The Legacy of the McCarver Park Project

ALSO INSIDE: The groundbreaking project that's bringing polar research to classrooms • Champion cyclist Lael Wilcox '08 returns to Alaska with a new purpose
Wheelock plaza makeover
Renovations to the plaza connecting Wheelock Student Center to Jones Circle were completed in September. The project was part of a long-term, multiphase renovation and expansion of the center. Additional entrances, lights, and outdoor seating areas were added along with a designated area for the beloved campus cherry trees to be replanted. (See p.5)
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How we kicked it all fall

Southeast Asia extravaganza
The Fourth Annual Southeast Asia Symposium, supported by the Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE), highlighted the intersections of culture and sustainability in Southeast Asia. The two-day event held during Homecoming Family Weekend October 6–7 focused on the cultures of Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, and featured Southeast Asianist scholars, regional food, a Thai music and dance performance, and talks by students who have conducted research as part of LIASE-sponsored field-school courses.

Justice in action
The Washington State Supreme Court traveled to campus to hear multiple local cases that were open to the public. On Nov. 13, the day prior to the hearings, the justices participated in two panel discussions titled “Free Speech and Activism: Free Speech for Whom?” and “Young People and the Law.” They also visited classrooms for lively Q & A sessions with students.
Swimmers make waves
Puget Sound’s swim teams started strong when Dylan Reimers ’20 was named Northwest Conference Men’s Swimmer of the Week in November. The Loggers then hosted seven schools for the Logger Invitational, and Kelli Callahan ’20 (pictured) led the women’s team to a second-place finish and picked up her own Swimmer of the Week title.

Trick or treat
Students, faculty, and staff got into the Halloween spirit on Oct. 31. Dressed as Lt. Pete “Maverick” Mitchell from the movie Top Gun, President Isiaah Crawford surprised the campus community at an ASUPS Halloween gathering in Rasmussen Rotunda. Meanwhile, two students went full-on Jurassic (yes, there’s a Logger in that dinosaur!) for a video contest.
Cheers to 50 years
Members of Puget Sound’s Black Student Union gathered in the Rasmussen Rotunda during Homecoming weekend on Oct. 7 to celebrate 50 years since the group’s creation and honor its founding members. Puget Sound’s Black Student Union, founded by Lou Smith ’69, was the first in Washington state. President Isiaah Crawford spoke at the event, noting the importance of the group, and thanked the Black Alumni Union for its ongoing work to support black students on campus.

Greek pride
The women of Pi Phi and the men of Sigma Alpha Epsilon were named winners of Puget Sound’s Greek Olympics on Oct. 29. The annual fall competition features activities like tug-of-war and dizzy races, and caps Greek Week.

Entrepreneurs heart the arts
On Nov. 30, the 21 students in the Entrepreneurial Mindset for the Arts class presented feasibility studies they worked on with local organizations to address issues relating to audience. Those included local museums and the Grand Cinema.
Remembering history
On Saturday morning, Oct. 7, campus members and alumni attended a groundbreaking ceremony for five new cherry saplings that would replace the 28-year-old trees that had reached the end of their lifespans.

The cherry trees were originally planted in 1940 as a gift from the Japanese Student Club. Each new generation of trees stands in remembrance of Puget Sound’s 36 Japanese American students who were sent to internment camps in 1942.

It was a blustery day of broken sunshine as the quiet group gathered at the east end of Howarth Hall. The giant sequoia tree and the onlookers’ long shadows leaned toward the five white stakes in the grass marking the cherry trees’ new home-to-be.

“We gather to remember our history and to prepare for the next chapter in this story,” said Chaplain Dave Wright ’96. “We are here to recognize and honor the heritage of one of the most painful and awful moments of our campus and national history.”

Five students from the university’s Asian American Pacific Islander Collective and Asian Student Community clubs stood silently as he spoke, then picked up five thick golden cores of wood, sawn from the trunks of the old cherry trees, and placed them against the white markers. The Rev. Karen Yokota-Love offered a blessing.

Later in the fall, once the new cherry saplings went dormant, they were planted, and the wood cores of their predecessors were buried at their roots—a symbol of the passing of life from generation to generation.

The students who gave the original cherry trees in 1940 could not have known just how fitting the gesture was. Fitting, and sadly ironic, says Jan Leuchtenberger, director of the Asian Studies Program.

“It is in the cultural and aesthetic history of Japan that cherry blossoms bloom gloriously in the spring, and then the blossoms are gone in a week or two,” she explains. “All of nature, and especially the cherry trees, are held up to evoke the Buddhist idea that there is beauty in that impermanence, and it is much more beautiful for the fact that they will die.”

She adds, “It is a dilemma and a conundrum, for humanity cannot help but grow attached to things—to beauty and to life.”

The students were to experience this loss—they and many others lost three years of their lives to the camps.

“They were purposely sent to these really desolate places; it was just horrible,” says Andrew Gomez, assistant professor of history. “It was robbing people of their livelihood, their dignity, and putting them in poor conditions. And they were citizens. That’s what makes it so flagrant.”

Andrew notes that each spring, small signs naming the lost students are placed below the cherry trees.

“Aesthetically, it’s a beautiful gesture,” he says. “What we have to ask ourselves every year is, ‘Are we undertaking policies and practices that ensure that this doesn’t happen again?’ If it is a reminder of the failings of the country and the institution, and what we can do to fix it, to be better, then it’s a good thing.”

In 2009, Puget Sound awarded all 36 of its lost Japanese American students the degree Bachelor of Arts, honoris causa, nunc pro tunc (meaning “now for then”). Six of those former students or a family member made it to Commencement to accept the diploma in person.

Then they stood on the stage for a photo, two in graduation robes, two leaning on canes. It was May, a hazy blue day, and the cherry trees had passed their full bloom and were clinging to the last of their pink blossoms.

—Shirley Skeel

Above: Rev. Karen Yokota-Love (at podium), a pastor at Mason United Methodist Church, offered a blessing for the new cherry trees. Also in attendance, from left: Rev. Kojo Kakihara, minister of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple; President Isiaah Crawford; ASUPS President Amanda Diaz ’18; students from Puget Sound’s Asian American Pacific Islander Collective and Asian Student Community clubs; and Chaplain Dave Wright ’96.
Reflections from the Pacific Rim

Once every three years, a group of students from the University of Puget Sound travels to Asia for nine months of rigorous academic work and experiential learning. Visiting eight or more nations, the group engages with different systems of culture, economics, politics, religion, and philosophy. Two students from the 2017–2018 PacRim group shared stories about their experiences.

A Kyoto Morning
By Claire Wallace ‘19

My commute in Japan was longer than those of the other PacRim students. From the suburbs outside the city, where I lived with my host mother, it took about an hour and a half to get to class in downtown Kyoto. The monthlong homestay gave me a taste of everyday life in Kyoto, a thriving city known as the historic capital of Japan. I hiked up Mount Hiei, ate fresh mochi on Nara Street, and wandered through the red torii gates of Fushimi Inari. After a two-month whirlwind of traveling in Asia, Kyoto was a much-needed respite.

Due to the possibility of missed buses and early-morning Kyoto traffic, my homestay mother insisted that I leave early. Although there were moments that I was very thankful for that early morning departure, other days I was left with an hour or more of time on my hands before our classroom opened at 9 a.m. Sometimes I spent these mornings at cafés, other times calling my parents, but my favorite moments were when I ended up walking through the nearby neighborhoods.

I never started out with the goal of simply walking, but usually had a purpose in mind. One morning, I needed to find a restroom. Like any good caffeine addict, I knew where the nearest Starbucks was, but I had just come from that way, and I disliked retracing my steps. I struck out in another direction, through a neighborhood with a temple at the end. Both the map and past experiences indicated that there should have been a restroom near the entrance to the temple complex. Both were right, yet I failed to factor in the time, for, like most places early in the morning, it was closed. I had 30 minutes to 9, and I figured that distracting myself while wandering was a reasonable backup plan.

The area was not touched by modern architecture, and the neutral white and grays combined perfectly with the overcast sky; however, the main color that dominates my memory is green. The green of trees peeking over the tops of walls, of gardens glimpsed through open gates, and the moss growing abundantly through the cracks of stone walls. At that moment, I could imagine living there, spending my mornings walking among the quiet houses of Kyoto.

My Academic Awakening at a Mongolian Ger
By Indigo DaCosta ‘19

We could consider PacRim a poster child for experiential learning: Eight months traveling around Asia and taking classes on the road challenges us to translate immersive experiences into academic knowledge. But PacRim also has a classroom component that enhances and contextualizes our experiences. Before leaving, I knew that PacRim would challenge me in many ways, but I didn’t anticipate how it would challenge me academically.

In Mongolia, we had an opportunity to stay in traditional yurts, called gers, in the countryside. Our gers had small fire pits, and to me, the ger was the conceptual hearth: It was the center of community, a place of connecting with others, and, of course, literal warmth. It was also the center for class discussion about imperialism and globalization. I followed along until I became lost in the terminology that some of my classmates were using, and that’s when I realized that they were all politics and government majors. There was a lull in the conversation, and I expressed my confusion by explaining, “I’m an English major.”

A unique aspect of PacRim is that we don’t choose our classes; the professors determine them based on their specialties and the host country. Before PacRim, I had considered other fields of study a source of anxiety, not a potential for growth. What I didn’t realize at that moment in the ger was how much I did understand. I had been absorbing the concepts and learning the terminology along the way. I came to understand how much the English and politics and government disciplines have in common, specifically critical analysis and clear writing. That insight reminded me that my skills are applicable outside my field of study.

Beyond that, studying politics and government helps one understand a place in its current moment in time. In addition to learning about Mongolia, I was learning through the lens of another discipline and seeing my experiences abroad in a new way.

Most people probably don’t associate bundling up in front of a ger’s hearth with moments of academic self-realization, but that’s where it happened for me. Interdisciplinary learning is vital to a liberal arts education, so even in Mongolia, I know I’m at Puget Sound. I’m an English major, but more than that, I’m a liberal arts student who can engage with the world from a number of different perspectives.
“The main color that dominates my memory is green. The green of trees peeking over the tops of walls, of gardens glimpsed through open gates, and the moss growing abundantly through the cracks of stone walls.”
Kent Hooper reveres great literature and art from “Old World” Europe. But it would be wrong to call him “old school.” A decade ago, the German Studies professor dove into the cutting edge of scholarship: the digital humanities, involving the creation of online archives of art, literature, history, and other disciplines. “I was absolutely crazy for it. People just decided to go the other way when they saw me coming, because I was always preaching digital humanities,” he recalls.

Chicago born, with an offbeat sense of humor that wins over his students, Kent is engaged in reinvigorating German Studies with new classes and immersive study abroad. But the digital bug won’t let go. He is now creating the biggest-ever online collection of Mother Goose rhymes and illustrations—from “Humpty Dumpty” to “There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in Dundee.” I spoke with him in his Wyatt Hall office.

Kent Hooper: Setting Mother Goose Loose

A digital humanist’s obsession with nursery rhymes

By Shirley Skeel
Q. Why nursery rhymes?
A. I suppose my interest started when I had very small children. We had three nursery rhyme books, and when I'd get to one page, say “Little Boy Blue,” my daughter would go, “I want to read it out of that book,” because she liked the pictures better. I couldn’t figure out what made a better illustration, at least in the eyes of a child. So I take the text, like “Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,” illustrated by hundreds of artists, and ask: “Is there any relationship between the rhyme and the illustration? Are there reasons why some rhymes are always in anthologies and others are not?” [Digital humanities] allows us to ask new questions, different questions, to work with larger data sets.

Q. What’s the thrill in creating a digital database of these rhymes?
A. The easiest thing for me would be to write a book. But that’s not a challenge. The challenge is, I’d like to produce this archive. I’ve typed in the first line of every rhyme of every book I have. I have 40,000 lines in an Excel spreadsheet. I’ve noted who the illustrator is and what year it was published. If I can also scan all 250 of the books I have, it’ll make them available to everybody. Trying to make everything available to as many people as possible—that’s my goal.

Q. How are you collecting your Mother Goose material?
A. I started buying these books on eBay. Then I discovered that there are book collectors of children’s literature, and they’re completely out of control. They want first editions. I was bidding for a book by one artist, whose name is Maud Humphrey, and her son is Humphrey Bogart. So Humphrey Bogart collectors were bidding against me for a Maud Humphrey’s Mother Goose illustrated book. I vowed I would never become a book collector.

Q. What have you learned so far from your plunge into children’s nursery rhymes?
A. “Humpty Dumpty” is in almost every anthology. It’s because every single word can be illustrated. You know, “Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the King’s horses and all the King’s men couldn’t put Humpty together again.” It’s like one-to-one mapping. And riddles play a big role in a lot of the older books. Humpty [in the older depictions] was almost always an egg. He’s not always shaped like an egg now.

Q. Do you see digital humanities strictly as a scholarly pursuit?
A. No. I think a digital humanist has an obligation to work with small public archives. Like the Gig Harbor Historical Society. If I were competent [in computer science], I would create an online presence for them. It would be very easy.

Q. Why should digital humanities matter to you and me?
A. The way of publishing has changed. It’s not the future; it’s already here. I mean medieval manuscripts are now accessible to scholars all around the world. You don’t have to go to some little monastery in the middle of Bumblebee, Germany. It’s right there. And that way, if there are mistakes, you can update it. If people find more information, they can add to it.

Q. To put all these rhymes and pictures online, won’t you hit copyright issues?
A. The copyright restrictions are the limiting factor. I may have to donate all my books to an institution that is a member of a digital archive, like the HathiTrust. At least scholars at institutions who are members would have access to it. Information just wants to be free. I think that’s one of the chief tenets of digital humanists.

Q. I had a peek at some online student comments, and they pretty well all agreed that you are “warm, caring, hilarious, and insane.” True?
A. Yes, that’s probably all true. I do care about the students. I really do, and they know that. In every respect I mentor them: professionally, as scholars, I look out for their future, but also just their general well-being.

Q. For fun you play accordion and penny whistle in an Irish band, Mooncoyne.
A. Yeah, we've put out four or five CDs. You know, one thing we were thinking of doing with Mother Goose was performing all of the rhymes with the Irish band. Because if you listen to a lot of children’s music, it’s terrible. It’s like false syncretization of children's choirs. So this looked like a project that could actually generate money. And my bandmates are still annoyed that I haven’t done that.
connections

Fully Immersed

Evan Eurs ’18 put compassion into action as an intern with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project.

By Dori Cahn

Many Tacoma residents may not be aware that one of the country’s largest immigration detention centers is in their city. Evan Eurs ’18 certainly wasn’t before he began an internship with the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP), in partnership with Puget Sound’s Summer Immersion Internship Program.

In fact, Evan, a Hispanic studies and mathematics major, knew very little about immigration, other than what he saw in the media. Working on cases for people held at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) gave him a new perspective. “People in detention don’t fit the stereotypes of undocumented immigrants,” he says. “The internship humanized detainees for me.”

With a skateboard under his arm and a baseball cap turned backwards on his head, Evan looks younger than he sounds as he enthuses about his summer working at NWIRP. He was “blown away” by having access to the detention center and being allowed to work one-on-one with clients. “It felt so above my role as an intern, but [NWIRP] had faith in me, they wanted the help, and they were like, ‘Yeah, you can do it.’”

He’d been surprised to learn that people in immigration court do not have the right to an attorney, an issue at the heart of NWIRP’s work. The organization began in Seattle with a single staff person recruiting volunteer attorneys to represent people fleeing civil wars in El Salvador and Guatemala in the 1980s. It has grown into one of the largest organizations in the country to provide legal assistance for immigrants, with more than 80 staff members in four offices, including two in Eastern Washington.

The Tacoma office opened in 2005, after immigration detention moved from downtown Seattle to the Tacoma tideflats. The NWDC has 1,575 beds, many times the number the former immigration building in Seattle could hold, a sign of how immigration enforcement and detention have increased in the last decade.

Tucked away in an industrial area east of downtown, the nondescript building that houses the detention center stands out from nearby warehouses and factories only because of the barbed-wire fencing that surrounds it. Evan had never been inside any kind of detention center, and was shocked by how strictly the NWDC controls people.

Tim Warden-Hertz, directing attorney for NWIRP’s Tacoma office, says that immigration detention is not technically a punishment, like prison. “It’s an administrative convenience while the case is processing,” he says. “Folks aren’t there for any criminal charges. But the private company, GEO, that runs [NWDC] has modeled it on a maximum-security prison. There’s barbed wire, there are five or six doors to go through, folks are in their cell for 22 hours a day. So it looks and feels a lot like a prison.”

The hardest part of detention is that people do not know how long they will be there. “There is a psychological impact of having no idea when it could end,” he says. “We had a client who we were finally able to get released, who was there for seven years.”

All of the people that NWIRP assists at the detention center are facing deportation. Some are undocumented migrants; others have refugee status or green cards. Some have criminal convictions; others face challenges to their immigration status.

Many are seeking political asylum, based on what the government calls a “well-founded fear” of returning to their home countries. Asylum-seekers may come from places where natural disasters have made living conditions untenable, or they may be fleeing violence or persecution. Over the last year, NWIRP has seen several hundred Haitian asylum-seekers at the NWDC, most of whom fled Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake.

“An asylum-seeker [may have] thought the best idea was to come with their family and turn themselves in at the border,” says Jenna Golan-Strieb ’15, NWIRP legal advocate and intern coordinator. But in recent years, many asylum-seekers have been taken into detention, even though U.S. policy has historically allowed asylum-seekers to stay in the community while they wait for a decision. Now they may be detained anywhere from a few months up to several years until their cases resolve.
Evan, who is bilingual, worked on many asylum cases, translating applications and personal documents for Spanish speakers, gathering documentation, and researching conditions in the countries they were fleeing. “Interns do work that’s real and useful. We give them a lot of responsibility. We throw them in completely,” Jenna says. “Evan’s work has been incredible in getting us a step further with clients.”

Evan says that his experience changed his thinking “about immigration and the prison-industrial complex, and how complicated immigration is. It’s one thing to learn about it in class and another to see it for yourself.” He continued to volunteer at NWIRP through the fall semester, and staff members hope that his enthusiasm will inspire others to learn more about their work.

A year ago, the organization’s Tacoma office was able to add more capacity and began working with people out of detention in Tacoma and the South Sound area, including children who arrived in the U.S. as unaccompanied minors, or as victims of domestic violence, trafficking, and other crimes.

In 2016, NWIRP provided legal assistance to 3,430 people detained and facing deportation at NWDC. Yet, only 15 percent of people in detention have lawyers. According to Tim, a person is over 1,100 percent more likely to win their case in detention with a lawyer than without one.

“Detention is so destructive, from a lawyerly point of view, to people’s ability to make their case,” Tim says. “And it’s so destructive to families and communities when someone’s detained, what it means for kids, for health, for school. The ripple effects are enormous.”

Tim believes that detention centers should be closed around the country. “No matter what your views are on immigration law, I don’t think detention has to be a part of that,” he says. “People can go through the immigration court system and end up winning or losing a case, but [they should] do that while they’re with their family and have a chance to get a lawyer, get evidence in their case, and see if they qualify for immigration status under the laws.”

Meanwhile, there is plenty of work for interns like Evan.
Asemic Beauty

Isaac S. Lewin ’11

Isaac S. Lewin is an interdisciplinary artist based out of San Jose, Calif. His interest in shape, form, and structure, combined with his past as a graffiti artist, drew him to create works of asemic writing: a “unique textual format void of linguistic meaning.” Asemic writing constitutes what looks like words, in any script, that we cannot decipher. This leaves meaning open to interpretation, and provides freedom beyond verbal or literary expression. Isaac builds his asemic letters using commercial sign-making techniques, juxtaposing “issues of communication with the incommunicable, allowing us to focus on the only things left for us to read—the visual design characteristics of each terminal form.”

See more of Isaac’s work at isaacslewin.com.
Going Polar

A new curriculum module allows students to analyze and explore climate-change data in real time.

By Starre Vartan
Last summer, two Puget Sound faculty members received some exciting news: They’d won a National Science Foundation grant to develop new course modules that would allow students to explore and experience real data collected by Arctic and Antarctic scientists. The potential for increased climate literacy and critical thinking was huge.

Steven Neshyba, professor of chemistry, and Lea Fortmann, assistant professor of economics, believe that the most effective way to teach students about climate change is to let them engage with real polar research such as data on snowpack cover, glacier melt rates, and the maps and models associated with them. This information is uploaded by scientists working out of research stations like McMurdo on the Antarctic coast or the Barrow Observatory in the Arctic, and students can access it from a variety of sources, including the National Snow and Ice Data Center.
The way that students explore this research is through computational guided inquiry (CGI). In a CGI-structured course, the instructor guides the students in scientific inquiry using computational tools for managing, analyzing, and visualizing data. “CGI is a process, not a result,” Steven says. “Each CGI module is different, but the aim is for students to work through problems, not just solve them. It opens the door to scientific thinking.”

For example, a Polar CGI module might show a student how to create a probability distribution of the surface temperature at a meteorology station in Barrow, Alaska, and then invite the student to do something similar with data from a different part of the world.

“There are two goals with this project: The first is to increase climate literacy and knowledge of polar information. The second is to enable students to critically analyze data,” Lea explains.

But it’s not just for science students. Lea points out that while scientists anticipate the impacts of climate change, economists think about policy planning. Students in a recent urban economics class looked at data on sea-level rise, based on polar ice melt data projections, to ascertain how many homes could be damaged by rising tides in Tacoma. That information is useful to urban planners, who can make better decisions if they know which parts of the city are projected to be impacted by increased flooding and other weather-related events.

Steven says that the interdisciplinary nature of polar research starts with the collection of data itself. He explains that, as with space travel, the high costs of polar missions mean that scientists are often collecting data for several projects in different fields of study simultaneously. He has seen this himself on research trips to the Arctic, as has his wife, Dr. Penny Rowe, a research scientist with NorthWest Research Associates who is named as the third principal investigator on the NSF grant and has been highly involved in the project’s development. She is currently doing fieldwork in Antarctica.

With the Polar CGI project, Steven and Lea wanted to bring the spirit of shared information to the classroom. “We began to think, ‘Let’s take polar data and insert it into all kinds of courses, into lots of different disciplines,’” Steven says. “A little something for chemistry, economics, physics.”

The NSF grant provides $300,000 to support a team of instructors to design, develop, and evaluate seven CGI modules over a period of two years. The instructors include a chemist (and Puget Sound alum) at Millikin University, a physicist at Edmonds Community College, a computer scientist at Willamette, and atmospheric scientists from the University of Washington and Washington State University. Puget Sound professor Amy Ryken joined the team as a senior curriculum development specialist. There was also support for two student researchers: Chemistry major Aedin Wright ’18 and economics major Max Coleman ’18 have been heavily involved.

The team set out to create curriculum modules that could be inserted into syllabi to enhance existing course objectives. These
looked different for every course. Last fall, Steven and Lea co-taught a course in which students learned to run a global climate model, then used that model to evaluate various global greenhouse-gas scenarios. At Willamette University, an image processing class used satellite images of the polar ice caps to teach students how to utilize advanced graphics techniques on digital images.

Another vital component of the project is the “flipped classroom,” a teaching tool that is already widely utilized on campus. The practice reverses the traditional structure in which lectures are done in the classroom and problem-solving is done in the library or dorm room. Steven records his lectures and makes them available to students online—where they can be watched, paused, and revisited anytime. Class time is now spent working individually and in groups, with Steven there and available for questions.

“I’ve found that watching students solve problems right in front of me, and sharing suggestions or strategies in real time, is a more effective use of my skills,” he says. “It also helps with students who get it and have advanced questions.” This way, he’s also able to field any questions or issues that come up with the new Polar CGI component of his curriculum.

In order to explore the combined impacts of polar data, CGI, and flipped classrooms on student learning, Steven and Lea need to evaluate the project’s results. “All the components of this project have been established as sound pedagogy, but the combination hasn’t been tested,” Steven explains. “So we’re aiming to evaluate how this works: Do students learn differently in such an environment?”

To that end, the team came up with pre-assessment and post-assessment survey queries. In the pre-assessment query, students were asked to look at the polar data particular to the subject they were studying and ask—not answer—questions about it. Then they worked through the Polar CGI module created for their class. In the post-assessment query, students were required to answer the same prompts again, doing as scientists do, which is asking questions and forming hypotheses before and after grappling with data.

How does the team know if they’ve achieved their goal in getting students to think critically, like scientists? “We’re looking for greater complexity in their questions,” Lea says.

The first test run of the evaluation process was a success. “It looked like, over time, the students’ answers became more sophisticated,” Aedin says. This indicated that students were truly engaging with the information. Aedin called the method “really inclusive” since it gets students to ask their own questions rather than answer a professor’s.

Aedin plans to continue working on the design of this process as part of her senior thesis. “I’ll be evaluating the surveys and figuring out how to code the answers,” she says. “I’ll code as many as I get back and hope to be able to quantify the success of the modules.” The external evaluator for the project, Candiya Mann from the University of Washington, will also be auditing the assessment results.

The NSF grant will allow the team to continue developing the Polar CGI modules for two years. They hope to double the number of participating professors in the next academic year, so that they can try it out with a wider range of curricula. The students are certainly hungry for it. “Climate change is something we care about,” says Max, “since we are poised to feel the effects of it within our lifetimes.”
Long-distance endurance cyclist Lael Wilcox ’08 is an unexpected champion. Now, she’s helping to build a culture of adventure and perseverance among girls in Alaska.

BY MIRANDA WEISS
Lael Wilcox pedaled into Deadhorse, a dusty industrial outpost on Alaska’s northern coast, at 6 a.m. on an early July day in 2017. Midsummer in the Arctic, the sun doesn’t set; it just skids along the horizon to the north before rebounding to make a wide halo across the sky. Lael had ridden through the night to the end of the state’s most northern highway—the “Haul Road”—the thoroughfare by which 18-wheelers (driven by the famed “ice road truckers” in winter) supply Alaska’s North Slope oil fields.

Having toured and raced across the world, Lael wanted to explore her own state. She took on the mission of riding all of Alaska’s major roads—some 4,000 miles. The ride to Deadhorse had taken Lael past Denali’s snowy peak, over the Brooks Range, and across Alaska’s coastal plain: 520 miles in three and a half days. Lael was tired and hungry. She walked into the low-slung Prudhoe Bay Hotel, where she took off her bicycle shoes and tucked into a $12 buffet of pancakes, hash browns, sausage, fruit, and coffee.

The Alaska Heart Lines project, as Lael calls it, has been a homecoming of sorts for this 31-year-old who has spent much of the last decade exploring the world from a bike saddle. Lael is a fourth-generation Alaskan, a rare thing in a place where more than half the population was born someplace else, fetched up in this huge state for a job, a military post, or an adventure. Her great-grandfather, a Lithuanian immigrant, settled in a rough little town wedged in the foothills of Alaska’s mighty Wrangell Mountains, where he opened a clothing store in 1916 and set out to convince men who traveled by dog team and spent their days mucking about for gold and copper that they were in need of fine menswear. And he succeeded.

With only one person per square mile in this state, Alaska’s roads feel like big, empty bike trails to Lael. She’s seen bears, moose, caribou, foxes, and a group of musk ox—like a herd of brown couches—on her rides. And she’s been welcomed everywhere. In the tiny community of Wiseman, where there’s no cellphone or electrical service, locals invited Lael to join a weekend-long folk festival where musicians huddled in a tent to escape the mosquitoes, and a kind stranger provided a shower and a sandwich to go. In Nome, she pedaled by a massive offshore dredge, and gold miners invited her to join them for a beer. People have offered places to stay and return rides in cars, trucks, and airplanes. As she rides across this expansive state, she’s inspiring other people to get out and adventure by bringing “life to the map,” she says.

A rider to be reckoned with—by male and female cyclists alike—on long-distance races, Lael has been relentlessly athletic since she was a kid but didn’t take to cycling in earnest until she started commuting by bike to an off-campus waitressing job during her senior year at the University of Puget Sound. Then, because she didn’t have a car or bus fare, she pedaled 40 miles from Tacoma to visit her sister in Seattle. That ride convinced her she could cycle anywhere. And she wanted to.
After graduating with a B.S. in natural science with a double major in French literary studies in 2008, Lael headed out across the world. With her partner at the time, cyclist and blogger Nick Carman, she bike-toured 100,000 miles across Europe, Southern Africa, Baja California, and the Middle East. She pedaled past camels in Egypt and castles in Europe, sipped rakia with shepherds in the Balkans, and ate lamb with South African farmers. Cycling has become how she learns about the world. It is a vagabond lifestyle, and Lael picks up jobs here and there to save up for the next bike adventure.

During a three-month stint in the Middle East in 2015, Lael entered Israel’s Holyland Challenge, a 900-mile self-supported mountain bike race that ends on the shore of the Red Sea. She’d never done anything like it, and when she pulled up to the start, the first woman to ever enter the event, other competitors looked at her dubiously. She was wearing a baggy T-shirt to their streamlined biking jerseys, old running sneakers to their technical cycling shoes. But 24 hours into the race, she had a 25-mile lead, and ended up finishing in second place overall. Something had clicked for her: She could do this.

That summer, Lael walloped the women’s record on the Tour Divide, a devilishly rugged, 2,745-mile race that follows the spine of the Rockies from Canada to the U.S.-Mexico border, and requires as much vertical climb as if riders summited Mt. Everest from sea level seven times. And that was after riding 2,100 miles to the start in Banff, Alberta, from her parents’ gray split-level in Anchorage, her crash pad when she’s not on bike. Sharing the road with porcupine and dozens of bears along the way, she used the solitary ride as a way to get in shape—physically and mentally—for the race.

Despite suffering from a lung infection while on the Tour Divide route and detouring to pedal herself to an urgent care clinic, Lael came in sixth overall among more than 150 entrants. Her performance in the race attracted the attention of REI, Outside magazine, and Specialized, which now provides her with bikes.

There is nothing glamorous about these long endurance rides. Lael’s fingers go numb, and she gets so thirsty that she’ll drink out of any nearby puddle without treating. Her nose bleeds spontaneously. Races become a junk food binge out of convenience store hot cases. She travels extra light—without a sleeping bag because of the weight—shivering at night in an uninsulated sack. And the sleep deprivation is excruciating.

But once something clicks in Lael’s head to take on a challenge, she can’t shake it.

That was the case when she entered the Trans Am Bike Race, a 4,300-mile, coast-to-coast marathon of misery and mettle, during the summer of 2016. Like the Tour Divide, the Trans Am is one of a handful of self-supported endurance cycling events across the globe where participants agree to be independent for the entire route. There are no checkpoints, no water stations, and no back-up vans. And there’s no purse. Cyclists enter for the sheer pleasure and pain of it. They keep pedaling mile after mile, day after day, fueled by a bewildering alchemy of determination, passion, and roadside food.

Lael’s warm-up for the Trans Am was about a 1,000-mile ride to Haines, Alaska, where she rolled her bike onto the state ferry. The race began in the seaside town of Astoria, Ore., and followed roads and small highways through 12 states to Yorktown, Va.

After the challenging, rugged track of the Tour Divide, the endless pavement of the Trans Am route left Lael bored. But she plugged along, stopping to sleep for three, four, or five hours a night, sometimes in a bivy along the road, sometimes in a motel to power up the electronic shifters on her ultralight Specialized bike. She fueled up on gas station pizza and chocolate milk—aiming for 10,000 calories per day—which she consumed while pedaling. When it got hot, she dunked in roadside streams, shoes and all.

By Missouri, there was only one rider between Lael and the finish, an experienced road cyclist from Greece named Steffen Streich. As the riders pedaled into the Appalachian Mountains of western Virginia, the route became steep and remorselessly hilly. This was the kind of terrain that excited Lael—the challenge of it kept her alert. She pushed hard, and by the middle of the night 17 days after leaving Astoria, she was only 20 miles behind the leader.

That night, a mote of luck drifted into Lael’s headlight. It was Streich, riding toward her in the dark. After waking up from a catnap on the side of the road, he had begun cycling the course backwards in a delirium of fatigue. Almost instantaneously the two riders had equally portentous realizations: Streich comprehended that he could lose the race; Lael recognized that she could win it.

“We’ve been battling this for two weeks,” Lael remembers Streich saying to her, as they pedaled shoulder to shoulder along a dark road in rural Virginia. “Let’s just finish this together,” he suggested. But his proposal fell flat. “I was like, ‘No way! I get to race you!’” Lael says. She took off toward the first pre-dawn rays. One hundred miles to the finish, she had dropped him.

The next morning, after pedaling through the night with only 30 minutes of sleep, Lael rode to the finish line in Yorktown. She arrived in 18 days and 10 minutes, clocking in two hours faster than Streich, hacking three days off the women’s record, and becoming the first woman to win an unsupported long-distance cycling race and one of the best endurance bicycle racers in the world.

“Excuse me, Lael,” the girl whispered.

“I think I’m going to die.”

The quiet voice belonged to Amei Gove, a 13-year-old who, when not on her bike, typically had her head in a book. She was a participant in a bike mentorship program that Lael and friend and fellow cycling advocate Cait Rodriguez designed for middle-school girls in Anchorage last year, six months after Lael’s Trans Am victory. The grand finale of the program was a 65-mile ride to a remote cabin at the edge of a glacier-blue lake where the girls and their leaders would spend the night to celebrate. The route took the group into the foothills of the Chugach Mountains, which flank Anchorage to the east, and included a steep, 1,800-foot climb.

The girls in the program had struggled to tackle small hills when they’d biked around Anchorage. During the final ride, they were faced with a small mountain.

But Amei—and all of the girls—kept going. They pedaled, they pushed, they
stopped for swigs off their water bottles. On the huge hill, as with the rest of the program, there was nothing competitive. “They could ride as fast or as slow as they wanted,” Lael explained, “just as long as they stuck with it.”

Lael and Cait named the bike mentorship program Anchorage GRIT (Girls Riding Into Tomorrow). While pedaling together along a 1,700-mile tour down through Baja, Mexico, the pair had imagined what they would have wanted to do when they were in middle school, that time when you’re sandwiched between childhood and adulthood, between aspirations and anxieties, between the world of play and the increasing awareness of the realities of life.

The goal of the six-week program was to get the girls riding safely and confidently around the city. Beyond that, Lael and Cait wanted to help the girls feel empowered to dream up their own adventures and make them happen. Participants came from Anchorage’s largest middle school, a low-income Title I school where a diverse student body speaks some 96 different languages, and from a magnet school that attracts kids from all over the city.

With corporate sponsorship and a little bit of fundraising, GRIT outfitted the girls with their own bicycles and helmets that they’d be able to keep after the program ended. The group met two or three times each week for rides and special sessions on biking safety, bike maintenance, navigation, mountain biking, and stretching taught by a cadre of women experts, including an Olympic Nordic skier and a representative from a local cycling equipment company who helped the girls make their own bike bags. These women served as additional mentors, helping the girls see opportunities they’d have as they grow up.

Through short rides and workshops after school, and longer rides on weekends, the girls learned how to negotiate weather, traffic, and routes that took them between trails and roads. They learned how to grease their chains and change a tire. And they made new friends, with girls who might never have crossed their paths otherwise.

Lael doesn’t stand like a champion. She hunches her lithe, 5-foot-7-inch frame slightly, in a typical getup of jeans, a t-shirt and Birkenstocks. Her short, chestnut hair flips over to the side, sometimes covering one of her eyes, which are blue as a noonday sky. “Ha!” she’ll often crack at the end of a sentence, chuckling at what she just said.

In GRIT, Lael is less a teacher than a fellow rider. She leads through enthusiasm, through friendship. “Lael is about one of the coolest women I’ve brought into my daughter’s life,” Joanne Parent, mother of one of the GRIT girls, said. “She believed in all the girls.”

Less than a month into the program, nearly half the bikes were stolen from a storage unit outside one of the schools. The girls were devastated. Lael cried.

Clearly, GRIT lessons went well beyond bicycles. “They got to see that sometimes things don’t work out, and that’s OK,” Lael said.

But Lael is the kind of person who looks at a water bottle as half full. “We’re not going to stop,” she thought. That afternoon, the bikeless girls walked to their GRIT meeting a mile away. And when word got out about the theft, people in Anchorage responded.

Within a day, they’d raised $10,000 and had gotten offers from strangers to buy bikes for the girls. They replaced the bikes and still had a nest egg to expand GRIT the following spring. Lael and Cait plan to share the program with communities across Alaska to get as many girls out riding as possible.

A buzzword these days among parents, teachers, coaches, and CEOs, “grit” refers to a quality of perseverance, of stick-to-itiveness for reaching big goals. When it comes to success, researchers say, grit may be as important as talent and opportunity—maybe even more so.

When Lael is riding hard, she falls, she cries, she bleeds. “If I set out to do this,” Lael says about times when things get tough, “I’m going to finish.” Grit is about riding even when you think you can’t. It has nothing to do with not falling, and everything to do with getting back up again.

Among the GRIT girls, Natalie Buttner was notorious for falling. She fell when her bike hit ice, and she fell when it hit snow. She fell going uphill and going downhill.

Natalie had moved to Alaska from Connecticut a few months before GRIT started. She was nervous that first day in her new school. It felt so much bigger than her old one, where she’d left behind friends she’d known for years. And in the GRIT program, everyone seemed to be riding faster—and better—than Natalie.

“Falling is part of riding,” Lael explained to the girls. This champion cyclist has fallen off her own bike too many times to count. She flew tail over teakettle—an “endo” in cycling—over her handlebars while riding in Baja when she hit a patch of sand at the bottom of a steep drop. The fall knocked her out and fractured a vertebra. The impact broke one of her brake levers. Grit filled her mouth. Her long blond hair spanned around her, Natalie lay on the dirt looking up at the concerned, helmeted faces above her. They were like a canopy of trees, with the huge, bright Alaskan sky behind them. Then she did just what Lael had shown her how to do. She got up and kept riding.
A park project in Tacoma empowered underserved kids and gave them a safe place to play. When one of those kids turned up at Puget Sound a decade later, he showed that human connection is stronger than the lines that divide us.
I
t was Mushawn’s idea to build the garden. He was proud of that. His fifth-grade class had been invited to help design the empty park next to their school, and while the other kids were dreaming up slides and swing sets, spray grounds to run through on hot summer days, monkey bars and mosaic tiles, Mushawn Knowles ’20 told the landscape architecture students who were creating the park model that he wanted to feed the homeless and hungry.

This was not an abstraction for a kid growing up in the Hilltop, Tacoma’s most underserved neighborhood—Mushawn had neighbors and friends in mind. So when he saw the garden sketched into the design plans for McCarver Park, it was a turning point for him. “I saw that I had a purpose, something that was bigger than me,” he says now, nine years later. “When I saw my idea manifest—that was empowering.”

That’s because the Zina Linnik Project, an initiative to revitalize two city parks that flank the Hilltop, was not an ordinary urban development project. It began as a memorial to Zina Linnik, a 12-year-old from the neighborhood who was kidnapped and murdered in 2007, and expanded into a larger campaign run by Metro Parks Tacoma to create safe spaces for children to play.

The innovative factor was that fifth-graders at McCarver Elementary took the lead in design, fundraising, and advocacy. They were assisted by community members, including students and faculty at the University of Puget Sound. In the process, the kids discovered that their voices held power, and they were able to imagine futures for themselves beyond their current context.

That’s what happened for Mushawn. He became a focused student and a leader in his class. He wrote speeches and delivered them in front of the city council and legislators at the state capitol. And as he found mentors in the college students and their teachers who came to help, Mushawn started thinking about college for the first time. The path that he ultimately created for himself led to the University of Puget Sound, where he is now a sophomore.

When Mushawn enrolled last year, nearly a decade after the park project began, he was cheered on by the collaborators who knew him back then—Maggie Tweedy ’10, most of all. She had spent her senior year interviewing the McCarver kids to document the impact of the park project for her thesis, and she and Mushawn had gotten to know each other well. Mushawn still considers her a role model: “Maggie’s energy leaves an imprint wherever she goes,” he says. “She’s unapologetically her, and that’s what I aim to be.”

“I saw that I had a purpose, something that was bigger than me. When I saw my idea manifest—that was empowering.”

The friendship forged between a kid from the Hilltop and a college student from Montana is the epitome of the park project’s impact: Building the parks was important, but the relationships formed in the process changed real lives. Those connections became the basis for an ongoing partnership between McCarver and Puget Sound that is still thriving today.

Meeting kids where they’re at

When Maggie set out to help her anthropology professor, Monica DeHart, document the impact of the park project in 2009, she was already immersed in the world that the McCarver kids navigated daily. She worked at the Boys & Girls Club in Tacoma and had spent years dealing with things like gang initiation, foster care, and hunger that affected the middle- and high-school kids she knew. She once had a kid show up at the club who had been stabbed on his way there.

“Things were always happening, and it kind of felt like you were putting out fires constantly,” Maggie recalls. “It was a stressful environment, but that was their environment.”

For the McCarver kids, even the park project was stressful. The kids knew what had happened to Zina, and they knew it could happen to them. McCarver Park was then a derelict place with a couple of busted swings where dealers hung out, and there really wasn’t anywhere safe to play.

So when landscape architecture students from the University of Washington came to design McCarver Park—also called Zina’s Playground—and asked the fifth-graders to help, the McCarver kids seized their moment. When they asked for a swing set, they were appealing for justice. When they asked for a slide, they were asserting their right to be children.

The whole community heard these kids loud and clear. Sheila Haase, the lead fifth-grade teacher at McCarver and one of the primary drivers of the park project, opened her classroom doors to those who wanted...
to help. Metro Parks staff members came to teach fundraising and speechwriting. The Environmental Protection Agency brought in soil samples to show the kids how they tested for toxins. Students and faculty from the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington, Tacoma, came to work with the kids on skills like persuasive writing, speaking, and community organizing.

Maggie’s research question focused on how having members of the community come into the classroom and use a real-world project to teach life skills could change individual aspirations and develop a sense of personal agency—within a year. She set out to interview the first cohort of McCarver fifth-graders—Mushawn and his classmates—who by then were sixth-graders at Jason Lee Middle School. (The park project continued for two more years.)

As Maggie gathered nine or 10 kids and began to attempt gaining their trust, she found that everything she’d learned about qualitative research methods in comparative sociology was applicable. “The more you can be a participant-observer, and have a vested interest in the well-being of the subjects you’re researching, the more honest and true the story you’re going to get,” she says. “I think that’s the best modality for approaching a group of people that you really don’t belong to, and to make it known that you want this to be a mutually beneficial exchange.”

Looking back, now as an anthropology and sociology major himself, Mushawn agrees that this methodology worked well. “As a kid, if you could relate to me and meet me on common ground, I could rock with you,” he says. “Maggie met me where I was at.”

Maggie waded in slowly, and the project became more conversation than interview. She would ask some questions, and then the kids would ask some questions of her. They were curious about what it was like to be a college student—many just had just had their first encounters with college students during the park project—and they wanted to know things, such as how many classes she was taking and how hard they were, and what dorm rooms looked like.

Maggie understood that she was a “gatekeeper,” a sociology term meaning that she could facilitate access to a world the kids weren’t likely to explore on their own. So she started taking her subjects on campus tours. When they looked at the manicured lawns and ivy spilling down brick facades, and said, “We’re allowed to be here?” Maggie made sure they took their time exploring every square inch. Yes, she told them. This is part of your community. You belong here as much as anyone does.

These field trips gave Maggie more time to get to know the kids on a personal level. She told them that she was from Montana and that she often found herself lost in this urban environment. They wanted to know how she perceived Tacoma and how her experience was the same as theirs or different, down to which taco trucks she’d visited. “That made all of my tapes ridiculously long,” Maggie says. “But it was the foundation for the connection I had with the kids.”

Reframing public spaces
Maggie and Mushawn became especially connected. As they shared pieces of their stories, they realized that they had similar experiences related to poverty, violence, and absent fathers. “Mushawn knew what I was talking about, and I knew what he was talking about,” Maggie says. “I think that’s why he felt this really strong trust.”

In Montana, Maggie’s mom worked as a timber framer. When Maggie was 6, the same year her parents divorced, her mom had an accident on the job site where a large timber crushed her leg. “So not only was she a single mom, she was also in a wheelchair, with a 6-year-old and a 3-year-old,” Maggie says. She and her little sister learned to carry in the groceries, bring the laundry upstairs, and shovel the sidewalk. “I used to measure my helpfulness as a daughter by the number of steps I saved my mom from taking.”

By the time Maggie met Mushawn, her mother had recovered, she had a wonderful stepdad, and she’d found her power through education, but she was still struggling financially. She’d opted out of a campus meal plan to save money for rent, and relied on an EBT card for groceries. “What Mushawn and I have in common is a well-developed, personal understanding of scarcity,” Maggie says.

But it wasn’t just their shared experiences that connected them. “I’ve thought a lot about how people from such seemingly opposite communities can experience empathy toward one another,” Maggie says. “We all know what it’s like to feel enraged, abandoned, isolated, misunderstood, and powerless to change the circumstances that seem to trap us. The strong connection between Mushawn and me came from a sense of understanding and empathy rooted in shared experience and shared emotion. But the shared-emotion part, the ability to empathize, is the most significant, because it’s very different to experience scarcity as a white person in Montana than it is in the Hilltop neighborhood as a person of color.”

One of the ways that Mushawn responded to scarcity was by looking out for his community. Maggie remembers that when he told her about his role in building the garden, she asked him, “There are a lot of community gardens in Tacoma—why was it important to have one at this park?” He replied that there wasn’t a garden in his neighborhood, but there were a lot of people without food, so his garden had a purpose.

“I noticed his particular focus on the greater good of his neighborhood,” Maggie says. “That’s something I still see in everything he talks about. There’s a reason people are interested in what he has to say. I think he has a sureness in himself that people notice.”

A few times, Maggie walked Mushawn home, and he took the opportunity to

“What these kids did was really incredible, because they were able to change the norms and codes about who was excluded from or included in public spaces. They were able to reframe it.”
educate her on how to traverse his neighborhood safely. He warned her that most houses have security dogs, so if she needed to talk to a parent, she shouldn’t just walk through the gate. He told her about the colors associated with different gangs, so she would avoid wearing them, and also how she shouldn’t smile and say hi to just anyone.

Maggie appreciated that Mushawn, at 11, was trying to keep her safe. But as she ruminated on those exchanges, she started to see things from a social scientist’s perspective. “My understanding was that this was a coded environment that he had navigated his entire life,” she says. “That was useful information for me. It told me that what these kids did was really incredible, because they were able to change the norms and the codes about who was excluded from or included in public spaces. They were able to reframe it.”

When Maggie went to interview Sheila Haase, the fifth-grade teacher, she saw that there were bullet holes in the classroom windows. “People in the park had been shooting at the school,” Maggie says. “The holes had been taped over, but [Sheila] said she didn’t replace the panes because people would just keep shooting holes in them.”

It was easy for Maggie to see why the park project transformed the community of Hilltop, as well as the individuals it touched. “I think the students felt this really profound sense of power,” she says. “It was really significant because the park had been so unsafe for them. To be able to change something that you used to be fearful of, to be able to put that down and just be a kid, is a really profound feeling, I can imagine. That’s how I connected all these little stories they would tell me.”

By the end of her senior year, Maggie had completed her thesis. The kids told her that the park project showed them that they could make a difference. One noted: “When you’re a kid, you don’t think you can do anything in life. You don’t have the same voice as adults. But we saw that we could!” Another said: “I know how to speak up, and I believe in myself.”

Two years later, on May 20, 2011, Mushawn was invited back to McCarver Park to cut the ribbon and give a speech. The Washington State Legislature proclaimed the third Friday in May to be Play in Peace Day in honor of Zina Linnik, and thousands of people followed the McCarver kids on a peace march through the Hilltop from Wright Park to McCarver Park along MLK Jr. Way. The News Tribune quoted a student named Mack Jones as saying that in the future, “We will be able to go back and say, ‘We built this. This is history. Nobody can tear it down.’”

**Bridging the divide**

Maggie is now an assistant teacher at the Evergreen School in Shoreline, Wash. Her experiences at the Boys & Girls Club and with Mushawn and his classmates gave her life new focus. She’s currently applying to graduate schools to study education.

Maggie and Mushawn have kept in touch, mostly through sporadic emails and Facebook messages. This year, they met in person for the first time in eight years, at Mushawn’s favorite vegan restaurant in the North End. Afterward, they went to the homecoming game at Lincoln High School, where Mushawn had been the captain of his football team.

“I haven’t been to a high school football game since 2005, when I was in high school,” Maggie says. “It was really funny. All of his friends were like, ‘Who is this lady?’” After the game, she gave him a ride home, and got back to Seattle late. “We’re both talkers, so I think we need to set time limits on how long we want to catch up,” she jokes.

One thing Mushawn asked Maggie that stayed with her was how she teaches social justice to affluent kids. “That’s the biggest challenge that I feel like I’m facing,” she says. “I think the first thing for the kids at the school where I work now is just to have more contact with people who aren’t like them, you know? Just having the experience that Mushawn and I have had, looking at commonalities instead of assuming, ‘Your life must be so different, because this is what I see.’”

Mushawn is now a gatekeeper, too. Whenever he goes home to visit his mother, two brothers, or friends, he crosses the physical boundary between the North End and the Hilltop that is aptly named Division Avenue. Standing at that threshold, it’s possible to see two different realities right next to each other. On the north side, huge Victorian and Craftsman houses and tree-lined streets. On the south, a handful of ministries and homeless shelters and fast-food drive-throughs.

Historically, the city’s division is the result of 1930s discriminatory mortgage lending practices that boxed in the Hilltop by preventing many people of color from buying or building a home elsewhere. If you compare the Tacoma redlining map of 1937 with a current census map, the red zones still correspond closely to the districts with the highest poverty rates. According to the city’s Office of Equity and Human Rights, “Tacoma’s communities of color live strikingly different lives than their white neighbors and have far different outcomes.”

Mushawn is wide awake to this reality. “I could’ve easily been knocked out of the air,” he says. “I could’ve easily been a gang member. I could’ve easily been shot. I’m saying at the rate that it happens in my community, it could’ve happened really easily.”

The park project—the work he did and the people he met—helped to keep him grounded. “It changed my perspective of how I’m going to operate in this life,” he says. “It helped me understand that my voice actually does matter.”

**Making new connections**

When Maggie told 11-year-old Mushawn that he belonged on the Puget Sound campus, he believed her, and he worked hard to get there. But she wasn’t his only Puget Sound connection. Two professors, Monica DeHart, anthropology, and Amy Ryken, education, have been among Mushawn’s mentors from the early days of the park project. They began taking their students to McCarver in 2009 to work with the fifth-graders on persuasive writing and speaking skills. In return, the kids taught the college students about community development in the real world.

“My students all say they want to change the world, but it’s so daunting,” Monica says. “It was amazing to see the McCarver kids rise to the challenge of being spokespersons for change in their communities. I remember my students being really struck by listening
to these little kids tell them how easy and important organizing was.”

As veteran educators, Monica and Amy saw the value in those exchanges—both big students and little students had so much to learn from each other. After the parks were completed, they wanted to keep that going, so they worked with the McCarver teachers to continue the partnership with a more academic emphasis. Every year, students from the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington, Tacoma, visit McCarver fifth-grade classrooms for special projects, and the fifth-graders visit both campuses. Monica and Amy have been leading that effort on campus for eight years.

The ongoing exchange between these two groups is less dramatic than the park project, but it makes a real impact. Monica says that she wants her students to “confront, explore, and learn to be aware of” different voices and experiences, without making assumptions.

“How do you collaborate with people from really disparate circumstances in a way that lets you learn what you have to offer, what the limits of those offers are, and where you can continue to grow yourself?” she asks.

As for the McCarver kids, Monica hopes that by getting to know college students as mentors, they will “be able to imagine college spaces as communities that they could be a part of, and to imagine themselves in different kinds of disciplines or careers.”

Today, inhabiting that space at Puget Sound is more possible than ever. The Tacoma Public Schools Commitment was established in 2014 with the goal of making the university more accessible to Tacoma public school graduates by covering their full need, meaning the gap between the FAFSA-determined EFC (Expected Family Contribution) and the cost of attendance. Through this program, Puget Sound has more than quadrupled its enrollment of Tacoma Public Schools graduates in the past four years—Mushawn among them.

But as more students from underrepresented backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives are enrolled at Puget Sound, the college faces another challenge: to make campus more welcoming to them. Mushawn knows firsthand how essential that is, which is why he started a new club, Real Expression Art Lounge. Mushawn uses spoken word, hip-hop, videography, and photography to express himself creatively, and he wanted others to have the space to do that, too. In particular, he wanted students of color to be able to express themselves without being hemmed in by the dominant culture on campus, but the club is welcoming to all, and Mushawn hopes that it will spark dialogue and connection.

Meanwhile, he has a strong support system in Maggie, Monica, and Amy. “The change and continuity of these relationships is so powerful,” he says. “To walk into Monica’s classroom and see the same smiling face I remember from fifth grade gives me strength to endure adversity. They all help me remember how far I’ve come, and believe that I have so much more within me.”

For another reminder, all he has to do is drop by McCarver Park. On a cold, sunny afternoon, kids are playing basketball and swinging from the monkey bars while adults sit chatting on the benches. Nearby, lettuces, squashes, and tomatoes are growing in the ground in the McCarver Park Community Garden. The fifth-grade teachers still teach a lesson called “Park,” so their students understand the legacy of empowerment that Mushawn and his classmates passed on to them. But the kids of the Hilltop aren’t campaigning for safe spaces anymore. They’re free to just be children, playing.
classmates
Good Advice

Alumni mentors are making a real difference in students’ lives through the many mentorship programs on campus, including ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge) Night, the Business Leadership Program, and Take a Logger to Work Day. These programs match students with role models, often professionals in their fields who can advise students on career development and life after college. Alumni who participate report that the experience of guiding outstanding young people has been extremely rewarding. We asked three alumni mentors to share their stories.

Andrea Tull Davis ’02

In her first six months as president of the Alumni Council, Andrea Tull Davis has already made a significant impact. She has been involved with the council since its inception in 2007, and previously served as chair of the Tacoma Alumni Club and the Career and Employment Services Committee (CES). Her role on the CES committee led her to take a keen interest in the connections between alumni and current students. She has worked to boost alumni participation in Alumni Sharing Knowledge (ASK) Night and helped launch the Take a Logger to Work program, which provides job-shadowing opportunities for current students.

Andrea is particularly passionate about the Take a Logger to Work program. She has worked in the health care policy field for a decade and currently serves as the director of Coordinated Care Health Plan in Tacoma. Every year, she takes two or three students to Olympia to give them a tour of the capitol building and show them what a career in public policy looks like. The students get to see the role that Andrea plays in shaping public policy through her interaction with state agencies, the governor's office, and elected officials. Students also sit in on legislative committee hearings and tag along to meetings with legislators, and Andrea answers their questions about public policy as a potential career path.

“As an alum, I love meeting the students and hearing about all the interesting and fascinating research they are doing, and their plans for the future,” she says. “The job-shadow experience is part of their career development process, and alumni play such a pivotal role in that.”

Andrea got her own start through a Logger-to-Logger connection. Politics and government professor David Sousa introduced her to Alixandria Weise Lapp ’96, who was chief of staff for Congressman Adam Smith at the time. That connection led to an internship and later a job for Andrea, first as the finance director for Smith’s re-election campaign and then as health policy advisor in his Washington, D.C., office.

She notes that politics and government faculty members Bill Haltom and Patrick O’Neil also served as informal mentors, and that those relationships remain important to her today. “I am who I am because of these people in my life,” she says, adding that she encourages other alumni to make such an impact on students’ futures.

Andrea speaks to plenty of alumni who are interested in getting involved. She says that the challenge is in creating a formal structure that supports both students and alumni through the process, and helps them find the right match. “My dream is that at some point in the future, every incoming student will be paired with an alum mentor who stays with them for their whole time at the university, and even potentially beyond.”

Joe Kurtis ’87

“They only thing to do with good advice is pass it on,” wrote Oscar Wilde. “It is never of any use to oneself.” Joe Kurtis has been quietly making this his mission, working to connect students with alumni who can provide advice on how to navigate life after college.

Joe started mentoring students nearly a decade ago through the university’s Business Leadership Program (BLP). Now he’s chair of the Alumni Council’s Career and Employment Services (CES) Committee, and his goal is to expand upon that program to include students in other disciplines.

“I thought that because the BLP mentorship program was such a powerful, transformative opportunity for students, why shouldn’t that opportunity be made available to the larger university community?” Joe says.
classmates

Good Advice

“From my place on the CES committee, I started to enter into that conversation.”

The committee—made up of alumni volunteers, faculty, and staff—dreams of creating a university-wide alumni mentorship program. “People recognize that there are benefits to the university and obviously tremendous benefits in the service to students,” Joe says.

His personal experiences as a mentor have been enriching. “You end up in these interesting, magical moments of self-discovery,” he says. “As they’re navigating a particular issue or want to discuss a particular idea, you are either putting yourself in their shoes, or you can see how the discussion that you’re having actually has real, meaningful implications and applications to your own life.”

One of Joe’s recent mentees is Nicole Edwards ’15. She says that Joe had made an important impact on her life. He provided a constructive environment where she was able to ask questions and explore the many different paths that often felt overwhelming. “I think a mentor is an invaluable resource for impartial advice and guidance,” she says.

In Nicole’s case, that advice led to an internship with Joe at Russell Investments, where he is a director. “I’ve been mentored and I’ve been a mentor, and I’ve always found it to be fruitful,” Tom says of his career in software development. He’s been with Amazon for the last decade. “I appreciate the opportunity to mentor people who are actively curious and really listening, but who also don’t want someone to give them all the answers.”

That’s just the approach that Tom’s latest mentee, Thavy Thach ’19, was looking for. He and Tom were paired up when the mathematics and computer science department started a pilot mentorship program. When they first met in Thomas Hall in early 2017, they had a long talk about careers, college, and other shared interests, and they agreed on a process.

“Tom doesn’t want to make me into someone who will do everything the way he has,” Thavy says.

Tom cautions against going beyond mentorship and turning a mentee into something of a protégé. “Mentors don’t exist to make mini-me’s,” he says. “The trap to me is that it invites ego, it invites claiming someone else’s success. If I’m claiming a mentee’s success, then I’ve done something wrong.”

Thavy studied in Budapest during fall semester and plans to be in New Zealand during the spring. He’s been busy seeking out additional mentors wherever he goes. “He is just one self-propelled machine,” Tom marvels. “He’s just looking for guardrails.”

Tom has defined boundaries around his role as a mentor. “If you solve problems for them, it’s like you’re the parent doing the sixth-grader’s homework for them,” he says. “That doesn’t make a better student; it doesn’t
make a better mentor. The whole point here is that you are helping them identify gaps in skills or gaps in understanding, but they’re the ones who are going to fill that gap.

It was John Riegsecker, professor emeritus of mathematics and computer science, who may have instilled that ethic in Tom, who once called John when he had a problem he didn’t think he could begin to tackle. “He literally said, ‘Don’t ever call me again with a problem that you haven’t even tried to solve,’” Tom says. “It was like a major kick in the keister.”

Tom’s other rule is that “mentors don’t chase.” He says, “What we are here for is to be an additional resource with industry experience and to provide guardrails, be a sounding board, provide feedback,” adding that the relationship should go on as long as the mentee finds it useful. “It could be for their entire lives, or it could be for a year.”

As a result of his experience with Tom, Thavy is an enthusiastic booster of mentorship. “I’ve found it tremendously helpful and appreciate the mentee process,” he says.

Thavy advises other students: “You should go for all the advice you can get about all the things you want to do in the world. Always go to your mentor first. They’re not going to chase you; you should chase them. That’s how this relationship should work.”

Interested in becoming a mentor to a Puget Sound student? The Alumni Council would be happy to hear from you! Call Haley Harshaw in the alumni office at 253.879.3451.
alumni news and correspondence

SUMMER REUNION WEEKEND | Save the date! June 8–10, 2018

1961
Tom Barnard, an attorney in Ohio, was featured in a Crain’s Cleveland Business article for his volunteer work through Legal Aid Society of Cleveland’s ACT 2 Project. The program matches low-income individuals in need of legal help or advice with late-career or retired attorneys who volunteer their time. Tom, who is 78 and semi-retired, said the rewards from participating in the pro-bono work are huge.

1963
W. Houston Dougherty, Hofstra University’s vice president for student affairs, has been named a 2018 Pillar of the Profession by Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA), the leading international organization in student affairs. The annual awards recognize a small number of distinguished professionals who have served as leaders, teachers, and scholars in student affairs and higher education. Houston came to the Long Island, New York, school in 2014 and has a 34-year history in the higher-education administration field. He served as associate dean at Puget Sound, dean of students at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore., and vice president of Grinnell College in Iowa before making the move to New York.

1965
In August, Nancy Schierhorn was promoted to senior vice president and chief development officer of Bristol Bay Native Corporation, The Bristol Bay Times reports. She replaces Jeffrey Sinz, who retired in September, and will be directing the overall corporate development strategy, including acquisitions, new investments, portfolio oversight, and other strategic growth initiatives. Schierhorn joined the corporation in November 2012 as associate general counsel. Two years later, she was promoted to vice president, associate general counsel. Schierhorn holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

1966
Pharmaceutical company CTI BioPharma promoted David Kirks to chief financial officer in September. He joined the company in 2017 and was formerly the principal financial and accounting officer. He has a business administration degree from Puget Sound.

1967
Jim Wilson ‘85, P’18 was named vice president and marketing director of Baker Boyer Bank in Walla Walla, the oldest community bank in Washington state. Jim is tasked with modernizing the bank’s marketing strategies, processes, and technologies to effectively engage consumer, business, and private banking clients along their financial journey. He has more than three decades of experience in marketing and business development and previously served as the bank’s marketing director.

1968
Jennifer Simpson Robertson was listed in 425 Business magazine’s list of Dynamic Women in the July issue. Jennifer is serving her third term with the Bellevue City Council and has worked on numerous projects to “make the city a better place,” the article states. Those projects include the light rail, the sky bridge in Bellevue Square and Lincoln Square, and intelligent traffic lights.

1969
The National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) honored David Bean, councilmember of the Puyallup Tribe and acting chairman of the National Indian Gaming Association, with the prestigious John Kieffer Sovereignty Award in September. The award’s recipients are chosen based on their embodiment of NIGA’s mission and purpose. The Puyallup Tribe says that David is an active member in his community, spending much of his time with Elders and Youth of the Puyallup Tribe. He regularly participates in cultural activities by drumming, singing, and dancing with children throughout the community as well as within the NW Canoe Society. He holds an accounting degree from Puget Sound.

1970
Glenna Cook published Thresholds, her debut full-length collection of poems, in June. Her book explores the fierce and tender moments of her life: a childhood influenced by the birth of a younger sister with Down syndrome, a marriage of 63 years, passage into her 80s, and the death of a son. For 25 years, Glenna worked for U. S. West Communications (now called Qwest Corporation) and owned CenturyLink. She retired to pursue a degree in English literature, which she received from Puget Sound in 1994 at age 58.

1971
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1972
Natasha Hollins Egan was named to Newcity Art’s “Art 50 2017: Chicago’s Visual Vanguard” list. Natasha is executive director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College, where she promotes the artistic significance and political dimensions of photography. She graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in Asian studies and earned master’s degrees in photography and museum studies from Columbia College.

1973
Ray Kahler has been appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to the Grays Harbor County Superior Court, The Daily World reports. He has been in practice with the Stritmatter Kessler Whelan Koehler Moore Kahler law firm for 21 years. The appointment, which began in January, will be his first time serving on the bench and his first experience with public service. He holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound, and a law degree from Harvard University.

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1975
George Tomlin, along with collaborators from Germany and Switzerland, co-authored two articles published in Ergoskience, a German-language occupational therapy journal. The articles are titled “Die Forschungspyramide – Teil 2: Methodologische Grundlagen” and “Teil 3: Grundlagen der Anwendung für die kritische Evidenzbewertung” (“Research Pyramid: Methodological Principles” and “Application Principles for the Critical Appraisal of Evidence”). George holds a master’s degree in occupational therapy from Puget Sound, a master’s degree in international affairs from Boston University, and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Washington.

1976
Colin “Joni” Weber Earl was honored by the Sound Transit board for her 15 years of work as CEO. She retired from the transit agency in 2016. The Great Hall of Sound Transit’s historic Union Station headquarters in Seattle was renamed after her in October, METRO magazine reports. A plaque addressing her accomplishments will be placed inside the entrance to the Joni Earl Great Hall.

1977
Michael Ramoska finally retired from Wilson Sporting Goods. The job was the only career he ever had, and he was offered the position on his 25th birthday. He said the company is “incredible,” and he is thankful that he was able to attend so many great sports events—everything from Super Bowl games and NBA championships to AVP beach volleyball and U.S. Open tennis—as part of his job. He says his retirement thus far has consisted of playing golf four days a week at his home in Mission Viejo, Calif., and traveling with his wife, Vicki Grabar Ramoska ’75.

1978
Rob Cushman became head football coach at Occidental College in August, as reported by Occidental Weekly. Rob is entering his 39th year in the coaching profession and spent time in Northern California and the Midwest before going to the Los Angeles, Calif., school. Rob holds a bachelor’s degree in communication studies and theatre arts from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in education from California State University, Chico.

1979
June 8–10, 2018

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supporting both the medical and research missions of the National Science Foundation. Tory holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Puget Sound, a master’s degree in dental hygiene from Harvard University, and a doctorate degree in medicine from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md.

20th reunion
June 8–10, 2018

1998 After many years in the business, Ian Congdon has opened his own chiropractic practice, North Seattle Chiropractic, in Northgate. He is supported in this new venture by his wife, Moriah Love ’00, and their 5-year-old daughter, Noel.

Elliot Stockstad ’98, M.Ed.’04 was named chief development officer for Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity on Nov. 1. The organization has completed two housing projects in Pierce County since 2009 and is working on a third. The Woods at Golden Given in Midland, Wash., is currently under construction and is Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity’s largest project.

2002 Lisa Sternadel Rodgers ’02, M.A.T.’03 was awarded the prestigious Milken Educator Award, recognizing her exceptional work as a biology/ life science and physical science teacher at Grandview High School in Aurora, Colo. The award, one of 45 distributed nationwide, comes with a $25,000 cash prize and recognizes early- to mid-career teachers for what they have achieved and for the promise of what they will accomplish. Lisa received the award at an all-school assembly on Oct. 31. The Denver Post reports that the science teacher was “stunned.” Lisa is the lone Milken Family Foundation award-winner from Colorado. Lowell Milken, chairman and co-founder of the Milken Family Foundation, said Lisa is “an advocate for student learning” whose effective teaching makes him optimistic about the futures that await her students.

The San Antonio, Texas, oil and gas exploration company Silverback has hired Matthew Alley as chief financial officer, the company announced in October. He is responsible for all financial functions of the company, including transactions, financial modeling and analysis, budgeting and reporting, and strategic planning. Previously, Matthew worked as CFO at Palomar Natural Resources in Colorado. He has also held positions in corporate and energy finance and investment experience and holds a computer science and economics degree from Puget Sound.

2004 Ashley Biggers’ second book, Eco-Travel New Mexico: 86 Natural Destinations, Green Hotels and Sustainable Adventures, was published by University of New Mexico Press in September 2016. The book is intended to be a guide to sustainable travel in the Land of Enchantment and features eco-friendly destinations such as farm-to-table restaurants and green hotels as well as recommendations for camping and hiking adventures.

2005 Tim Mensonides became airport manager at Bremerton National Airport in May. He was also recently named to Aviation Pros’ 2017 Airport Business Top 40 Under 40 list. Previously, Tim was the airport’s operations coordinator. He has more than 11 years of experience in the industry. Both of Tim’s parents are pilots, so he grew up around airplanes in the Tacoma area and says they heavily impacted his decision to go into the aviation field. At Puget Sound, he majored in business administration.

2006 Esther Morgan-Ellis has a new book out this month titled Everybody Sing!: Community Singing in the American Picture Palace. In the book, Esther explores the era of movie palaces and sing-alongs of the 1920s and 1930s and includes nearly 100 images, such as photographs of the movie houses’ opulent interiors, reproductions of sing-along slides, and stills from the original Screen Songs “follow the bouncing ball” cartoons. Everybody Sing! is available on Amazon.

For the second year in a row, McKenzie Ross will serve as chair of the Worldwide Women in Electronic Design (WWED) steering committee. McKenzie is the marketing communications manager for OneSpin Solutions, a company that provides software tools that allow engineers to create reliable digital circuits. She has led the committee since 2016 and served as vice chair in 2015. The WWED committee works to increase WWED’s visibility and promote a vibrant, supportive community of women within the semiconductor industry.

2008 Rachel Gross recently earned her Ph.D. in U.S. history from the Davidson Honors College at the University of Montana. Her dissertation was on the history of outdoor clothing and gear. Seattle nonprofit Treehouse named Nikki Carsley to its Young Professionals Board. The organization serves youth in foster care in Washington by providing support to help them graduate from high school and pursue their dreams and goals. Nikki, an attorney at Mills, Meyers, Swartling P.S., will serve as an ambassador for the organization. She holds a bachelor’s degree in business leadership and international political economy from Puget Sound and a law degree from the University of Washington.

2009 Jacob Berenbeim received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he studied the light-induced excited states of biological molecules and natural pigments. Along with his wife, printmaker and illustrator Amy McDonell, Berenbeim ’10, Jacob will be relocating to York, England, for a postdoctoral research position at the University of York.

2012 Peter Bittner won The David Teeuwen Student Journalism Award, Small Newsroom, from the University of California, Berkeley, Graduate School of Journalism for his multimedia project City of Smoke: Air Pollution in the Land of the Eternal Blue Sky. The project explored the public health crisis of one of the most polluted cities on Earth. Peter traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, in January 2017, while temperatures dipped below -35 C, to conduct interviews and film the landscape for the project. Peter holds a bachelor’s degree in international political economy from Puget Sound. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a master’s degree in journalism in May.

2016 Justin Brush is putting his computer science and theatre arts double major to use at Snapchat. He started as a software engineer at the company in October, working on the iOS messaging platform.
in memoriam

Alumni

Jessamine Pugh Sherman ’37 died on Aug. 8 at the age of 103. She was born in Mis- souri, and moved west with her mother and three siblings in 1920, after her father was offered a job with the Northern Pacific Railroad in Tacoma. She graduated from Lincoln High School and went on to attend Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Lambda Sigma Chi sorority and active in the drama department. She mar- ried William “Bill” Sherman ’36, whom she met on a blind date while at Puget Sound, in June 1938. She raised three children and worked as a so- cial worker at the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). She retired in 1974. Jessamine was preceded in death by her husband; her two brothers, Sam Pugh ’28 and Paul Pugh ’36; and her sister, Elizabeth Pugh Crippen ’30. She is sur- vived by her three children, six grandchildren and 13 great- grandchildren.

Margaret Braun Bocak ’45 passed away peacefully on Sept. 25 at the age of 94. Born in Wisconsin, she visited Se- attle after graduating from high school and never left the area. She began attending Puget Sound and studied music—she was skilled at the piano and clarinet—but left after three months to help with war ef- forts during World War II. In 1951, she married clarinetist and Boeing engineer Mark Bocak. In 1976, Margaret went back to school, this time at the University of Washington, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in music and anthropol- ogy. She was the organist at many schools throughout the area by wagon train. Joe graduated from South Kitsap High School, where he lettered in every sport, and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He was honorably discharged two years later and attended Wash- ington State University before meeting and marrying Peggy Curran in 1949. Soon after the marriage, Joe was recalled into the Marines to serve in the Korean War. He returned home and earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Puget Sound. He taught at middle schools throughout the Tacoma area, including Stewart Middle School and the now-closed McIlvagh Middle School. When he wasn’t teaching, Joe enjoyed fishing, camping, and hunting. Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy; his parents; and oldest daughter. He is survived by his sister, two daughters, son, and two grandchildren.

Robert “Bob” Hill ’50, a Tacoma native and world traveler, died in California on Nov. 8. He was 89. Bob was a Stadium High School graduate and member of Puget Sound’s Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He graduated with a pre-med de- gree from Seattle University in 1952. After college, he joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps and then the Army Reserve. After serving, he moved to California and began what would become a more than 30- year career in pharmaceutical sales and marketing. He retired from Syntax Laboratories in 1986 and proceeded to travel to six continents and volunteer at hospitals near his hometown in San Carlos, Calif. Bob was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth; parents; and brother. Survivors include his wife, Christa Basch; two daughters; two stepsons; daughter-in-law; five grandchildren; and multiple nieces and nephews.

Stanley Langlow ’50, P ’75 died peacefully in University Place, Wash., on Aug. 26. He was 90. Stanley was born in Tacoma and lived his entire life there. He graduated from Stadium High School and went on to attend Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administra- tion. He married Doris Sallee the same year he graduated and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Korean War. Stanley founded Pacific Hardware, Inc., in 1960, and built up the business until his retirement in 1987. He was preceded in death by his wife, and his daughter, Lisa Langlow. He is survived by his three sons, Scott Langlow ’75, Gregg Langlow, and Steve Lan- glow; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Joanne “Jo” Goodrick Candler ’51 died in Tacoma on Sept. 15 at the age of 87. She was born in Spokane, Wash., but graduated from Tacoma’s Stadium High School in 1947. Two years later, she married Clair Candler ’60 and began a career with the Tacoma school district that spanned more than 20 years. Joanne and Clair moved to Port Townsend in 1990. She was a longtime member of Junior Woman’s Club, Tacoma Yacht Club’s Shipmates, Daughters of Nor- way, Mason Methodist Church, and several singing groups. She is survived by her son, daughter, five grandchildren, and two great-grandsons.

Corrine Engle Dysart ’52, P ’79 passed away in Lacey, Wash., on Aug. 20. She was 86. Corinne was born in Tacoma in 1930 and graduated from Clover Park High School in Lakewood, Wash., in 1948. She received a biology degree from Puget Sound, where she was also a charter member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. In 1955, she married Benjamin Dysart and became the mother of three children, whom she raised on Bainbridge Island. She worked at Bank of America in Seattle and retired from there before moving to Steilacoom, Wash., and then Panorama City in Lacey. Cor- rine was preceded in death by her husband, infant daughter, parents, brother, and sister. She is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren, two nephews, and one niece.

Joe Lee Peterson ’50 died peacefully on July 16 at the age of 89. He was born in Port Orchard, Wash., and was a member of one of the city’s founding families. His great-grandparents came to the area by wagon train. Joe graduated from South Kitsap High School, where he lettered in every sport, and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He was honorably discharged two years later and attended Wash- ington University before meeting and marrying Peggy Curran in 1949. Soon after the marriage, Joe was recalled into the Marines to serve in the Korean War. He returned home and earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Puget Sound. He taught at middle schools throughout the Tacoma area, including Stewart Middle School and the now-closed McIlvagh Middle School. When he wasn’t teaching, Joe enjoyed fishing, camping, and hunting. Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy; his parents; and oldest daughter. He is survived by his sister, two daughters, son, and two grandchildren.

Robert “Bob” Rudis ’53, a World War II veteran and longtime photographer for the Tacoma News Tribune, died on Nov. 17. He was 95. Bob was born in Philadelphia, Pa., but graduated from Lincoln High School in Tacoma during high school graduation, he served in the U.S. Army for five years. It was at a USO dance during his service that he met Ida May. The two married after he completed his military service in November 1945, and went on to have three children. Bob earned a bachelor’s degree in art from Puget Sound, where he was also a member of the school’s band and Theta Chi fraternity. He had a 35-year career at the Tacoma News Tribune, during which he photographed the eruption of Mount St. Helens from the air, President Dwight D. Eisenhow- er’s campaign, President John F. Kennedy’s visit to Tacoma, the departure of local soldiers during the Vietnam War, and many other local events. Bob was also a bagpiper, artist, ac- tor, and outdoorsman who was involved with the Tacoma Little Theater and the Tacoma Moun- taineers. He was preceded in death by his wife, and is survived by his daughter, two sons, nine grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Robert Weaver ’53 P ’78 died on Sept. 8, at the age of 87. He was born in Tacoma in 1930 and graduated from Stadium High School in 1948. Follow- ing graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy and served as a pastor’s assistant in California and Alaska. He returned home and attended Pacific Lutheran University and Puget Sound, where he became a member of the Phi Delta Theta frater- nity and received a bachelor’s degree in business administra- tion. Following his graduation, Bob and his wife, Joan, bought a cabin on Lake Steilacoom and spent years remodeling it. He created his own interior design business and worked in health care before retiring in 1991. He is survived by Joan, his wife of 63 years; two sons, Mark ’78 and Brad; four grandchildren; and nieces and nephews.

Marvin Howe ’55 passed away peacefully on Aug. 14. He was 90. A Tacoma native, he graduated from Lincoln High School in 1945 and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He spent his working years as an accountant. He was also a member of Tacoma Elks Lodge #174, treasurer of Puget Sound Investment As- sociates, and a member of St. Paul Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, sister, and daughter-in-law. He is survived by Beataea Howe, his wife of 61 years; sister; two sons; four grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and many nieces and nephews.

Helen Radisch Hopkins ’56, a longtime teacher and Tacoma resident, passed away on Nov. 4 at the age of 84. She was a graduate of Stadium High School and held a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound. She taught at many schools throughout the Tacoma, Fife, and Lynnwood areas and married Richard Hop- kins in 1959. She enjoyed living at the Silver Creek retirement community in Puyallup and weekly lunches with friends. Her husband and parents pre- ceded her in death. Her daugh- ter, Pamela; son, Greg; two grandchildren; and two great- grandchildren survive Helen.

Franklin “Frank” Johnson Jr. ’56 died on Aug. 11. He was 83. Frank was a Tacoma native who graduated from Stadium High School and received a bachelor’s degree in econom- ics from Puget Sound. While
at the university, he was also a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Pi Kappa Delta honor society, and forensics club. He also received a master’s degree in business administration from Northwestern University. Frank enjoyed hiking, skiing, and going on adventures, and met his wife, Marlys “Marcy” Clark Johnson ‘63, while working at Mount Rainier National Park’s Paradise Inn. They were married in 1961. He became a CPA and remained in that profession for most of his life. Frank and Marcy had three children and raised them in University Place. At the age of 60, Frank summited Mount Rainier with two of his children. At 73, he suffered a stroke but recovered. His health declined over the last five years. Frank is survived by his wife, Marcy; sister, Shirley Welker ’63; two sons; daughter; and eight grandchildren.

Robert “Nick” Nichols ‘56 passed away on Sept. 16, at the age of 87. A Tacoma native, he was the sixth of seven children and graduated from Stadium High School in 1948. Following graduation, he joined the U.S. Navy and was deployed to Korea. After the war, he received a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in education from Arizona State University. His 52-year career with the Tacoma school district began in 1956, and he held multiple roles, from teacher, coach, and counselor to assistant principal and principal. He retired in 1988 but continued to work as a substitute principal. He is survived by his wife, Jo; sister, Grace; his five children; 10 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, friends, and relatives.

Charles “Chuck” Lewis Preuss ‘56 died at the age of 88 on Aug. 11. He graduated from Tacoma’s Lincoln High School before earning a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound. He held multiple jobs throughout his life, including fifth-grade teacher, United Fireworks employee, and Baxter Laboratories employee, but he retired from A.O. Smith Electric Motor Division in Tipp City, Ohio, after 28 years. Chuck is survived by his four children, brother, sister, four grandchildren, and multiple nieces and nephews.

Hershel Standifer ‘56 passed away on Aug. 12 at the age of 83. He was born in Kentucky but moved to Washington with his family in 1947. He graduated from South Bend High School in Washington in 1952 and attended both Grays Harbor College and Puget Sound. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1954 and was deployed to Japan before beginning what would become a 31-year career as a computer analyst with the National Security Agency in Maryland. In 1960, he married Joyce Seigel, and they had three children. Hershel was preceded in death by his parents, wife, two sisters, and twin grandparents. He is survived by his three children, three siblings, and four grandchildren.

Norman Knight ‘58, a former newspaperman and ordained deacon, died on Oct. 15 in Des Moines, Iowa. He was 83. Norman was born in Kansas and graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in comparative literature. He went on to receive a master’s degree in divinity and attend St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas. In 1967, he was ordained as a deacon and elder, and he served at several churches in the Midwest. He worked for The Hawk Eye newspaper in Burlington, Iowa, and participated in five musicals with the area community college. He is survived by his wife, Doris; five daughters; son; 20 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and brother.

Anne Karls Lewis ‘58 died on Aug. 4. She was 97. Anne was born in Ohio in 1920 and graduated from Issaquah High School in Washington. Two years later, in 1940, she married Dave Lewis. She and Dave had three children, and, while raising them, Anne attended Puget Sound and earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics. She went on to become a home economics teacher and later became a counselor at Issaquah Junior High and Central Kitsap High School. She was a seamstress and cook and loved to crochet, knit, and bake.

David Engle ‘58 died on Aug. 1 at a family cabin in Colorado. He was 81. David was born in Denver, Colo., in 1936 and earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Puget Sound. While in college, he met Mary Egbert ’60, and the two married before moving to Boston so David could study at Harvard’s divinity school. He became a Methodist minister in Dolores, Colo., where the couple raised three sons. David served as a minister in many small Colorado towns, as well as on the Isle of Man and in England before retiring. He was preceded in death by his wife, and brother, Wilber. He is survived by his sons and their families, as well as four exchange daughters—high-school students he and his family hosted in the ’70s—Katrina, Kerstin, Eeva-Liisa and Berenice.

Allan (Al) Hanson ‘59, Korean War veteran and avid golfer, died on Sept. 24 at his Arizona home. He was 84. Allan was born in North Dakota but graduated from Stadium High School in Tacoma in 1951. After serving in the Korean War, he returned home and graduated from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He married Linda Eldenburg ’60, and the two built a home in Lake Tapps, Wash. He worked for the Pierce County Budget and Finance office and served as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Lake Tapps Fire Department. He retired in 2006 and traveled the country with his wife before settling in Green Valley, Ariz. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Linda; his four children; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Dale Steichen ‘59 passed away in Tacoma on Sept. 13 at the age of 85. He was born in Tacoma and graduated from Lincoln High School before serving in the armed forces during the Korean and Vietnam wars. He graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 1959 and married Jacqueline Clinkingbeard that same year. He worked for the National Bank of Washington as an accountant for 21 years and then worked for the Tacoma News Tribune until his retirement. Dale was a regular blood donor and loved baseball and trips to the Oregon coast. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and grandson. Survivors include his twin brother, Don; his wife; two daughters; and seven grandchildren.

Clair Candler ‘60 died in University Place, Wash., on Oct. 29, six weeks after his wife passed away. He was 91. A Tacoma native, Clair graduated from Stadium High School, married Joanne “Jo” Goodrick ’51, and began working at Occidental Chemical prior to receiving his bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Puget Sound. While at the university, he was a member of Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound and the Sigma Chi fraternity. He retired from Occidental in 1989 after 44 years as an analytical chemist. As a father of a son and daughter, Clair was involved with Boy Scouts and coached dozens of children’s baseball and basketball teams. He enjoyed duck hunting, fly fishing, and sailing near the home he shared with Jo in Port Townsend. He is preceded in death by his wife. Survivors include his son, daughter, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Barbara Jack ‘60 passed away on July 21 at the age of 79. She was born in Chehalis, Wash., and graduated from Stadium High School in Tacoma. While attending Puget Sound, she met Norman Jack ’59, and the two married in 1957 while still in college. Barbara started her sales career in 1960 and discovered her passion for training, mentoring, and motivating. She went on to manage sales teams at companies such as Tupperware and DK, and founded Leadership Plus. Barbara was preceded in death by her youngest son and is survived by her husband, son, daughter, brother, three grandchildren, and three nieces.

Sigrid Arntson Mecklenburg ’60, a former Seattle teacher, author, and competitive roller skater, died on Oct. 10 in California. She was a Tacoma native and attended Highline High School, Puget Sound, and the University of Washington. Sigrid went on to work as a Seattle school district teacher for 11 years and teach art on television. She then wrote the book Discovering Seattle and illustrated numerous children’s books. Along with her husband, Paul, she enjoyed competitive roller skating for more than a decade. The duo competed at the national level in roller skate dance. Later in her life, she moved to California, where she painted and designed figurines. Her husband of 59 years and three children survive her.

Maynard Polkington ‘61 passed away on Sept. 15 in Bellevue, Wash. He was 82. Maynard was born in Tacoma and was the youngest of two children. After graduation from Clover Park High School in Lakewood, Wash., he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the Korean and Vietnam wars. He then moved to San Jose, Calif., and attended San Jose State University, where he met Barbara Russell. The two married in 1960 and moved back to Tacoma. A few weeks after his graduation from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, the couple’s first daughter was born. Maynard became an entrepreneur and pioneered the cable television industry in the Northwest. He is survived by his wife, three children, and six grandchildren whom he loved dearly.

Claudia Cole Ainsworth ’62 passed away peacefully in her sleep on Oct. 18 at age 77. Born in Texas to a U.S. Air Force major and his wife, she grew up traveling through the United States and England. After attending Puget Sound, she hosted Portland’s Come Together daylight television interview program, practiced with the U.S. Olympic Ski Team, and taught and played piano. She spent her later
years in North Carolina and became involved with many local organizations, including the Randolph Arts Guild. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother. Survivors include her son, daughter-in-law, granddaughter, sister, brother, sister-in-law, three nieces, and three great-nieces.

Larry Dipalma M.A. ’63 died on Aug. 14. He was 84. Larry was born in Tacoma and received his master’s degree in education from Puget Sound. He was a teacher and principal at multiple Tacoma and University Place schools and was active in Kiwanis and The Sons of Italy. Larry was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Dolores DiPalma; and daughter, Debbie Sabia. He is survived by his son, Denny, and two granddaughters.

Violet “Vi” Muth ’63 died in Bremerton, Wash., on Sept. 29, at the age of 98. She was born in Minnesota in 1919 and spent much of her early life on her family’s South Dakota farm. After receiving a teaching certificate, she began teaching in a one-room schoolhouse. World War II led to a move to San Diego, where she worked in an aircraft component factory. In 1946, she married Frank Muth and moved to Bremerton where Frank worked at the naval shipyard. After he fell ill in the 1960s, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound and went back to teaching. She retired in 1981 and began volunteering and traveling with friends. Violet was preceded in death by her husband, Frank. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, two grandchildren, two great-grandsons, and niece.

Barbara McGlenn Damitio ’64 passed away on Aug. 26 at the age of 76. A Port Angeles, Wash., native, she graduated from Port Angeles High School and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Puget Sound. In 1963, she married Murray Damitio and became a mother to two children. She began work as a medical officer manager in 1980 and retired after 15 years. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, and several close friends. She is survived by her two children, seven grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and her dog, Sully.

Don “Bud” Phipps ’64 died on Oct. 26. He was 79. Don was born in 1938 to a pioneer family in Wenatchee, Wash., and graduated from Wenatchee High School. He joined the U.S. Navy and served in both Alaska and the South Pacific. He completed his service and married Julie Kienitz in 1962. After he graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, he and Julie moved to Bellevue, Wash., where they stayed for 40 years while he worked in bank management. Don was preceded in death by his brother, Jack. His wife, daughter, son-in-law, sister-in-law, two nephews, and one niece survive him.

Linda Gabler Skinner ’64 died on Oct. 3 in Texas, less than two weeks before her 76th birthday. She was born in Seattle and graduated from Franklin High School in 1959. In 1978, she married William Skinner in Wisconsin and taught at St. Hyacinth Catholic grade school. She worked for the Antigo Daily Journal for 33 years until falling ill and leaving in 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband, William; her brother, Jan; and sister-in-law, Judy. She is survived by two daughters, a stepdaughter, a granddaughter, and a brother, Craig. She enjoyed working with children and was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader.

Herbert Luderman ’65 died on Oct. 31, just weeks after his 76th birthday. He had lived with Parkinson’s disease for more than 20 years. Herbert was a Tacoma native and graduated from Stadium High School in 1959. He went on to attend Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. Herbert owned Gig Harbor Glass until retiring in 1997. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nicole. He is survived by Kathy, his wife of 22 years.

Larry Senescu ’65 died on Oct. 10 after many years of living with dementia. He was 74. Larry was born in Seattle and was adopted by Barbara Senescu after his mother died. He attended Bellevue High School and Puget Sound before enlisting in the U.S. Army. He married Mary Norwood in 1966, and the couple raised two children in Bellevue, Wash. He worked for Liberty Equipment and Supply Co. for nearly 40 years and became president and CEO. After the company sold, Larry worked for McKinstry Co. in Vancouver, Wash., until he retired. He was passionate about a variety of outdoor activities, family, church, and dogs. He was a Eucharistic minister and volunteered his time at multiple churches. He is survived by his wife, daughter, son, three granddaughters, mother, three brothers, sister, and in-laws.

Peggy Warren Glasgow ’69, an Oklahoma native, died in Arizona on Aug. 3 at the age of 89. She grew up in Lawton, Okla., during the ‘30s and ‘40s, worked as a waitress alongside her mother, and married Alvin Glasgow. After having their first child, Peggy and Alvin moved to Tacoma, where they had four more children. In 1969, Peggy graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in education. She went on to teach in the Steilacoom School District. She also opened a Western Washington sightseeing business. In 1997, she moved to Arizona and lived an active and engaged life there. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alvin; son; mother; stepfather; and brother, Donald Warren. Peggy is survived by her four children; husband, Tony De Jesus; daughter-in-law; sister; 14 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Jo Anna Ancich ’70, M.Ed. ’71 passed away in California on Oct. 12. She was 70. Jo was a Tacoma native and graduated from St. Leo’s High School (now Bellarmine Preparatory) in 1956 prior to attending Puget Sound. In college, she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and received a master’s degree in education. She worked as a sales representative for 33 years and retired from McGraw-Hill’s Workforce and Education Resources office. Family remember Jo Anna as a spiritual and light-hearted woman. Her brother, sister, and several nieces and nephews survive her.

Hazel Anderson ’70 died on Aug. 19 at the age of 97. She was born in South Dakota and was the seventh child of 12. She graduated from South Dakota’s Milbank High School and, after working briefly as a typist in Washington, D.C., taught in a one-room schoolhouse in her home state. There she met Arthur Anderson. The two were married in July 1949 in Bremerton, Wash., and Hazel took a job as a school teacher at Seabeck Elementary before the couple moved to Navy Yard City, fixed up a home, and had three children. She received her bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound while attending the university, she had a home built in Silverdale. After multiple teaching positions at area schools, Hazel retired in 1981 after 30 years. She is survived by her two daughters, Clarice Mischel and Sheila Anderson.

Susan “Sue” Hamstrom Foster ’71 died peacefully in her home on Sept. 1 after a two-year fight against ovarian cancer. She was 69. She was born in Burlington, Wash., in 1947 and graduated from Burlington-Edison High School. She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Puget Sound and spent her last semester abroad in Austria. The same year she graduated, she married Greg Reault, and they had two sons. But the couple later divorced, and Sue married longtime friend Jerry Foster in 2005. She taught at Franklin Elementary School in Pullman, Wash., for 33 years until she retired in 2003. She was a member of the Whitman County Retired Teachers, PEO International Chapter FZ, and the Kappa Kappa Gamma alumni group, and attended the Palouse Federated Church. Sue was preceded in death by her parents, Floyd and Anita Hamstrom. She is survived by her husband, Jerry; her two sons; five grandchildren; her sister; her niece; and her former daughter-in-law.

Susan Shelton Dickson ’71 passed away on Oct. 28 at the age of 73 due to a stroke. Born in San Francisco, she came to Gig Harbor, Wash., in 1953. Ten years later, she married Conrad Dickson and briefly lived in Alaska. The couple returned to Washington, and Susan earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound. She taught at schools in the South Kitsap school district until her retirement. She was preceded in death by her parents and son, Mark. Survivors include her husband, Conrad; son, Michael; brother; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She loved gardening, thrift shopping, and her family.

Maynard Tapp ‘71, a longtime resident of Alaska, died in Anchorage on Sept. 12. He was 70. Born and raised in Seattle, Maynard attended the University of Washington—where he was a member of the school’s crew team—and Puget Sound. In 1971, he graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in business administration. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve during the Vietnam War before becoming employed as a project control professional working on projects such as the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Maynard started his own company, Hawk Consultants, in 1985 and became a well-known businessman in the Alaskan oil fields. In 2010, he was elected as Director Emeritus of the
Robert Landon ’72 M.P.A.
’73 passed away in Olympia, Wash., on Sept. 8, at the age of 84. Born in Wyoming, he attended high school in Washington and graduated from Marysville High School. Following graduation, he joined the Washington State Patrol and then served in the U.S. Navy as a pilot during the Korean War. After his time in the military, he married Evelyn Olson, his high school sweetheart, and returned to the Washington State Patrol. He also earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in public administration from Puget Sound. In 1977, he was selected to become chief of the state patrol. He retired four years later, only to be selected to head the Montana Highway Patrol. He retired from that force in 1989 but came out of retirement once again to work for the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. He retired for good in 1998. Robert was preceded in death by his wife, Iraq War veteran, died in Seattle on Sept. 14 after an accident at work. Raymond’s wife, son, two brothers, many nieces, nephews, and extended family survive him.

Howard Monta ’74, a retired Seattle Police sergeant and U.S. Air Force veteran, died on Sept. 27. He was born in Seattle and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. After completing his service, he became a Seattle firefighter, attended the University of Washington, and became a police officer with the Seattle Police Department in 1968. He graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in public administration and stayed with the Seattle PD as a sergeant until 1997. Two years after leaving the department, he wrote a textbook: *How Police Officers Get Hired: The Key to Getting the Cop Job and Keeping It*. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth “Liz” Monta.

Michael “Mike” Halverson
’75 died unexpectedly at his home in Juneau, Alaska, on Sept. 14, one month before his 64th birthday. Mike was a Tacoma native and graduated from Mount Tahoma High School in 1971. While there, he lettered in swimming and tennis, excelled academically, and was a legislative aide to two Washington senators. He attended Puget Sound before joining the U.S. Coast Guard. After completing his service, he went on to work in the accounting field. He was also a participant in and promoter of Alcoholics Anonymous and was 32 years sober at the time of his death. He had sponsored nearly 200 members through the program. Mike’s daughter, son, mother, sister, brother, nephews, cousins, and dog, Strider, survive him.

Lois Sharp ’77 passed away on Aug. 31 at the age of 76. She was born in Montana and graduated from Flandreau Indian School in South Dakota in 1959. Three years later, Lois married Charles DeRocher, and they had six children. In 1974, she married William “Bill” Sharp, and they welcomed one son. Lois then went on to receive her bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in education from the University of Montana. Lois worked as an elementary school teacher for the Browning Public School District in Montana for 32 years and retired in 2011. Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; daughter, Charlotte DeRocher-Moreno; two brothers; two sisters; and her parents. She is survived by three brothers, three sisters, her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Gregory “Parch” Parcher M.Ed. ’82, a longtime teacher and avid skier, died suddenly on Sept. 14 after an accident at his Packwood, Wash., home. He was 65. Gregory was born in Bellingham, Wash., and grew up in nearby Lynden. He spent 37 years in education field as a teacher and administrator in Tacoma; Battle Ground, Wash.; and Beaverton, Ore. Once he retired, Gregory was a regular at White Pass, where he enjoyed skiing in the backcountry. His family says he loved music, was a voracious reader and lifelong learner. He was preceded in death by his father, Don. Survivors include his mother, Marilyn; his wife of 45 years, Jan “Jannie”; his daughter and her husband; one granddaughter; a brother; and a sister.

Karen Moreau ’84, M.Ed. ’88 died in Seattle on Sept. 4 at the age of 69. She was born in San Jose, Calif., and went on to earn bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from Puget Sound. Her teaching career began in the Federal Way school district, but in 1995, she starting working in international schools with her husband, Paul. She taught in the Netherlands, Thailand, Ecuador, and Taiwan before retiring. Karen’s husband, brother, and sister survive her.

Kristin Dickason Nixon ’89 died on Aug. 31, surrounded by family members. She was 49 and had been fighting brain cancer for nearly one year. Kristin was born in Palo Alto, Calif., but grew up in Anchorage, Alaska. She graduated from East High School and traveled south to Washington, where she earned her bachelor’s degree in communication and theatre arts. She loved her family, friends, bicycling, triathlons, swimming with the turtles in Maui, selfies with mascots, and tacos. She is survived by her husband, Jack Nixon; her children; her two sons; her parents; her brother and his two daughters; and several aunts, cousins, and friends.

Diana Glassman M.A.T. ’94, P ’09 died from lung cancer on Aug. 19, exactly one month before her 60th birthday. A Seattle native, Diana graduated from Queen Anne High School and attended Pacific Lutheran University before marrying John Glassman, her college sweetheart, in 1979. She enrolled at Puget Sound and earned a master’s degree in education. She is survived by her husband, John; children Katie and Tom ’09; daughter-in-law, Deanna Malkie Glassman ’09; two sisters and their children; and her sister-in-law and her children. She enjoyed her book club, her YMCA fitness class, and running. A memorial service was held at Puget Sound’s Kilworth Chapel.

Andrew Edgerton ’00 passed away on Oct. 22, one day before his 40th birthday. His death came after more than two years of living with late-stage pancreatic cancer. Born and raised in Kansas City, Mo., Andrew attended Center High School and was an Eagle Scout. After graduation, he moved to Washington and received a bachelor’s degree in politics and government from Puget Sound. He traveled 24,000 miles during a semester at sea and then earned two master’s degrees in international relations and global management. He worked in the international development field and most recently, served as a special adviser for Harvard’s school of public health SHINE Program. He is survived by his parents; brother; sister-in-law; two young children; three nephews; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

Calvin Feder ’08 died suddenly on Aug. 11 at the age of 30. He was born in Sacramento and graduated from Bella Vista High School in 2004 before earning a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Puget Sound. He worked at Argyle Data in San Mateo, Calif. Calvin is survived by his life partner, Annamarie Ortenzo, his mother and her husband; his father and his wife; his grandmother and her husband; and multiple aunts, uncles, and cousins. Calvin enjoyed backyard barbecues and skiing. He was also an organ donor who saved three lives after his death.

Andrew Buthorn D.P.T. ’15 died near Richmond, Va., on Nov. 23. The 36-year-old was a victim of a triple homicide that also claimed the lives of his girlfriend, Candice “Candy” Kunze, and her mother, who were all living in the same home. Andrew was born and raised in Olympia, Wash., and graduated from Olympia High School. He moved to Virginia and attended Marymount College, where he majored in history and was on the golf team. He returned to Washington and received his doctorate degree in physical therapy from Puget Sound. Robert Boyles, director of Puget Sound’s physical therapy program, said Andrew was well loved and respected. After graduating, Andrew worked as a physical therapist for two years in Oregon prior to relocating to Virginia. Andrew is survived by his older brother; parents; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.
CALLING ALL TREASURE SEEKERS: The Puget Sound Women’s League will host its 50th Flea Market and Fieldhouse Full of Awesome Stuff on Saturday, March 17. Proceeds from admission fees will go toward funding student scholarships.

Since 1968, when a women’s league member was inspired by a flea market in France, Puget Sound’s Flea Market and Fieldhouse Full of Awesome Stuff has provided the funds needed for more than 350 students to attend Puget Sound. The market has become a spring tradition, and each year, treasure seekers are invited to converge on the Fieldhouse and browse everything from antiques, books, and jewelry to repurposed and upcycled items. This year, the event’s 60 vendors are expected to draw 4,500 people.

The 50th anniversary event will feature both old favorites and new experiences. The perennial Grandma’s Attic section—which features surprise treasures and last year was full of Christmas items—will return. The only way to know what awaits this year is to stop by. Also returning this year, a team of professional evaluators will be available to value items at the Trinket or Treasure booth. New this year, the Women’s League’s Boutique will feature jewelry and purses.

The event will also include snacks and a raffle.
Tom Baker ’54 shares this photo of a group of “Sigma Chis of the ’50s” at the celebration of life for one of their brothers, James Schoettler ’54. Pictured from left are Jane Andre Scott ’58, Roger Scott ’55, Robert Cammarano ’54, Stacia Cammarano, Jon Torgerson ’54, Tom Baker ’54, and Marilyn Baker.

SAE 1957 pledge brothers Peter Rippe ’60 and Fred Langton ’61 visited Virginia’s historic Appomattox Court House with their wives, Maria Rippe and Diane Plee Langton ’61, in July. The visit was only the second time Peter and Fred had seen each other since Peter’s graduation in 1960. Peter went on to become director of The American Civil War Museum in Virginia and was in the position for six years before moving to Houston and then back to Virginia. He said he “sincerely enjoyed” introducing Fred and Diane to the Civil War and revisiting some of his “early haunts.” He said, “it was a great visit and a great three days of friendship and remembering.”

Alumnus Thomas “Tom” Harwood ’80 says he doesn’t know how many Puget Sound alums were at UPS Night at Cheney Stadium on Aug. 29, but he submitted a picture of six of them. From left: Tom, Sandra “Sandi” Sheppard Warner ’79, Laurie Sardina ‘83, Sue Rogers Harwood ’80, Colette McInerney Babson ’79, and Tom Stenger ’80 (with his husband, Tom Park). Tom Harwood said it was the perfect day for a ball game at the group’s favorite sporting venue.

After many mini reunions in Southern California in the years since leaving Puget Sound, Chris Rice ’93 and fellow alumni and Phi Delta Theta members held the inaugural “Little-fest” in October. The Phi Delta Thetas and former Seward Hall and 607 S Lawrence residents attended the USC vs. Utah football game together in Los Angeles, Calif. From left: Chris; Karl Zener ’93, M.A.T. ’94, Raymond Mineau ’93; Stephen “Steve” Little ’93; and Chris Kuhl ’93.

A few alumni from the first Adelphian European tour, in 1962, gathered on campus in November for a mini 55th reunion. Pictured from left: Fred Whitley ’64, Roberta Whinery Brasier ’64, Jan O’Farrell Schaefer ’65, Lisette Shaw Meyer ’64, Rosalie Watson Colbath ’65, Gerry Rapp ’62, P ’90, Rob Roy Wilson ’64, David Lukens ’62, Carol Rapp Wilson ’64, and Joan Davies Rapp ’62, M.E.D. ’79, P ’90. Not pictured: David Brubaker ’65, M.A. ’69, Kay Brubaker; and Rosemary Wickman Lukens ’78.
Scrapbook

Sara Freeman ’95, associate professor of theatre arts, shares this group photo of Logger students and recent grads from this summer’s production of The Other Country, a play about Thea Foss, at the Foss Waterway and Seaport Museum. “The show is about local history and has a cool pedigree, and was directed by our very own [adjunct faculty member] Marilyn Bennett,” she says. “It was supported by experiential learning initiatives on campus, as well.” Pictured from left are Alana Fineman ’17, stage manager; Jack Aldisert ’19, dramaturg; Tara “Noel” Conley ’17, dramaturg; and Justin Brush ’16, actor.

A tradition that began in the summers while they were still at Puget Sound continues today for these six Sigma Nus. Annual weekend gatherings over the past 25 years have included Lake of the Woods in Southern Oregon; Chicago; Las Vegas; Denver; Portland, Ore.; New York; Nashville, Tenn.; Reno, Nev.; Seattle; San Francisco; climbing Mt. Adams in southwest Washington; and, in 2016, rafting Hells Canyon in the Snake River. From left: Robert “Rob” Vaughn ’96, Jeremy Soine ’96, Ryan Sasser ’96, Jon Buck ’97, Mike Morris ’96, and Hari Sreenivasan ’95.

Over the summer, Alicia Striggow Wallace ’05 participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course in Guyana. While there, she studied the traditional ecological knowledge of the Makushi and the potential this local wisdom has to guide conservation initiatives in the country. Alicia is a children’s zookeeper at the Houston Zoo in Texas and took the graduate-level course in pursuit of her master’s degree from Miami University’s Global Field Program.

Fellow Logger Jarek Sarnacki ’11 (not pictured) also participated in a global field course, in Baja, Calif. He studied desert and marine landscapes through ecological and social field methods. He is a program animal specialist at the Oregon Zoo in Portland, Ore., and, like Alicia, took the graduate-level course in pursuit of his master’s degree from Miami University’s Global Field Program.

Anna Burke ’04 married Joe Dugan in Anchorage, Alaska, on May 13. Loggers Amy Temes Clifton ’04 (right) and Anna Owens ’05 (left) helped celebrate the happy couple’s union.

Hillary Dobson ’05 (seated) and her son, Luke, met with Anna Owens ’05 and her daughter, Luna, in Colorado Springs for a Memorial Day stroll around the beautiful Broadmoor resort.

Holly Sato ’03 and Mercer Island native Jameson Florence married on July 1 at Suncadia Resort in Cle Elum, Wash. Pictured from left: Eric Fox ’03, Bjørn Eriksen ’03, the bride, Anni Kelley-Day ’03, Ian Foster ’03, and April Foster. Holly and Jameson live in Seattle, where Holly works as an OB/GYN—she earned her MD at the University of Washington in 2008—and Jameson works in the bike industry. The two honeymooned with a mountain-biking trip through France and Italy.

Send Scrapbook photos to arches@pugetsound.edu.
Aynsley Muller ‘09, DPT ’16 and Silas Paul ‘08 were married on July 2 in McMinnville, Ore. Many Loggers were in attendance. Back row, from left: Logan Mackinnon ‘08, Sarah Mirick ‘08, Brian Ames ‘08, Kent Hamar ‘09, Kati Chan ’12, D.P.T. ’16, Craig Driver ‘11, Casey Hampton D.P.T. ’16, Jordan Nakamura D.P.T. ’16, Samantha “Samie” McDaniel Seely D.P.T. ’16, and Jessica Rudder ’09. Front row, from left: AJ Middleton ’09, Jake Parks ’08, Kyle Ruzich ’09, Matt Sauvage-Mar ’08, Heather Carr Tolbert ’09, Carly Cruz ’09, Diana Small ’08, Andrew Brik ’08, Candace Goodrich ’09, the bride and groom, James Aiken D.P.T. ’16, Stacy Swiess ’09, Erin “Dassi” Whitehall ’08, and Jessica Scarsella ’10.

Logger and Beta Theta Pi member Bill Scammell ’06 married Kiffany Terkla on Aug. 19 aboard the MV Skansonia on Lake Union. Many Puget Sound alumni, Beta Theta Pi members, and their spouses attended. From left: Tessa Sylvain Herley ’06, groomsman Brad Herley ’06 (Beta Theta Pi), groomsman Richard Martin III ’06 (Beta Theta Pi), groomsman Shawn Baxter ’06 (Beta Theta Pi), Marilee O’Connor ’06, Justin Mazer, Brent Weidenbach ’06, Mira Copeland Engler ’06, the groom and bride, Ben Engler ’06, Cara Christensen Mazer ’06, groomsman Randin King ’06 (Beta Theta Pi), Lisa McCready, best man Jesse Zumbro ’06 (Beta Theta Pi), and Kyle Lunde ’04.

Ashley Biggers ’04 and Nick Cessac were married on Sept. 10, 2016. Loggers in attendance included, from left: Katie Becklin Atkinson ’04, the bride, LiAnna Davis ’04, and Molly Tuttle Barnes ’04.

Eddie Monge ’06 and Sara Pasquariello Monge ’07 welcomed their daughter, Colette Irene, on May 1. Eddie, Sara, and Colette live in Denver, Colo., with their dog, Hobbes, but travel back to visit the Pacific Northwest as often as they can. They are looking forward to introducing Colette to Puget Sound and the Logger family soon.
Maxfield “Max” Silverson ’09 and Anita Cussler ’09 were married Aug. 5 at their home in McCall, Idaho. The bride and groom were members of the Humanities Program at Puget Sound and lived on the Humanities floor of Regester Hall as first-year students. Alumni in attendance included other Humanities-floor residents and members of Gamma Phi Beta. From left: Elena Cussler ’14 (Gamma Phi Beta); Krista Haapanen ’14; Sarah Armstrong ’09, D.O.T.’17; Laura Bechdel ’06, officiant Nadia Soucek ’09 (Gamma Phi Beta); Whitney Ulvestad ’09, groom and bride; Aaron Lynch ’09, Kali Bechtold ’09 (Gamma Phi Beta); Megan Dorough ’09 (Gamma Phi Beta); Cully Eisner-Terrill ’09 (Gamma Phi Beta); Annelise Haft ’08. Frankie O’Donnell III ’09; Maura Darrow ’09 (Gamma Phi Beta); Jaime Patneaude ’09; Marcie Seely ’09 (Gamma Phi Beta); Magan Do ’08, Nick Martens ’09, Clarcie Howell ’09, Kevin Nguyen ’09, Selma Kettwich ’09, and Liz Elling ’09.

Molly Gibson ’11, M.A.T. ’11 and Noa Higgins ’08, M.A.T. ’09 were married on July 1 on Whidbey Island, Wash., surrounded by their closest family and friends. Wedding guests included, from left: James Olcott ’08, Daniel Mensonides ’08; Nicole Berglund; Stefan Berglund ’09; honorary Logger Sam Bathurst; Lindsey Denman ’10, Erin Bathurst; Dave Mensonides ’08; Kalli Kamphaus Mensonides ’10; Amanda Merriweather ’11; Lauren Vandenberk Novorolsky ’11. Jess McPhee-Hayes Stella ’08, MAT ’10; Geoff Stella M.Ed. ’15; the bride and groom; Johnny Devine ’05, MAT ’06, Haylee Jenkins ’11, Brynn Bickenstaff ’12, Cody Dean ’08, Bre Boyce ’12, Kathleen McGuire M.A.T. ’12; Mina Bartovics Wade M.A.T. ’12, Matt Lonsdale ’08, MAT ’09, Emily Ehrlich ’07, MAT ’12, Melissa Moffett ’94, Lucie Kroschel ’05, MAT 13, and Evanie Parr Lonsdale ’11.

Nicole Logan ’11 and Andrew Miller-McKeever ’09 were married on Aug. 12, 2017, at The Hall at Fauntleroy in West Seattle. Among the groomsmen were Andrew’s college roommates, Adam Stone ’10 and Neil Radheshwar ’08. Erin Calhoun Radheshwar ’08 was a bridesmaid, and Tyler Tidd ’10 was an usher. Nicole and Andrew look forward to honeymooning in Argentina sometime next year.

On July 8, Jessie Keller-Holbrook ’12, M.A.T. ’13 and Nasser Kyobe ’13 got married in Port Townsend, Wash., surrounded by friends, family, and Puget Sound alumni and staff.

Send Scrapbook photos to arches@pugetsound.edu.
Chris Dugovich ’11 married Ashley Keever on Aug. 26 in Boise, Idaho. Pictured, left to right: Norah Kloppel; Andrew Kloppel ’11; Miles Murphy ’10; Melissa Murphy; Andrew Kitchel ’10; Jessica Cafferty ’11; Doug Cox ’10; Chris Dugovich ’79; Brian Walker ’10; the groom; Jesse Young ’10; the bride; Kayla Boortz Young ’11; Matt Manzella ’10; Grace Oppenheimer ’10; Mark Rosasco ’08; Lindsay Akoni Guzzo ’10, M.A.T. ’11; Greg Saetrum ’10; and Shawna McElroy Potter ’10.

College sweethearts Mary Krauszer ’12 and Isaac Olson ’13 were married in Indianola, Wash., in June. Wedding guests included, from left: Westley Dang ’12, Puget Sound biology professor Peter Wimberger; Emily Schnabel ’14, Brian Ernst ’13, Elaine Beatley ’13, Sophie Pattison ’13, Grace Ferrara ’13, bride and groom; Kathryn “Katy” Papoulas ’14, Jennifer Kulby ’14, Molly Levis ’13, Kyle Kubler ’13, Annie Thomas ’14, Derek Humphrey ’14, Geoff Abel ’13, and Scott Starkoski.

Chandler Fox ’12 and Preston Van Buren ’13 were married in Estes Park, Colo., on June 15, 2017, and welcomed a large Logger contingency to the celebration. Though unable to attend, Logger Kelsey Wilburn Carpenter ’11 did all the calligraphy for the wedding.

Back row, from left: David Oksner ’13, Bryce Bunn ’13, groomsman Matt Breuer ’13, Jay Herron ’13; Chelsea Clark ’13; Monica Edwards ’13; Thomas Fitzgerald ’13; Kathryn Murdock ’12; Justine McDaniel ’12, groomsman Jack Todd ’13; groomsman Michael Tieu ’13; Cameron Ford ’13, Patrick King ’14; Julie Swinson ’12, Michael Volz ’12, Lee Pennebaker ’15; Emily Sturm ’14, Erin Byrne ’13; bridesmaid Bailey Stiever ’12, Zach Benton ’12, Caitlin Mitchell ’11, ’19; and officiant Kyle Long ’13.

Front row, from left: Hannah Kitzrow ’13, Claire Simon ’13, Maggie Shanahan ’13, Allie Werner ’13, Sarah Rudy ’13, Stephanie Wood ’12, the bride and groom; Assistant Dean of Students Marta Palmquist Cady; Whitney Emge ’11; Meghan Webking Sobot ’09, Sohan Punatar ’14, bridesmaid Annamarie Nelson Volz ’12, M.A.T. ’13; bridesmaid Liz Weil Shaw ’11, and bridesmaid Amy Roll ’12.

Former Puget Sound French studies majors who studied abroad on the Dijon program met up with current “Dijonettes” and faculty in Dijon, France, to celebrate the retirement of beloved French professor Michel Rocchi ’71, M.A.’72. From left: Keila Meginnis ’13, Kirstin Howley ’14, Nathalie Chopin (Puget Sound’s contact in Dijon), Michel, Dani Rosengrant ’12, Emily Swisher ’12, and Steven Rodgers. Not pictured is Diane Kelley, who is taking over the Dijon program. Keila tells us, “She has big shoes to fill after Michel, but we love her and know she’ll do great!”
Lindsay Schommer ’13 married Jordan Brouillet in Big Sky, Mont., on July 8. Twelve Loggers and Kappa Alpha Theta members attended. From left: Anna Johnson ’13; Asha Sandhu ’13; Kasha Moore ’13; Rachel Waterman ’13; Madeline Fahey ’12; Elizabeth Kirsch ’12, M.A.T. ’12; Ellen Osborne ’13; the bride and groom; Sarah Bicker ’11, M.O.T. ’11; Michelle Curry ’13; Rachel Mendelsohn ’12; Kayla Meyers ’13, M.A.T. ’14; and Katie Mihalovich ’13.

Mark Gilbert ’17 and Lauren Alpert ’17 were married June 11 in Encino, Calif. Several Loggers were in attendance, including, from left: Jacqui Harro ’17; Dylan Dolin ’16; Mark, Lauren, Dan Otsuki ’16; Matt Follensbee ’16; and Cooper Weissman ’16.

Andrea Leiken ’12 and Ryan Meyer got married on May 28 at Mt. Hood Organic Farms in Oregon. Many Loggers attended the wedding, including some of Leiken’s teammates from the Puget Sound cross country and track and field teams. Wiley Putnam ’12 was the wedding photographer. Puget Sound alumni, back row, from left: Matt Kitto ’14; Charles “Chuck” Noble ’13; Robin Harkins ’14; Robert Snowden ’12; Tony Charvoz ’13; Bill Bugert ’12; and Francis Reynolds ’10, M.A.T. ’11. Front row, from left: Maggie Klee ’12; Meg Gilbertson ’14; Alicia Burns ’14; Aspen Mayberry ’14, the groom and bride, Puget Sound director of cross country and track and field Mike Orechia, bridesmaid Carrie Eidsness ’12; and Lisa Fazzino ’12.

Vienna Saccomanno ’13 and Ricky Roy ’11 got married July 15 at Meadowbrook Farm in North Bend, Wash. Wedding attendees, from left: Jenny Iyo ’11; Sid Gaines ’11; Samantha “Sam” Kiely ’11; Jackson Lindeke ’11; Catherine “Cathy” Nilsen-Thoma ’80; Casey Wall ’12; Simon Flatt; Sarah Rudy ’13; Emma Raisl Wall ’13; Edward “Ed” Raisl ’78; P ’13; Hillary Handler ’13; Kristine Miller ’14; Kate Breña; Rose Leavens ’13; Daniel Guilak ’13; the bride; Olivia Hull; the groom; Katie Moran ’13; Katie Mihalovich ’13; Ned Sherry ’13; Sam Hanske (hidden behind Ned); Cameron Ford ’13; Emerson Quarton ’14; Brian Ernst ’13; Will Anderson ’12; Kevin Roy; Bryn Cagle; and Kevin Curlett ’11.
Local photographer Dean Burke (@tacoma.and.the.sea) snapped this photo of the rising sun casting light through early-morning fog on the Puget Sound campus. He said the photo captures “the ethereal space where the fog and the sky met.”
Celebrate Puget Sound’s 130th anniversary! On March 20, 2018, show your Puget Sound pride and join our entire community in a one-day giving challenge. Throughout its history, Puget Sound has been powered by alumni, parents, and friends like you. Your collective support empowers exceptional students to reach new heights.

Make a gift. Challenge your friends. Share on social media!