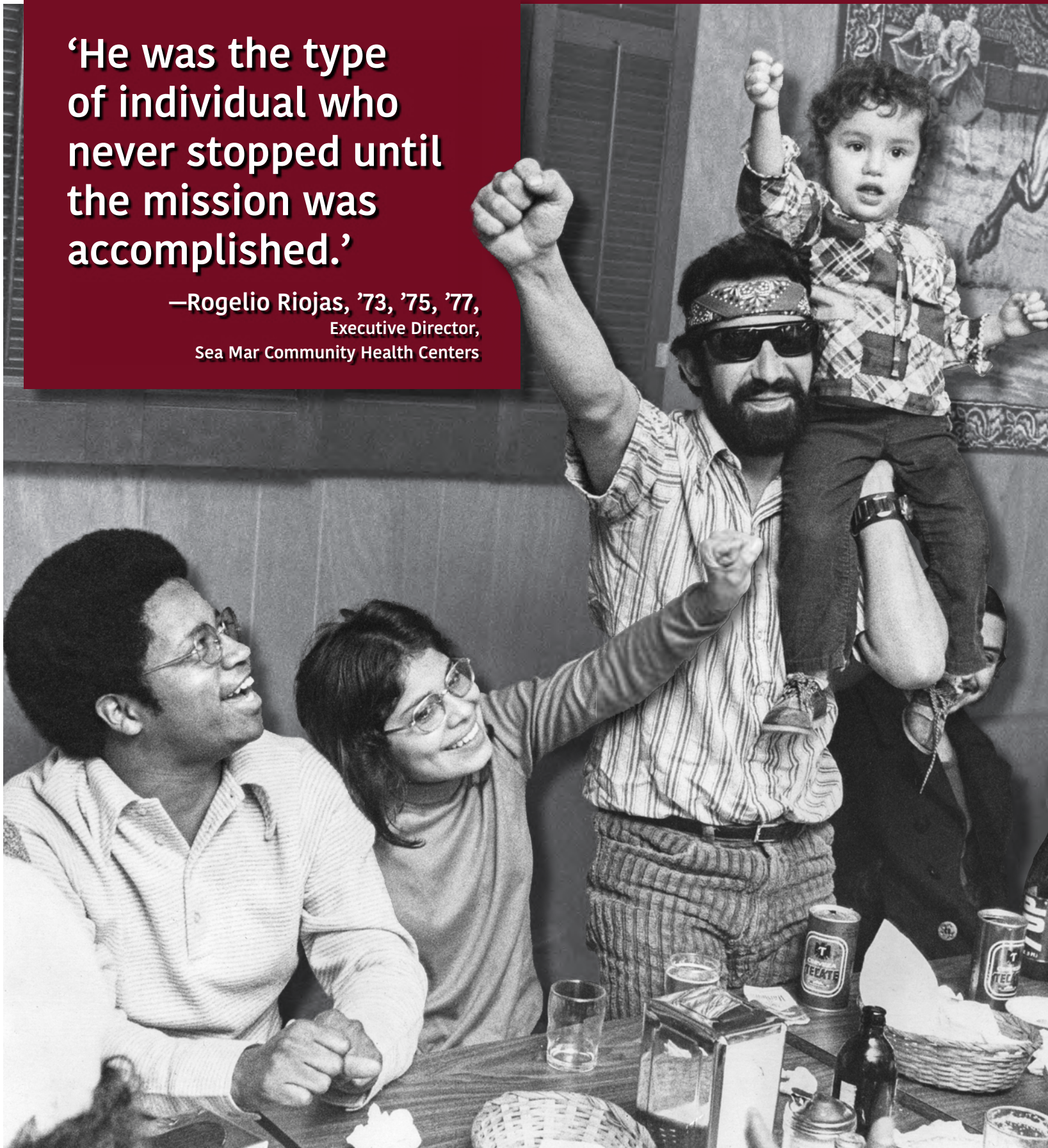
**1981:** The “Four Amigos”—Maestas, Larry Gossett, Bob Santos and Bernie Whitebear—formed the Minority Executive Director’s Council, solidifying collaboration among communities of color that had become a trademark of social justice work in Seattle.

**September 22, 2010:** Roberto Maestas dies at the age of 72.

Source: El Centro de la Raza

**‘He was the type  
of individual who  
never stopped until  
the mission was  
accomplished.’**

**—Rogelio Riojas, '73, '75, '77,  
Executive Director,  
Sea Mar Community Health Centers**





*Social change, not personal riches or glory, drove Roberto Maestas. He worked his way through college while earning two degrees and leading the efforts to convert an abandoned school into a center for all people.*

MOHAL, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER COLLECTION  
PHOTO BY JEFF LARSEN

were also rats throughout the building.

What the group lacked in comfort, it made up for in fun, says Ortega, Maestas' wife.

"It was joyful. People were excited about what was happening and being together. There was a sense of solidarity and joy being in that struggle together," Ortega says. She and Maestas added an extra element of celebration when they were married in the building two months later.

Oddly enough, Ortega isn't sure why she gave Maestas the time of day. They first met at a conference in Houston, where Chicanos were discussing forming a national political party. She had taken time off from her job at a dental office to attend and wasn't impressed with the company he was keeping.

"I don't like these people, they're too noisy and obnoxious," she recalls thinking as the group introduced themselves to her. "Nice to meet you, but I've got other people to meet."

Even now, she's still not sure why she accepted his lunch invitation when she was waiting for someone else. Or why she agreed to marry him after they went to a Native American wedding and he waffled on his proposal.

At the same time, the city also waffled in its negotiations with Maestas and his group. The city council first rejected a proposal to lease the building but relented after activists occupied council chambers. Mayor Wes Uhlman, '56, '68, refused to sign off until the group secured funding to run the center. He, too, eventually relented, but not before he met with Maestas and a small contingent from El Centro, many of whom were arrested for refusing to leave the mayor's office.

The city eventually agreed to lease the facility to El Centro for \$1 a year.

Maestas's choice of the organization's name was deliberate, Ortega says. El Centro de la Raza is Spanish for the center for people of all races. "We didn't want to create just a place for Latinos. We didn't want a place that was also only going to be for poor people. We wanted people

to feel they can come to El Centro de la Raza and have them feel that it is their home," Ortega says.

It was also Maestas' home away from home.

The work on the building continues to this day in much the same way that Maestas' civil rights work continued after the occupation ended. As Riojas put it, "He was the type of individual who never stopped until the mission was accomplished. And obviously the mission was never accomplished because there's still a lot of issues affecting social change."

Because he was involved in so many different social movements, he was many things to many people from his office on the third floor of El Centro. Some neighbors saw him as the guy they could honk and wave at as they drove by. El Centro board member Victoria Kill, '84, '89, '90, saw him as the teacher who showed her how we could learn from one another and teach one another. People in crisis saw his office as the place where they could camp out until they were heard and their problems addressed, with some ending up briefly living with Maestas' family.

Old-timers might remember him as a member of the Four Amigos/Gang of Four. Fellow protestors recollect his sense of humor and his ability to get things done. And many can't forget his love of trash-talking on the basketball court, where he was an OK player who loved the game and was at least good enough to get former Gov. Jay Inslee, '73, to admit to Maestas's daughter, Amalia Maestas, that her dad had beaten him.

All agree that he made friends everywhere he went, had the energy of a shooting star and left everyone with the same feeling when they spent time with him.

"You felt like the sun was shining on your face when you were talking to him," his daughter Adriana says.

The children who benefit from his life's work still remember him without his name being on the building. The staff still holds impromptu celebrations on his birthday without being reminded, a Mexican tune sings his praises and people come from miles away to decorate his bronze statue on holidays.

Given all that, a statue with his likeness might not seem necessary, but it's significant nonetheless, Ortega says, even if it's only because it's one of the only ones in Seattle memorializing someone who isn't white.

Her daughter, Amalia, agrees, saying it's especially important to people who grew up like she did, not seeing many representations of famous Latinos to serve as role models.

As she puts it, "It's definitely worth it to have a statue of someone who made our whole life visible."

# Columns

NEWS FROM THE UW COMMUNITY



COURTESY FRANK SCHWICHTENBERG

## A Screaming Life

Kim Thayil reflects on Soundgarden, Seattle's scene and his journey from UW student to '90s rock icon

By Shin Yu Pai

In his new memoir, “A Screaming Life: Into the Superunknown With Soundgarden and Beyond,” Kim Thayil, '85, traces his journey from cofounding the seminal Seattle band Soundgarden to his years touring with the band. He chronicles the departure of bassist Hiro Yamamoto and Soundgarden's eventual breakup and reunion, as well as the death of lead singer Chris Cornell. Thayil also reflects on his Southeast Asian identity and developing his musical voice.

*Founding member and guitarist of Soundgarden Kim Thayil pioneered the band's unique psychedelic alternative rock sound.*

### Why tell your story now?

Adem Tepedelen, who used to write for The Rocket, thought my story might be interesting. I balked at first, but there are a lot of things I wanted people to understand. Not just about Soundgarden, but about the place where I grew up and my immigrant parents and Hiro's background. I wasn't just a suburban boy in California in my dad's garage.

### Two of the three of you in Soundgarden were Asian. What was it like making music in a mostly white music scene?

We were playing in a subculture informed by students, artists, skateboarders and other musicians. We played all-ages halls, bars and clubs, and we played art galleries. The culture was open-minded around issues of race, ethnicity and gender. The indie music subculture was more open in its embrace of new ideas.

### You attended the UW, where both your parents earned degrees in 1964. What do you remember about your time on campus?

I finished my studies in '84 and got my diploma in '85 after paying overdue library fines. I wasn't the best student. My attendance was sketchy because I lived in a house in the U District with a bunch of rock musicians, and I was the only one attending university.

My philosophy professors were

important to me. Ken Clatterbaugh's syllabus for philosophy of science was compelling and informative. Stephen Jay Gould's “The Mismeasure of Man” had a big impact on me. So did Carl Sagan and other science historians and philosophers.

James Mish'alani, who taught philosophy of literature and ethics, was influential and inspiring. I don't know if my professors knew that I majored in philosophy because of what I learned from them. I made a lot of lifelong friends in their classes.

At KCMU [the student-run radio station], I worked as a coordinator in the promotions department and wrote for its newsletter. I also got to see a lot of great new wave and punk rock bands that the station promoted, bands like The Bongos, Romeo Void and Devo. I saw Fear and Public Image Ltd. and X. I even DJ'd a shift from 2 until 5 in the morning.

### You write about Soundgarden's songs. What remain some of your favorites from the early days?

Our first release, “Screaming Life,” and our debut full-length album, “Ultramega OK,” both had songs that we made early on in our first three or four years being a band. We selected these songs for the records because the live audiences loved them and they were fun to play live. “Nothing to Say” got a good reaction, and “Beyond the Wheel,” which Chris wrote. “Flower,” which I wrote with Chris, and a few songs with Hiro Yamamoto like “All Your Lies.” Those were from our first two indie albums with Sub Pop and SST.

### What was it like getting inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame last year?

That was the first time I'd played onstage with Hiro in decades. Ben Shepherd, who's been our bass player since 1991, played, along with our drummer, Matt Cameron.

We had incredible special guests that night: Mike McCready from Pearl Jam, Jerry Cantrell from Alice in Chains. Brandi Carlile and Taylor Momsen, from The Pretty Reckless, did the singing.

### What's next for you?

Soundgarden is currently finishing the recordings we were working on with Chris when he passed. My plate is full with the record, my memoir and various Soundgarden business dealings I tend to daily. Over the last few years, I've played in a band called 3rd Secret with Matt Cameron and Krist Novoselic [of Nirvana].

# SETH GOODKIND

TATTOOIST, COMICS ARTIST, FOUNDED MEMBER OF PUSH/PULL GALLERY

I GREW UP IN SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO, WHERE THERE WAS A LOT OF BIKER CULTURE.

IT WAS ALSO THE BIRTHPLACE OF BILLY THE KID.

"GROWING UP IN A TINY TOWN, MOVIES WERE A BIG ESCAPE. VIDEO RENTAL STORES WERE EVERYWHERE. I WALKED BY A STOREFRONT AND SAW A HORROR VIDEO DISPLAY FULL OF LURID ART, AND I HAD TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON."

I GOT MY FIRST TATTOO WHEN I TURNED 11.

MY PARENTS DISAPPROVED.

IT WAS A TINY MOLOTOV COCKTAIL IN THE CENTER OF MY BICEP. MY ARM IS COMPLETELY FILLED UP NOW. BUT IT'S STILL THERE.



I LOVED GOING TO THE UW.

"I STUDIED HISTORY AND WAS INTO THE UTOPIAN AND HOME ANARCHIST MOVEMENTS. I WISH I HAD STAYED LONGER. I WANTED MORE. I REMEMBER SITTING IN A HALLWAY ONCE JUST TO LISTEN IN ON A QUINTARD TAYLOR LECTURE."

FOR MANY YEARS, I WORKED AS A FREELANCE ILLUSTRATOR AND CARTOONIST. I FOUND MY ARTISTIC VOICE IN SEATTLE'S WELCOMING UNDERGROUND COMIX COMMUNITY.

"I PUBLISHED MY EARLY WORK IN REAL CHANGE, THE STRANGE, AND THE SEATTLE WEEKLY. I MADE HISTORY COMICS AND LOCAL COLOR COMICS ON TRUE CRIME."



TATTOO APPRENTICESHIPS ARE HARD TO COME BY.

I WAS FORTUNATE, A WOMAN I KNEW FOR MANY YEARS ENDED UP TEACHING ME HOW TO TATTOO.



SKIN IS A DYNAMIC LIVING ORGAN. YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW ON SKIN AND TO PUT THE INK INTO THE SKIN.

I ENJOY DOING ESOTERIC, OCCULT CALLIGRAPHY AND MEDIEVAL ENGRAVING-STYLE WOODCUT LINE WORK. MY INFLUENCES INCLUDE ALBRECHT DÜRER, HIERONYMUS BOSCH AND THE GARBAGE PAIL KIDS.



PUSH/PULL IS A COMMUNITY CREATIVE SPACE, GALLERY AND ART SUPPLY STORE THAT'S RUN BY MY WIFE, MAXX FULLIS-GOODKIND.





*The local chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation has had only had three CEOs in its 40 years. Joining former leaders (standing) Melissa Arias and Barry McConnell is current CEO Trina Cottingham.*

meets with every family, asks the child for a dream wish and calls it in to the staff. After the wish is approved, volunteers plan and deliver the wish to the family. “Volunteers are our main liaison with families,” says McConnell, “not staff.”

Arias’ connections to the UW run deep. Her great grandfather, grandfather and mom are UW alumni. She followed in their footsteps. What a good call that was. She met her husband here and had her wedding photos taken on campus. As an undergrad, she had an internship at Fred Hutch Cancer Center and loved it. That’s where she found her calling in the social-service nonprofit world.

Before joining Make-A-Wish, “I’d worked at organizations with multipronged mission statements,” says Arias, who also worked as a lawyer and as UW Bothell’s chief advancement officer. “But we have such a clear focus, and it’s so exciting to see everyone behind you. I have loved every role I’ve ever had working with people who experience homelessness, environmental policy, but there is something magical about focusing on children and community.”

The Alaska/Washington chapter started with one employee and was entirely volunteer-run, granting six wishes in its first year. The first paid staff member, McConnell grew the professional staff and turned the office into a fundraising machine that brought in millions of dollars to serve the needs of children and families in distress. Today, Cottingham has a staff of 36.

As for why this organization has been led exclusively by UW graduates, Arias points out, “You get an excellent education at the UW. And graduates stay close to home. [As students], we knew we wanted to give back to our community. And at the UW, you [learn] how to solve problems.”

Of course, Make-A-Wish depends on its volunteers, donors and medical professionals who have helped deliver on the Make-A-Wish mission to more than 9,300 local children between the ages of 2½ and 18. Wishes range from trips to Disney theme parks to wanting to meet a mermaid in Hawaii to meeting celebrities and athletes to wishing for shopping sprees and more.

“All three of us [CEOs] wanted to make an impact,” says Cottingham. “That desire has driven each of our life’s work.”

## Make-A-Wish’s Husky Connection

Three UW alumni have made dreams come true for children with life-threatening illnesses at Make-A-Wish’s Alaska & Washington chapter

By Jon Marmor

The organization grants wishes to children with critical illnesses. What’s better than that?

Now in its 40th year, the Alaska & Washington chapter of Make-A-Wish America is renowned for its soul-affirming work, its corps of exuberant volunteers—and the fact that every president and CEO has been a University of Washington graduate.

Barry McConnell, ’81, the first CEO, led the organization for 27 years, from 1991 to 2018. Melissa Arias, ’97, was CEO from 2018-2024. And Trina Cottingham, ’96, the current CEO, spent 25 years on staff before being selected for the top job in late 2025.

“I’ve said this for years,” says Cottingham, who worked her way up from wish coordinator to vice president of wishes to CEO when Arias left to join the Make-A-Wish national office. “I love our mission. People who work here want to make an impact. Same for our volunteers and donors. You get to see the good in our community.”

Last year, the chapter granted 360 wishes. “Wishes are medicine for these kids and families, so it’s always been an organizational goal to grant a wish to every eligible child,” says McConnell. “That’s only achievable thanks to the help and support of our volunteers.”

The chapter currently counts about 550 active volunteers. A team of two volunteers

## Putting Pickleball on the Plate

Washington, the birthplace of one of America's fastest-growing sports, now offers a pickleball license plate

By Jon Marmor

Say the word “pickleball” and you’ll attract a swarm of individuals, mild-mannered and otherwise, who have become rabid competitors in the sport whose inventors include former UW student Barney McCallum. The sport was started in 1965 by Joel Pritchard and Bill Bell on a backyard driveway on Bainbridge Island, and the late, great McCallum helped form the rules.

A whiz at marketing, McCallum joined with Pritchard and Bell to create Pickle Ball, Inc., the first company to manufacture pickleball paddles. In true Seattle startup fashion, the first paddles were made of plywood in McCallum’s home wood shop.

Pickleball has become one of the fastest-growing sports in the country with participation in 2025 reaching 24.3 million Americans, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association. So it should not come as a surprise that the state of Washington now offers a specialty license plate honoring pickleball. (Then-Gov. Jay Inslee, 73, declared pickleball the official sport of the Evergreen State in 2022 at the Bainbridge Island home where the sport was born.)

Kate Van Gent, vice president of the Seattle Metro Pickleball Association, joined fellow pickleball aficionados in 2023 to ignite a movement to have their favorite sport featured on Washington license plates. (The Legislature must pass a law for a specialty license plate, pickleball or not.) While those efforts sputtered in 2023 and 2024, in 2025, the Legislature gave the green light, and pickleball became one of 13 new specialty plates authorized to take their place on automobiles in the Evergreen State.

These new specialty plates cost \$157.25—roughly the cost of a decent pickleball paddle—but you can personalize your plates for a few dollars more.

The creation of pickleball license plates is just another feather in the cap of McCallum, who was born in Davenport, Washington, graduated from Davenport High School and then came west to study political science and business at the UW,



according to the Pickleball Hall of Fame. (It says he “was just several credits shy of his degree” when he left school to go into business.) His page on the Pickleball Hall of Fame website describes McCallum as “the man behind the business ... a successful inventor and entrepreneur in the envelope industry who applied his marketing prowess to pickleball. After starting

to manufacture pickleball paddles in his home wood shop, he later employed workers at the Pacific Northwest Center, who taught and helped people with disabilities to learn trades. They made the first mass-produced Diller plywood paddles,

the first paddles that were available for stores.”

Take a moment and raise your pickleball paddle in honor of Barney McCallum. Although he died Nov. 18, 2019, at the age of 93, his role in creating the monster that is pickleball still tickles us—especially everyone who is driving a car with a pickleball license plate.

*As the official state sport of Washington, it was only a matter of time before pickleball got its own vanity license plate. Above, pickleball devotee Kate Anderson, '74, practices at Miller Park in Seattle.*

## Artist-Led Technology

Curator Lele Barnett launches new arts innovation lab

By Shin Yu Pai

If you lived in Seattle in the early 2000s, you may remember a nondescript century-old storefront in Belltown that expanded upstairs into an Alice in Wonderland-like art space. Called the McLeod Residence, the art gallery, bar and social club housed incredible art installations, creative cocktails and fleur-de-lis wallpaper.

Members adopted the McLeod family name and paid a small fee or contributed something of value. Co-founded by Buster McLeod (born Erik Benson, '98) and curator Lele Barnett (formerly Leanne Ng, '99), the McLeod Residence sought to create "a home for extraordinary living through art, technology and collaboration."

For Barnett, the project marked the start of a career focused on bringing artists and technologists into conversation. Her first exhibition featured multimedia artist Paul Rucker, whom she met while working at the Seattle Art Museum. Over the McLeod Residence's two-year run, Barnett collaborated with artists from the UW's DXARTS program, including Allison Kudla, '11, and Hugo Solis, '14, whose "Tell-Tale Piano" concealed a piano beneath the floorboards.

When the McLeod Residence closed in 2008, Barnett joined Artist Trust before becoming curator of the Microsoft Art Collection, where she acquired new work for Microsoft buildings across North America. Later, while working as a private art consultant, Barnett was approached by Tamar Benzikry, '05, a curator and producer at Facebook, to fill in during her maternity leave. Barnett curated and oversaw art installations for the company's Open Arts program. She later transitioned to Meta's Reality Labs, collaborating with renowned computer architect Doug Carmean. They brought artists into scientific research environments "to get researchers to think in different ways and inspire artists to make different work," Barnett says.

In February, Barnett and Carmean founded xispa (pronounced CHEE-spa), an independent art innovation lab in South Lake Union. The project encompasses an



COURTESY MADINE SALEM

*Lele Barnett in an art installation by Pepe Mar at Faena Miami.*

artist-in-residence program, an innovation lab and exhibition space where artists and technologists can experiment beyond the traditional boundaries of museums or galleries. The lab will host a public launch on June 18.

Barnett is excited about Seattle's evolution. "When I got here in the '90s, I wanted a bigger, more energetic, driven city," she says. "It's growing into the city that I wanted it to be."

Barnett, a native of Southern California and a daughter of a software engineer and a landscape architect, moved to Seattle in 1995 to study art history and studio art at the UW. To pay her way through college, Barnett sold luggage and leather bags, a balancing act that meant she couldn't spend as much time with her studies as she would have liked, she says.

She counts Professor Jerome Silbergeld among her favorites. She still has a paper she wrote for his art history course. "His comments on it made me cry," she says.

"It said something like, 'How did I miss spending more time with you?' He was at the top of his field. To get that kind of encouragement was very special and made me think I could be an art historian."

Combining her backgrounds in sales and art, Barnett went on to work for Traver Gallery and Foster/White Gallery at a time when Seattle was a major destination for art collectors. She spent some time in New York and California before returning to Seattle in 2006 and launched McLeod Residence.

Over the years, Barnett's curatorial interests have led to her organizing shows at regional museums including "Cultural Transcendence," an exhibition highlighting art and technology, and "Reorient: Journeys Through Art and Healing," both at the Wing Luke Museum. Her latest, "Finding Home: The Chinese American West," features UW Professor Zhi Lin and artists Monyee Chau and Mian Situ, and is currently on view at the Tacoma Art Museum.

# Meeting the Moment With Randy Engstrom

The Evans School alum returns to public service to lead Seattle Center into its next era

By Shin Yu Pai

In March, when Randy Engstrom was appointed director of the Seattle Center, he welcomed the opportunity to return to public service at a pivotal moment.

“I felt like I could come back and serve the city that I love, with an administration that I trust, and to do work that I thought could be meaningful,” says Engstrom, ’09, a graduate of the executive master of public administration program at the Evans School of Public Policy & Governance. “Local is the only place where change is possible in the next two to three years.”

Engstrom has a long history of shaping Seattle’s cultural landscape through the lens of racial equity and civic engagement. Under his leadership from 2012 to 2021, Seattle’s Office of Arts & Culture expanded its national profile with its anti-racist framework for grantmaking and for restoring arts education to Seattle Public Schools through the Creative Advantage program. With Matthew Richter, he also co-founded the Cultural Space Agency and helped transform King Street Station into a hub for the arts community.

“Randy has an uncanny ability to synthesize what he hears into a vision for a shared future, and to effectively sell that vision back to the community, colleagues and even back to the wind itself,” Richter says. “He makes folks want to work toward that vision’s fulfillment.”

Engstrom credits the Evans School for teaching him strategic planning and preparing him for public service. “I chose a public administration degree, not an MFA. The Evans School shaped the trajectory of my life and my work at the intersection of cultural policy, creative economy and racial equity.”

He also says that Associate Professor Joaquín Herranz Jr., former member of the Seattle Arts Commission, “embodies many of the values of the Evans School: leading with equity, empathy and evidence.”

After leaving city government in 2020, Engstrom launched a consulting practice advising organizations including



Randy Engstrom poses in front of the Space Needle at the Seattle Center, where he was recently appointed director.

Grantmakers in the Arts and the Washington State Department of Commerce on arts policy, civic development and affordable housing.

Now, he oversees some of the city’s defining spaces, including the new Waterfront Park. Seattle Center has been around since the 1962 World’s Fair and welcomes up to 12 million visitors a year. The 64-year-old urban playground, with leaky roofs and degrading plumbing, is definitely showing its age.

“The scale of infrastructural change necessary creates a permission structure to think really big,” Engstrom says. “I’m excited to meet this moment and double down on how we support artists and creative businesses. It’s a good investment for the future of our city. I don’t believe it’s an act of charity. It’s an act of strategy.”

## MEDIA

### BOOKS



#### Another Roadside Balloon

Photographs and design by Eirik Johnson, ’97  
Cover Design by Shawn Hazen; Published by Mud Dog Press

A lecturer in the UW School of Art + Art History

+ Design, Johnson is a Seattle-based photographer whose work examines the intersections of contemporary environmental, social and cultural issues in America and abroad. He is the programs chair of the Photographic Center Northwest and has exhibited his work at museums and galleries nationwide.



#### Silicon Forest: The Understories of Data and Forests

By Michael Swaine, chair and associate professor, 3-Dimensional Forum, UW School of Art + Art History + Design, and his artist collective, Futurefarmers; Sternberg Press; Co-published by PRAx and Oregon State University

The book examines the reciprocity among ecology, tech-

nological futures and consumption. It examines the complex interconnections between the ecological, industrial and technological history of Oregon State University and the surrounding Willamette Valley.

### MOVIE



#### Scary Movie 6

Starring Anna Faris, ’99  
Faris reprises the role of Cindy Campbell in the “Scary Movie” reboot set for release in 2026. She also will appear in the upcoming movies “Spa Weekend,” “I, Object” and “LeapFrog.” She continues

her podcast, “Anna Faris is Unqualified,” featuring celebrity guests.

### PODCAST



#### “Designers on Film”

Hosted by Jason Tselentis, ’04  
Tselentis and his guests dive deep into the art behind a film: art direction, cinematography, costume

design and what the movie means to them as a designer.



### UW DISTINGUISHED TEACHING LEGACY AWARD

## Ed Lazowska

For more than five decades, Ed Lazowska has shaped generations of computer scientists at the University of Washington. His lasting influence is being recognized with the Distinguished Teaching Legacy Award.

When Lazowska joined the faculty in 1977, computer science was emerging as a field. He rose through the ranks, becoming the first Computer Science & Engineering faculty member elected to the National Academy of Engineering and the first fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was also the inaugural holder of the Bill & Melinda Gates Chair. He became department chair in 1993 and held many local and national leadership roles.

Robert Short, '86, met Lazowska as an undergraduate who had industry experience but no formal background in computer science. "Ed was incredibly supportive, introducing me to abstract methods for understanding systems that I used throughout my career and as VP of the Microsoft Windows Core operating system development," Short wrote in his nomination. "I've watched in awe as Ed's leadership transformed UW CSE into the powerhouse it is today. He provided the driving force and focus on attracting and growing the absolute best faculty and on creating enduring partnerships across the UW and the region."

Lazowska's research and teaching focused on the design, implementation and analysis of computing and communication systems as well as the techniques and technologies of data-intensive discovery. He was also active on public-policy issues, ranging from STEM education to federal strategies for research and innovation. He served as a board member or technical adviser for high-tech companies, venture firms and technology-oriented civic organizations, including the Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence.

Nominator Patrick Jenny, '86, '91, wrote that "I am a better leader, engineer and Husky because of Ed's impact in my life. The same is true of Seattle and the UW."



### UW DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

## Gregg Blodgett

Gregg Blodgett, '76, a retired finance executive and dedicated volunteer leader, has been recognized with the 2026 UWAA Distinguished Service Award. The honor celebrates his decades of outstanding service and support to the Alumni Association, the University and the broader alumni community.

From 2006 to 2007, Blodgett served as president of the UWAA during a pivotal period when the association was formalizing its operating agreement with the University. Under his leadership, the nonprofit organization established a positive and productive partnership with the public institution, laying the groundwork for a collaborative relationship that continues today. Nearly two decades after his formal board service, Blodgett remains an active volunteer within the UWAA, continuing to mentor and advise current board members.

Over the years, he has supported the

association through its legislative advocacy program, UW Impact, hosted alumni tours around the world and served on the nominating committee to bring in new alumni trustees. He has also contributed his expertise to the Spanish and Portuguese Studies advisory board. He earned degrees in both Spanish and accounting from the UW.

Blodgett's career spanned leadership roles in accounting, banking and technology startups. In 2011, Blodgett retired as chief financial officer of Twisted Pair Solutions. He held previous leadership roles with Midstream Technologies, TCS, Inc., Xypoint Corporation and PHAMIS. He also served as board chair of the Boys & Girls Clubs of King County and the Washington Athletic Club.

Today, Blodgett and his wife, Jane, travel with UW Alumni Tours and are active in many UW programs, fostering lasting connections with the UW and the alumni community.



COURTESY SANDY MOY

**UW/UWRA DISTINGUISHED RETIREE EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE**

## Sandy Moy

Retirement for Sandy Moy was never about slowing down. But it took her a few years to find her way to community service for older adults, volunteer work that earned her the 2026 Distinguished Retiree Excellence in Community Service Award.

As chief operating officer for University of Washington Information Technology, Moy spent more than two decades in computing and communications.

After retiring in 2008, she learned about the Northwest Neighbors Network, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping seniors and adults with disabilities stay in their homes and communities.

“When I heard about the effort to start an Aging in Place Village [an organization that supports people in their current homes] in the area where I live, I thought it was a perfect match for me—being able to volunteer whenever I had some spare time, doing services that I would enjoy,” she says.

It quickly turned into a passion. Moy became a founding member and served as board president for two years. Drawing on her professional background in technology, she created the digital foundation for the network: its website, communication systems, scheduling tools and payment infrastructure.

It’s no wonder that Moy helped the organization grow from 20 people to more than 400 active members and volunteers.

Moy continues to volunteer, driving homebound seniors to medical appointments, helping with groceries and light housework, offering tech support and organizing social activities. She also visits those living in isolation.

The relationships she has built and the lives she has touched have given her a sense of fulfillment. With humor, she reflects, “I always knew I wanted to work with seniors. I just didn’t know that by the time I got around to doing it, I would be a senior myself.”



ANIL KAPRAH

**UWAA GOLDEN GRADUATE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD**

## David Horsey

He was born in Indiana, drew a pretend newspaper front page in elementary school, played French horn in the Seattle Youth Symphony, wrote editorials and drew cartoons for his Seattle high school newspaper and came to the University of Washington to study graphic design. But it was his caricature of his weight-training instructor that inspired his teacher to urge him to join *The Daily*.

The rest, as we say, is history for David Horsey, ’75, who went on to a celebrated career as a two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Seattle Times*.

His connections to the UW have remained as strong as his artistic talent and keen insight. He has served on the UW College of Arts & Sciences Advisory Board and the Department of Communication Visiting Committee and joined the UW Retirement Association and UW Alumni Association. He also volunteered

to help plan the 1970 class reunion, even though he was not a member of that class. He has also spoken at a UWAA event. It’s obvious that the friendly artist and writer—who recently published his first novel, “Beach of Stars”—has feelings for his alma mater that run deeper than Puget Sound. His editorial cartoons (he has published 11 collections of his art) and insightful columns will continue to entertain us and make us think.

As he told *HistoryLink*: “If I am remembered—which is hardly guaranteed—I hope people describe me as a political journalist who specialized in well-rendered images that, at their best, were truly insightful commentaries on the times in which I lived. And I hope they forget all the cartoons that were not quite as good as they could have been because I was too busy enjoying the rest of my very fortunate life.” Which includes staying connected to and supporting the UW.



## For the Global Good

Lawyer leaders from around the world come to the UW’s Barer Institute for the tools they need to make a difference back home

By Malavika Jagannathan

Against the backdrop of mountains and forests on Mindoro island in the Philippines, Jonathan Jo spent a week providing legal advice to members of the Mangyan Indigenous communities. A third-year law student at Ateneo de Manila University, he wanted to help people better understand their legal rights.

This immersive experience illuminated for Jo the challenges facing many of his country’s 200+ Indigenous communities, which are not treated as sovereign nations. One of the biggest sticking points is land rights. “Although our laws recognize ownership of land by Indigenous peoples,” says Jo, he notes that Indigenous owners often experience conflicts with developers and businesses.

Jo’s interest in Indigenous rights shaped his career path; after many years in the private sector in the Philippines and Singapore, he became the clerk of the commission, a leadership role, for the Philippine National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. That path led him to the Barer Fellowship at the University of Washington School of Law—where he’s deepening his understanding of Indigenous law and learning from local tribes, so he can bring that expertise back home.

### Investing in global leaders

Each year, the UW’s Barer Institute for Leadership in Law and Global Development selects four fellows like Jo from around the world—midcareer lawyers, judges, civil servants and human rights advocates—for a yearlong postgraduate degree in sustainable development. Their studies are fully covered, thanks to the generosity of the late Stan Barer, ’63, a UW Law alumnus and former UW regent, and his wife, Alta (see sidebar).

In 2024, the Barer estate made a transformative \$45 million gift—one of the largest bequests in UW history—to increase the institute’s impact through scholarships, mentorship and career advising. In addition to supporting the international fellows who are here for a year, this gift creates a new cohort of J.D. Barer Scholars: current UW law students who show leadership skills and an interest in global issues.

The Barer Fellows have “demonstrated their passion and commitment to being change agents, not only for themselves but for the global common good,” says Professor Anita Ramasastry, faculty director of the graduate program and inaugural Barer Institute chair. Most come to the UW with impressive resumes and decades of experience, looking to develop new ideas and bring home practical solutions to pressing global challenges.

### Gaining new perspectives

After a lengthy career as a lawyer, Victoria Katamba, ’25, was appointed to the Ugandan High Court and is now head judge for the Masaka High Court Circuit, presiding over civil and

### The Global Impact of the Barer Institute



Established with a \$4 million investment from Stan and Alta Barer, plus a transformative \$45 million gift in 2024.

**\$49M**



**50 Fellows supported** SINCE 2012

The fellowship provides tuition, housing and cost-of-living support for 3–4 international fellows each year.



- ALBANIA
- BANGLADESH
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- MYANMAR
- NEPAL
- NIGERIA
- PARAGUAY
- THE PHILIPPINES
- SOUTH AFRICA
- UGANDA
- UKRAINE
- ZIMBABWE

**22 Nations represented**

**Global Impact**

After graduating, Barer Fellows return to their home countries to improve health, advocate for law and justice, boost education and spur economic development.

“I saw the institute as a place for anybody who wants to advance the cause for justice, for rule of law and for governance.”



– Victoria Katamba, '25

criminal cases. She'd been considering a postgraduate degree in the United States, and a visit to a Seattle-area relative brought her to campus and introduced her to the Barer Institute.

“I saw the institute as a place for anybody who wants to advance the cause for justice, for rule of law and for governance,” says Katamba, who found these topics especially relevant having grown up in Uganda under the brutal dictatorship of Idi Amin Dada. In 2024 Katamba came to the UW eager to answer big questions, like how to distinguish whether the law is serving its citizens.

What she discovered—through classes, conversation with other fellows and internship experience—is that “good governance is an issue that affects everybody, even in the United States,” Katamba says. It's one of the many ways her judicial approach and understanding of law were shaped by her year at the University.

That year at the institute looks different for each participant. All students take a foundational class that Ramasastry teaches, then choose from courses in the law school and electives in the UW's Jackson School of International Studies and Evans School of Public Policy & Governance. The fellows also spend time with mentors (fellow legal professionals) and intern at local organizations, from the King County Circuit Court to nonprofits like Landesa, which advocates for land rights. “Lawyers often think that just changing the law is the answer,” Ramasastry says. “We're trying to teach them that they need other tools and to work effectively with other policymakers and disciplines.”

### Putting learning into practice

Turning knowledge into practical action is the priority for Stella Wangechi Ngotho, '14, now a business and human rights consultant for United Nations Human Rights in Africa. “The UW was one of the few universities with grounding in sustainability, business and human rights,” recalls Wangechi Ngotho, who was working at Kenya's National Commission on Human Rights when she sought out the fellowship. At the UW, she worked with sustainable business consultants and learned how to identify and assess conditions that might hurt workers—like exploitative labor practices or gender-based violence—and design strategies to prevent or reduce harm.

The fellowship gave her the tools to navigate complex business challenges back in Kenya, where she coordinated

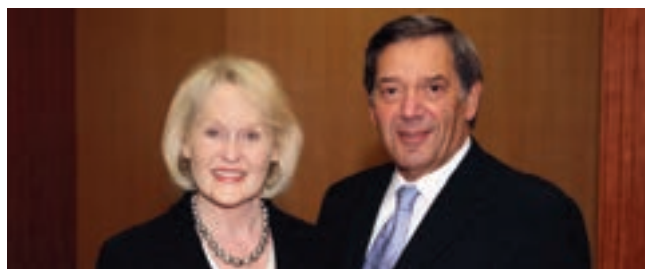
the country's first national action plan on business and human rights. She went on to become the first human rights manager for a large agribusiness, creating a human rights framework and a system for raising and addressing grievances. Today, she's working to integrate responsible business practices into policy and the private sector across sub-Saharan Africa.

“There's a difference between what you read and what you actually need to do to support businesses to integrate human rights,” Wangechi Ngotho says. “I came out of the UW with a confident understanding of what I'm expected to do.”

At the Barer Institute, practical opportunities are customized to match each fellow's interests and background. For example, Jo is externing at the Puyallup Tribal Court this summer to learn about its judicial practices, while Katamba was mentored by a King County Circuit Court judge.

As a cohort, fellows are encouraged to discuss their areas of interest with each other, helping them see issues from different perspectives and find similarities. “One thing the diversity of the program showed me,” Katamba says, “is that our problems are not unique, that they are shared.”

From Uganda to Ukraine, Cuba to the Philippines, Barer Fellows put their UW education to work promoting good governance, human rights and corporate responsibility—making a difference on a global scale.



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

## The Enduring Legacy of Stan and Alta Barer

Driven by a desire to help others and a global vision for shared prosperity, Stan and Alta Barer were two of the UW's most generous and involved supporters.

Stan Barer, '63, was a world-renowned Seattle attorney who started his career working for U.S. Senator Warren Magnuson, helping draft what would become the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964. He enjoyed a lengthy career in law and politics, later serving as a UW regent. Alta, who traveled the world for two decades as a flight attendant, was also actively engaged in politics and championed higher education, the arts and women's issues.

Together, the Barers were instrumental in the creation of William H. Gates Hall, the home of UW Law, and they endowed faculty positions and helped launch new programs that connected the UW to the world. Alta passed away in 2019; shortly before Stan died in 2021, the UW Foundation honored him with the Gates Volunteer Service Award, recognizing his lifetime of service to the University.

The Barers took an active interest in all the Barer Fellows and made a point of getting to know each one. Stella Wangechi Ngotho, a Barer Fellow alumna, remembers engaging conversations with the couple over dinner in their home. “Stan and Alta are very close to my heart,” she says, “because they gave us this opportunity.”



**Support global changemakers.** When you give to the Barer Institute, you help legal professionals around the world create innovative solutions to pressing global challenges.  
[go.uw.edu/magazine](https://go.uw.edu/magazine)



## More Than a Game

In the Global Sport Lab, students examine international affairs and local impact through the lens of sports

DENNIS WISE

By Chelsea Lin

Like many Pacific Northwest kids, Sam Hurst, '27, grew up a competitive player deeply embedded in local soccer culture. As a preteen in his Oregon elementary school, he ran a cost-benefit analysis of being a national host of the FIFA World Cup. Just for fun.

Fast-forward a decade or so, and last year the University of Washington sophomore had a hole to fill in his schedule. He found a class called “Shut Up and Play? Sports, Politics and Media in Global Perspective”—and couldn’t sign up fast enough.

The course was taught by Ron Krabill, a professor of interdisciplinary arts and sciences at UW Bothell. Like Hurst, Krabill is a lifelong soccer fan. For the last 15 years, he’s been finding creative ways to weave that passion into his work: leading study-abroad trips on the politics of soccer, and teaching classes like Shut Up and Play. His efforts leveled up in 2024, when he was tapped to lead the Global Sport Lab, a collaboration of international experts engaging students in a look at how sports shape the world—and vice versa.

The Global Sport Lab is based at the UW’s Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies, in partnership with experts from many disciplines across the University. It was established through support from generous community donors with passions for sport and engaging students in global topics—and an appreciation for Seattle’s unique moment as a host city for the 2026 FIFA Men’s World Cup.

“We called it a lab for a reason,” says Jackson School Director Daniel Hoffman. “It gives students, and faculty too, an opportunity to experiment with thinking dynamically across lots of different kinds of spaces.”

Using the World Cup as its anchor point, the Global Sport Lab explores how sport can reflect and provide context for

international relations, politics, economics, human rights, social issues and more. One example: The weekend of the June 26 match in Seattle coincides with major LGBTQIA+ Pride events throughout the city, including a planned Pride-themed game—but the competitors are Egypt and Iran, and concern has arisen about those countries’ oppressive anti-gay laws. (Although Iran’s participation has been in question due to an ongoing military conflict, at press time Iran had confirmed that it would compete.)

The lab helps students explore weighty topics like these in a variety of ways. They’ve added 15 new classes across the UW campuses in Bothell and Seattle, fostered research projects, hosted public lectures looking at everything from workers’ rights to World Cup lessons from Qatar, produced an interview podcast, and shared much of this work publicly with the community.

“These programs have helped me rediscover the joy I find in sports. It’s made me want a career in sports, even though I know that’s difficult to achieve. I never would have considered that before I found the Global Sport Lab.”

~ Maggie Keenan, '27

*Professor Ron Krabill and UW students Maggie Keenan and Sam Hurst (from left) study how sports shape Seattle—and vice versa.*

The lab isn't just for students like Hurst, who've been thinking about the implications of sports since grade school. Junior Maggie Keenan comes to soccer as a devoted fan. A Seattle native raised on the city's local sport teams, she fell in love with FC Barcelona in high school. She found the lab through a public lecture it sponsored; there she got a flyer for its study-abroad trip to Rwanda, co-led by Krabill, on nation building through sport development.

Rwanda was transformative for both Keenan and Hurst, who also went. Hurst came back and changed his major from law, societies and justice to sociology. "We don't often think of sport as a lens through which to view sociology or ethnography—that possibility changed my perspective on the field as a whole," he says. "I could see myself going into sport sociology."

"These programs have helped me rediscover the joy I find in sports," Keenan says. "It's made me want a career in sports, even though I know that's difficult to achieve. I never would have considered that before I found the Global Sport Lab."

The different entry points for students to get involved is a testament to Krabill's intentional, intersectional design. "One of the main goals of the Global Sport Lab was to connect people across campus who were doing different kinds of research, interested in different things, but could learn from and support one another," he says. "You can look at sport like you can look at any other cultural phenomenon—through industry, artistry, how people make meaning in their lives, or form identities and collective representations."

Though the lab's scope is international, its focus is uniquely on how these issues play out locally in Seattle. "This is a city that's cognizant of just how multilayered soccer is," Hoffman says. "The World Cup puts a spotlight on it, but there's a sophisticated culture in Seattle around soccer, where people recognize what it brings to a community, what questions it opens. It's exciting to be doing something on campus that taps into that."

This month, the Global Sport Lab takes over the UW Summer Institute in the Arts and Humanities. Hurst and Keenan were among the 21 undergraduate applicants awarded Mary Gates Research Scholarships to take part in the 10-week institute, conducting research under the theme "Seattle's World Cup: Storytelling Through Community Mapping."

Both Hurst and Keenan are excited about spending their summer analyzing how the global games and influx of fans may affect Seattle's communities and neighborhoods. Hurst's proposed research examines how cultural identity in local immigrant communities may change based on the games; Keenan's involves disparities in impact between more affluent north Seattle and south Seattle, where the games are held. The cohort will present their work at a symposium in August.

Building on the foundations made possible by the original donors' generosity, Hoffman hopes to secure additional philanthropic support to make the lab a permanent part of the School of International Studies, taking on the next global sporting events—the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil, the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, and beyond—and continue cutting-edge research in critical sports studies.

"The proof of concept is there," Hoffman says. "The number of students who have been like, 'Wow, I never imagined I could think of one area through the lens of this other thing and potentially make a career out of thinking that way'—that's the cool part. That's why we want to keep it going."



## Investing in the Arts for Our Shared Future

By Lisa Simonyi  
*Chair, UW Foundation Board*

Take a walk through the University of Washington campuses and you'll see art all around you, from the Gothic-inspired arches of Suzzallo Library to the newly installed bronze paddles outside the Burke Museum, arranged to represent a Chinook canoe.

Art has always been a part of the human experience—from the 20,000-year-old Paleolithic cave paintings in France to modern dance, electronic music and digital filmmaking that move us and connect us to our shared humanity. Whatever form and medium, art brings us together as a community and opens our eyes to new ways of seeing and thinking. Investing in arts education and future artists is part of our role as a public university devoted to the greater good.

Many of the artists and architects who have left their mark on the UW were once students—like Victoria Mackender. She's a UW graduate student in painting and printmaking who has been perfecting her technical skills, cultivating her artistic vision and learning from notable artists over two years of intense study. Support from the University and from donors has made it possible for Victoria to make the most of her time here—from visiting other artists in their studios to spending a summer in Singapore with art students from around the world.

But creativity at the UW is not just limited to the visual arts; in fact, it's at the heart of everything we do as Huskies. Creativity powers engineers to design new batteries for electric vehicles, inspires developers to create mobile apps that help us navigate our lives and helps medical researchers better understand the brain through music. Color theory, user-friendly design and aesthetics are embedded in every piece of technology we use. And as artificial intelligence becomes a bigger part of our lives, we need artists and other creatives to help make it work with and for us in a holistic way.

When we invest in the arts, we are investing in everything that makes us human—and leaving a legacy for future generations that'll stand the test of time.



**Play it forward.** When you support the Global Sport Lab, you help inspire and educate students to draw big-picture connections in the world around them.  
[go.uw.edu/magazine](https://go.uw.edu/magazine)

# Impact

## Grief and Gratitude

Victoria Mackender, '26, stands near an assortment of paintbrushes, ready to create art that behaves like time—fleeting, blurred, ghostly. Using layers of sheer organza fabric, transparent oil paint, glycerin and wax, the interdisciplinary artist begins crafting without a fully formed vision, exploring themes of grief, existence and disorientation in time.

As a young girl in Kansas City, Missouri, Mackender spent hours staring at the rich details of Caravaggio's painting "Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness" at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. She had no idea she'd one day be teaching art or standing on a paint-speckled floor creating her own works of oil on canvas.

Mackender had always dreamed of living in the Pacific Northwest, so after earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Missouri, she moved to Seattle for the University of Washington's rigorous master's program in painting and printmaking in the School of Art + Art History + Design.

"Having access to incredible facilities and dedicated faculty has shaped the way I work and opened my mind to what's important to my practice," says Mackender, who has found community in her graduate-student cohort over the last two years. Philanthropic support, like the Boyer and Elizabeth Bole Gonzales Scholarship and the Endowed Program Support FUNd in Art, expands access to even more opportunities, like making it possible to purchase art supplies and engage in a two-week residency in Singapore, where she learned how to cast hands in glycerin using molds. "Now, more than ever, we need the arts and the people who support them," Mackender says, "so I'm incredibly grateful."

Mackender's thesis exhibit opened this spring at the Henry Art Gallery on campus, exploring how humans and animals experience similar and unrelated grief. After graduation, Mackender hopes to teach at the UW and eventually have her own art space where she can provide opportunities to underserved contemporary artists.

By Lincoln McElwee  
Photo by Dennis Wise



**Cultivate the arts.** Help support future artists and give graduate art students opportunities to develop their art through travel, learn from other artists and expand their practice.  
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## The Dubs Dynasty Continues

By Caprielle Eden

Eleven mascots went head-to-head in the Seattle Sports Commission's Mascot Contest in March, and the University of Washington was elated to have two contestants in the running: Dubs II and Harry the Husky. Despite some tough competition, the Dubs dynasty reigned supreme.

As the 2025 Mascot of the Year, Dubs II was honored at the 91st Annual Sports Star of the Year Awards, a show dedicated to celebrating Washington sport stories, athletes and moments. There was no match for the portfolio of our beloved Alaskan Malamute pup. With his dedicated 151 appearances over the past year (74 were non-athletic events) and his energetic (yet sassy) woofs, this award and acknowledgment bring even more pride to the UW community.

Dubs is a natural at connecting not only current and previous students, but future Huskies as well. And he's always the most popular creature in any setting. In accepting his award, Dubs barked his thanks to the community of Huskies behind him. The Mascot of the Year award is a new honor of this year's award show, making Dubs II the first recipient and mascot to wear this title. We look forward to cheering him and Harry the Husky on again next year.



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GETTY IMAGES

## The Titan Behind ‘Toy Story’

**Loren Carpenter’s genius as a pioneer in computer graphics gave the world the dazzling world of classic Pixar movies we love**

By Jon Marmor

Those of us who love Pixar movies such as “Toy Story,” “Cars” and “Monsters, Inc.” owe a debt of gratitude to Loren Carpenter, ’74, ’77, an internationally acclaimed pioneer in computer graphics. He co-invented the Reyes rendering algorithm and was one of the authors of the photorealistic RenderMan software that created Pixar’s movies.

Before he became co-founder and chief scientist at Pixar, Carpenter worked at Boeing Computer Services in Seattle. While there, he earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a master’s in computer science from the UW. Even then, he was a tech star. According to the Visual Effects Society, he advocated for using computer technology to improve Boeing’s mechanical design processes, “which were still entirely done by hand on paper.”

In 1980, he gave a presentation at a major conference that showed how his software could generate landscapes. In addition to receiving a standing ovation, he also received a job offer to join Lucasfilm’s Computer Division, which later became Pixar. He helped create a scene in “Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan” with the first fractally landscaped planet.

For his trailblazing work in the development of the RenderMan software, he received the Academy Award for Scientific and Engineering Achievement in 1993. In 2001, he shared the Academy Award of Merit for his work. Carpenter’s credits went on to include “Star Wars: Return of the Jedi,” “Wall-E,” “Up” and many other now-classic films.

After Disney acquired Pixar, he became a senior research scientist at Disney Research, and in 2014, he became a scientist at the Institute of Noetic Sciences. There, his contributions included new instruments for recording and analyzing quantum background noise and instruments for sending and amplifying mind-photo interaction. (“Noetic” refers to the mind, intellect or rational processes.)

“The Institute of Noetic Sciences was fortunate to benefit from Loren’s rare gift of seeing what others couldn’t,” says Claudia Welss, executive chair of the institute. She adds that “Loren reminded us all that the divide between art and science, and between science and spirit, are illusions, and he did so with a passion, heart and humility that changed us just by his presence.”

Carpenter died Dec. 20 at the age of 78.

### RECOGNITION



**Mervette “Mimi” Magdi Heggelund**, ’71, ’73, ’82, was born in Egypt and came to the U.S. with her sister at the age of 16 to start a new life. She earned three UW degrees, including a Ph.D. in early childhood education and special education. She became an instructor and researcher in the UW College of Education, translating her experience as an international consultant to promote institutional development in the Middle East and Asia. Later, she became the director of the International Program for the UW School of Nursing. She died Dec. 8 at the age of 75.



**Bryan Johnson**, ’61, was born in the United Kingdom and came with his mother and sister to Washington in 1948. A Vashon High School graduate, he studied broadcasting at Bates Technical College before enrolling at the UW. He spent two decades at KOMO radio before switching to TV. He covered such stories as the assassination of President Kennedy, the eruption of Mount St. Helens, the 1983 Wah Mee massacre, the 1990 storm that caused the collapse of I-90 floating bridge and the 1999 WTO riots in Seattle. He died Dec. 8 at the age of 89.

# Columns

## In Memory

### ALUMNI

**MATTHEW BENNETT**

Geneva, Ill., age 66, Feb. 10

**HARRY BLENCOE**

Age 102, March 17

**MICHAEL L. HUBBARD**

El Dorado Hills, Calif., age 74, Feb. 26

**SAMUEL KRISTOFFERSON**

Gig Harbor, age 94, Jan. 27

**CHARLES CLAY MAGLEY**

Age 82, Dec. 5

**STEVEN PETER MCDUGALL**

Feb. 12

**JAMES HARVEY MCDOWELL**

Feb. 12

**DANIEL GORDON MCNEIL**

Tega Cay, S.C., age 72, Feb. 11, 2025

**ANNETTE MAE OTIS**

Age 88, March 5

**JACK "FIB" PETERSON**

Vashon, age 94, Feb. 5

**CLAIRE LENORE PHELPS**

Port Ludlow, age 92, Dec. 18

**LINDA LINK ROGERS**

Bellevue, age 89, March 6

**ROBERT BRENT SCHRADER**

Age 79, Jan. 2

**LUCILLE HANNAH SIMON**

Seattle, age 87, Feb. 13

**ROBERTA LOUISE STEED**

Edmonds, age 99, Jan. 7

**SHIRLEY WHITE**

Seattle, age 91, 2022

## 1940

**DOROTHY STRONG**

'45, Seattle, age 101, Feb. 7

**EDWARD GEORGE BARNEICH**

'48, Seattle, age 98, Aug. 8

**IDALICE "DEE" DICKINSON**

'49, Seattle, age 98, March 8

## 1950

**DONA LEE ANDERSON**

'50, Seattle, age 97, Dec. 19

**ELIZABETH ENGLE**

'50, Edmonds, age 97, Dec. 21

**EILEEN DORIS LONG**

'50, Seattle, age 97, Jan. 10

**BARBARA JOAN PRESCOTT**

'52, Bellevue, age 95, Jan. 1

**JOANNE MARIA TURPIN**

'52, Seattle, age 93, March 11

**ROSS THOMAS ATKINSON**

'54, Hampstead, N.C., age 93, Dec. 7

**HELENE FORNIA**

'54, Clyde Hill, age 93, Jan. 28

**PATRICIA ANN JENNINGS**

'54, Stanwood, age 93, March 14

**NANCY ROBBINS EWELL**

'57, Seattle, age 90, Nov. 18

**MAXIE MASAMI HAYASHI**

'57, Burlington, age 94, Jan. 17

**JANET DAILEY LAW**

'57, Seattle, age 90, Jan. 10

**KENNETH ALLEN MCMILLEN**

'57, Port Hadlock, age 92, Feb. 27

**HARMON RULIFSON**

'58, Seattle, age 89, Jan. 16

**WILLIAM C. FLODMAN**

'59, Ventura, Calif., age 88, March 15

**MARY FRANCES HOPKINS**

'59, Seattle, age 88, Feb. 9

## 1960

**FRANK E. DOYLE**

'60, Edmonds, age 91, Dec. 24

**DON MARSH HALLUM**

'60, Edmonds, age 91, Jan. 20

**JAMES SWAN LANDBERG**

'60, Washington, D.C., age 89, Feb. 19

**LAFE HASTY MYERS JR.**

'60, '69, Bainbridge Island, age 91, Dec. 30

**BRENT A. STIENECKER**

'61, Tucson, Ariz., age 87, Nov. 20

**JANE B. TRAPP**

'61, Olympia, age 85, 2025

**JUDITH ANN FAWCETT**

'62, '76, Seattle, age 88, Dec. 19

**WILLIAM HELGE HECHT**

'62, '67, Seattle, age 90, Jan. 18

**JAMES B. MACLEAN**

'62, '66, Anacortes, age 88, March 17

**DENNIS SAGER**

'63, Stanwood, age 86, March 1

**DAVIDSON PHILLIP DODD**

'64, Seattle, age 83, Jan. 21

**MARILYN HILLS RIEGEL**

'64, Visalia, Calif., age 83, Dec. 13

**DENNIS STENSTROM**

'64, '70, Scottsdale, Ariz., age 83, Jan. 16

**JAMES GUST DOCES**

'65, '69, '72, Yarrow Point, age 83, March 14

**JOANNE F. FLAGEL**

'65, Renton, age 81, Dec. 17, 2024

**THOMAS FORBES**

'65, '71, Bellevue, age 82

**THOMAS A. GARRISON**

'65, '74, Mercer Island, age 83, Jan. 23

**CHARLES KIMBROUGH**

'65, Bellevue, age 84, Dec. 28

**GARY STOKES MOORE**

'65, Kingston, age 82, Jan. 23

**JAMES E. STEEN**

'65, Burlington, age 82, Dec. 27

**RONALD H. CLARK**

'66, Seattle, age 81, Dec. 11

**SANDRA GOROHOF**

'66, age 84, Jan. 25

**DAVID BYRON HUMMON**

'66, Kirkland, age 81, Jan. 28

**ROBERT L. GERTH**

'67, Mercer Island, age 82, Jan. 9

**JUDITH POWERS JOHNSON**

'67, Woodinville, age 81, Jan. 6

**ROLAND KROLL**

'67, Tacoma, age 91

**VINCENT "RON" MARTIN**

'67, '79, Oro Valley, Ariz., age 82, Dec. 23

**PAUL RICHARD WATERSTRAT**

'67, '79, Ocean Park, age 80, Dec. 28, 2024

**KEITH ARTZ**

'68, Seattle, age 84, Feb. 4

**PAUL A. BOYS**

'68, '75, Renton, age 80, Jan. 22

**LESLIE EUGENE DICKS**

'68, Bellevue, age 80, Feb. 11

**HUEY "BUD" POE**

'68, Los Ranchos, N.M., age 82, March 3

**DENNIS SMITH**

'68, '74, Seattle, age 79, Jan. 2026

**LAWRENCE FREDERICK BAUM**

'69, Camano Island, age 87, Dec. 2

**CHARLES JOSEPH BISHOP**

'69, Poulsbo, age 84, Jan. 20

## 1970

**WILLIAM BRUCE KITTS**

'70, Bothell, age 77, Jan. 12

**DAPHNE SWANSON MYHRE**

'70, Charlottesville, Va., age 77, June 9, 2025

**ALICE ELIZABETH REED**

'70, Corrales, N.M., age 91, Sept. 20

**ROY HIROSHI WAKASA**

'70, '72, Seattle, age 88, Dec. 14

**MARGARET JEAN GLOTH**

'71, '77, '79, Seattle, age 77, Dec. 24

**ANN MARGARET HOVLAND**

'71, Mukilteo, age 76, Feb. 18

**DEBRA CAMERON KRELL**

'72, Snohomish, age 75, Nov. 26

**BEVERLY ANNETTE RAINES**

'72, '78, '91, Seattle, age 78, Nov. 10

**MARGARET BALDWIN**

'73, Woodinville, age 75, Sept. 1

**WILLIAM EDGAR LILE**

'73, Lake Forest Park, age 78, Feb. 4

**PHILIP STEPHEN PIVAL**

'73, Union, age 76, June 16, 2024

**MAHIM POURYAGHMA**

'73, Marshallville, Ga., age 89, Oct. 25

**ANITA ROWE**

'73, Seattle, age 88, Feb. 13

**MURIEL BOYD HENRY**

'74, '77, Bellevue, age 99, March 4

**FAY STROSS**

'74, '77, Seattle, age 91, Feb. 17

**JAN K. WASZAK**

'74, Seattle, age 74, March 2

**DAVID BOLDEN WORGAN**

'74, Kirkland, age 75, Feb. 6

**ROGER JOHN CECIL**

'75, Leavenworth, age 79, Jan. 29

**LITA SHELDON MOWRER**

'75, '77, Everett, age 73, Feb. 14

**MARC ANTHONY DIJULIO**

'76, Seattle, age 72, Jan. 15

**DAVID WILLIAM PAVLICK**

'76, Federal Way, age 75, Nov. 26

**STEPHEN GARY RICE**

'77, '83, Manalapan, N.J., age 78, Sept. 14, 2024

**JANET MARIE NEUHAUSER**

'78, Seattle, age 73, March 7

**JOHN H. CHRISTENSEN**

'79, '84, Renton, age 69, Jan. 21

**NORMAN DOUGLAS NICOL**

'79, Shavertown, Pa., age 79, Feb. 22

**HARVEY "ARVE" SOLOMON**

'79, Edmonds, age 87, March 9

## 1980

**MELINDA ANDREWS**

'82, Kirkland, age 85, Feb. 4

**SCOTT LANTZ**

'82, Olympia, age 67, Aug. 12

**MICHAEL ORTIZ SMITH**

'82, Redondo Beach, Calif., age 68, Jan. 11

**MARILYN EVANS**

'83, Indianola, age 88

**MAUREEN CALLAGHAN**

'85, Olympia, age 73, Feb. 6

**BARBARA WILLIAMSON**

'85, Seattle, age 95, Nov. 28

## 1990

**KARL HOLZHEIMER**

'92, Everett, age 73, Feb. 28

**DAVID CLETUS FENNELL**

'93, Mercer Island, age 69, Jan. 28, 2021

**ASTRID SCHMIDT**

'94, Denmark, age 77, Oct. 21, 2023

**BRIDGETTE MEGAN CHICOINE**

'97, Scottsdale, Ariz., age 50, Dec. 16

## 2000

**KRISHNA VEERARAGHAVAN**

'07, Seattle, age 40, Jan. 22

**KEVIN E. FAREWELL**

'10, Seattle, age 51, Feb. 5

## FACULTY AND FRIENDS

**MARISOL BARRIOS-MIRANDA** was a Puerto Rico native who served as an affiliate assistant professor in the UW School of Music. She also taught in the Jackson School of International Studies, where she served as assistant director of Latin American Studies. She also taught in the UW Honors program. She died Nov. 17 at the age of 70.

**WILLIAM BLISS III** worked with the UW Fisheries Research Institute, which forecast salmon runs in Alaska. He died March 9 at the age of 90.

**SUZANNE GAGE BRAINARD** was the Director of Women in Engineering before serving as executive director of the UW Center for Workforce Development and until her retirement in early 2015. Brainard co-founded the national Women in Engineering Program & Advocates Network and empowered generations of women to thrive in engineering careers. She died April 12 at the age of 81.

**JEAN SPEAR CAMPBELL** earned a Ph.D. in physiological chemistry and moved to Seattle in 1990 for a postdoctoral fellowship at the UW. She was an affiliate assistant professor of laboratory medicine and pathology at UW Medicine and served as executive director of research and development at OncoSec Medical Inc., which develops immunotherapy to treat solid tumors. She died Jan. 18 at the age of 66.

**DAVID ALLEN CARPENTER** was a former UW rugby coach who starred for the Old Puget Sound Beach Club in Seattle. He coached the UW men's rugby team from 1985 to 1992 and came back to coach the team as recently as 2020. He died Feb. 12 at the age of 74.

**CATHERINE ERVIN DECKARD**, '90, was a Seattle native who worked at the UW Alumni Association as an event planner and for the UW School of Medicine Alumni Association. She was known for her friendly personality and ability to get things done. She died April 18, 2024 at the age of 55.

**PHYLLIS H. DUIN** worked in a UW research lab and volunteered at Overlake Hospital.

She died Dec. 29 at the age of 97.

**STEPHEN DUZAN** was a former UW student who became a visionary entrepreneur and the founding CEO of Seattle-based Immunex Corp., growing it from a startup into a powerhouse that developed Enbrel, a breakthrough drug that changed the lives of millions suffering from rheumatoid arthritis. He was a major supporter of the UW. He died March 13 at the age of 84.

**SHEILA FARR** served as graduate secretary and academic counselor for the UW Mathematics Department from 1967 to 1993. She died July 10 at the age of 93.

**MARY LOUISE FIELDER** worked for 25 years at the UW, ultimately serving as assistant to the late Dr. King Holmes, head of the UW Division of Infectious Diseases. She also ran the "First Thursdays" lecture series for the UW Retirement Association for a time. She died Dec. 7 at the age of 76.

**DICK FOLEY** was a former UW student who sang with the Brothers Four and was a longtime host of "Northwest Afternoon" on KOMO-TV. He joined UW fraternity brothers Bob Flick, John Paine and Mike Kirkland to form the Brothers Four, who were nominated for an Academy Award. He left the group for a 16-year career at KOMO. He died March 15 at the age of 85.

**CLIFTON TOKUJI FURUWAKA** was a Honolulu native who earned his medical degree from the University of Rochester and came to Seattle to complete his residency and fellowship in allergy medicine at the UW and Seattle Children's. He served two years in the Air Force. As a clinical professor for UW Medicine for 39 years, he trained residents and fellows at the UW. He died Feb. 22 at the age of 81.

**SUSAN JOANNE GIBSON** served as an adjunct professor in the Foster School of Business at UW Bothell. She died Jan. 27 at the age of 75.

**SAJVA HALVERSON** worked as a cybersecurity consultant at the UW. She died Jan. 3 at the age of 61.

**NEIL M. HAWKINS** served on the faculty of the UW College of Engineering for 23 years.

## SUZZALLO LIBRARY LOVE STORY

It was about 1966 or 1967 when Christine Renhard, '69, was at her Suzzallo Library job, studying for a geology final. It was a few days before Christmas, and snow was on the ground. In walked graduate student Dennis Stenstrom. They started talking and in 1970, they were married. Dennis, '64, '70, earned UW degrees in chemical engineering and nuclear engineering, later earned a law degree from Loyola University Chicago, and retired after 15 years of service at Hewlett Packard. He died Jan. 16 at the age of 83.

He was chair of civil engineering from 1978 to 1987 and associate dean for research from 1987 to 1991. A native of Australia, he worked as a structural engineering consultant and affiliate professor at the UW while heading civil and environmental engineering at the University of Illinois. He died Feb. 25 at the age of 91.

**JOHN HINTERBERGER**, '66, was an Army veteran who enjoyed a long career at The Seattle Times as a columnist, reporter and its first restaurant critic. He was The Times' restaurant critic for 25 years. He died March 26 at the age of 92.

**FREDERICK S. "FRITZ" HOEDEMAKER** was a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who served as a clinical professor of psychiatry at the UW School of Medicine. He previously was a ward psychiatrist and assistant clinical professor at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute. He died Dec. 22 at the age of 92.

**GEORGIE KUNKEL**, '68, earned her MSW from the UW and spent her career as a schoolteacher and elementary school counselor. After being forced to resign when pregnant with each of her four children, and losing her seniority, she turned into a trailblazing activist. She created Women and Girls in Education, and this group's efforts inspired the state's Superintendent of Public Instruction to create the Commission on Women and Girls. The commission's report led to legislation that ended discrimination against women and allowed them to keep their jobs after a maternity leave. She also served as president of the Washington State chapter of the National Organization for Women, was a founder of Seattle Counselors Association and helped organized the

first Highline School District Teacher Union. She died Oct. 29 at the age of 105.

**MARY ELIZABETH LEVIN**, '82, spent more than 20 years as the UW's official photographer. She photographed everything from departmental award luncheons to covers for Columns magazine, the forerunner of University of Washington Magazine. Blessed with a great eye and friendly demeanor, she put all her subjects at ease. She died Feb. 14 at the age of 80.

**EDWARD "ED" LINCOLN** was a former UW student who, after his sophomore year, enlisted in the Army and then the Air Force. He was known for his sense of humor and business chops as the owner of Lincoln Towing and creator of Seattle's famous pink "Toe Truck." He died Feb. 23 at the age of 84.

**JACK NICHOLLS** was a professor emeritus at the UW School of Dentistry, where he served on the faculty for 31 years. He guided countless graduate students in prosthodontics, orthodontics and endodontics. He died July 2 at the age of 93.

**NANCY SKINNER NORDHOFF** was a philanthropist, environmentalist, women's advocate and community leader who also was a major supporter of the UW. The foundation created by her family was a major investor in Seattle Children's. She also founded Hedgebrook, a retreat for women writers on Whidbey Island, was one of eight founders of Seattle CityClub and a founding board member of

Pacific Northwest Grantmaker's Forum (later known as Philanthropy Northwest). She died Jan. 7 at the age of 93.

**CHARLES MCGEE PIGOTT** was a Navy pilot during the Korean War who joined Pacific Car and Foundry (now PACCAR) in 1956 as an engineer. He rose through the ranks and became president of PACCAR in 1965. He ran the company for more than 30 years, was elected to the Automotive Hall of Fame, served on many boards and was a major supporter of the UW; the Foster School of Business is housed inside PACCAR Hall. He died Jan. 21 at the age of 96.

**JOHN "JACK" FRANCIS ROOS**, '55, started a career at the UW Fisheries Research Institute, where he researched sockeye salmon in Bristol Bay and Chignik, Alaska. In 1960, he became a fisheries scientist at the International Pacific Salmon Fisheries Commission. During his 26 years there, he also was adjunct faculty in the UW Fisheries School. He died in March 2025, at the age of 93.

**DAVID TURPIN** served as a part-time affiliate professor of orthodontics at the UW School of Dentistry for 48 years. He died May 29, 2025 at the age of 87.

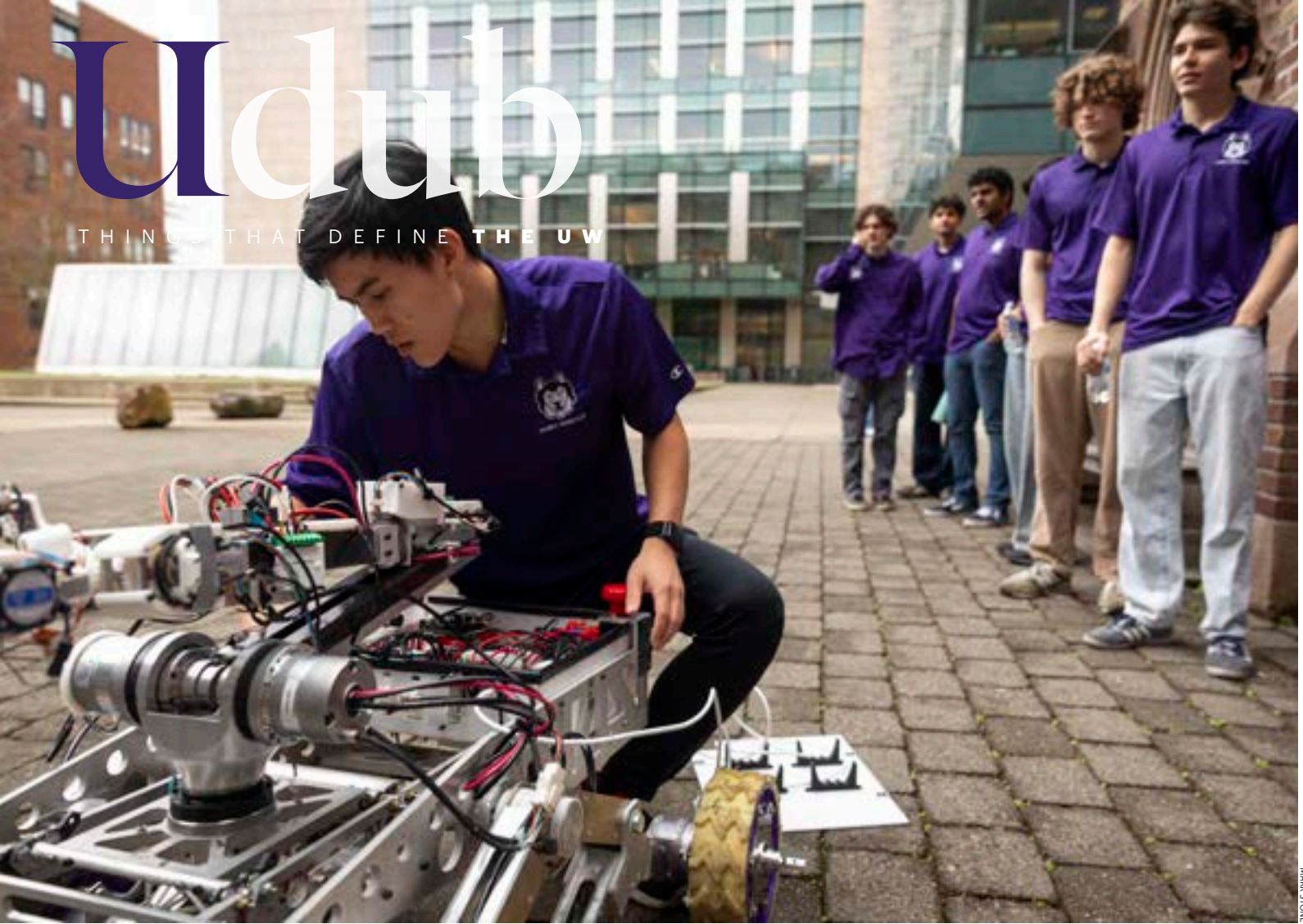
**LAWRENCE GEORGE WILSON**, '73, interned for the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Seattle and worked as a doctor for the Peace Corps. After that, he returned to Seattle for his psychiatry residency for UW Medicine, joined the UW School of Medicine faculty and was director of the consultation-liaison service at Harborview Medical Center. He died Feb. 12 at the age of 85.

**ANN WYCKOFF**, '50, was a renowned Seattle philanthropist and major supporter of the UW. She earned her MSW from the UW in 1950, and supported education, arts, museums, parks and social-service institutions. Known for making social-service institutions inclusive and accessible, her generosity benefited dozens of community agencies. She died Jan. 1 at the age of 98.

## TO SUBMIT AN OBITUARY

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MARK STONE

## Heavy Metal

**It's tough competition to join a team that's making a Mars rover**

By Caitlin Klask

*It's standing room only for the Husky Robotics team meetings. As the UW's largest registered student organization, it routinely receives hundreds of applications for only 40 spots.*

There's a registered student organization on campus with an Ivy League admission rate. Each quarter, hundreds of aspiring members reach out in hopes of joining, but even with this year's added \$250 club fee, only 8% of them will be successful.

"We had more than 500 applicants this year for only 40 spots on the team," says Husky Robotics Team leader Micah Kim, a junior majoring in mechanical engineering.

Like some of the capacity-constrained majors at the UW, Husky Robotics just doesn't have space for more members. The Engineering Annex can only hold 20 students in a lab. "And the truth is, there's only so much work to do," Kim adds. But there's always space for one very special guest: Dr. Robert J. Jones.

Jones visited Husky Robotics along with Barbell Club, Husky Hooks & Needles, Dirty Dozen Student Farm Club and eight others to celebrate his first year as president of the UW. In the UW's 2026-2030 strategic plan, Jones laid out a strategy for expanding access to capacity-constrained majors like engineering, where the UW is tied with Columbia, Harvard and Penn State as one of the top 25 engineering programs in the country.

What makes Husky Robotics so popular? "It makes you stretch your wings, in terms of learning," says Kim, who applied what he learned about cross-functional teams in the Husky Robotics team to an internship last summer. "Preparing you for industry is the biggest thing our members take away from Husky Robotics."

A tactical way for students to build industry skills is by participating in the University Rover Challenge, the world's foremost robotics competition for college students. After a rigorous selection process, 15 out of 60 teams from the U.S. (and 38 out of 116 internationally) were selected, and Husky Robotics is among the lucky few in 2026. Team members collaborate by balancing a budget, buying parts, navigating tariffs, programming the rover and abiding by strict competition rules—challenges they wouldn't necessarily face in the classroom.

This year, the team arrives at the rover challenge prepared with advice from robotics alumni and industry sponsors, who make appearances at Husky Robotics team meetings. "The community we've been able to cultivate has been super awesome to see, and we've grown a lot in just one year," Kim says. "We've set the foundation to continue to grow moving forward, so that's pretty awesome."

### ONLINE

See President Jones join Husky Robotics and a dozen other UW clubs in a video recap of his first year as president: [uwmag.online/pres-jones-video](http://uwmag.online/pres-jones-video)

# License *to excel*

Meet Daniel, '28, and Zoia, '29. Daniel is a mechanical engineering student who spends his time playing piano and pickleball. Zoia is a pre-sciences major passionate about neuroscience, arts and activism. Both are grateful recipients of a scholarship funded through the purchase of UW license plates – support that's making their Husky education a reality.

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