25 more things we love about Tacoma

Number 13
The Rock and Roll photography of Jini Dellaccio

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on the cover
The Tacoma band The Sonics, photographed by Jini Dellaccio in 1966. If Neil Young (who Jini also photographed during her long and sparkling career) is the godfather of grunge, The Sonics are the parents of punk, with their hard-working, unconventional and unpretentious, garage-band style. So very Tacoma. Photo reproduced with permission of the Jini Dellaccio Collection.

this page
Another thing we love about Tacoma: the astonishing tile work inside the Casablanca Apartments. This photo by Ross Mulhausen doesn’t show the half of it.
Ruby Tuesday

The Stones were singing. The Rolling Stones, I mean. And they were turned up pretty loud on my rental car radio. It was “Ruby Tuesday.” I was making the soft turn on the Schuster Parkway just past the big grain elevator, coming out of Old Town and headed toward I-5 when, boom, there it was, right on my windshield: The Mountain. It was too big to be real and, it seemed, right there in the front seat with me.

Peeking out of the mist as the sun seemed to set its snowy peaks on fire, it looked like a giant movie on a screen the size of the sky, stretching across the horizon. I took a sudden breath at the surprise of it. Gathering myself, I made the turn after Stadium Way and got a glimpse of the new Tacoma Art Museum silhouetted against the vast, looming whiteness, then the shape of the great silver cone of the Museum of Glass, the jumbled blue cubes on the Bridge of Glass, the elegant architecture of the 509 bridge. “Catch your dreams before they slip away,” Mick Jagger sang as I veered right, this time to join the I-5 traffic headed north for the airport.

That was almost exactly seven years ago, and I had just made my first visit to Puget Sound, spending the afternoon gathering intelligence around the campus, the neighborhood, the downtown. I hadn’t yet interviewed for the job, but I already knew that if I were lucky enough to get the offer, I’d take it. This was perfect: a breathtaking natural landscape, a city on the rise, rich in cultural resources, with some great things happening on this charming, inviting residential campus, already beautiful but like a jewel still in the ground, ready to be cut and polished in order to realize its potential. A real ruby in the rough.

Turns out I got the job and, after seven years, I think I got the place basically right, too. It’s amazing, and getting better all the time. That’s as true about our campus as it is about the city in which we live. And that’s why, for the second time, we’ve dedicated an issue of Arches to the things we love about Tacoma—from the magnificence of our landscape, our institutions, and our people to the quirkiness of some of our more hidden treasures.

I’ve got my own list of personal favorites—receiving a welcome greeting from a harbor seal during my first sail on the Sound with Professor Alan Thorndike in his wooden-hulled sailboat; cutting the ribbon for our inspiring new Science Center, the campus’ first green building; spending a Christmas holiday in Vietnam and Cambodia with our Pac Rim students and faculty; spotting my first pod of orcas charging up Colvos Passage in perfect formation; watching a newly hatched bald eagle screaming in excitement (and fear) as it tentatively spread its massive wings and lifted from its mile-high nest and floated effortlessly over the waves.

What I intuited but didn’t yet know when I got here was how deeply connected Tacoma and Puget Sound have always been. I knew it was the citizens of Tacoma whose determination and generosity made sure that a great university of the Pacific Northwest would be located in the City of Destiny more than a century ago. But I soon learned some other things. Like the fact that the Tacoma Art Museum began in our art department right here on campus 75 years ago. And that the Tacoma Symphony was born out of Puget Sound’s School of Music and was originally conducted by our faculty. One of our former presidents and a former student came up with the big idea of establishing the world’s foremost museum of glass in Tacoma’s downtown. An alumnus would become one of the city’s civil rights leaders, founder and first director of the Tacoma Urban League. Another graduate (and former faculty member) would be one of our most successful mayors, leading the city during an important period of renaissance, when Tacoma would be named among America’s most livable cities.

And that’s just the tip of the iceberg, a few manifestations of the real magic of this place: the effectiveness with which our faculty carry out the mission of inspiring people first to learn important things and then to go on to do great things. I know of no other place where the faculty are so single-minded in their devotion to this mission, and where the evidence of it is so clear. Ask almost any student or graduate (I do, all the time) what they love about Puget Sound. Often topping the list will be a story about a professor who made someone think about things in a new way, or a class that opened up a whole new area of interest, or a faculty mentor who helped a student navigate the struggling years of graduate school or a new career. Wish I had a nickel for every time I’ve heard one of them say about a professor, “He is amazing,” or “She is just phenomenal.”

You can’t see that in The Mountain at first glimpse, or in Commencement Bay, or in the bald eagle lifting off from its nest and diving into the Sound. But our faculty are the real crown jewels, the magic ruby slippers of this place. Nothing rough-cut about them. This is a place where, as the Stones sing in another song, you not only “get what you want” or even “what you need.” You get a whole lot more.

Ronald R. Thomas
Meaning, indeed


Where I went to college in central Illinois, it was Bingo’s Bar instead of Pat’s. During the day it was frequented by workers from the nearby rail yards. Each evening the college kids took over. Hamm’s draft was 25 cents in a frosted mug, and you could add a Polish sausage for a little bit more. It was a family-run place, and the owners’ son was a classmate of mine at Illinois Wesleyan.

Now that I’m a card-carrying member of the AARP, I could associate with “Bob-the-lawyer” in Mr. Wiley’s wonderful narrative. I, too, am a lawyer (although I don’t do wills) whose wife recently left me. Mona has not yet passed away, but the bittersweet mix of getting over the past and into the future is certainly understood.

I am the proud parent of a Logger in the Class of 2011. The first time I saw Tacoma and the UPS campus, I also felt that I had found a very welcoming and special place. I love visiting once or twice a year and may even trade the dry sun of San Diego for the liquid sunshine of Tacoma someday.

Thank you to Mr. Wiley and to Arches for sharing such a touching story.

Paul Breen ’11
San Diego

We received quite a few complimentary letters on “Your Life Should Have Meaning.” The above is representative. — ed.

Familiar ground

The new Center for Health Sciences is of special interest to me [“Center for Health Sciences Moves One Step Closer to Construction,” winter 2010]. The location will include the grounds of 3311 N. 11th Street. This is where I was born and where I grew up, so this plan is significant and exciting to me. The home at 3311 now belongs to the university and is known as Wilkinson House. I attended Puget Sound and later served as secretary to President Thompson for five years. My husband [Will Gee] has two degrees from UPS and has been involved with the alumni association and board of trustees in many ways. Hence, my special interest in the new Health Sciences Center.

Marian Wilkinson Gee ’43
Tacoma

Three for three

My wife is kicking me, since all alumni associations ever seem to want is money, but the winter 2010 edition of Arches really struck close to home. It had three very close connections with my personal experience, and I thoroughly read the magazine, which I’ll admit I usually skim.

I was intimately familiar with Pat’s Tavern—probably too much for my own good. More important to me were the stories regarding the Olympics and Deep Creek Lodge. I was privileged to work in the Olympic Village here in Salt Lake City as a physical therapist in 2002 and was deeply drawn into the story by Greg Groegel ’06. My wife, Kelley Murphy, worked for an organization called Olympic Aide, which funds sports in Third World countries. We spent the entire time at both the Olympics and Paralympics in the residential zone of the respective villages with all-access passes.

The second story that grabbed me was the one on Deep Creek. “Been there!” While I finished my undergraduate degree and then PT degree at Puget Sound, I served as a ski patrol at Crystal Mountain. I had no idea that Puget Sound was so involved in the early development of Crystal. I got to live the good life while a student at UPS and skied every inch of the terrain in the article.

You definitely sucked me in with these stories. I am curious as to why there isn’t a Puget Sound alumni association group here in SLC, as I see lots of stickers and license plate frames from UPS as I drive around town. Anyway, it was a great issue that pulled me in more than any other I’ve seen.

Brian P. Murphy B.S.’92, M.P.T.’94
Salt Lake City

Archives is printed with soy seal approved inks on paper that contains at least 10 percent post-consumer waste. The paper is certified by SmartWood to Forest Stewardship Council standards, and it is manufactured 20 miles from where Arches is printed and mailed.
news from the field

loggers in tv-land

KUPS promotions director Elly Henriksen ’10 says the trip to NYC to collect the mtvU award for the best college radio station was a mad, happy blur.

Last November, KUPS received the greatest honor and surprise of its 41-year existence. After months of online voting and hours of waiting for the final “call” to inform us which of the top five stations had earned the 2009 mtvU Best College Radio Station Woodie Award, legendary disc jockey Matt Pinfield came bounding into our studio in the basement of Wheelock Student Center, surrounded by cameramen, holding the coveted trophy we had been craving for months. We had done it.

The awe still hasn’t worn off. A few weeks ago the Woodie was mailed to us, with its ‘frash’ engraving: “2009 mtvU Woodie Awards —KUPS 90.1 College Radio Woodie.” The trophy is eerily fitting for our university, as it is a big, heavy chunk of birch with a hammer, and a wedge stuck in the top. Oddly enough, it came addressed to me. I’m glad they at least chose to use my actual name rather than “that girl who really went nuts.”

More photos of the trip at www.flickr.com/photos/447300560@N02/
SPASHER: Jackson Kowalski ’10 set a new school record in the 100-yard backstroke at the NCAA D3 Swimming and Diving Championships.

CRASH! The field house crowd was ready when Claire Ely ’11 broke through the 1,000 career-point ceiling on January 29.

zeitgeist

Photojournal by Ross Mulhausen

JAN 18, 24TH ANNUAL M.L. KING JR. CELEBRATION In Kilworth Memorial Chapel, the Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton ’83 is the speaker.

JAN 22-23, HAPPY 30th The Community Music program celebrates its 30th anniversary with a faculty reunion and a public concert that features performances by music faculty and community members—including a 4-year-old pianist. Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland proclaims the 22nd and 23rd “Community Music Anniversary Celebration Days.”

FEB 6: ALL TOGETHER NOW With the help of her sorority sisters, new Alpha Phi President Dani Rosengrant ’12 organizes a day of community service modeled on the college’s Urban Plunge orientation activity for freshmen. More than 100 students volunteer at 10 Tacoma organizations, including these women at Gateways for Youth and Families.

SPR: Jim Miller poses with friends.

FEB 3: MASTER CLASS Internationally acclaimed tenor Rob McPherson ’91 is in town to work with voice students in the School of Music.

FEB 5: MARRIED BY MARILYN Tacoma Mayor Marilyn Strickland marries the Rev. Dr. Leslie Braxton in a ceremony officiated by Dr. Braxton, Kilworth Chapel. The couple met at Pacific Northwest College of Art.

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The building that will bear his name rises behind R. Franklin Thompson in 1967.

Thompson Hall soon after completion in 1968. Note that the maple trees on Union Avenue, now reaching maturity, are just saplings.

At first, plans for a new science building sited the structure on Sutton Quad, where McBryte Hall now stands, and included an underground civil defense complex. The plan was scrapped due to cost.

**from the archives**

**The faces behind the buildings: Thompson Hall**

Thompson Hall was built in 1967 as the university’s second science building. The first was Howarth Hall, which housed science instruction for 44 years, between 1924 and 1968. A third science building, Harried Hall, was dedicated in 2007. A major renovation to Thompson Hall was completed in 2018, and it became, with Harried, today’s state-of-the-art science center. But for the 39-year period from 1968 to 2007, Thompson Hall stood alone as the university’s science building. With the surge of interest in science that occurred in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it became clear that Howarth Hall was inadequate to meet the instructional and research needs of the science curriculum. In 1960 President R. Franklin Thompson began working with chemistry Professor Robert Sprenger, biology Professor Gordon Alcorn, and physics Professor Marian Nelson on plans for an expanded science facility.

Their efforts occurred at the height of the Cold War. Congress had allocated $700 million for civil defense, some $425 million of which was to go for the construction of civil defense shelters across the country. The director of civil defense for the state of Washington felt that the University of Puget Sound was the ideal location for meeting the need to pump waste 40 feet uphill to access the sewer system.

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Three new faculty books

**Globallyoney 2.0: The Crash of 2008 and the Future of Globalization**

**Michael Veseth '72, Robert J. Albertson**

Michael Veseth, professor of international political economy, has been an influential critic of globalization for decades. In his latest book, Veseth argues that the global economy is facing a crisis of legitimacy and that the traditional story of globalization as a force for progress is no longer compelling. He offers a new narrative that emphasizes the challenges and contradictions of globalization, and proposes a more balanced and nuanced approach to understanding global economic and political developments.

**Wild Men: Ishi and Kroeber in the Wilderness of Modern America**

**Douglas Cazaux, professor of history**

In his latest book, Cazaux re-examines the story of Ishi, the last Yahi Indian to have lived in the area where he was born. Using new sources and a fresh perspective, Cazaux presents a compelling portrait of Ishi's life and the impact of Euro-American encroachment on his culture. The book is a rich exploration of the complex relationship between indigenous peoples and the modern world.

**Five stories of Putnam’s family**

**Ann Putnam**

In her latest memoir, Putnam tells the story of her family’s life in the 1960s and 1970s, when they moved from a small town to the suburbs of Los Angeles. The book is a vivid portrait of the challenges and joys of suburban life, and a poignant reflection on the changing face of America.


Ishi was, as the newspapers of a century ago called him, the "last Indian." He and the remaining dozen or two of the Yahi tribe van¬ished into the canyons near Lassen Peak in northern California in the face of violence from white settlers. While rumors abound for years about the wild men living in the area, the Yahi managed to stay out of sight for more than four decades. Then one day in 1911 Ishi simply gave up hiding and walked into Oroville, Calif., where he was taken in by the local constabulary. Albert Kroeber, an anthropologist who ran the University of California’s Museum of Anthropology in San Francisco, had heard and believed the rumors about the wild men. When Ishi appeared, Kroeber had brought him to the museum, where he lived and worked for his remaining days.

The story of Ishi has been told before, including a couple of TV movies. Kroeber focuses much on the relationship between Ishi and Kroeber, and the way it changed both men. That any sort of trust could be established is an interesting story in itself. Ishi and Kroeber lived in poverty, hiding from violence, described frankly and brutally by Sackman, who noted that official U.S. policy toward the Indians was “domestication, not extermination,” but it was not easy to manage this. Ishi was immediately thrown into a peddled cell, then treated like a character in a circus side-show. Finally they put him on a train to San Francisco, and the man who had lived his entire life in the wild was suddenly thrust into the midst of a bustling, modern city.

Yet by all accounts Ishi adapted extremely well. He traveled about the city, liked to ride the trolley cars, had a number of friends, enjoyed the movies, and developed a liking for ice cream and a similar cream pie. When Kroeber and others suggested a trip back to his old haunts to do some on-the-spot anthropology fieldwork, Ishi balked. There were no chairs or room for comfort, and much food. Eventually, he was convinced to go.

Kroeber was in an interesting position. Ishi was the subject of his research, but the two men also became friends as well. Kroeber did a reasonable job preventing Ishi from being entirely exploited, although he was always something of an attraction at the museum.

The cover photo of the book is fascinating. It shows Ishi and Kroeber standing side by side, in similar suit jackets, slacks, and shirts with ties. Ishi is barefoot. Even living in the city for the final five years of his life, he never had any use for shoes. It’s a fitting metaphor for the conflicts involved in the story. America was rapidly becoming urban but was still fascinated with the Wild West, and it marveled at the wilderness described as “untouched” despite the fact that natives had been living there for centuries. Ishi was the last wild Indian, lived in the city somewhat out of necessity, never completely abandoned his ways and culture, but didn’t have a job in it either.

Wild Men is a marvelous read that brings these characters to life. The story continues to make anthropologists and historians, including Sackman, rethink their approaches to the study of other cultures, present and past.

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**Full Moon at Noonlight: A Father’s Last Goodbye**

**Ann Putnam, instructor of English**

224 pages, hardcover

University of Texas Press: 108 pgs. 857x1230

Review by Linda Patterson Miller

There is a surreal quality to Ann Putnam’s family memoir as she evokes images from her “mind’s eye or memory.” A father falls, but where? There is a surreal quality to Ann Putnam’s family memoir as she evokes images from her “mind’s eye or memory.” A father falls, but where?

Putnam’s story weaves in and out of the past as it unravels family mysteries. Five stories of Putnam’s family life in the 1960s and 1970s, when they moved from a small town to the suburbs of Los Angeles. The book is a vivid portrait of the challenges and joys of suburban life, and a poignant reflection on the changing face of America.

Good memoirs like this one do look backward, but also inward. Putnam’s story weaves in and out of the past as it unravels family mysteries. Five stories of Putnam’s family life in the 1960s and 1970s, when they moved from a small town to the suburbs of Los Angeles. The book is a vivid portrait of the challenges and joys of suburban life, and a poignant reflection on the changing face of America.

Putnam’s parents’ ability to adapt to life University House, they visit some apartments and by mistake end up in one that reflects the underbelly of retirement-home life. The door swings open to reveal “a woman so large she has literally melted into her wheelchair” in the midst of dirt and chaos. She inches forward “on little pink feet in little pink slippers” and her hair lies “in stringy brown strands across her scalp.” Shelves full of pills line all the walls such that her apartment “is a pharmaceutical warehouse.” Putnam confesses that “it’s time to let Homer and Henry show up for the curtain call, look out and away, as if nothing is awry. Putnam’s vivid recount¬ings of such comic moments of truth suggest why her own husband and children regard her as the family comedian. Yet there are moments even Putnam cannot make funny. When the family first goes to tour University House, they visit some apartments and by mistake end up in one that reflects the underbelly of retirement-home life. The door swings open to reveal “a woman so large she has literally melted into her wheelchair” in the midst of dirt and chaos. She inches forward “on little pink feet in little pink slippers” and her hair lies “in stringy brown strands across her scalp.” Shelves full of pills line all the walls such that her apartment “is a pharmaceutical warehouse.” Putnam confesses that “it’s time to let Homer and Henry show up for the curtain call, look out and away, as if nothing is awry. Putnam’s vivid recount¬ings of such comic moments of truth suggest why her own husband and children regard her as the family comedian. Yet there are moments even Putnam cannot make funny. When the family first goes to tour University House, they visit some apartments and by mistake end up in one that reflects the underbelly of retirement-home life.

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Pond” even as he questioned “if it was truly bottomless as myth would have it.” As a seeker after truth no matter the cost, Putnam says, he would add more (if you could afford it), and lays out a checklist of 43 dietary symptoms to watch for. Do you have more than five of them? That could be a problem. Fuller says weight and diet are not all physical. Instead she’s concerned about helping the whole person, and the brain is critical to the cure. There’s a tremendous amount of emotional and spiritual baggage to get past in dieting, she says, making frequent use of terms like freedom, wisdom, healing, and balance. Her tools are creativity, imagination, self-awareness, and even dream analysis, not grueling Saturdays at the gym and grapefruit-and-dry-toast breakfasts. Not Your Mother’s Diet is a workbook with plenty of depth, kindness, empathy, advice (and exercises) for the reader to use in understanding and taking control of his or her own situation. — GS

The Professor and Other Writings
Terry Castle ’75, HON ’98
152 pages, hardcover
Harper Collins
www.harpercollins.com

Terry Castle’s latest book, The Professor and Other Writings, is a collection of personal essays that demonstrate a wicked wit and brutal honesty. The title piece is a lengthy essay about Castle’s lesbian affair with an older professor while Castle was in graduate school in the ’70s. It’s funny but also heartbreakingly, a tale of how young people all of us become obsessed and self-conscious as we wrestled with the notion of relationships and sexuality. It’s also a fascinating look at a time we tend to think of as more “liberated,” yet the truth is that many such relationships remained deep in the closet. Another favorite in the collection is “Desperately Seeking Susan,” an article written for the London Review of Books in 2005 about the author’s association with Susan Sontag. The obit of sorts describes a lost/hate relationship of friendship and rivalry: “For ten years ours was an on-again, off-again, semi-friendship, confounded by role-playing and don’t-through-the-end-with-meaningless-invitations.” Through Castle sees Sontag, she also praises her, writing that “it is hard for me to think about the history of modern feminism, say—especially as it evolved in the United States in the 1970s—without Sontag in the absolutely central, catalytic role.” In other essays about her fascination with a biography of jazz great Art Pepper or describing a road trip to New Mexico with her aging mother, Castle delivers sparkling tales that are smart, funny, and moving. — GS

Voyaging to the Mediterranean Under Power: Imprints of Ports, People, Sunsets, and Storms
Mary Umstot P 84
244 pages, paperback
Booklocker
www.booklocker.com

Mary Umstot and her husband, Denis (a UPS professor emeritus of business administration), had been boating together around Puget Sound for more than three decades, with progressively larger vessels, especially those with floor-to-ceiling windows fronting spans of sky and water and mountains. During such moments, we seek the family’s attempt to circle the table as if to contain their belief that all will be well, despite the growing odds against them. On one of those evenings, they had had “a spectacular sunset, the sun laying golden ripples over the water before it disappeared behind the mountains across the water.” But the sun vanished to reveal from now, and all we remarked on it,” Putnam writes. “Still, it had been a beautiful sunset. And there was the water.” Putnam’s apt summary of this luminous book reveals its central beauty and truth. “Maybe what I knew from memory and an imagination forged in love, might be so lucky, a greater truth that would extend beyond all the sorrows to come and my anguished nation forged in love might, if I were so lucky, yield a greater truth of beauty and truth. “Maybe what I knew from memory and an imagination forged in love might be so lucky.” — GS

Fiddler on the road
Amelia Thornton ’10
Major: Music Business
Hometown: Kalispell, Mont.
Claim to fame: A classically trained violinist and master fiddler, Amelia started playing the violin at age 5 and began fiddling playing two years later.
Is fiddling dead? For her summer research grant project, Amelia investigated the state of fiddle music in the Pacific Northwest. She spent part of last summer touring Washington, Oregon, and Montana, attending festivals and dropping in on jam sessions to interview musicians and fiddle lovers for her documentary The Only Tune I Ever Lost. It’s hip: She found that the fiddle is not embraced just by a fringe group of old-timers left over from the logging camps. Indie rock artists (such as the group punk group Goddell Ben- dello and folksinger Sufjan Stevens) are blending fiddle music with rock and electronica. Fiddling is “brave music” that appeals to young rebels, she contends. It’s hard to do, but self-sustaining. Teaching the next generation: Amelia also found that many of the events she attended were geared toward the 21-and-over crowd. Deciding she wanted to help expose younger musicians to fiddle music, she created a summer music camp in her hometown called “Fiddling at the Man.” It’s a three-day workshop for classically trained high school students (“they were terrified at the idea of giving up sheet music and playing by ear,” she says), followed by a lunchtime concert for the public. It was a hit, and Amelia hopes to hold more in the future. — Lestraundra Alfred ’11

Not Your Mother’s Diet: The Cure for Your Eating Issues
Kathleen Fuller ’70
352 pages, paperback
The Professor and Other Writings
Terry Castle ’75, HON ’98
152 pages, hardcover
Harper Collins
www.harpercollins.com

Many diet books, regardless of their length, could be boiled down to four words: Eat less, exercise more. Kathleen Fuller says in Not Your Mother’s Diet that it’s way, way more complicated than that. How complicated? Fuller takes the reader through a 19-question self-analysis, busts eight diet myths, provides a chart on which to monitor successes of positive choices, and leaves it. — GS

Manual therapy—using exercise to help fix what ails you—isn’t some heavy science, examining properties of bone, muscle, cartilage, how motion and inhibiting pain isn’t enough; exercise can help solve acute symptoms and make joints and muscles work better. — GS

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Ever since we published “25 Things We Love About Tacoma” in 2006, readers have been asking us for a reprise. We finally relent and give you…

25 more things we love about Tacoma

1 Frank Herbert

The author of perhaps the greatest science fiction novel of all time, Dune, was indeed born in Tacoma. (When he was 8 his family moved to Burley, a biographical fact about which the editor takes great delight because he, too, lives there. Now if Mr. Editor can only figure out which house was Herbert’s.)

2 The Murray Morgan Bridge

Another iconic Tacoma landmark saved: By the time you read this the first phase of restoration on the Murray Morgan Bridge will be finished. The bridge, with its distinctive high-lifting center section (so masted ships could pass under), was built in 1913 to connect downtown with the tide flats. It was closed to vehicle traffic in 2007 after engineers deemed it unsafe. In 1997 the bridge was named for Tacoma-born historian Murray Morgan HON’76. Mr. Morgan was a tender on the bridge in the 1950s, and it is said he wrote his famed history of Seattle, Skid Road, during quiet periods on the job.

3 Connell’s Dahlias

Talk about color riot. The August open house at this Midland farm will leave you looking for a monochromatic landscape to let your eyeballs settle. Their 2010 tubers are shipping now.
4 Commencement Bay

What a busy delight to the eye: huge container cranes at the port, looking for all the world like Erector Set dinosaurs; boats and ships of every size and description from the world over; rocky beaches and grassy parks; new condos and old piers (below which Puget Sound profs and students are working to restore eelgrass beds); big factories and small homes; acres of just-arrived Kias, Mazdas, and Suzukis; and, overseeing it all, our own pillars of Hercules: to the west, the Olympics; to the southeast, Mount Rainier, with the Puyallup River running milky white from the Tahoma and Puyallup glaciers all the way down to the bay.

Oh, and one more thing. We’re a college. How could we resist a place named “Commencement?”

5 Tacoma [S]elf Storage

It began unintentionally in 2007, when roosting pigeons shorted out the 4-foot-high neon “S” on the Tacoma Self Storage building on South Holgate Street, causing the very prominent sign to read: Tacoma Elf Storage. “So that’s where all those North Pole toy makers go in the off-season,” people said. When Christmastime rolled around the owners switched the “S” off on purpose, and a Tacoma holiday tradition was born.

6 Johnny’s Seasoning Salt

Still good on everything. Still made here. And it’s got a Facebook fan page!

7 The Karpeles Manuscript Museum

The sparkly new museum buildings down on Pacific Avenue invite a lot of notice, but the quiet and stately Karpeles, just across the street from Wright Park and the Seymour Conservatory, deserves more attention than it gets. It is one of nine repositories in cities across the U.S. housing the 1 million historical documents and artifacts from the private collection of Marsha and David Karpeles. The exhibit here in Tacoma changes quarterly, and unlike those museums down on Pacific, admission is free.

8 The LeMay collection

Known is that Harold E. LeMay managed to acquire all the vehicles he did in one lifetime is a wonder, but actually seeing the 3,000 antique and classic cars and trucks—lots of trucks—out there at the old Marymount Military Academy is a spectacular experience for car geeks like your Arches editor. We’re very much looking forward to seeing the LeMay Museum get started on construction of the grand facility planned for a 9-acre site near the Tacoma Dome. Groundbreaking is now said to be set for this spring.
I am a great believer in retail politics. It takes shoe leather, focus, and a determined willingness to go door to door, day after day, asking people for their vote. It served me well in my four successful campaigns for public office, and it helped me learn a great deal about the homemakers I love. I walked nearly every Tacoma neighborhood, ringling more than 20,000 doorbells in those campaign efforts.

One story that comes from a conversation I had on a porch during my doorknelling days tells a lot about Tacoma, its very special people, and how much I never would have been learning. It was a hot, muggy Saturday afternoon.

My feet were killing me, and not many folks were home in the blue-collar South Tacoma precinct I had targeted that day. Thinking about the cold brew in the fridge, the Mariners game on the tube, and how much sense it made to take just one day off, I thought, “this is it,” as I reached the last house at the end of the block.

Climbing the porch steps, I took a campaign brochure out of my pocket and pushed the doorbell. The drill was down pat: smile, eye contact, an extended hand, a friendly introduction, and then let people know up front why I was there.

I was waiting and hearing no sound. I pulled out my pen to scribble a “sorry I missed you” on the brochure to tuck into the screen door. It was then I noticed a shiny silver quarter on the porch where the homeowner had apparently dropped it. Sensing someone on the other side of the door, I waited to see what might happen next. And, yes, the door finally swung open.

There stood Floyd, a big guy wearing a Mariners hat. The baseball game was on the television, and Floyd’s spouse could be seen with scores of government officials regionally, state, and internationally. City Hall, as well, today the site of the agency tasked with cleaning up pollution in Puget Sound; retrofitting a sewage treatment plant to cutting-edge, state-of-the-art standards, again without a single lawsuit being filed; purchasing and then reclaiming for private use more than 250 acres of some of the foremost architects in North America; three world-class museums designed by some of the most respected architects in the world; and so much more.

The story of Floyd and the quarter is one example of what defines the character of this great city—its people. Tacomaans are down to earth, hardworking, and yearn for community leaders who are honest, willing to listen, and eager to help them create a more livable community.

Another story, from a much different setting, also helps define Tacoma and why I love it so. A few weeks back I was invited to a community gathering to discuss how our city might rebound from the departure of Russell Investments. Russell had been a local firm that fit a sewage treatment plant to cutting-edge, state-of-the-art standards, again without a single lawsuit being filed; purchasing and then reclaiming for private use more than 250 acres of some of the foremost architects in North America; three world-class museums designed by some of the most respected architects in the world; and so much more.

During my years as a council member and then as mayor I had the opportunity to meet with scores of government officials regionally, nationally, and internationally. Without exception they were amazed when they experienced the Tacoma story up close and personal.

I am so proud of my hometown. It is, indeed, a uniquely special place.
She lived in Gig Harbor, but we’ll extend the city boundaries across the Narrows and make her an honorary Tacoman since Jini had such an enormous influence on the regional rock scene of the ’60s, photographing album covers for Tacoma’s The Sonics and The Wailers (fronted by our own “Rockin’ Robin” Roberts ’64, who arranged the version of “Louie, Louie” performed by The Kingsmen), and other Northwest bands like The Bards, The Daily Flash (which has re-formed, by the way), and Paul Revere and the Raiders, as well as singer Merrilee Rush (“Angel of the Morning”). Jini started out as a fashion photographer and was one of the first to approach band portraiture as fine art. (She photographed The Wailers at Wright Park and Point Defiance.) She is 93 now, living in Seattle, and still taking pictures. A terrific large-format book of her photos—Rock & Roll: Jini Dellaccio—was published recently. It’s available for purchase at www.jinidellaccio.com. Or see her famous 1967 shot of Neil Young (and a bunch of other incredible rock photography) in “Taking Aim: Unforgettable Rock ’n’ Roll Photographs Selected by Graham Nash,” on display in Seattle at Experience Music Project until May 23.

While we’re in the Chambers Bay neighborhood, a little farther north is our favorite spot for a summer sunset walk, followed by a way-stop at The Beach Tavern (there since 1934) and an enormous helping of the hand-cut French fries. Bonus distraction: Hang around long enough and you’re sure to see a freight train rumble by, just the way trains have since 1914, when the Northern Pacific shifted the route here from the original Prairie Line to avoid a steep grade through downtown.

Further north still, tucked beneath a steep hillside, this tiny community has evolved from a hodgepodge of summer shacks and fishing tents in the 1920s to an enclave of unique, multi-story homes built on stilts. Over the years its hardy residents (17 steps from parking lot to boardwalk!), including a number of Puget Sound students, grads, and professors, have weathered earthquakes, landslides, crashing waves, and eviction notices—not to mention the occasional exploding moonshine still. Roger Cushman Edwards’ marvelous 1996 photo history, Salmon Beach, catches the quirky flavor of the area, with, for example, a picture of three men feeding whiskey to a freshly caught salmon (“instant marinade”), a shot of the Salmon Beach Slugs tug-of-war team, and a photo of a massive mudslide in progress. (“When rain exceeds 3 inches in 36 hours, old-timers say to grab your socks and leave.”)
Three Fugitives (1989)
This remake of the French film Les Fugitifs pairs Nick Nolte and Martin Short (inventive casting, to say the least) in the story of a recently released ex-con and desperate father of a little girl for whom he robs a bank and then, well, high jinks ensue. The movie is mostly forgettable and predictable, but the bank-robbing sequence proves that downtown Tacoma’s Old City Hall, in all its 1883 Italianate grandeur, can be transformed quite convincingly into the scene of a crime.

Waiting for the Light (1990)
Shirley MacLaine and Teri Garr go retro in this 1960s-set film that, with stars of their caliber, would be a big old mess. MacLaine is the eccentric aunt whose apartment scenes take place inside Tacoma’s former Colonial Hotel, and Garr is her bedraggled niece with two kids who works at the Rialto Theater in downtown Tacoma. Capitalizing on the city’s natural kitsh, the filmmakers manage to pull off setting the movie not in Washington, but a small Midwestern town.

The Fugitive (2000–2001)
OK, so this was actually a short-lived TV series, but it’s still worth mentioning. Based on the hit movie starring Harrison Ford, the Tim Daly-starring ABC show featured many episodes filmed in Tacoma, including the downtown post office, Hylebos Bridge, Wright Park, and Puget Sound Hospital. The show kinda stunk—it was canceled after only one season—but I have a soft spot for Tim Daly, so there you go.

10 Things I Hate About You (1999)

Say Anything (1989)
Is there a more iconic Northwest-set romantic comedy than this one? Yes, the love between nerd-rebel Lloyd Dobler and valedictorian Diane Court blossoms mostly in Seattle, but writer-director Cameron Crowe honors Tacoma as well by shooting the couple’s pivotal “friends with potential” conversation scene inside the giant trapezoid that is Bob’s Java Live on South Tacoma Way.

I Love You to Death (1990)
Tracey Ullman hires a perpetually stoned William Hurt and Kraai Reeves to kill her phallic pudding pizza-maker husband. Kevin Kline? Yes, please! I adore this screwball black comedy—based on a real attempted-murder case in Allentown, Pa.—for its still-cast and Tacoma-heavy visuals. The triangular Bostwick Building on Broadway is Joey Boca’s (Kline’s) pizzeria, while other locations include Bob’s Java Live, Stadium High School Bowl, and Holy Rosary Church on South 30th Street.

Get Carter (2000)
I was disheartened to learn that the remake of Michael Caine’s mobster-revenge tale would star Sylvester Stallone, but hearing that its new setting was the Northwest gave me a reason to check it out (as did the fact that Caine, Alan Cumming, and Mickey Rourke all had parts in the reboot as well). There’s an especially great—and steep—chase scene on South 15th Street in Tacoma that’s meant to be in Seattle but we can claim as ours. And you know what? Stallone isn’t half bad.

Prefontaine (1997)
The first installment of my abbreviated movie career began just after graduation, when this biopic about the famed Oregon runner, starring Iarad Leto, began shooting on the Puget Sound campus in the summer of 1996. The production needed willing (and unemployed) extras for crowd scenes, as, back then, our green- and gold-appointed stadium doubled nicely for the 1972-era University of Oregon Hayward Field. This cinematic take on Pref pales in comparison to the far superior Tom Cruise-produced Without Limits, but I’ll always keep a soft spot in my Logger heart for this one, which had the guts to cast Ed O’Neill as Coach Bill Bowerman. Priceless!

Our 10 favorite movies made in T-town

Three Fugitives (1989)

Waiting for the Light (1990)

The Fugitive (2000–2001)

10 Things I Hate About You (1999)

Say Anything (1989)

I Love You to Death (1990)

Get Carter (2000)

Prefontaine (1997)
Whenever we drive downtown our preferred route is I Street because the wild mix of architecture in that area is so much fun to look at, like the William Ross Rust mansion and, just a jog to the left on 2nd Street, the Casablanca Apartments. On the outside, the Casablanca building is funky enough, with its vaguely art deco appearance, but the common areas inside are a visual magical mystery tour. The theme is predominantly Middle Eastern mosaic, but you’ll also find panels reminiscent of Middle Ages England and Spain, Impressionistic France, imperial Japan, and the tribes of the Northwest U.S. mixed in with a couple of just plain strange touches like big brass ships’ port-holes and bas-relief gargoyles.

Yep, the star of Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice, Such Good Friends, Heaven Can Wait, and 17 episodes of Ally McBeal is a Tacoma girl.

It’s pretty neat that in Tacoma much of our public art juxtaposes the fragility of glass with the permanence of bronze. (Here, the 1984 Larry Anderson sculpture “Clearing the Way,” in Firman’s Park.)

The Casablanca Apartments

The Grand Cinema

Junior daffodil parade

Bronzes
Hotel Murano

Staying there is like sleeping in an art-glass museum.

And stand up tall, Tacoma, the place made Condé Nast Traveler’s list of the top 100 hotels in the world last year.

Puget Creek

Puget Sound students and alumni have been helping transform the North End.

“Dreams for years, and now there’s our playing off salmon layered in.

Southern Kitchen

It’s easy to see why this Smith/Heimlich cathedral to comfort food is a longtime favorite of Puget Sound students. Everything is good, and we mean everything. We go there wearing pants with plenty of room for waistline expansion.

Genie Jefferson, Harold Moss, and Yusuf Word ’09

Henry Johnson ’71 and Eric Williams ’93


President Ron Thomas and Bill Stringer Moss B.A.’77, M.P.A.’81

Harold Moss HON.’00 and Jess McPhee-Hayes ’08
In celebration of Black History Month, Western Washington African-American alumni got together on campus February 19 before attending “Langston Hughes in Song: A Musical Evening with Langston Hughes.” The event was inspired by alumna Bernadette Ray and Kim Thomas, who are working to establish an African-American alumni group as part of the Alumni Council, and co-sponsored by Professor Hans Ostrom (author of A Langston Hughes Encyclopedia), the School of Music, the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations, and the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer.


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There are many ways to get involved in the work of the Alumni Council. If you would like to join a committee or learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact the chair listed above, or learn more online at www.pugetsound.edu/alumni.

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Randall S. Murch ’74
Professional Achievement Award, Lifetime
Randy Murch earned his B.S. in biology at Puget Sound, where he found an extended family in the Hui-O-Hawai’i club (a wife and Liane Leong Murch ’73) and a football program where he has never been injured (after an injury and change of major) switched his focus during his sophomore year. Randy went on to earn his M.S. in botanical sciences at the University of Hawai’i and his Ph.D. in plant pathology at the University of Washington. In 2010, Randy has served on the Presidential Advisory Board of the Research Corporation for Science Advancement and on senior advisory committees for various government agencies and national academies. He currently is the associate director for research program development and an adjunct professor at Virginia Tech. While Randy’s professional career (and the above is only a sampling) has not kept him from playing in the Logger Club, he has continued singing the praises of Puget Sound. “Puget Sound gave me the chance to try—play football at the college level, or anything else.”

Joe Storitin ’55
Service to Community Award
Joe Storitin started doing volunteer work with his parents in the early 1940s and reports that he doesn’t even remember saying no to a volunteer opportunity. A lifelong athlete, he played football at Puget Sound (earning All-Conference honors) and split his student days between athletics, classes, and his Sigma Nu fraternity, and was particularly impressed by Coach John Kenyon. “I took every class I could from him, and I see the one who really prompted me to get into coaching and teaching.” Even now, Joe is active in Puget Sound athletics through his service on the Logger Club Board and his faithful attendance at sporting events. In addition to teaching and coaching, Joe served a total of 24 years in county and state politics, including 12 years on the Board of Supervisors. In the late 1970s, Joe opened Joe’s Sports and continues to make community service a way of life. Under his leadership, the restaurant has raised more than $3 million for various community groups.
Joe not only makes community service a priority for himself and his family, but when interviewing applicants, both in government and in business, he has involved them in the volunteer opportunities that are available as a volunteer! instilling his love of community service in all he meets.

Clayton Anderson ’49
Service to Community Award
From the beautiful white sand of Carmel’s rugged coastline to the grandeur of the Monterey pine forests, Clayton has spent some 50 years in California over their thriving conditions to Clayton Anderson. One of the region’s most vocal advocates for the protection of beaches, forests, and wildlife, he has practiced his natural aptitude for leadership—seen early on by his fellow Loggers when he served as student body president—on dozens of commissions, legislation and other activities, and has made significant impacts on the environment. He founded Carmel’s popular monthly Beach Cleanup and the tree-planting Friends of Carmel Forest, and serves as a member of the board of directors of Save the Monterey Bay, all of which helped earn him Carmel’s “Citizen of the Year” award in 1993. Clayton has always had a passion for the environment and says his Puget Sound education, service as a student body president, and advanced degree gave me the tools I needed.” Before retiring, he served as the environmental head of the U.S. Department of the Interior program The Gene and Julie Show, Julie’s impressive broadcasting career has included stints in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, and Atlanta, and has garnered numerous broadcasting awards and commendations. Her work and leadership have supported charitable works, including raising $2 million for the Children’s Miracle Network, granting the wishes of terminally ill children for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and furnishing a home for some of the injured from Hurricane Katrina. Julie has remained an active member of Puget Sound’s ASK Network, coordinated reunions for her sorority class, and volunteers for the Office of Admission, all fulfilling her tireless commitment to foster professionalism—and personal—success in others.

Julie Jacobson Gates ’90
Professional Achievement Award, Mid-Career
No other Logger can claim her she’s talked spirituality with Deepak Chopra, been on Oprah, and interviewed countless well-known figures and presidents (Obama, Clinton, and Carter) to Oscar winning (Hopkins, Kimland, Costner). Julie Gates credits her liberal arts education for her success. “In classes, I used to wonder, ‘How will I use this?’ but because of the well-rounded education at Puget Sound, I find I can have a conversation with anyone about anything.” While majoring in English at Puget Sound, Julie was a cheerleader, writer for The Toul, and member and president of Pi Beta Phi sorority. “I learned a lot being around people who make things happen.” Currently working at the CBS Radio affiliate KVLN as a talk radio personality and co-host, with her husband, of the popular morning radio program The Gene and Julie Show, Julie’s impressive broadcasting career has included stints in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas, and Atlanta, and has garnered numerous broadcasting awards and commendations. Her work and leadership have supported charitable works, including raising $2 million for the Children’s Miracle Network, granting the wishes of terminally ill children for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and furnishing a home for some of the injured from Hurricane Katrina. Julie has remained an active member of Puget Sound’s ASK Network, coordinated reunions for her sorority class, and volunteers for the Office of Admission, all fulfilling her tireless commitment to foster professionalism—and personal—success in others.

Arthur Campbell ’50
Service to Puget Sound Award
Puget Sound couldn’t have a bigger supporter than Arthur Campbell. For 60 years the now-retired United Methodist minister has given back to Puget Sound as a reunion volunteer, as a member of various clubs and boards, and as a consistent Alumni Fund donor. During his undergraduate years at Puget Sound, Arthur was active with the independent club and served as a student attendant in chaplaincy. He recalls the thrill of finding The Hatchet as a sophomore, taking the triumph away from the junior class. He states, “(UPS) is where I met my wife [ Peggy ‘Trimmable Campbell] ’51), that definitely my foundation.” To an alumnus Arthur has been an enthusiastic and long-time participant in ASK Night events and served as a member of the National Alumni Board, playing a key role in successfully transitioning that group into the Puget Sound Alumni Council. He served as an ad hoc member of the executive committee of the Alumni Council before taking on his current roles as a member of the Career and Employment Services Committee and a reunion volunteer. Arthur was also the one who led the charge to reinstate the tradition of the Golden Loggers Luncheon during Homecoming Weekend as a special boost to alumni and friends and as a restaurant in downtown for over 20 years. “With an unwavering sense of generosity, Arthur is a true alumni who makes each of us want to become better.

Jenny Lai ’05
Young Logger Award
If the first five years after graduation are all about building a career and climbing the ladder, no one told Jenny Lai. During college, she served on the Business Leadership Program’s Student Advisory Board, was an active member of Alpha Kappa Psi and various vocal, theater, and dance groups, and co-founded USSPlay3! (a musical theater club). “During my freshman year I envisioned producing musical theater reviews, and two years later my vision came true. Through the support of Puget Sound, I was able to make dreams like this happen.” Since graduation, The Boeing Company, U.S. Grant, and planning analyst has made other things happen, too, going “above and beyond” to bring Seattle-area alumni together. She has organized and scheduled monthly happy hours for younger alumni, coordinated a number of larger events, and serves as a 65-plus-person theater outing, all of which have inspired increasingly greater participation among local alumni. Jenny also serves as a class agent, as a student volunteer, and on the Seattle Regional Committee. In addition to her activities on behalf of her alma matar, she volunteers for ArtsU (a nonprofit arts advocacy group) and for the Seattle Theatre Group’s Board of Directors, and has her Boeing’s new employees and leadership programs. With her infectious enthusiasm and energy, Jenny is, simply, great at bringing people together.
Egceptional!

If open flames, hot wax, and containers of rainbow-colored egg dye don’t make you nervous, toss 20 excited fourth-graders into the mix. These are some of the challenges Candy Anderson thrives on. “We’re willing to take the risks,” she says. “Making pysanka is great for practicing all types of skills.”

What began as a personal passion for Candy 28 years ago has now become a rite of passage for third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students at Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma, where she’s enjoyed teaching for nearly 34 years. “Everyone finds something they’re good at,” she says. Fine motor skills are involved in applying design and wax to raw eggs, and color theory comes into play when students determine, for example, what color a yellow egg will turn when soaked in blue. The entire process teaches Candy’s students to become, shall we say, eggsperts in patience. And the egg puns keep hatching in her 80-minute-long classes. If someone fractures an egg while blowing out the contents, they learn to become a cracktitioner and perform egg CPR.

But even if a cracked egg can’t be saved, there are no eggidents in “Miz Candy’s” class, and everyone gains eggperience in seeing things in different ways. “Artists don’t make mistakes! We just make lots of changes figuring out how to create something new,” she says. This concept is part of what Candy calls seeing with “art eyes.” She encourages her students to look at the world in different ways in order to generate new ideas and possibilities.

Although her M.F.A. is in ceramics, as an artist Candy works in a variety of media—fiber arts, jewelry, painting, printmaking, woodwork, construction, and graphic design. She enjoys welding, gathering rocks for sculpture, and what she calls trash-can treasure hunting. “One problem with ‘art eyes,’” she says, “is that they don’t turn off! I see possibilities in everything.” Her most recent works were part of a group show titled “Unusual Adornments” at the Sandpiper Gallery in December.

Always up for a good challenge, during the summer months Candy heads to Desolation Sound in Canada, where she has been “rescuing a cabin from ruins,” without electricity, for the past 15 years. There must be something to her pioneer stock—her family’s roots are on Anderson Island (no relation; I asked). The ferry to the island is even named for her great-aunt. — Cathy Tollefson ’83

Did you know? Candy’s uncle is Professor Emeritus of Geology Norm Anderson ’44!

To see one of Candy’s own pysanka creations, click on www.charleswright.org/staff/Candy-Anderson.

Candy Anderson B.S. ’71, M.F.A. ’75
BRINGING BACK THE BEACON  Alaska’s Cape Decision Lighthouse can be reached only by float plane, helicopter, or boat. Such isolation presented challenges for restoration but also made it a perfect site for an experiential learning facility in the wilderness. Facing page, below, from left: Scott Malone ’96 and Chris repair the lighthouse generator; setting a skiff outhaul; the helipad; Will Caramella ’96 cutting timber for outhouse construction.

Thirty-six years of whipping winds and moisture have taken a toll on the old lighthouse, leaving Chris Brooks, volunteers Rhonda Gilland Higgins ’80, Scott Wurster ’96, and Scott Malone ’94, and lighthouse society members at large with plenty of improvements on their collective to-do list. Beyond basic structural restoration work, the team felt strongly that the lighthouse should be a fully functioning, diversified “field station” that provided both wilderness educational opportunities and support to the organizations that work in the area, such as the National Weather Service, the Coast Guard, marine biologists, and the state’s Fish and Game Department, among others.

Lending his architectural vision for this multi-use facility was Will Caramella ’96, whose expertise as a green-minded architect at Seattle’s Miller Hull Partnership proved to be an invaluable resource. “I visited Cape Decision four years ago for the first time to volunteer for two weeks, and right away I was building a bathroom and a composting facility, both of which I’m happy to say are now fully functioning,” says Will with obvious pride. “Professionally, it’s been great to get back out there and get my hands dirty on a soulful project that’s more than just a drawing on a piece of paper.” This year promises to be a busy one for the Cape Decision crew. With the restoration nearly completed, the group’s focus is shifting to what Steve says will make the lighthouse a hub for “experiential education.” The CDLS hopes to attract students, academic lecturers, wildlife professionals, and anyone who “wants to explore the grounds.”

“The island is totally uninhabited, so we have the opportunity to create a world-class facility,” says Steve. “Our goal is to increase the number of stakeholders within a generation of people who will be able to enjoy this amazing place for years to come.” — Stacey Wilson ’96

The Cape Decision Lighthouse Society is a member-supported nonprofit that depends on donations to support its restoration efforts and development of educational programs. For more information about the organization, to become a member, to inquire about volunteering, or to contribute, please visit http://capedecisionlight.org.
Cathy Speraw Dorvil ’96
Return to Haiti

It’s safe to assume there is no other Logger for whom the news of Haiti’s devastating earthquake last January was more heartbreaking than Cathy Speraw Dorvil. “I was terrified,” says Cathy, who was in a meeting when her phone and e-mail inboxes became flooded with urgent notices that her former hometown of Leogane, near the quake’s epicenter, had been hard hit by the disaster. “It was brutal. Seeing how bad Port-au-Prince was, I knew Leogane had to be worse. I don’t think I slept at all those first few days.”

Cathy’s life had only recently assumed a sense of normalcy after what can only be described as an incredibly tumultuous six years. The Arcadia, Calif., native had not only become the legal guardian for three young girls from Haiti, but she was also settling into a new career as an attorney doing litigation and health law in Miami. This latest professional incarnation followed a painful period after the tragic death in 2004 of her husband Joseph Dorvil, a Haitian native whom she’d met and married while stationed in Leogane doing community health care education with an organization called the Children’s Nutritional Program of Haiti (CNP).

A bright, ambitious hospital administrator who had “a smile that could light up a room,” Joseph was shot and killed at a roadblock on Dec. 11 while driving to his home in Arcahaie (about 1.5 hours north of Port-au-Prince) to pick up his sister and bring her to Leogane for a visit. “Roadblocks, shootings, and kidnappings were common,” says Cathy of the violence and corruption rampant in the region after a military coup in February 2004. “I still don’t know what happened. The people who killed him were never found.”

Joseph was not only working toward his M.B.A. from the University of Miami, focusing on immigration and human rights. In 2007, her commitment and natural tendency toward such issues inspired her to offer to take in a friend’s three daughters after their immigration from Haiti to Miami. The sisters—Meola, 9, Melinda, 7, and Brithny, 6—have been Cathy’s in-home charges ever since. “It’s been hectic, but wonderful,” she says of caring for the girls.

On Jan. 19, 2010, a week after the quake, Cathy flew to Port-au-Prince to aid in the recovery effort—disseminating supplies and helping to look for survivors. She traveled to Leogane, where nine out of 10 houses were flattened.

Today, as the death toll in Haiti has risen to more than 230,000, so too has there been an increase in the need for assistance. Cathy suggests that Loggers who want to help might consider looking beyond organizations like the Red Cross to those that are closest to her heart: the Children’s Nutrition Program (www.cnphaiti.org) and PAZAPA, the Center for Handicapped Children in Jacmel (www.pazapa.org). “Big organizations are doing great work, but the small ones have the closest contact with the people and are able to best identify those in need,” says Cathy.

Mostly, though, she hopes Americans will learn more about the country she loves, and the one where she found love. “I feel like Haiti only gets in the news when something bad happens, but it’s actually an incredibly beautiful country,” she says. “The people are warm, gracious, and tough as nails. That’s the Haiti I’ve been blessed to know and why I’ll keep going back.” — Stacey Wilson ’96

What Puget Sound students did to help with relief efforts in Haiti

► Student athletes wrapped themselves in duct tape and roamed the Puget Sound fieldhouse during the Jan. 29 basketball game, asking fans to stick coin donations to them. They collected $1,500, which was donated to the American Red Cross.

► The campus Haiti Relief Coalition encouraged students to donate up to 500 of their meal-plan points (worth $5). The points were converted to cash and helped fund a shipment of food and water to Haiti.

► A contest among the 10 residence halls sent students scrambling to see who could collect the most items for relief kits.

► A benefit by the Black Student Union offered spoken word from Puget Sound poets and an original film narrative on the history of Haiti for the purpose of cultivating a deeper understanding of the crisis. Donations were collected at the door.

► Greek houses and the student Christian club Lighthouse assembled 65 medical relief kits. The students donated about $200 from their own pockets to buy the materials. The kits were given to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

► The Vagina Anti-Violence Alliance organized a raffle to support Haitian women and purchased birthing and new-mother kits.

► The Christian Fellowship staffed a table in Wheelock Student Center to raise money for the American Red Cross relief efforts.
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