The Power of Yes

Kelly Danielson M.O.T. '12 faced her fear of the open ocean with the first all-women sailing team to win the Race to Alaska.
Fog envelops the campus on an early-October morning.
DEPARTMENTS

2 dispatches
Goings-on around campus.

6 explorations
Beyond Evita
Students and their professors discover modern Argentina.

8 connections
Weekend Warrior
Arshia Gill ’21 bridges campus life, Sikh culture, and the National Guard.

10 q & a
Siddharth Ramakrishnan:
All the Exciting Things
The associate professor of biology explores the intersection of art and science.

12 sketchbook
Annette Sabater ’84: An Iris Stands Tall
Reflections on a daughter’s transition.

FEATURES

16 Diving Into the Deep
Kelly Danielson M.O.T.’12 took on an incredible challenge with the first all-women team to win the Race to Alaska.

22 Why Stories Matter
Assistant Professor of English Regina Duthely on the power of storytelling at the Race & Pedagogy National Conference. Plus: a look at the library’s zine collection.

26 Breaking Down the Walls
Lessons from the prison study halls of Freedom Education Project Puget Sound.

CLASSMATES

30 Adam Davis ’06 on building kids’ social skills; Rhiannon Guevin ’12 on musical connections; George Obiozor ’69 on his path from Nigeria to Puget Sound. Plus: Class Notes, In Memoriam, and Scrapbook.

Kelly Danielson M.O.T.’12 emerging from a swim in the Puget Sound. Story on page 16.
A welcome addition
A new campus building will begin taking shape at the intersection of North Alder and North 15th streets in February. Upon its completion in 2020, the Welcome Center will provide an inspiring point of entry for the more than 5,000 prospective students and family members who visit campus each year. With 13,565 square feet between two stories, the building will house the university's Office of Admission and feature traditional campus materials, such as brick, stone, and terra-cotta roof tile. The center also will house a courtyard, a reception area with a fireplace, and a glass-walled presentation room. The construction of the Welcome Center is the next major initiative in Puget Sound's Tapestry of Learning master plan, which has guided the creation of nearly a dozen major facilities since it was conceived during the 2003–04 academic year.

Cheers to a new year
Roughly 130 Tacoma community leaders gathered at President Isiaah Crawford’s home on Jan. 10 for the president's annual Civic Reception. The popular event is held every January to gather leaders from government and business sectors, as well as religious, arts, and education organizations, to make new connections and celebrate the beginning of a new year.

Pictured at left, from left: former state senator Debbie Regala, Leo Regala, and Isiaah Crawford. Center, from left: Assistant Attorney General Laura Wulf and Pierce County Superior Court Judge Helen Whiten-er. Right, from left: Isiaah Crawford, former mayor Harold Moss, Mayor Victoria Woodards, and former mayor Bill Baarsma ’64, P’93.
Starting strong
With a clutch block and jump shot by Logger wing forward Raeann Allen '20, the women's basketball team recorded a 63-60 win over rival Pacific Lutheran University in the field house on Nov. 27. The match was the first conference game for the Loggers and saw both teams tied at 55 late in the second half until shots by Raeann, Jamie Lange '19, and Georgia Lavinder '22 pulled the Loggers ahead to victory.

Intersectionality in action
On the eve of Election Day, at a time when media outlets nationwide were reporting an increase in hate crimes and assaults, Puget Sound’s Black Student Union led a march in support of marginalized groups that had been recent targets of violence and injustice. These included transgender and nonbinary people, sexual assault survivors, and racial and religious minorities. The march started at the field house, circled campus, and ended in Marshall Hall.

Making an impact
During Greek Week in October, members of the campus club It’s On Us spoke to their peers about sexual assault. The national It’s On Us campaign was created in 2014 with the goal of preventing sexual assault on college campuses by offering bystander intervention training and consent education, as well as supporting survivors of sexual violence. On Oct. 24, Gabrielle Kolb ’19 (left) and Carly Dryden ’19 (right, at podium) led the discussion at an It’s On Us panel in Upper Marshall Hall.
Major grant, micro focus
How do the feeding habits of microscopic organisms help keep water clean? Rachel Pepper, associate professor of physics and the William D. and Flora McCormick Chair in Biophysics, is hoping to find out. This fall, she was awarded a $364,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and will spend three years studying single-cell organisms that remove harmful bacteria and contaminants from aquatic ecosystems. The grant will involve Puget Sound biology and physics students, and will be completed in collaboration with researchers from the University of California, Berkeley. “In the long term, we may be able to make suggestions to improve the efficiency of wastewater treatment plants, or to improve cleanup after sewage leaks or oil spills,” she says. Pictured behind Rachel, from left: Priyanki Vora ’20 and Isabel Mejia Natividad ’20.
An inspired vision

On Nov. 29, President Isiaah Crawford embarked on a national tour to visit alumni, parents, and friends of Puget Sound in 12 cities to share excitement about the university’s new 10-year strategic plan, *Leadership for a Changing World.* “Never before has the world been so in need of what our vision calls us to do: preparing the world’s next generation of visionary leaders,” the president told audiences. “Our primary objective is to prepare all of our students for postgraduate success in a highly dynamic economy marked by an accelerating pace of change.” He went on to describe three exciting initiatives now underway: “creating new approaches to what is known in higher education as ‘high-impact learning,’ strengthening our commitment to equity and inclusion, and enhancing community engagement.” Several alumni have joined the tour to share their stories and ways that alumni can be involved. Learn more at pugetsound.edu/strategicplan.
Beyond Evita

Students and their professors discover modern Argentina

By Margot Kahn

One evening last June, philosophy professor Ariela Tubert and Hispanic studies associate professor Brendan Lanctot led their class along the narrow, labyrinthian paths of Recoleta Cemetery on the acropolis of Buenos Aires, where more than 6,400 above-ground burial sites quietly tell the story of this complicated country.

The 14 students, who had flown in that morning from SeaTac, trailed past statues and mausoleums dating from the 1800s. “We’d been wandering for half an hour when we came to President Alfonsín, and our students got really excited,” says Brendan, recalling the moment he realized this was going to be a special trip. “If you go on a guided tour, they’re going to point out some tomb architecture and where Eva Perón is. But our students knew the history, and from day one they were connecting.”

Their teachers had a personal connection with Buenos Aires: Ariela grew up in the city, and Brendan lived there in his 20s. The semester-long class Argentina: Modernity and Its Discontents, was the result of a year and a half of conversations between the two professors. It was designed to cover Argentina’s history—from its fight for independence to its violent transition to a modern nation-state in the 19th century through economic growth and radical political changes in the 20th—as well as contemporary cultural aspects including film, tango, politics, and soccer.

“We wanted to look at how, since its foundation as a nation-state almost 200 years ago, Argentina has experienced these larger forces that we call modernity,” Brendan explains. In particular, they explored how that modernity has developed asymmetrically, from the posh culture of the capital to the indigenous cultures and subsistence farming on the Pampas.

“I knew from the beginning that the course would be personally interesting, as it would allow me to rethink various issues connected to Argentina’s history that I lived through,” Ariela says. “Teaching about Argentina forced me to make explicit various things that I knew intuitively—what it is like to experience the world as an Argentine during certain historical moments. For example, I lived in Argentina through the mid-’80s, a time that was fraught with Argentine society attempting to come to terms with the horrors of the preceding period of military government. I tried to convey what it was like to live through that period through testimonies, journalism, scholarship, film, and literature. Throughout the semester and during our travels, I kept trying to help students see the world from the perspective of an Argentine, which often involved stretching...
their imaginations. This process of rethinking things that one takes for granted is what philosophy is all about.”

Leading up to the three-week trip, the class met for two and a half hours each Wednesday over the course of the spring semester. Students watched films, listened to music, participated in discussions, and consumed a wide range of readings.

In one assignment, students adopted the personas of high-school students living in post-military dictatorship Argentina. Susanna Schuler ’20, a Spanish major with a double minor in politics and government and Latin American studies, was assigned the character of Marta Garcia. “She was from a working-class family in big support of the former president, Juan Perón,” Susanna explains. “As Marta, I was looking to promote equality at this top-end high school in Argentina, and my aim was to make expensive uniforms and testing more accessible to working-class families.” Susanna and her classmates had to write papers and give speeches in character, which helped them to connect with the history of the country before traveling.

In Argentina, students visited prominent filmmaker Benjamin Avila and the Eloisa Cartonera publishing house, which spurred conversations around free speech, propaganda, and artistic expression. They visited the site where the revolution took place and deconstructed what it means to be a hero. Six in-country seminars led by Argentinian professors covered topics including sociology, dance, architecture, and art.

At night, Buenos Aires came alive. “This is a city where you go out to dinner at midnight,” Brendan says, acknowledging that the students were often out until all hours. “They enjoyed themselves—and they showed up on time for every single lecture. Nobody missed a single thing.”

A highlight for all was witnessing the World Cup in a country where soccer is like a religion. The group watched Argentina’s game against Croatia with hundreds of fans in a public square. Argentina lost. “I’m used to anger and frustration in the U.S., but there it was deep sadness and some tears were shed,” Susanna recalls. Then, a few days later, Argentina beat Nigeria, and Messi scored a goal. "And that was incredible," says Susanna. "So we saw the wide range of emotions."

During the spring semester, the students conducted research for independent projects, which they augmented with fieldwork in Buenos Aires and presented in the final week of the trip. One student focused on the history of Argentina’s women’s movement, and she had the opportunity to interview organizers of the pro-choice march that happened while the students were in the country, as abortion rights were up for a country-wide vote. Another student studied the narrative and representation of the Jewish community; another examined the relationship between mid-20th-century populist leaders and the most recent presidential regime.

For the professors, the trip provided a dynamic teaching experience. “I remember getting on the bus after visiting the public park on the river bank, where there are outdoor sculptures commemorating those who disappeared during the last military dictatorship,” Brendan says. “The whole bus ride back I was in dialogue with students, fielding questions as they tried to relate the things we’d just seen with the stuff we’d been reading over the course of the semester. It’s a very different mode of teaching, very intense and very engaging.”

Students also made personal connections in their homestays. Brandon Balladares ’20, a communication studies major with a double minor in Spanish and Latin American studies, stayed with an older couple who taught him Argentinian slang, kept him to a disciplined schedule, and walked him around the city to make him feel at home. “They brought me in as if I were truly family, and I’m grateful for them,” he says. He’s already thinking about returning to Argentina after college.
Weekend Warrior

Arshia Gill ’21 bridges campus life, Sikh culture, and her work with the National Guard.

By Sarah Stall

Once a month, Arshia Gill ’21 leaves her residence hall around 3 a.m., Thursday, and heads about two and a half hours east of campus to the Yakima Training Center for the weekend. It’s not a typical college road trip, but then, Arshia isn’t typical.

When she was 8 years old, she and her mother moved from the Punjab state of India to Bellevue, Wash., with little more than a suitcase between them. After graduating from high school, when most of her peers were registering for college classes, she was at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., finishing basic training. Now, as a Puget Sound sophomore, she combines life as a student, a soldier, and a role model.

The weekends in Yakima are part of Arshia’s commitment to the Washington Army National Guard. As a specialist with the 898th Brigade Engineer Battalion, she’s learning to aid and protect front-line soldiers navigating dangerous terrain.

“In modern warfare, combat engineers are typically route clearers,” Arshia explains. “If the infantry needs help getting across a specific obstacle, we’re there to clear the route. We do mobility and countermobility, and we focus on survivability.” That means that much of the time, she and her squad members would be in tanks, clearing IEDs from the road and making sure houses and other structures are safe to enter.

As part of her training, Arshia will go through a series of drills and tests, culminating in a monthlong summer exercise in what she calls “a pretend war zone,” where she and her squad will run simulations of real-world wartime situations. Upon completion, she’ll be deployable for the next year, should her battalion be called into service.

Meanwhile, she’s blazing a path for other women in the U.S. military. Her position as a combat engineer is one that only recently became available to her, when the Department of Defense opened all military occupational specialties to women in 2015.

On campus, she faces a different set of challenges, like juggling a full academic course load with the demands of a military schedule. “I usually tell my professors a week in advance of when I’m going to leave, so, if I need to take a quiz or a test beforehand, I can,” Arshia says. Unfortunately, that doesn’t always work out. One weekend last spring, she found herself cramming for a test in the middle of a training exercise. “You can ask the people I work with. I was sitting in my tank with my math textbook in my hands.”

Talking about her National Guard experiences has helped her find common ground with her Sikh family members back in India, too. In the Sikh religion, the term “saint-soldier” describes a deeply held value or way of life that embodies standing up against injustice and protecting the vulnerable. It speaks to a cultural predilection for service, which can take many forms. In Arshia’s family, there is a long tradition of military service, but as the first woman in her family to follow that path, she is also testing some boundaries. “My grandma is still having a hard time with me having short hair,” she says, “but what’s really cool is my grandpa. I can talk to him about [the guard], and even though he was part of the Indian Air Force, he totally understands what I mean.”

After completing her bachelor’s degree, Arshia plans to enter a doctoral program and pursue a career as an occupational therapist. Shadowing an OT while recovering from a soccer injury in high school piqued her interest in the field, and seeing how military life and active duty can affect soldiers’ bodies clinched it. Her long-term goal is to work with veterans, helping them recover from injury and transition back into civilian life.

In her battalion, Arshia is known as a fast and willing learner, a take-charge leader, and a warrior protective of her fellow soldiers. She recently became the first woman in combat arms in Washington state to receive an Army Achievement Medal, and her squad leaders are already talking to her about making sergeant—maybe as soon as this year.

“My experience and where it’s brought me, to be able to say that, yes, I am that 1 percent in the nation that serves—I’m proud of that,” Arshia says. “It’s meshed between my National Guard culture and my home culture and my American culture, and it’s created this weird me.”
Arshia Gill ’21 is blazing a path for women in the U.S. military as a combat engineer. This page: finding focus in a biology lab. Opposite page: taking a break at the Yakima Training Center in Central Washington.
Siddharth Ramakrishnan: All the Exciting Things

By Stacey Cook

Siddharth Ramakrishnan, associate professor of biology and the Jennie M. Caruthers Chair in Neuroscience, has a weird brain. He is a master of the microscopic details and concepts of neuroscience—while a research scientist at Columbia University, he designed microchips to record from brain cells, and in his lab at Puget Sound, he studies the development and physiology of reproductive neurons in zebrafish—but he is also a creative visionary, capable of a more spatial, fluid way of seeing the world.

He often collaborates with artists to explore the intersection of art and science. As a postdoctoral researcher at UCLA, he was highly involved in the Art|Sci Center, co-creating exhibitions such as a “sniffing booth” that demonstrated the superior smelling capacity of dogs. And at Puget Sound, he created the Art + Science Salon, which brings visiting artists and interdisciplinary scientists together to discuss ideas, either on campus or at the Tacoma Art Museum.

Siddharth grew up in Chennai, Southeast India, and earned his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Illinois in Chicago. His research and teaching practices have lately been focused on questions of neuroethics. For six weeks this fall, during his sabbatical, he was a visiting fellow at the Montreal Clinical Research Medicine Institute, where he collaborated with local artists to organize an event called “Neurodiversity, Ethics, Art, and Public Inquiry.” I caught up with him in his Weyerhaeuser Hall office just after he returned.
Q. How did the talk in Montreal go?  
It went really well. I was able to meet up with some locals who were already interfacing neuroscience and art, and they were really excited about the idea of also integrating philosophy and ethics into the discussion. So we organized this event where I would give a talk about neurodiversity and neuroethics, and then we would network with the public through a speed-dating event. About 100 people showed up, which was amazing for me, especially in a new place.

Q. Speed dating? What did that look like?  
We had papers laid out on all the tables, and different sets of colored pencils and pens and crayons, and we had a big gong. Every five minutes we would beat on it, and people would just move from one conversation to the next. We had prompts for the different topics we wanted them to talk about. As they progressed from one person to the other, their ideas would take shape on the table.

Q. What sort of prompts did you have?  
Simple things, like mental illness and brain privacy, and topics like consciousness. Overall, the conversations were great. People didn’t want to move after five minutes, so we had to really push them to go to the next station. If I was to organize this event again, I would probably have visual prompts at each location, where you have an image or an object and then use that as a cue to discuss and build something around it.

Q. Why would visual prompts be helpful?  
There were some autistic individuals there, and they loved the drawing aspect because they didn’t have to make eye contact or push themselves to constantly engage with the person in front of them. Rather, they could look at the paper and use that as a cue to go forward. If we want to engage people of neurodivergent backgrounds, having those kinds of conversation pieces is a good idea.

Q. How did you become interested in blending the worlds of art and science?  
When I was a researcher at UCLA, all my joy and excitement was related to my research. If my experiments worked, I was extremely happy; if the experiments failed, I was unhappy. I felt very selfish and disconnected from the world, and I was looking for more connection. Someone suggested that I partner with Dr. Victoria Vesna, a media artist at UCLA’s Art|Sci Center. The first question she asked me was, “What is the most exciting thing about science for you?” I told her something completely unrelated to my research. And she said, “OK, let’s start working on that as a project.”

Q. And what was that exciting thing?  
It’s this concept of the hox genes, which define your body plans. They make sure that you have a head and two arms and two feet. But the exciting thing is that the same set of genes also makes sure that a snake has a long body or a fly has wings. When you look around, you see all these different creatures that look so different, but the genes that control all the differences are the same, which is such a fascinating concept. I wanted to showcase how this morphological diversity has the underlying same set of genes. So Victoria and I started collaborating on a project, which has evolved into making a cookbook.

Q. How did it evolve into a cookbook?  
We created an exhibition as dinner party, and we invited people to come to the table as an animal of the Chinese zodiac. They came and sat at the table, and we talked about mutations and metamorphoses and genetic alterations and things like that. But the thing is, when they came to the table they wanted to eat. We started preparing food based on the different Chinese zodiac signs, and that has now evolved into a potluck where people are told, “These are the ingredients that are good for your animal, so bring them to the party.” When they come, they exchange food, which we use as a parlance for exchanging genetic materials. It’s a lot of fun, and now we have recipes that people have made over the years, which we’ve collected in the Hox Zodiac Cookbook.

Q. That’s amazing. I’d love to see that.  
It’s a great project. We just had a rough artist copy put together for our exhibition in Santa Monica, and we’ll hopefully have an exhibition here again soon.

Q. What else are you working on?  
My latest is a set of tarot cards. It’s going to be “Neuro-Tarot.” I’m going to write about what happens in your brain when you look at a tarot card, in terms of evoking imagery and imagination. We can use them to talk about neuroscience concepts, but also they’ll have some imagery that could potentially be used as tarot.

Q. These are incredible. What is this one?  
This one is talking about how neurons are born—this is the beginning of your spinal cord and your brain. But how it’s drawn, it’s more about how neurons function. So I’m trying to design a whole set of cards around that theme.

Q. It’s interesting that you can draw something that you are trying to express, and you can also use scientific language to explain it. Does one way of thinking tend to overtake the other?  
When I trained as a scientist, I had to edit out my flowery language. It was a huge editing process. And I feel that in some ways, Puget Sound has helped me gain some of that creativity again, because the university encourages interdisciplinary learning. It has helped me go back to the basics of what excites me.
Annette Sabater ’84

An Iris Stands Tall: A Mother’s Journey, a Daughter’s Transition

As a mother, Annette Sabater ’84 stood witness to a profound coming-of-age story when her transgender child—who had proclaimed herself to be a girl at age 2—began a medical transition at age 16. As an artist, Annette explored her own experience and emotional response through graphite, charcoal, and oil pastel on paper, from 2014 to 2016. The result is a collection of observations, musings, cultural commentary, and personal narrative captured in An Iris Stands Tall, recently exhibited at Cerimon House and Multnomah Arts Center Gallery in Portland, Ore.

The pieces featured here embody four intimate aspects of Annette’s story. “Purple” shows newborn babies boxed in by preconceived ideas of gender at birth, with one outlier who defies this dichotomy. “Boy Queen” confronts the challenge of dressing up on Halloween. When her 4-year-old, then identified as a boy, wanted the glam and sparkle of a princess costume, Annette tried a compromise. He could be a king, complete with plastic jewels and a faux-fur-lined purple taffeta cape. “The king costume was safe, and we were hopeful it would satisfy his regal feminine spirit,” Annette writes. It didn’t work. “But I am a queen,” he insisted.

“Hoodie Shell” shows a boy wrapped in his favorite layer of clothing that served as “a means of getting lost ... where he could hide and feel protected.” And “My Eyes Will Always Be Blue” documents an important moment for Annette during the transition. “My daughter reminded me that her core remained the same,” she writes. “I began to look into her eyes more as her outside appearance shifted from young man to woman. I looked, and found her soul remained steady and strong as the process continued.”

To see more works from this exhibit, visit asabaterart.com or view them in person at The Arts Center in Corvallis, Ore., May 10 through June 26.

—Stacey Cook

Hoodie Shell. Oil pastel and graphite on paper. 18 x 24 in.
Purple. Oil pastel and graphite on paper. 22 x 31 in.

Boy Queen. Oil pastel and graphite on paper. 18 x 24 in.

My Eyes Will Always Be Blue. Oil pastel, graphite, and charcoal on paper. 18 x 24 in.
Diving Into the Deep

When Kelly Danielson M.O.T. ’12 joined an all-women sailing team on the 750-mile Race to Alaska, she had little experience and never expected to win. As the adventure unfolded over six epic days, team Sail Like a Girl took the world by storm.

By Miranda Weiss
The eight women of team Sail Like a Girl came together for the 750-mile Race to Alaska with a shared goal of inspiring more girls and women to get into sailing, which is the oldest international trophy sport, and also one of the most male-dominated.
T he sound last summer was like a car crash, but Kelly Danielson M.O.T.’12 and her crewmates were on a sailboat in the middle of British Columbia’s Laredo Sound, about a mile from shore. It was 2 a.m. and dark. Clouds erased whatever moon hung in the sky, and the sea was black. Land formed inky humps in the distance. Everything was quiet, and then the noise—a double thud. Kelly was knocked to the deck when the 32-foot daysailer, which had been clipping along at 7 knots, stopped dead in the water.

“But there are no rocks here! There are no rocks here!” Kelly remembers Jeanne Assael Goussev, the captain, shouting. Jeanne was looking at charts of the waters off B.C.’s Aristazabal Island, a wild scrap of land along that wild, ragged coast. Kelly’s first thought: How far is the swim to shore? If she could see land, she was pretty sure she could make it.

They had hit a log, Kelly and the rest of the crew realized, a massive log about 20 feet long and thicker than any of them could put their arms around. They’d not just hit it, but heaved up onto it, and the huge, sodden tree trunk was lodged under their keel. The crew began a mad inspection of the boat in the dark. Had the hull been breached? Were they taking on water?

Losing their lead in the Race to Alaska, a 750-mile competition that has been described as the Iditarod of the sea, wasn’t foremost on their minds. Not ending up in Davy Jones’ locker was.

K elly was intimidated by the open ocean. The sheer, dark blue immensity of it. The fearsome distance to a faraway shore. Its cold, cold depths. So a little over a year ago, in October 2017, she approached her fear head-on and planned a nighttime swim in the Puget Sound—not far from her Bainbridge Island home—on the evening of the harvest moon. She invited her friend Jeanne along. Both women had kids at the same elementary school. Kelly is a triathlete and Jeanne had been a competitive swimmer for most of her life, but parenting and work duties had taken her away from that in recent years.

At 10 p.m. the night of their swim, a full moon laid a glowing stripe across the black water. Wearing wetsuits, and with a friend following along in a Boston Whaler, the two women entered the water and swam along the moon’s illuminated path. Phosphorescence streamed off their fingertips as Kelly led Jeanne to a navigational buoy a mile out. That was Kelly’s first long-distance swim in the ocean, and it would turn out to be the first of many.

For Jeanne, that nighttime swim rekindled a sense of adventure that had gone dormant in her since having children. Two months later, Jeanne—a competitive sailor for about 20 years—made up her mind to assemble a team of women to take on the wildest sailing challenge in the region.

When Jeanne approached Kelly about competing in the Race to Alaska, Kelly couldn’t imagine how she could pull it off between her work as a pediatric occupational therapist at two Bainbridge elementary schools and her family duties—she’s the mother of twin 9-year-old girls. Not to mention she didn’t know how to sail.

But Kelly did know how to push her body to its limits. Jeanne knew that Kelly was physically strong, but the night of the swim, she also noticed how Kelly didn’t hesitate to get in the 50-some-degree water. “Nothing fazed her. She just got in and went. She never stopped.” And by leading Jeanne along that moonlit path, Kelly had pushed her. “She brought out the best in me,” Jeanne explained. And Jeanne could see how Kelly could do that with others.

The team came together over a few months—Jeanne and Kelly, as well as Aimee Fulwell, Allison Dvaladze, Anna Stevens, Haley King Lhamon, Kate Hearsey McKay, and Morgana Buell—eight women, all from the Seattle area, representing careers in law, public health, business, therapy, and more. Although not all of the crew had sailing experience, Jeanne saw that they had the most important quality in common: grit.
“I could teach them sailing,” Jeanne said, “but not how to live together on a small boat for a week, how to deal with rough seas, boredom, fear, and sleep deprivation.”

The women called their team Sail Like a Girl, and shared a goal of inspiring more girls and women to get into sailing, which is the oldest international trophy sport, and also one of the most male-dominated. Crew member Haley, who has been sailing competitively since she was 8, had noticed over the years that only a tiny percentage of skippers in adult sailing races were women. And even when women were racing, they were typically on the foredeck, rarely in crew positions physically requiring demanding work.

Although one of the most prestigious sailing races in the world—the Volvo Ocean Race—recently began promoting mixed-gender and all-women teams by allowing them the advantage of an added sailboat, competitive sailing remains dominated not just by male sailors but also by male team owners and male CEOs of corporate race sponsors. Gender equality in the sport remains an uphill battle.

With a lead sponsorship from First Federal Savings and Loan secured, the women of Sail Like a Girl recognized that they could work well together and that they’d likely form friendships for life. But with varied sailing experience among their ranks, they didn’t know if they would be competitive.

Before they could figure that out, they needed a boat. Jeanne found a used Melges 32, a monohull daysailer known for its speed and responsiveness. Over the winter of 2017, the women made it a family affair to overhaul the boat. Kelly’s daughters helped remove old hardware, and her husband installed safety equipment. The team repaired leaks and shored up the boat to turn the light-duty vessel into a craft capable of hauling its own weight through rough seas. And, for the dollsdrums, they mounted two pedal-drive bikes in the stern, capable of propelling the boat forward at about 3 knots even when there was no wind at all.

When the team put the boat in the water last March and began to train up to five days per week, Kelly had a lot to learn. She learned how to tie sailing knots and how to maneuver the highly responsive boat. She learned about tacking and about wind. She kept a copy of The Complete Guide to Sailing and Seamanship next to her bed.

Memorial Day weekend before the Race to Alaska, the team signed up for the Swiftsure International Yacht Race, a two-day, overnight, 117-mile competition from Victoria, B.C., to the Olympic Peninsula’s Neah Bay and back again to Victoria. Swiftsure would be their shakeout race. On the way to the start, the wind howled at 30 to 40 knots across the Strait of Juan de Fuca, kicking up 15-foot waves that were breaking on top. These were some of the biggest seas that some of the most experienced in their crew had ever seen in the Pacific Northwest. Half the team got sick. Kelly vomited bile for eight hours. And she was terrified. “This is what it could be like the entire time,” Kelly remembers thinking. The team limped to the finish line in 54th place.

The Race to Alaska isn’t so much a soul-searching slog at sea. The starting point is Port Townsend, Wash. The finish line: Ketchikan, Alaska. That’s about the distance between Seattle and San Francisco. Racers can use any kind of vessel they wish, as long as it doesn’t have a motor. There are no course markers, no resupply stations, and no safety boats. And aside from two checkpoints along the way, there is no specified route.

During the four years since the race’s inception, there have been the expected single- and multi-hull sailboats. But racers have also used kayaks, canoes, standup paddleboards, and rowboats. Some craft are homemade. Some are snagged off Craigslist. Some racers never make it past the starting line.

Without a designated course or support services, competitors must rely on their own smarts, careful planning, and strategy not just to be competitive or merely finish the race, but to keep themselves alive in some of the wildest waters in North America. Navigational hazards are many along the Inside Passage, including commercial fishing boats, aquaculture pens, loaded barges, and submerged rocks. Currents run like rivers, and storms can be savage. First-place winners earn $10,000 nailed to a log. Second-place finishers, a set of steak knives.

The race began on June 14, 2018, with the 40-mile first stage between Port Townsend and Victoria, B.C., a watery proving ground to weed out the unserious and unseaworthy. On June 16, Sail Like a Girl lined up with the other racers on the sea wall at Victoria’s Inner Harbor to wait for the noon starting horn to signal the start of the final, major stage. Kelly’s family had joined the throngs of spectators. At the sound, 100-some racers sprinted down to their vessels.

With little sailing experience, Kelly had worried about whether she’d be able to pull her own weight. But immediately, she jumped on one of the pedal-drive bikes to power the team out of the harbor. Her daughters ran along the shore, cheering her on. Whatever anxieties Kelly had felt about taking on the challenge, about not having enough sailing know-how, melted away. At that point, she felt calm and ready. “Here we are,” she thought. “We’re going to do this.”

Sail Like a Girl chugged north those first few days, into the Strait of Georgia, where Douglas firs edged rocky coastlines off their gunwales. Now the team was living the limitations of their Melges 32, a vessel designed for daytripping. Their galley was a Jetboil stove strapped to the mast. The head was a bucket with a toilet seat perched on top. And berths? The women had managed to create two coffin-like sleeping spaces below decks into which they’d wedged cots. The team worked and rested in three-hour shifts, grabbing snatches of sleep between the creaking of winches, the sound of rubber boots on the deck above, and the crash of waves against their hull. “We were all in this strange survival mode. We were fuzzy but all in the moment,” Kelly explains.

The women had packed about a ton of gear—including 45 gallons of water, food,
Whatever anxieties Kelly had felt about taking on the challenge, about not having enough sailing know-how, melted away. At that point, she felt calm and ready. “Here we are,” she thought. “We’re going to do this.”
and clothing. Their appetites were strange. From time to time, one of the women would cook up a dehydrated meal and everyone would have a mouthful or two. Kelly subsisted mainly on Swedish fish and peanut-butter pretzels.

After dark, when the crew often couldn’t see more than 10 or 20 feet off their bow, the team sailed by GPS. Despite her keen hearing and excellent night vision, Kelly found night-time sailing disorienting. She could sometimes make out the sounds of vessels in the distance that didn’t appear on their electronic vessel-tracking system. “You just had this sense that there could always be something right there in front of you,” she says.

Three days into the race, the winds died and the current turned against them in Johnstone Strait. While some of their competitors waited out the conditions, the women of Sail Like a Girl pedaled their hearts out, advancing only one mile in three hours. But their efforts paid off. They hit 35-knot winds before the other racers.

The next day, the team neared the second checkpoint, Bella Bella, B.C., a little more than halfway to the finish line. A southerly breeze blew about 8 knots. Kelly sat in the bow watching for rocks as the team made the run through a narrow channel outside the small Heiltsuk First Nations community. She was relieved to be close to land again. Having been out of cellphone service, their phones now pinged, and the team saw that they were in the lead on the race tracker. The women were thrilled. “At that point,” team member Allison recalls, “we realized it was our race to lose.”

The women also discovered that a huge community of followers had sprung up around them. Videos they had posted along the way had been viewed more than 9,000 times, and people all over the world—in England, France, Australia, Texas—were sending them words of encouragement.
Coming in first place hadn't been the team's main goal. But now they realized the impacts their potential win could have on women across the sailing world and beyond. "This is way bigger than us," Jeanne thought.

The excitement of their fans was wind in their sails. But it was also an enormous source of stress. And with one of their competitors coming up on their stern, they had a decision to make: head to open water—where winds could be fresher but conditions rougher—or stay in the Inside Passage, where they could take advantage of currents but might suffer less wind and fewer possible navigational hazards. It felt like a make-or-break moment.

Allison asked Kelly, who is a yoga instructor in addition to being an occupational therapist, to lead the team in a guided meditation. The crew gathered in their foulies on the deck. Kelly directed the women to focus on their breathing. She told them to acknowledge their fear and set it aside. Remember our goal, she instructed them, and the passion that had led to that moment.

"We all got to a really good, balanced place," Kelly explains. And then a pod of about a dozen orcas glided by through the water. "All right, we've got this," the team agreed. They decided to stay inside. The sun set that solstice night at 10, and light leaked slowly from the sky. Sail Like a Girl headed along the west coast of Price Island, B.C., and then into Laredo Sound. Winds were from the south around 8 knots. Clouds had come up, and there were no stars.

The women could barely see off their bow, and the on-duty crew called Jeanne out of slumber to help with navigation. Then they hit the log.

In a frenetic search, the crew realized they weren't taking on water. So they heeled over, and the tree trunk bobbed out from under their keel. Sail Like a Girl puttered north with just their mainsail until daylight, when they made a more thorough inspection of the boat. Finding no damage, they hoisted sails and continued on, hugging the shore just in case.

At that point, they figured they'd lost their lead. They didn't have cell service, so they couldn't check the race tracker. There was nothing to do but sail on.

Then, about 24 hours after their crash, a middle-of-the-night text came in—"Keep going, Mom!"—from Anna Stevens' son. They were still in the lead. The women couldn't believe it. Now all they wanted to do was win.

All that day, the team biked and sailed and dumped surplus drinking water to reduce their load. The wind quit and rose and quit again. The sun set gorgeously over the water, and a muddle of harbor, boat, and street lights from Ketchikan, Alaska, appeared in the distance.

A few minutes after midnight—six days, 13 hours, and 17 minutes after setting out—Sail Like a Girl entered the Ketchikan harbor, becoming the first all-women team and the first monohull to win the Race to Alaska.

Amidst a flurry of fans, the women stepped off their boat arm in arm and rang the finish-line bell together.

In the months since the race, the women of Sail Like a Girl have been deluged with media attention and requests for appearances. The city of Seattle even issued a proclamation in their honor. Their victory has resonated with people all over the world, sailors and landlubbers alike. And their efforts raised more than $12,000 in support of breast cancer research in honor of loved ones whose names they had scrawled on the mast of their boat, as well as strangers affected by breast cancer.

For Kelly, the win was personal. And it has meant a lot to her girls. "It really has made a shift for them," she says. Now when people ask her daughters who is stronger, their mom or their dad, they answer "my mom," says Kelly. "It's exciting to see the overall empowerment of young girls—my own included."

With months of preparation and training and six and a half hard days of adventure, Race to Alaska was one of the biggest challenges Kelly has ever taken on. "Not quite as challenging as having twins," she adds. She plans to keep pushing herself to new challenges, including swimming year-round in Puget Sound. "One thing I've taken from this," she says, "is how important it is to say yes."
why stories matter

Reflections on personal narrative as a means of resistance

BY REGINA DUTHELY
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH
Stories matter. Stories are a reflection of power.” When Alicia Garza, a founder of the Black Lives Matter movement, said this during her keynote address at the close of the 2018 Race & Pedagogy National Conference held on campus last September, it struck me that this was the crux of the conference. Its title, “Radically Re-Imagining the Project of Justice: Narratives of Rupture, Resilience, and Liberation,” was a call for participants to share their stories and to speak into the spaces that have rendered them invisible.

I recognized the power of this narrative framework, viewed through the lens of my work in black feminist rhetorics. From Harriet Jacobs penning her autobiography, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, while in hiding to Audre Lorde’s biomythography *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* to the release of Beyoncé’s visual album *Lemonade*, black women have historically deployed storytelling as a means of liberation and subversion. Being able to tell our own stories in our voices, despite all efforts to silence and erase us, is central to the black feminist intellectual tradition.

Black queer feminist poet and essayist Audre Lorde encouraged women to tell their own stories because silence would not protect them. In her groundbreaking essay, “The Transformation of Silence Into Language and Action,” she challenged readers to consider all the ways they silence themselves, and asked them to resist that silencing: “What are the words you do not yet have? What do you need to say? What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence?”

The stories of the silenced and erased were center stage at the conference. Presentations about the experiences of indigenous people, immigrant communities, and the work of scholars, activists, artists, and community organizers across the country illuminated that we are in a collective fight for liberation and that storytelling is an essential part of that work.

Audre Lorde argued that people must use their voices as a means of resistance: “But for every real word spoken, for every attempt I had ever made to speak those truths for which I am still seeking, I had made contact with other women while we examined the words to fit a world in which we all believed, bridging our differences. And it was the concern and caring of all those women [that] gave me strength and enabled me to scrutinize the essentials of my living.”

She credited her ability to tell her story to the women in her life. Working within and for a community is what drives black feminist thinking, and that ethos was prominent in the work of the organizers of the conference and those who presented their ideas. This work is intersectional in nature.

At Puget Sound, I teach a course on zines, using the Collins Memorial Library zine collection, and I ask my students to consider the ways that zine-makers use their stories to disrupt, challenge, and push back against power. Zine-makers are typically members of marginalized groups, and they use handmade, photocopied zines as a way to assert their voices in the public sphere. By studying this raw, unfiltered work, my students and I are able to learn from people who may not have a voice in academic spaces.

I gave a presentation on zine-making at the conference as part of the larger campus-wide community conversation about race and education. Other panelists were speaking on similar topics, such as teaching English composition using music, spoken-word poetry, and comics. These methods allow those who belong to marginalized identity groups, whose voices are often silenced and histories corrupted, to narrate their own experiences.

My zine presentation co-panelist and student Rose Pytte ’18 shared a zine from Advocates for Detained Voices. The collective goal of this student-run organization is to make visible the experience of people rendered invisible by state power and systemic inequality, and the zine illustrates the detainees’ struggles. The act of sharing their stories outside of the confines of the detention center gives those who have been rendered powerless control over their own narratives.

Educational spaces, particularly universities, can be sites of oppression or sites of liberation. A liberal arts model asks educators to make space for alternative ways of knowing and being, by creating curricula, writing syllabi, and composing assignments that serve to dismantle rather than uphold systems of power and oppression that serve some students and marginalize others. Teaching with the zine collection demonstrates for my students that telling your story can be a liberating practice that is an essential part of our collective work on campus and an exercise in considering whose stories are worth preserving and whose stories are considered valuable.

Hypervisible invisibility is a profound experience of black womanhood. As Audre Lorde reminds us, “Within this country where racial difference creates a constant, if unspoken, distortion of vision, black women have on one hand always been highly visible, and so, on the other hand, have been rendered invisible through the depersonalization of racism.” When black women reclaim their stories, they counter this “distortion of vision.” The work of telling black women’s stories—and forcing society to contend with black women’s narratives rather than ignoring them—is an act of disruption that aims to transform our world.

“Stories matter,” Alicia Garza said. As a brand-new faculty member at Puget Sound, I have often wondered what kind of story I have to tell. Where do I fit into the narrative of this place? As I attended the conference and spoke to educators from across the country, I began to feel myself becoming part of a story about being a black woman on this campus, following the lead of those who came before me and joining the handful of us here now doing the work of reframing the narrative.

The beauty of the Race & Pedagogy National Conference was that it brought educators, artists, and activists together to reimagine the ways we can disrupt the status quo and tell new stories of resilience. It left attendees hopeful, inspired, and ready to continue telling stories that matter.
The Power of Zines  The modern era of zines can be traced to the 1930s, when sci-fi enthusiasts started creating and sharing “fanzines” to celebrate the genre. Since then, zines have played an integral role in developing many subcultures, such as the burgeoning queer community of the ’50s, the punk-rock scene of the ’70s, and the Riot Grrl feminist movement of the ’90s. Today, zines continue to be a powerful tool of personal expression and radical thought. They are still crafted by hand, photocopied, and stapled together, then mailed or sold at independent bookstores and zine fairs. Passed directly from the creator to the reader, zines offer a uniquely raw, intimate experience, much like a diary. They tend to address issues rarely covered by major publications, from the personal to the political, and they offer uncensored insight from a multitude of voices and perspectives. Ultimately, zines are about the human experience, which is what makes them so relatable and enduring.

The titles pictured here are from the zine collection at Collins Memorial Library. To learn more, watch a video with humanities librarian and zine curator Katy Curtis at pugetsound.edu/zines.
On a Thursday evening, beneath the fluorescent lights of a classroom in Gig Harbor, Wash., Rebekah Lyons pores over an essay she’s writing for a sociology class on gender oppression. She’s chosen to write about the Brett Kavanaugh hearing, and she reads her work aloud, noting a spot that needs a better transition.

It’s a typical classroom scene, where other students sit in rows of desks chattering about scatter plots and independent variables, and bulletin boards display past projects. But outside, there is a chain-link fence topped with curls of barbed wire, glittering in the lights of the parking lot. Rebekah is an inmate in the Washington Corrections Center for Women, the largest women’s prison in the state, and she is at a study hall for Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS), a program that provides college classes for incarcerated women and transgender and nonbinary people housed there.

She recently spent seven months in “the hole”—solitary confinement. “What I had waiting for me when I got out was FEPPS,” she says. “It’s what keeps me from making stupid decisions. It makes me feel like I’m doing something that’s going to count outside.” Rebekah is now a student leader and a member of the FEPPS advisory council.
When she’s released, she hopes to become a social worker so that she can help prevent at-risk youths from getting involved in drug use and criminal activity. Women are the fastest-growing segment of the prison population. FEPPS aims to break the cycle of incarceration and reduce recidivism by providing students with skills that can afford them fulfilling employment and economic stability after they’re released. (Prisoners who participate in correctional education programs have been shown to be 43 percent less likely to return to prison than those who don’t.) Another benefit of the program is that it enriches the lives of the students both inside and outside the prison by bolstering their confidence. Education plays a critical role in building self-esteem and self-efficacy, and can create new pathways as a result, paving the way for meaningful future employment and healthier relationships and setting an example for the students’ children and family members, thereby preventing future generations from ending up in prison as well.

The vision for FEPPS began when a group of incarcerated women formed an organization called the Women’s Village in 2009 with the goal of gaining programs and services that would create positive change and reduce violence inside the prison. After learning that some men’s prisons had access to classes for college credit, the Women’s Village reached out to University of Puget Sound professors including Tanya Erzen, associate research professor of religion and gender and queer studies, Stuart Smithers, professor and chair of religious studies, and Robin Jacobson, professor of politics and government, and Evergreen State College sociology professor Gilda Sheppard to discuss the possibility of creating a higher-education program for the prison.

Tanya, Stuart, Robin, and Gilda co-founded FEPPS in 2011, and in January of 2012, they began offering classes inside the prison. A year later, Tacoma Community College began transcribing the program’s courses for credit toward an Associate of Arts degree. The classes maintain the same standards of academic rigor as those taught on the Puget Sound and Evergreen campuses.

Before coming to work at Puget Sound, Tanya taught college classes in a women’s prison in New York and had always found herself drawn to work around prison reform. A fierce advocate for transformative justice, she’s fueled by a deep passion for learning and teaching, and believes that education is especially powerful as a tool for disadvantaged communities to rebuild their lives. “If you’ve been told for so long that college is not even a possibility, if your parents didn’t even go to college, to have that opportunity is really empowering,” she says.

In 2016, Tanya created an experiential learning class for Puget Sound students called Prisons, Gender, and Education, which focuses on the history and purpose of prisons and the power dynamics of mass incarceration. It has become a highly popular course; so far, more than 65 students have taken it. In the classroom, students read works by authors such as French philosopher Michel Foucault and activist and scholar Angela Davis. And once a week, they visit the corrections center, sliding books through plastic tubs at the metal detectors on their way in, to participate in a study hall with the incarcerated students.

Rather than presenting the study halls as tutoring sessions, as similar college programs do, Tanya breaks down power dynamics by referring to Puget Sound students as “co-learners” who study side by side with the incarcerated students. “The idea is to build relationships between the students,” Tanya says.

Priti Joshi, an English professor at Puget Sound, has been involved with FEPPS almost since its inception and is passionate about bringing higher education to underrepresented students. Previously, she directed the Rutgers College Equal Opportunity Fund summer program for first-year students and Rutgers University’s Basic Writing program. She sought out FEPPS as soon as she learned about it, joking that she “hounded” Tanya. She has been teaching in the prison program since 2012 and also sits on the organization’s board of directors.

Priti explains that the study halls were requested by early FEPPS students who sought a quiet refuge where they could concentrate and help each other with homework. When she taught an English class unit about odes, such as Percy Bysshe Shelley’s “Ode to the West Wind” and Pablo Neruda’s “An Ode to Salt,” Priti asked her FEPPS students to produce their own odes to test their understanding of the form. One of the students wrote an ode to silence, and the others immediately identified with the sentiment. Silence, they agreed, was scarce and deeply longed-for in prison, where noise was everywhere.

Rebekah, the aspiring social worker and a proud A student, says she finds space for reading by asking her cellmate to wear headphones while watching TV, and she jots down notes while she’s at work in the kitchen’s stockroom. She writes her essays in the study hall, and is constantly working out ideas in her head.
Tanya has found that FEPPS provides a positive outlet for the incarcerated women that helps them discover their own leadership. One previously withdrawn FEPPS student started a group for moms, teaching them how to read, and another started a group for discussing gender issues. “When you give them a sense that they actually can do this, they rise to the occasion. Many have never been treated as though what they have to say is valuable,” Tanya says.

Felice Davis, associate superintendent of programs at the corrections center, echoes the transformative effect that FEPPS has had on the students. “I’ve definitely seen women come out of their shells,” she says. “Very quiet women start saying, ‘I want this to be my future. I’m excited about this.’”

Not all FEPPS students can look forward to starting over on the outside, and gaining a degree isn’t always the primary objective. One incarcerated woman named Andy has been taking classes since the program began, before it was accredited. She is a “lifer,” sentenced to 2063. Andy is working toward her associate degree because she wants to make her son proud. “I love learning,” she says. “Knowledge is power.” There is also a humanity to the program that draws her in. Asked about her first impressions of the FEPPS classes, she says simply: “They treated us like students.”

Tanya says that the program is designed to instill a sense of self-worth in FEPPS students by raising expectations for them. “The program humanizes people. We offer classes of the same rigor and quality, we treat people the same as we would on the outside, and there’s a process of restoring dignity and humanity that happens through that,” she says.

FEPPS has come to embody and elevate the liberal arts values of Puget Sound, in terms of encouraging critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning. As students gain new understanding and become inspired, the results can be transformative and galvanizing. Priti remembers leading a particularly lively discussion about Shakespeare’s Othello with her FEPPS students, who grew animated and excited, shouting out answers as Priti stood on a chair scrawling their responses on a chalkboard. To her surprise, a security guard suddenly materialized at the door, concerned that the raised voices were the sound of a violent struggle breaking out. In the prison, it had been previously unthinkable that shouting stemmed from intellectual energy. “That’s when I realized, not only can we do this, but we can bring down the house,” Priti says. “Their engagement and excitement was a sign that these walls were crumbling.”

The prison’s staff has witnessed firsthand the powerful effects that liberal arts education can have on an incarcerated community, including a noticeable change in the tone of the prison. Felice attests that FEPPS has had positive effects for her team at the corrections center and praises how enthusiastically they have supported the program, noting that the prison employees enjoy talking to the students about what they’re learning in class. “They’re really engaged in these conversations with the incarcerated population. At every level, we work closely with FEPPS, and they really see the difference in the women, as well,” she says. “We all think that [the program] is important and certainly contributes to public safety and to the safety of staff who work in the prison. It has taken my team and the FEPPS team being collaborative, open, and innovative to make the program as successful as it is.”

There is a growing movement of liberal arts colleges adopting similar programs. In 2014, FEPPS joined the Bard Consortium
The co-learning aspect of the study hall creates a liminal space that transcends the prison walls, a place to foster collaboration and generate a mutual exchange of ideas. Tanya says, “In that connection between the university and the outside, there’s a space that’s breaking down the walls, where students can think collectively about alternatives to the prison-industrial complex. When we imagine prisoners as students, we are seeing them differently. That’s part of a process to imagine a different world.”

At the first study hall she attended, Bella Faith ’20 bonded with the incarcerated students over a particularly formidable statistics problem that managed to stump all of them. “It took me back to high school, when you’re working with your friends and you’re trying to figure out a math or science problem,” she says. “You’re looking at it from all these different angles, and you just can’t get it. We started laughing about it, and the women were calling it ‘astronaut math.’ We were all in it together, and it didn’t feel that different.”

Bella, who is double-majoring in religious studies and politics and government and studying Arabic, says that spending time in study hall has opened her eyes to the reality of the prison system in a way that readings alone couldn’t, and has inspired her to commit to searching for solutions for mass incarceration. She intends to pursue a career in politics at an embassy in the Middle East after graduation and hopes to use what she’s learned to advocate for safer and more humane conditions in prison, especially for women, nonbinary, and LGBTQ+ prisoners.

Throughout the years, the study halls have expanded into additional programs and involved more campus partners. Tanya is working with Ben Tucker, social sciences liaison librarian at Collins Memorial Library, on a new research collaboration pilot program, so that FEPPS students can request research materials that they wouldn’t otherwise have access to. Puget Sound’s Center for Writing, Learning, and Teaching also offers a class on academic skills for new FEPPS students so they can learn how to study and strategize. Puget Sound students have launched UPS Students for FEPPS, an advocacy group that aims to get other students involved in the program and includes 20 members who organize film screenings and speaker events on campus.

FEPPS has even spawned a monthly film and lecture series at the corrections center organized by Puget Sound faculty members, as well as a critical inquiry discussion group, which involves a group of Puget Sound professors and students who meet monthly with FEPPS students to discuss readings in depth. There is a workshop series on gender identity co-organized by FEPPS students and gender and queer studies students at Puget Sound, and in 2018, the corrections center started its own Ethics Bowl.

There is a dynamic exchange of ideas at work, and the flow goes both ways. Priti says that while she was teaching a unit about fairy-tale adaptations in the correction center, a FEPPS student raised her hand to read her assignment aloud to the class. It was an adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood, about a young girl visiting her mother—who had killed the girl’s werewolf father to protect her daughter—in prison. The piece was so stunning, “you could hear a pin drop,” Priti says. Now, with the student’s permission, Priti uses that story as an example of fairy tale adaptations in her English 220 class at Puget Sound.

The FEPPS experience is often described as life-changing for Puget Sound students, who take the lessons they learned in the prison study halls into their careers after college. Amanda Diaz ’18 is now working as a community organizer with One America, a Seattle-based nonprofit organization that advocates for immigrant rights, education, economic and environmental justice, and voting rights at the local, state, and national levels by building power in immigrant communities. “FEPPS has given me a deeper understanding of the intersections of the criminal justice system and how it directly affects immigrants, refugees, and people of color in their plight to demand basic needs and rights in the United States,” she says.

Anna Goebel ’18, now an investigator with a state public defender’s office, was so moved by the Commencement speech from Tonya Wilson, the 2017 FEPPS valedictorian, that she keeps a quote framed in her office. It reads: “As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others. The human race is one of emulation. We figure out what is possible in the world by what others show us is possible. Many of us had narrow ideas of what was possible. But, now, when we refuse to be inadequate, when we refuse to play small for the world, well, then this happens.”

Those words echo the sentiments of thinkers such as Angela Davis and Octavia Butler, whose writings have emphasized the importance of long-range vision for social justice movements: The first step toward a new future is to be able to think beyond the boundaries of the current moment.

Within nearly a decade, the Women’s Village inside the corrections center has grown from five members to more than 200, and it has succeeded in reducing violence and empowering women through educational programs. In the five years since its accreditation, FEPPS has offered 129 classes taught by more than 100 professors to 252 women. Of those women, 35 have earned associate degrees, and many are now living on the outside, transforming their lives by pursuing new goals. Rebekah will soon be one of them. Her expected release date is in early July, and she’ll have her FEPPS education to help her make a fresh start.

Tanya is proud of the impact the program has had on Puget Sound students, and optimistic about the outlook for the FEPPS graduates. “You see self-efficacy, you see community-building, you see people being more engaged and finding their voice,” she says. “They say: I can succeed in this. I am more than what people have told me I am.”
classmates
On a crisp autumn Tuesday, four teenagers gathered in a West Seattle community center found themselves in trouble. An evil king was threatening to attack their village, and the only way to survive was to enlist the help of a two-headed monster. But the monster’s two heads would not stop arguing with each other, and time was wasting. One head of the monster insisted on a swift attack while the other head called for strategy before action.

The teens were engaged in a match of Dungeons & Dragons—a tabletop role-playing game that requires players to create their own characters and participate together in a story. But they were doing more than exercising their imaginations. Guided by game master Adam Davis ’06, co-founder and executive director of Game to Grow, the teens were learning real social skills such as problem solving, collaboration, frustration-tolerance, and perspective-taking (a psychology term for taking someone else’s viewpoint into account).

Adam created the nonprofit last spring with his business partner, Adam Johns. The two founders, along with three other game masters, meet with nearly 40 kids each week throughout the Seattle area. Their goal is to help kids with underdeveloped social skills by mimicking the unstructured play of childhood—a crucial step in social development. “What we need to do is meet them where they’re at and help them come along the way,” Adam explains.

During the game in West Seattle, Adam introduced the two-headed monster specifically to address two socially isolated teens who argued excessively. “They had to figure out how to mediate the conflict between these two monster heads, which of course are mirroring the same conflicts that they always had,” Adam explained. “That’s really what makes this work different than just going to play Dungeons & Dragons at somebody’s house. We are really targeting those real-world skills with in-game scenarios.”

Adam has always wanted to help people. As a student at Puget Sound, he had been a political science major who dreamed of finding an internship in Washington, D.C., and then running for office so he could “make the world a better place through politics.” But he also loved theater and performed in Puget Sound’s student production of The Laramie Project in 2001.

The play is based on interviews conducted with Laramie, Wyo., residents following the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a college student who was murdered in that town for being gay. “The things that they say on stage are taken from actual interviews, so it’s super real, very literal, and very impactful,” Adam says. The performance led to important conversations both on and off campus, and Adam realized that he didn’t want to be a politician. He wanted to be an actor.

Three years later, after graduating, he began working as a teaching artist with Seattle Children’s Theatre, where his goal was not to make children great actors but “to allow them to get to know themselves better and to give them insight about how they related to the world.”

In 2014, he earned a master’s degree in drama therapy from Seattle’s Antioch University, where he first realized the social skill-building potential of Dungeons & Dragons. He met his business partner, Adam Johns, there. With a copy of the game and the drama therapy and psychology techniques they’d learned in graduate school, the two Adams created the for-profit company Wheelhouse Workshop in 2013. They conducted outreach to local schools, and spoke at countless conventions and conferences to build a following. Five years later, with dozens of children and teens attending sessions regularly and a successful crowdfunding campaign behind them, they founded the nonprofit Game to Grow in March of 2018.

“What we’re doing is providing an opportunity for kids who don’t have positive experiences being social to have a really positive experience,” Adam says. “It’s really a fantastic vortex of feedback loops that help kids feel the rewards of being more social. And they get to kill monsters.”
When soprano Rhiannon Guevin ’12 boarded an Alaska Airlines flight from Seattle to Anchorage four years ago, helping a high-school student decide which college to attend wasn't part of her in-flight itinerary. But after being seated next to Danielle Rogers ’18, herself a talented soprano who was then a senior in high school, Rhiannon couldn't help talking about her alma mater. On Rhiannon’s recommendation, Danielle enrolled at Puget Sound. She graduated from the School of Music in May.

The bond between the two sopranos was formed long before that chance encounter on the airplane. Rhiannon first met Danielle a decade ago at Alaska’s Sitka Fine Arts Camp (SFAC), where Rhiannon, who was pursuing her bachelor’s degree in vocal performance at Puget Sound, was working as a counselor. Danielle was one of her campers.

It’s one of many connections Rhiannon has found through SFAC, an organization that offers noncompetitive, multidisciplinary arts education to children and teens. Rhiannon first attended the summer camp when she was 14, after her family moved to Sitka from Northern California. She had been participating in community theater productions since she was 7 years old, and says she was “obsessed with musical theater.” She kept returning to SFAC first as a camper, then a counselor, then an intern. In 2013, she was hired as the camp’s operations director.

Now, in addition to her administrative duties, teaching, and performing, Rhiannon regularly orchestrates an exchange between SFAC and Puget Sound’s School of Music. Since 2013, at least five Puget Sound faculty members have taught or performed with SFAC, and at least three Logger alumni, including Danielle, can trace their interest in Puget Sound back to Rhiannon and her love for the university.

“I had a clear idea of the school I wanted to go to: a small, liberal arts school on the West Coast that was close to Alaska,” Rhiannon recalls about her time searching for a college. “I visited Puget Sound in the fall and knew this was it the minute I stepped on campus.”

She applied for Early Action Admission, was accepted, and began pursuing a music education degree. But upon hearing her sing, then-Puget Sound affiliate artist and soprano Christina Kowalski strongly suggested she pursue vocal performance instead. With this new direction, she began working closely with Gwynne Kuhner Brown ’95, associate professor of music history and music theory, and Dawn Padula, director of vocal studies. “We really clicked,” Rhiannon says of Dawn. “She became a mentor to me.”

And because those relationships forged during Rhiannon’s four years in the School of Music have continued, she has been able to bring a new level of talent to SFAC. The exchange began in May 2014 when Rhiannon invited Gwynne, who plays a traditional African instrument called the mbira and specializes in American music of the 20th century, to serve as an artist-in-residence. Three years later, Samuel Faustine ’13 performed with Rhiannon in The Last Five Years, a musical by Jason Robert Brown, as part of the SFAC Performing Arts Series. Last summer, Puget Sound’s Interim Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music Gerard Morris joined the SFAC summer Middle School Camp faculty, and Puget Sound Affiliate Artist Abe Landa ’13 played guitar as part of the orchestra for the Musical Theater Camp’s production of Legally Blonde.

Growing up in a small village in Nigeria where “everybody had a strong passion for education and the power of ideas,” George Obiozor ’69 watched several family members go abroad to university and dreamed of following them.

In 1966, six years after Nigeria gained its independence from Britain, and a month after a military coup started a civil war, he got his chance. He was accepted to Albert Schweitzer College, a one-year preparatory institute in Switzerland, where he studied history and philosophy. By good luck or fate, a visiting professor there connected him with John Regester, then dean of Puget Sound, who, the following year, helped George make his way to the University of Puget Sound to complete his education.

Upon George’s arrival in Tacoma, John assisted him in finding a host family, the Merrills, whose son was attending college in New York. “I ‘inherited’ his room and car,” George recalls. “My host father taught me how to drive and how to use the lawn mower. Every Saturday we mowed the lawn and then watched baseball or American football. It was a wonderful time and experience in my life.”

George first studied history at Puget Sound, but he chose political science as his major. That field, he realized, was the intersection of history and philosophy, peace and justice.

With the Vietnam War in full swing, and classmates both opposing the war and fighting in it, George learned some of his first lessons in diplomacy on the Puget Sound campus. “It was a very disciplined and orderly environment,” he says. “The students were friendly to [each other] regardless of creed, race, or nationality. They opposed the Vietnam War but treated the returning vets who were in our classes like heroes. This level of respect for constituted authority was equally impressive, hence [Puget Sound] did not explode as many other universities did then.”

Meanwhile, the Merrills’ son was studying at Columbia University in New York City. As George neared graduation and expressed interest in continuing his studies, the family encouraged him to apply there. “Such a generous family is a rare and divine gift from God,” he says. “Indeed, their goodness has followed me all the days of my life.”

Despite worries about his family back home in Nigeria, where civil war continued to rage, George matriculated at Columbia and ultimately earned a master’s degree in international relations and a Ph.D. in international affairs. He went on to serve his home country in a number of diplomatic roles, including director-general of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, the high commissioner to Cyprus, ambassador to Israel (1999–2003), and ambassador to the United States (2004–2008).

“The main lesson of my education, both in Switzerland and at Puget Sound, was to seriously learn the ways and manner in which human beings behave,” George recalls.

As ambassador, he says, the most important part of his job was to be “present, ready and able to serve the interests” of his host countries, “negotiating and explaining the issues of mutual interest.” From one generosity to another, George’s destiny, as he puts it, coupled his human relations training with his love of history, and his optimism with his strong practicality.

From his home in Nigeria, where he now writes op-eds on national politics and foreign policy and is penning an autobiography, George sent the following advice to Puget Sound students and recent graduates: “Hold your dreams of what you want to be, and pursue them with determination and courage. Everyone has his or her own destiny—follow your own.”
alumni news and correspondence

1955 Jean Cameron Tudor sent along this update to prove she and her husband, William Tudor ’55, “are still sitting up and taking nourishment.” Jean, who earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Wayne State University, is working as an artist/enamelist. She teaches workshops in enameling art at The Grünewald Guild on the Wenatchee River, where she was recently designated a guild master. She also teaches at the Tacoma Metal Arts Center several times each year. Meanwhile, William, a retired Episcopal priest who holds a bachelor’s degree in literature from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in divinity from Church Divinity School of the Pacific, heads the board for AiDNW (Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest). The Tacoma-based nonprofit runs an RV that aids immigrants who have been released from Tacoma’s U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center. Immigrants can obtain help with travel and communication with relatives as well as clothing and translation assistance at the RV. William also does occasional supply work for local Episcopal churches.

1967 Richard Wiley will be celebrating the launch of his ninth literary work, Tacoma Stories, with two events in February. The first, a book-launch reading and conversation with Richard, will be held at King’s Books in Tacoma, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 12. The second reading and conversation will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 15, at Elliott Bay Book Company in Seattle. Tacoma Stories is a collection of short stories that follow the lives of 16 people who gathered in a Tacoma bar in 1968. Richard, a Tacoma native who holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from Puget Sound, says the idea for the collection came out of his experience one night drinking at Pat’s Tavern back in the late 1960s. “Originally, I peopled this story with folks I had actually known back then, not even bothering to change their names. But then I invented new names and backgrounds for them. I thought it would be interesting to imagine their lives going backward and forward from that night,” he said.

1969 Donald Doman wrote a column called “Middle School and the Rewards of Expanded Horizons” for The Suburban Times in August. The piece calls on teachers and parents to support students through the stressful and frightening middle school years and not pressure them with questions about their future. Donald is a local businessman who owns multiple online marketing companies and local business directory websites. He attended Puget Sound.

1971 Richard Morgan retired on Aug. 31, after serving as a federal administrative law judge with the U.S. Department of Labor for 21 years. He spent the last five years of his career as the district chief judge in Pittsburgh, Penn. Richard had previously retired as an Air Force judge in 1995, after 20 years of service. During his time as a business administration student at Puget Sound, he was part of the university’s Air Force ROTC. After graduating with his bachelor’s degree, Richard went on to earn a master’s degree in law from Georgetown University and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Lewis & Clark College. Now in retirement, Richard and his wife, Pat, plan to remain in Pittsburgh and sail on Liebchen, their sailboat docked at their beach house in St. James, N.C. They have four grandchildren and a fifth on the way, and will spend a lot of time with them.

This fall, Richard Walters was elected president and board chair of Families Unlimited Network, a large nonprofit social services organization serving residents of Pierce County, Wash. A retired U.S. Navy captain who holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Puget Sound, where he played rugby, Richard has held jobs as a wood products executive and Port of Tacoma commissioner candidate. He and Sandy, his wife of 45 years, live in University Place, Wash.

1976 Each August, industry experts gather in Seattle for the Northwest Jewelry Conference, organized and directed by Ted Irwin. Ted is the director of the Northwest Gemological Institute and its affiliate jewelry appraisal firm, Northwest Gemological Laboratory. The conference brings some of the world’s noted historians, collectors, dealers, and appraisers to Seattle. Ted holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

Michael Purdy ’76, M.B.A.’79, creator of the website presidentialhistory.com, took a trip to Washington, D.C., this summer for a presidential history conference. While there, he attended a reception at the White House with President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump. He later reflected on the experience and his anxiety leading up to the event as he decided what he would ask the president. He never got the chance, and instead was left wondering. “If you had the chance to meet President Donald Trump, what would you say? And could it make a difference?”

Last year, at the age of 71, Richard Swenson M.F.A.’76 retired from his teaching career at China’s Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute. A longtime educator, Richard taught oral English and tutored graduate students at Jingdezhen for 12 years. After earning his Master of Fine Arts degree from Puget Sound, he began his career in public schools and at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. He then lived in Vermont, Texas, and Georgia before being offered the job in China in 2006. On being retired in Jingdezhen, Richard says he’s “loving the culture and food. Life is good!”

1977 Ralph Esposito M.F.A.’77 had nearly 100 pieces of his work displayed as part of the Helena Art Walk in November. From porcelain pots to watercolor paintings, Ralph’s retrospective show, called Full Circle, offered “a glimpse of just how diverse and eclectic his interests are and how prolific he’s been over the decades,” an Independent Record article said. Ralph has been a visual arts professor at Montana’s Carroll College for 40 years. He earned a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the University of Connecticut and a master’s degree in ceramics from Puget Sound.

Laura Meeks was featured in an October CV Independent article about her transgender identity, her
personal life, and her current work as a professional coach. Laura holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Puget Sound, where she was involved with the U.S. Air Force ROTC and joined the Sigma Nu fraternity. After graduation, she pursued her dream of becoming a pilot and eventually retired from the Air Force as a major. She told the CV Independent that, throughout her life, she always knew she “was somehow different.” She grew up with three brothers, went to an all-male high school, and was surrounded by men in the military. While stationed in Guam, she found internet chat rooms discussing gender, learned the term “transgender,” and realized the term fit her feelings. She embraced Laura and her feminine identity once she retired from the Air Force. She is now a coach whose mission is to “help people bring their unique gifts to the world.”

1978 REUNION YEAR Cynthia Deale O’Halloran, a professor in the School of Hospitality Leadership at East Carolina University, received the Howard B. Meek Award from the International Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (ICHRIE) on July 27. She was recognized at ICHRIE’s annual conference, in Palm Springs, Calif. The award is the highest individual recognition a member of ICHRIE may receive. It is presented to an ICHRIE member in recognition of the individual’s lifetime contributions and outstanding service both to hospitality education and to the organization. Cynthia served on the board of ICHRIE and as its president. In addition, she served in leadership roles at the regional level in ICHRIE, and is an accomplished teacher and researcher.

1981 Russ Stoddard, founder and president of Oliver Russell, a purpose-driven creative agency, joined forces with a former European manufacturing CEO in October to create a business focused on social purpose. Humanista is a consulting firm headed by Russ and Markus Kessler that is dedicated to transforming business, investing, and cities through social purpose. “We help leaders integrate social purpose into the core of their organizations,” Russ said in an Oct. 18 CSR Wire press release. “Changing the world through business is our passion, and at this moment in history, it is a more important calling than ever.” Russ lives in Boise, Idaho, and maintains the company’s domestic presence while Markus, who lives in Germany, will handle international relations. Russ holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound and is a member of the Beta Theta Phi fraternity.

1986 In early November, Zemo Trevathan and his Boston-based ultimate team DoG Country, traveled to Sarasota, Fla., and won the Great Grandmasters World Championship. The competition, for teams with members over the age of 50, saw a dozen teams fighting for the title. Zemo, who was one of the founders of Puget Sound’s own ultimate team, made the game-winning catch against TriAged in the quarterfinals of the world championships. Zemo holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Puget Sound and worked for The Trail.

1990 Holly Burkett Pohland, who owns Burkett’s, a women’s clothing boutique in Everett, Wash., celebrated the store’s 40th anniversary in September. According to the Everett Herald, the boutique was started by Holly’s mother in August 1979, when Holly was only 10 years old. Holly, who holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and theatre arts from Puget Sound, bought the store from her parents and took over Burkett’s in 1997. Now, according to the Herald article, Holly’s daughter Kate says she is looking forward to one day working with her mother at the store. “I’ve told her to first go and do her own thing,” Holly told The Herald, “just like my mother did.”

Last fall, Leanne Lemke Noren became executive director of the Carol Milgard Breast Center—a nonprofit breast imaging center in Tacoma, an October South Sound Talk article said. Leanne has worked in local nonprofits for more than 25 years and first entered the field with a post-college job at the American Lung Association after earning her bachelor’s degree in comparative sociology from Puget Sound. She remained at the association for nearly 20 years before co-founding Pierce County Project Access, a nonprofit designed to connect doctors with patients at little to no cost, the South Sound Talk article reports. She decided to become involved with the Carol Milgard Breast Center because she was “ready to do something bigger,” she told South Sound Talk, and she hopes to invest her time in the people behind the organization.

1991 Gregory Custer was included in the Orange County Business Journal’s November list of the region’s 500 most influential business leaders. He is an executive vice president at Whittier Trust Company in Whittier, Calif., which oversees $12.7 billion in assets. Gregory holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and economics from Puget Sound, where he became a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He is also a graduate of Cannon Financial Institute’s Trust School and holds the
1993  In September, Tanya Saine Durand was interviewed by South Sound Business about her work as executive director of the Children’s Museum of Tacoma. Tanya began working at the museum as its development director in 1996, and became executive director a few years later, according to the article. In the piece, she discussed the importance of listening to and serving the community, as well as giving children space in an adult world. She also talked about the museum’s ongoing project to put a satellite campus at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, the first of its kind on a military base.

1994  REUNION YEAR  Thresholds, Glennna Bolender Cook’s book of poetry, was nominated for the Washington State Book Awards in August, The Seattle Times reported. Her book was one of six in the statewide contest’s poetry category. The annual awards are the product of a partnership between the Washington Center for the Book, The Seattle Public Library, and Washington State Library, and honor books published by Washington authors in the previous year. Awards are given to one author from each of the four adult categories (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and biography/memoir) and each of the four youth categories (picture books, books for young readers, books for middle grade readers, and books for young adult readers). Finalists were announced in October, and Lena Khalaf Tuffaha’s collection, Water & Salt, won the prize for poetry, according to The Seattle Times.

In August, Seth Ely became a senior lighting designer at global design firm Stantec. He works out of the company’s Seattle office and is responsible for growing the practice and expanding the lighting design team. Seth has 18 years of experience in lighting design and formerly worked for BuroHappold, an engineering consultancy in Los Angeles. He holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Logger crew team and joined the Sigma Nu fraternity. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Washington and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ravi Mantha was featured in a November Ritz magazine article about his diverse interests and careers as an author, angel investor, holistic health practitioner, and organic farmer in India. The question-and-answer piece touches on Sage Farm Café, Ravi’s farm-to-table eatery in Hyderabad, India; his involvement in solar and recycling projects; and the books he’s written about health. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, and told Ritz that he enjoys connecting people with each other. “It’s all about providing opportunities for young people across the social and economic spectrum, from not just our cities but from villages, to succeed,” he said in the article. “Educational opportunities to study abroad, encouraging entrepreneurship and risk-taking, and celebrating unconventional thinking is what we need to do more of.”

1995  Robert Nelson, director of the University of Richmond’s Digital Scholarship Lab, was quoted in an August article in The News Tribune about Tacoma’s history of real estate and housing discrimination. The article explores how racism embedded in federal home loan maps—known as redline maps—led to uphill battles for black families in Tacoma, and throughout the country, looking to buy a home. Robert’s work at the scholarship lab has included digitizing these maps from cities throughout the country and compiling them into an online project called Mapping Inequality. Robert earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound and a Ph.D. in American studies from the College of William & Mary.

1997  Evanne Pettibone Aarstad, a teacher at Lea Hill Elementary School, was named outstanding staff member of the month by the Auburn School District Board of Directors in September, according to a piece in the Auburn Reporter. Evanne works with students in kindergarten through third grade who have significant social/emotional and behavioral needs. She told the Auburn Reporter that she loves working with “the most challenging kids,” and Ed Herda, principal of Lea Hill, said, “Evanne is a special-forces version of a teacher—the best of the best.” She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Logger softball team and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

Puget Sound Trustee Jeremy Korst was named president at GBH Insights, a New York City-based marketing, research, and analytics agency, in October. According to an article in Business Wire, Jeremy was formerly a strategic advisor to GBH and now will be responsible for the company’s strategic marketing and insights practice. He holds a bachelor’s degree in politics and government from Puget Sound, where he joined the Sigma Chi fraternity, and a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Pennsylvania. He has held CMO and product management executive positions with Microsoft, T-Mobile, and Avalara.

In August, Joanna Vosburgh Pickett became Trinity University’s assistant vice president for alumni relations and development. She will be responsible for developing the university’s capital campaign strategy; managing annual giving, major gifts and planned giving, and advancement services; and helping to provide leadership for the entire division. Prior to accepting her position in San Antonio, Texas, Joanna was the assistant vice president of annual giving at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She earned a bachelor’s degree in comparative sociology from Puget Sound and a certification in nonprofit leadership and management from Georgetown University’s McCourt School of Public Policy.

2001  Maxine Cram McReynolds relocated this summer from Santa Fe, N.M., to Los Alamos, N.M. She continues to work as an attorney with the Office of General Counsel for Los Alamos National Laboratory. Maxine also has been busy pursuing her M.B.A. at the University of New Mexico’s Anderson School of Management, where she has met other Loggers. She says she is looking forward to connecting with more Puget Sound alumni in the Santa Fe area. Maxine holds a bachelor’s degree in international political economy from Puget Sound and a law degree from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Restaurateur Daniel Nguyen won a city council seat in Lake Oswego, Ore., in November. Daniel, who holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in the same subject from Marylhurst University, received more than 20 percent of the vote and took his seat on the council in January. Daniel and his wife own Bambuza, a chain of Portland-area Vietnamese restaurants. In November, after winning the election, he said in a Lake Oswego Review article that he was “humbled” by the reaction he received from voters.

2006  Esther Morgan-Ellis, assistant professor of music at the University of North Georgia, was featured in a Where I Lead profile on the university’s website in August. The piece explores Esther’s life and relationship with music leading up to her current teaching position. Esther not only teaches at UNG, but is the director of the school’s orchestra. She earned her master’s degree in music from UNG and also holds a bachelor’s degree in performance music from Puget Sound and a Ph.D. in music history from Yale University.
Crístine Scott, a former Logger swimmer and graduate of Puget Sound’s studio art program, was featured in a November Idylwild Town Crier article. She is the manager of the Idylwild Arts Foundation’s Parks Exhibition center in Idylwild, Calif., and also teaches art fundamentals to high school students. In November, she spoke as part of the foundation’s Spotlight on Leadership series. In addition to her bachelor’s degree from Puget Sound, Cristine holds a master’s degree in visual arts administration from New York University Steinhardt. Prior to her position at Idylwild Arts, she was executive director of the Durango Arts Center in Colorado.

In September, Katherine Van Eddy was one of two poets featured at a Rainbow Café reading in Auburn, Wash., according to the Auburn Reporter. Katherine, who lives in Tacoma and holds a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in teaching from Puget Sound, is a teacher at St. Vincent de Paul School and has been accepted to the Rainier Writing Workshop to earn an M.F.A. in poetry. Her poems have been published in Creative Colloquy Volume 4, HoosierLit, and Puget Sound’s Crosscurrents.

2007 Nicolas Cary, co-founder and vice chairman of the cryptocurrency company Blockchain, was quoted in an Oct. 16 Bloomberg article about the complicated logistics of universities accepting crypto donations. In 2014, Nicolas made a $10,000 (14.5 bitcoins) donation to Puget Sound using the digital currency bitcoin. He gave university administrators a crash course in cryptocurrency that resulted in Puget Sound changing its policies to accept the donation and becoming the first university to accept cryptocurrency donations.

“I wanted to prove that it could be done,” Nicolas, a graduate of Puget Sound’s Business Leadership Program, told Bloomberg.

Kat Reed spent eight years traveling the world in pursuit of further education. Now, her career has brought her right back to Tacoma. Kat graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology from Puget Sound before earning a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from the University of Melbourne in 2014. Last year, she earned a master’s degree in wild animal health (with an emphasis on infectious disease of penguins housed in zoos and aquariums) from the Royal Veterinary College and Zoological Society of London. In October, she began working in zoo animal medicine at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, where she worked as an intern while a student at Puget Sound. Kat says she cherished her time at the university, where she received guidance, support, and mentorship that allowed her to pursue and achieve her lifelong dream of becoming a zoo veterinarian. “I was taught to be ... empathetic and compassionate, as a health care provider and good Logger should be,” she says.

Tanya Rogers received her Ph.D. in ecology, evolution, and marine biology from Northeastern University in August. Her dissertation was on short- and long-term drivers of blue crab distribution, abundance, and population dynamics across the Atlantic coastline. She is now a post-doctoral research associate at the NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz, Calif., and is working on multispecies forecasting methods for marine ecosystem-based management. Tanya earned her bachelor’s degree in biology from Puget Sound, where she played tennis as a Logger.

2016 Former Logger rower Sergio Espinoza is one of the University of Washington’s men’s rowing team’s three assistant coaches for the 2018–19 season. According to a September statement from UW, Sergio has spent the last two years as an intern coach, and now will assist with recruiting and overseeing the oarsmen’s development with the Huskies’ third and fourth eights. Sergio also was in charge of the United States Under-23 men’s coxed four, which won the gold medal at the 2018 World Rowing Under-23 Championships in Poland. He holds a bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Puget Sound.

Lesa Hospenthal, a soprano who earned a bachelor’s degree in performance music from Puget Sound, graduated with a master’s degree in vocal performance from the Royal Academy of Music in London in July. She is a member of London’s Philharmonia Chorus and is pursuing a professional performance career.

2015 Jeanne-Marie Joubert is the queer programming director of Kremwerk, a queer-centric underground nightclub in Seattle that specializes in dance music and drag shows. On Sept. 14, she was quoted in a Seattle Times article about Kremfest, a four-night dance-music festival hosted by Kremwerk. Jeanne-Marie studied gender and queer studies at Puget Sound and began working for Kremwerk in 2015. In the Seattle Times piece, she spoke about the importance of safe-space training and zero-tolerance policies surrounding the safe space of the club. She is the creator of Kremwork’s safety statement, which is posted on the club’s walls and entryways. “Kremwerk strives to be a safe space. The following actions or display of behavior will not be tolerated: bigotry, racism, sexism, transphobia, homophobia, misogyny, ableism, as well as the disrespect of the rules of consent. Our staff is here to support you,” the statement, as printed in the article, reads.

2017 An article written by Greg Shipman, Puget Sound’s Orientation program manager and communication studies alumnus, and two other alumni was accepted for publication in the Northwest Journal of Communication. “Humor Functions Throughout Platonic Relationships: An Extension of Knapp’s Staircase Model,” was written by Greg, Duyen Vo ’16, Alesha Brown ’17, and Assistant Professor of Communication Studies Nicholas Brody.
Regional Clubs
Puget Sound’s regional clubs provide opportunities for alumni to connect with fellow Loggers in their cities. From networking events to happy hours and other outings, these volunteer-planned activities help Loggers take full advantage of the growing alumni network.

REGIONAL CLUB LEADERSHIP
Chair: Laura Coe ’10, laura.a.coe@gmail.com
Vice Chair: McKenzie Ross ’06, mckenzie.m.ross@gmail.com
Tacoma, Los Angeles, Portland, Washington D.C., Spokane, and New York City
Vice Chair: Gabe Davis ’14, gdavis12@gmail.com
Bay Area, Boise, Chicago, Denver, Hawai’i, and Seattle

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New York City
Searching for members. If you are interested in joining, please contact Samantha Gordon, Alumni & Parent Relations assistant director, at smgordon@pugetsound.edu.

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Tacoma
Heather Faverman ’02 and Jill Nguyen ’10
tacomaloggers@alumni.pugetsound.edu
Washington, D.C.
Svetlana Matt ’06, svetlana.matt@gmail.com

IT’S EASY TO GET INVOLVED! If you’re interested in learning more about the clubs, please email the coordinators in your area. If you don’t see your city but want to get involved, contact Samantha Gordon at smgordon@pugetsound.edu.
in memoriam

STAFF

For more than two decades, Peggy Carbone was a fixture of Puget Sound’s Catering Services. At the beginning of her career, she worked part time as a cashier in The Diner and later as a cook. In 1997, she began working full time and became catering coordinator in 2006. Puget Sound Chaplain Dave Wright ’96 said in a November email to the campus community that Peggy helped “ensure that thousands of campus events were well-supported and attendees were well-fed.” She died on Nov. 15, after a prolonged illness. A funeral was held for her on Nov. 20, and the Puget Sound community gathered in her memory in Rasmusen Rotunda six days later.

ALUMNI

Masaye Jinguji Fujita ’40, Hon.’40 died in Colorado on May 19. She was 100. A native of Tacoma, she attended Puget Sound and was a member of the Adelphian Concert Choir. She went on to become a church musician, hostess, and cook.

Betty Armour Thackrey ’45 passed away on July 19 at the age of 93. She grew up in Spanaway, Wash., and graduated from Lincoln High School before earning a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Puget Sound. At the university, she worked for ASUPS and became a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. Betty went on to earn a master’s degree in chemistry from the University of Washington and worked for Boeing on the Boemarc and Gapa missile projects. She later taught junior-high and high-school math in the Seattle area.

Rosemary Mansfield Gianelli ’45, a native of Portland, Ore., passed away on Sept. 24. She was 94. Rosemary graduated from Aquinas Academy (now part of Tacoma’s Bellarmine Preparatory School) and attended Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Alphi Phi sorority. She married Thomas Gianelli ’45 in 1944, and the couple moved with their children to California, where Thomas began a medical practice. They returned to the Northwest in 1963 and finished raising and educating their children. Thomas retired in 1983. Rosemary is preceded in death by Thomas and her daughter, Mary. She is survived by her other children, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

During the 2018-19 football season, Loggers wore green-and-gold stickers on their helmets to commemorate Paul Wallrof P’80, a beloved legend within the Puget Sound football program. Paul, known to many as “Big Wally,” coached Loggers for nearly two decades between 1966 and 1985. The sport wasn’t just a passion of his, it quite literally saved him, he said in a 2005 Arches piece. Paul, a Seattle native, graduated from Seattle’s Cleveland High School, where he admits he underperformed on the football team and academically. He began a mind-numbing job at a furniture store and learned quickly that he wanted something better. He enrolled at Everett Junior College and joined the football team. The coach forced him to attend classes. He did well enough to transfer to the University of Washington, but not before being drafted by the U.S. Marine Corps in 1952. He continued playing football for Marine teams and completed his service months after the Korean War ended. He earned a bachelor’s degree in physical education from UW in 1958, and taught and coached in Seattle public schools before coming to Puget Sound as an assistant football coach in 1966. The job was “a dream come true,” he said in the Arches piece. Seven years later, he became the program’s head coach and led the Loggers to a 31-18-1 record from 1973 to 1978. Paul was inducted into the Puget Sound Athletics Hall of Fame in 2005, and recognized not only for his teams’ winning records but for his role as a mentor to his players. At the 2005 induction ceremony, former Puget Sound Director of Athletics Doug McArthur ’53 noted that no coach has been as cherished by his players as Paul was. “Wallrof was loved,” Doug said. During Homecoming and Family Weekend in September, more than 100 alumni and former Puget Sound football players from the four decades of the university’s Green-and-Gold era gathered in Rasmusen Rotunda to remember the legendary coach who many said profoundly affected their lives after graduation. Paul continued to coach youth football on Vashon Island well into his 70s. He died in August.
in memoriam

Doris Aube '58, a native of Tacoma and longtime community leader, died on Aug. 9. Born in 1928, Doris was a dedicated servant to her community and a beloved member of the Puget Sound community. She passed away peacefully in her home on Sept. 16.

Joan Mooney Rowe '50, a native of Lakeview, Wash., died on Aug. 10. Born in 1930, Joan was a graduate of the University of Washington and spent 11 years patrolling the Delta Delta Delta sorority, and became a primary-school teacher at Medina Elementary School in Bellevue, Wash. She traveled the world with her first husband, Jack Huston, and the couple had three sons. She returned to Washington in 1968, and began helping refugee students at Bellevue Senior High learn English. After 11 years, she began traveling again, but returned to Washington in the 1980s. It was then she earned a master's degree from the University of Washington and worked as a librarian at Medina Elementary. She retired in 1989 and moved to San Juan Island.

Reed Sargent '51, a Tacoma native and U.S. Army veteran, passed away suddenly on Sept. 28. He was 88. Reed earned a bachelor's degree in speech from Puget Sound and spent 32 years as a teacher in the Seattle school district.

Roger Covert '52 died in Stanwood, Wash., on Oct. 9. He was 91. Born and raised in Everett, Wash., Roger graduated from Everett High School before joining the U.S. Navy and deploying in 1945 during World War II. He completed his service and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound. He worked as a teacher, coach, and administrator for many years.

William Norton '52 died on Oct. 31 after a fight against cancer. He was 88. Born and raised in Tacoma, William graduated from Stadium High School and attended Puget Sound and the University of Washington before serving in the U.S. Air Force and being stationed in Germany. Upon returning stateside, he began a career with the Washington State Patrol and spent 11 years patrolling Snoqualmie Pass. He retired in 1984 and was later elected Island County Sheriff, which he served as for four years.

Robert Rieflin '52 passed away suddenly on Oct. 17 at the age of 88. Born in and raised in Tacoma, Robert graduated from Stadium High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He was a member of the Logger track and field team and Kappa Sigma fraternity. Six years after graduating, he married Olive Ann Allredge and had four children.

Beverly Warner Rush '52, P'77 died peacefully in her home on Sept. 16. She was 88. Beverly graduated from Tacoma's Stadium High School and attended Puget Sound, where she joined the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She met Ray Rush '52 at the university, and the two married the year they graduated. Beverly became an authority on textile arts, an accomplished artist, and a published author of books and many articles in arts periodicals. She is preceded in death by Ray and survived by her daughter and four grandchildren.

Joanne Lowry Poage '53, a Tacoma native and elementary-school teacher, died on July 30 at the age of 86. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority, worked for ASUPS, and met Donald Poage '51, whom she would marry after graduating. Joanne went on to teach kindergarten and first grade and traveled the country with Donald as he completed his service and medical training with the U.S. Public Health Service. She, Donald, and their three children eventually settled in Coos Bay, Wash. Joanne is survived by her husband, children, and seven grandchildren.

Beverly Nelson Kilkenny '55 died on June 1 at the age of 85. Born and raised in Tacoma, she attended Puget Sound, where she joined the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She later moved to Kansas and was a founding member of the Church of the Nativity parish in Leawood, Kan.

Jim Miller '56 passed away on May 25 at the age of 86. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. After graduating, Jim began working at SeaFirst Corporation. He went on to work at Bank of America and retired from his position as senior vice president.

Marian Roberts Klosterhoff '56 died on July 13. She was 83. Marian attended Puget Sound and was a member of the Chi Omega sorority.

Vincent Schaefer '56 passed away on July 24 in Medina, Minn. He was 86. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. John's University in 1953, and served in the U.S. Army before attending Puget Sound.

William Stavig '56 died on Sept. 23 at the age of 87. Born and raised in Tacoma, William graduated from Lincoln High School before marrying Pat, his high school sweetheart, and being drafted into the U.S. Army. In 1952 he was stationed at Camp Roberts in California, and also served in New Mexico before returning home. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. He and Pat moved to Richland, Wash., where he began a career as a nuclear engineer at General Electric. The couple had three children. William retired in 1993 and moved with his wife to Redmond, Wash.

Alfred Aube '58 passed away on Sept. 29 at the age of 85. Born in Michigan, he moved with his family to the Northwest in the 1940s. After high school, he served in the U.S. Army during the post-Korean War era. Upon completing his service, he earned a bachelor's degree in geology from Puget Sound and became a teacher in the Bethel School District. He taught for 26 years before opening a business—Aube's Woodland Nursery and Landscaping—with his wife, Virginia.

Jim Miller '56 passed away on May 25 at the age of 86. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. After graduating, Jim began working at SeaFirst Corporation. He went on to work at Bank of America and retired from his position as senior vice president.

Marian Roberts Klosterhoff '56 died on July 13. She was 83. Marian attended Puget Sound and was a member of the Chi Omega sorority.

Joanne Peterson Cook '62, '63 passed away on Aug. 21 in Illinois, one month after her 82nd birthday. She grew up in Japan and graduated from Tokyo American High School before earning her bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound. She became a teacher at Our Saviour Grade School in Jacksonville, Ill.

Jerry White '61, M.Ed.'68 passed away on Sept. 10 from Alzheimer's disease. He was 82. Jerry was born in Nebraska and moved to Tacoma with his family. He graduated from Lincoln High School and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. Following his service, he moved back to Tacoma, graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in history, and married Diane Crippen '61. Jerry taught at Cascade Middle School in Auburn, Wash., for nearly 40 years, taking a brief break from 1963 to 1965 to join the Peace Corps and teach in Tanzania.

Nicholas Johnson '62 passed away at his home in Auburn, Wash., on Oct. 26. He was 78. The Tacoma native and longtime dentist attended Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity, before earning his doctorate in dentistry from the University of Washington. He served in the U.S. Navy for two years before completing his orthodontic residency in Seattle. He is survived by Deette Slater Johnson '63, his wife of 56 years.

Joanne Peterson Cook '62, '63, a lifelong Tacoma resident and Stadium High School graduate, died on Aug. 15. She earned a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from Puget Sound, where she
was a member of the Chi Omega sorority and worked for The Trail and Tamanawas. She spent her occupational therapy career working with children in elementary schools. Joanne married Stuart Cook in 1963 and had two daughters.

Thomas Sobottka ’62, a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel and college administrator, died on Oct. 1. He was 79. A Seattle native, Thomas graduated from Franklin High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and Air Force ROTC. He later earned a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Washington. Thomas served in the U.S. Air Force in Majorca, Spain, as a radar officer and navigator and, after leaving active duty, served in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. In civilian life, he worked as an administrator at multiple community colleges in Washington.

Patricia Grubisa Johnson ’63 passed away on Aug. 3 at the age of 77. A Tacoma native, she graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in literature and was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She also met Edward Johnson ’62, a Tacoma native, she graduated from Bellingham High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound, and went on to work in business at Mar-Corn International.

Gail Bristol ’64 died in Florida on June 4. She was 76. Gail earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Chi Omega sorority. She became a teacher and retired from Yulee Middle School in Florida.

Robert Hofeditz ’64, a Tacoma native, died on Aug. 5. He was 80. Robert attended the University of Washington and was a member of the Huskies baseball team, which won the Pacific Coast Conference Northern Division title in 1959. The team also went on to be the first Huskies squad to qualify for the NCAA Baseball Regionals, falling just one game short of the College World Series. Robert later earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and went on to work in business at Mar-Corn International.

Nancy Cary Peloquin ’64 passed away on Aug. 18 at the age of 76. Born in Seattle, she grew up in Yakima, Wash., and returned to Western Washington for college. Nancy earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Puget Sound and became a business representative for numerous phone companies. In retirement, she enjoyed quilting and lived with her husband, Paul, in Vancouver, Wash.

Dale Langley ’66 passed away in Oregon on Sept. 12, five weeks after his 82nd birthday. Born in Spokane, Wash., Dale graduated from high school in Germany before earning a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Puget Sound. He coached and taught health and physical education at Binnsmead Middle School (now Harrison Park School) in Portland, Ore., for 26 years.

Nancy Emerson Holl ’67 died on Oct. 20 after an eight-year fight against ovarian cancer. She was 73. Born in Sedro-Woolley, Wash., Nancy attended Burlington-Edison High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Chi Omega sorority. She was an elementary-school teacher in Merced, Calif., and Lynnwood, Wash., but moved back to Lake Samish, Wash., to raise her two sons with her husband, Michael, who preceded her in death.

Kenneth Lake ’67 died in California on Aug. 18. He was 94. A California native, Kenneth served in the U.S. Army for 22 years and was stationed throughout the South Pacific during World War II. He also performed intelligence and counterintelligence duties in Germany, Japan, and Vietnam before retiring in 1966. Following his service, he earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in systems management from the University of Southern California. He returned to federal government work for 21 years and retired again in 1988 as deputy director of information management for I Corps at what was then Fort Lewis.

Jack Ancich ’69 passed away in Tacoma on Aug. 12. He was 72. Born in Tacoma’s Hilltop neighborhood, he graduated from Bellarmine Preparatory School and attended Puget Sound. He began his career in the automotive aftermarket as a manufacturer’s representative, and in 1983 he started his own business, Trans Western Marketing, which he developed into an international company. He enjoyed running it until his death.

Lillian Warnick ’69, M.Ed.’73 passed away on Oct. 21 at the age of 84. A child of Lithuanian Jewish immigrant parents, Lillian was raised in Bellingham, Wash., and graduated from Bellingham High School. She attended the University of Washington, where she met Jack Warnick. The two married during her sophomore year and started a family in Tacoma. Lillian restarted her studies at Puget Sound and earned a bachelor’s degree in communication and theatre arts. She was an English teacher before returning to Puget Sound as part of a graduate program for women. She worked as an education administrator for Tacoma Public Schools and Tacoma Community College for 25 years. During that time, she also earned a doctorate in organizational leadership.

Lenora Newman Longfellow ’72 passed away on Aug. 8 at the age of 88. A Texas native, she married Dale Longfellow, a member of the U.S. Air Force, in 1950. The couple moved to Tacoma with their two daughters after his retirement. She began working at the Tacoma Police Department and earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. She went on to work as a federal civil service employee of the U.S. Navy at the Bremerton Shipyard.

Glen Macy ’73 died in Oregon on Oct. 26. He was 67. Glen graduated from McMinnville High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.
in memoriam

Patricia Clifford ’74 died on Aug. 18. She was 92. Patricia was born in Seattle and earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Puget Sound.

David Turner ’74 died in Mukilteo, Wash., on Aug. 26. He was 66. David graduated from Cascade High School in Everett, Wash., in 1970, and went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he joined the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. After college, he held leadership positions at numerous banks, eventually retiring from First Heritage Bank as a construction loan manager.

Spencer Nelson ’76 passed away on Sept. 11 after a decades-long fight with multiple sclerosis. He was 71. Born and raised in Tacoma, Spencer served in the U.S. Air Force from 1965 to 1969 before returning home and beginning a career with what was then the King County police department. During that time, he earned a bachelor’s degree in public administration from Puget Sound. He worked for the department for many years and retired as a sergeant of detectives in the Homicide and Major Crimes Unit.

Sesinando Cantor M.B.A.’78 passed away on March 13 at the age of 79. Born in the Philippines, he was an attorney before immigrating to the United States in the 1970s. He earned his M.B.A. and CPA license, and went on to work for Microsoft, ENI, and the city of Seattle before opening his own CPA practice.

June Milette M.B.A.’84 died on Oct. 22 after battling multiple sclerosis for many years. She was 88. Born in Aberdeen, Wash., June graduated from Annie Wright Schools and attended the University of Oregon and the University of Washington before earning her master’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. She taught business classes at multiple Seattle high schools before retiring from Roosevelt High School.

President Crawford hits the road

Join President Isiaah Crawford in a city near you for an alumni reception and unveiling of Puget Sound’s vision for the next 10 years. For more info and to register, go to pugetsound.edu/presidentialtour.

You can help prepare leaders for a changing world
Expand your Logger network—become a class leader—join your local Alumni Club—make a gift to the Alumni Fund or Parent Fund to support students and faculty—recruit and interview prospective students—take a Logger to work—host an internship—hire a new graduate—shape the future of Puget Sound!

Contact us to learn more:
Andrea Tull Davis ’02, alumni council president, atull@pugetsound.edu
Sharon and Conway Brew P’21, parents council co-chairs, sbrew@pugetsound.edu
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Tacoma 11.29 | Seattle 12.4 | Los Angeles 12.12 | San Francisco 12.13
Denver 1.16 | Boise 1.17 | Washington, D.C. 2.6 | Portland 2.12
Honolulu 3.28 | New York 5.30 | Chicago 6.25 | Minneapolis 6.26

Emily Moss Fortner ’05, D.P.T.’08 and her husband, Jeff, welcomed daughter Robyn Amelia on March 14. She weighed 7 pounds, 13 ounces, and Emily says she “has been the perfect addition to our busy household.” She joins big sister Brooke and big brother Henry. “She is an easygoing baby who is quick to smile and loves to get in the middle of everything,” Emily says.

Since graduating with a bachelor’s degree in communication studies four years ago, Holly Aguiar ’14 has begun working as a tasting-room manager for Tertulia Cellars in Woodinville, Wash. The position allowed her to connect with fellow Logger Blake Barfuss ’67. Holly, who joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority while at Puget Sound, says the two bonded over “the beautiful campus, what it’s like to be a Logger, and how different Greek life is now versus the ’60s.” While he was a student, Blake joined the Kappa Sigma fraternity’s Puget Sound chapter. The duo snapped this photo when Blake came in and tasted Tertulia Cellars’ 2014 Carménère.

Brianne Kwasny ’10 and Jiri Senkyrik ’10 got married July 14 at their home in Nederland, Colo. Several Loggers who have stayed close with the couple since graduating eight years ago attended, including Donald Moenning ’10, who was the officiant. Jake Thom ’11 and Stan Freedman ’10 provided music, playing original songs that paid tribute to the couple and the strong bonds Loggers all share. Back row, from left: Jake; Thor Ruskoski ’10, M.A.T.’11; Sam Stookesberry Jr. ’10; Jordan Ng ’10; Ali Heartman ’10; Reilly Boland; Nathaniel Goldstein ’10; Kyle Sias ’10; Sam Antoine ’10; Devin Black ’10; and Stan. Front row, from left: Terry Blaszczak ’10, Scooter Sabel ’10, Donald, the groom and bride, and Margo Archey ’10. Kneeling: Adam Senkyrik ’06.

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Nearly 20 years after first meeting at Puget Sound, six Loggers met near Mount Hood, Ore., accompanied by their families, for a reunion. In total, 20 people shared a house and ventured out to Lake Trillium, Timberline Lodge, and various kid-friendly hiking trails. The chaos of the weekend was very reminiscent of the year the six Loggers spent as roommates in “The Stoop” on 19th and Alder. From left: Matt Bennett; Rachel Quisenberry Bennett ’02, holding Leah Burton; Lisa Von Rueden, holding Hank Von Rueden; Michael Von Rueden ’02, M.A.T.’03, holding John Von Rueden; Ashley Case, holding Marlowe Case; Melissa Kelly Vieira ’04, holding Camden and William Vieira; Tyler Case ’02, holding Miles Case; Michael Vieira ’02, Allison Hummels Daniels ’02, holding Mia Daniels; and Zack Daniels.

Thara Nelson Cooper ’91, P’22, a proud Logger and former member of the Adelphian Concert Choir, graduated from Puget Sound with honors and a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. She went on to add music and drama to her teaching certificate and has been a public school teacher for more than 27 years. She has three children: Elizabeth, 14; Zoe, 12; and Will, who is a first-year student at Puget Sound. He is singing bass in the Adelphian Concert Choir and majoring in music.

More than 60 members of the Class of 1968 gathered in Kilworth Memorial Chapel for a group photo during Summer Reunion Weekend in June. Front row, from left: Patricia Garber Chesebro ’68; Patricia Mason Deal ’68, M.Ed.’92; Sheila Keil Osheroff ’68; Paul Morris ’68, M.A.’77; Stuart Maier ’68; Lowell G. Daun ’68; Alice Ann Glenn ’68; Sandra Shipps Hageman ’68, P’95; Marilyn Vukovich Kokich ’68, P’96; Margaret Cook ’68; Kathy Young ’68; Susan George Merry ’68; Cheryl Hart Volheim ’68, and Judy Kippenhan Halstead ’68. Second row, from left: George Philip ’68; Ruth Keller McFadden ’68; Diana Kingsley Heald ’68; Brenda Mc Indoe Hunt ’68, ’69; Cheryl Daniels Ratay ’68; Kathy Schiller Judkins ’68; Suzanne Scherdin Haizlip ’68; Judith Duvall Dykes ’68; Carol Stebbins Mariano ’68; Gail Plee Woodard ’68; Mark Redal ’68; Dorcas Rushfeldt Colito ’68; Jane Mitchell Hebert ’68; Sallie Howe Patt ’68, P’97, P’00; Betsy Barrett ’68; Gay Brazas Buck ’68; and Tamia Mitchell Duggan ’68. Third row, from left: Donald Pulsevich ’68, M.Ed.’72; Reuben Larson ’68; Gary Teichroew ’68; Don Layfield ’68; Frederick Selden ’68; David Nelson ’68; Clay Loges ’68; Tad Rolfe ’68; Dave Thomas ’68; Harold Neace ’68, P’98, P’02; Ann Fitzgerald Larrabee M.Ed.’68; M. Teres Jensen Millar ’68; Brewster Gray ’68; and Karen Spence ’68. Fourth row, from left: Paul Kristensen ’68, P’04; Stephen Doolittle ’68, P’94; Russell Heald ’68; Lee Kulla ’68; Terry Hale ’68; Kenneth V. Peterson ’68; Rainer Willingham ’68, P’92, P’95; Jerry J. Bassett ’68; Paul Muller ’68; John Hitt ’68; Rick Carr ’68, P’03; Brian Kearns ’68; Alice Knotts ’68; Joe Knotts ’68; George Mills ’68, M.S.’72; Susan Crary Blethen ’68, and Robert Blethen ’68.
Ian Foster ’03 took time off from his busy schedule raising three children—Nels, 5; Mica, 2; and Greta, 6 months—and helping his wife, April Nelson Foster ’03, set up her new pediatric dental practice to cycle the Going to the Sun Road in Glacier National Park with his former biology professor Terry Mace, who retired in 2003, and former Puget Sound chemistry professor Anne Wood. Ian joined Terry and Anne, who ride a tandem, on Aug. 4 for the 55-mile, 4,085-feet-of-elevation ride over the Continental Divide at Logan Pass to St. Mary, Mont. The ride was part of Terry and Anne’s six-day loop tour of Glacier National Park, which was guided by Cycling House, a company Ian works for on a part-time basis. From left: Terry, Ian, and Anne at the top of Logan Pass in Montana.

At the Wilderness Risk Management Conference in Portland, Ore., in October, Justin Canny ’90, Puget Sound’s assistant director of student activities for outdoor programs, reconnected with fellow Logger outdoor enthusiasts. “It is great to see Loggers engage in adventure education, wilderness therapy, and wilderness medicine,” Justin says. From left: Justin, Anne McCormick ’14, Tim Kelley ’13, Tedra Hamel ’12, and Hannah Robideaux ’17.

Nina Sherburne ’09 and Charlie Bevis ’08 tied the knot at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., on July 7. A total of 10 first-generation Loggers attended the event. Nina and Charlie live in St. Paul, where Nina works as a parent-toddler class assistant at the local Waldorf preschool and runs her company, Mighty Oaks Parenting. Charlie works as a developer for the e-commerce platform Drip.

Dakota Resnik ’11 and Kristine Morris ’12 were married on Aug. 11 in Lake Tahoe, Calif. The couple live in Seattle with their dog and were married nine years after meeting at Puget Sound. Dakota is a database engineer at Expedia, and Kristine is a nurse at Seattle Children’s Hospital.

During the week of Oct. 6, roommates and friends from the classes of 1985 and 1986 gathered for a mini reunion at the Phoenix home of Deborah Gonzalez ’87 and Bill Judy. Highlights of the week included a game of H-O-R-S-E (the basketball kind) in the swimming pool, Puget Sound classmate bingo, a hike on South Mountain, and a bocce ball tournament. Front row, from left: Robert Osler ’85, Bill, Deborah, and James Roos ’86. Back row, from left: David Billings ’86, Robert Nelsen ’85, Robert Kerr ’85, Ben Davis ’87, Donald Brown ’85, and Kenny Louie ’86. The reunion was the fourth edition of what has become a biennial event. The tradition began as a celebration of life for Tucker Inn housemate Charles Pellegrin ’85, who died in January 2012. The mini reunions continue on in his memory.
Dozens of Puget Sound alumni gathered en masse for a “hack hack, chop chop” photo at the wedding of Madeline Ranstrom ’13 and Eric Laukkanen ’14 in Bend, Ore., on July 28. Loggers in attendance included Sean Rice ’12; Kristen Delwiche ’12; Billy Wonderly ’12; Molly Stutzman ’13; Jim Weber ’12; Sam Gregory ’12; Kyle Thackray ’12; Michael Dooley ’12; Mike Knape ’12; Elli McKinley ’13; Maddy Fisk ’13; Daniel Watson ’12; Zane Muller ’12; Suzanne Taylor ’11; Sterling Ingle-Mead ’12; Catherine Means ’12; Garrett Stanford ’13; Wes Finger ’14; Bradia Holmes ’13; Jessica Forbes ’13; Eryn Eby ’13; Drew Harrison ’14; Wylie Janousek ’13; Jeffrey Judkins ’13; Claire Mahoney ’16; Jeremiah Firman ’13; Emerson Sample ’13; Liza Darlington ’12; M.A.T.’14; Kevin Fagan ’11; Libby Shafer ’13; Mikaela Forest ’16; and Josilyn Ogden ’17.

Vince Ghiringhelli ’10 and Blair Udwin ’08 got married in downtown Tacoma on April 28. The couple, who met through mutual friends after they had both graduated, had a hometown celebration and mini reunion with a large group of Loggers. From far back left: Matthew Reese ’07; Greg Bailey ’09; Miles Murphy ’10; Jesse Young ’10; Duncan White ’11, M.A.T.’14; Erika Herbst ’07; Kaysha Bowton ’10; Jesse Hamburger ’10; Kristi Visser ’12; Kevin Wright ’10; Mark Delbrueck ’09; James Powell; James Sobotka ’10, M.A.T.’12; Kiko Doi ’08; Heather Thomson ’08 (hidden); Ian Talbot ’08 (hidden); Kayla Boortz Young ’11 (hidden); Liz Jones Wallace ’08; Codie Ierien ’08; Jillian Curiel Schroeder ’09; Hannah Miller Bergersen ’10; Dana Rake ’10, M.A.T.’11; Derek Woodworth ’10; Doug Cox ’10; Bryce Levin ’10; Melissa Maier Murphy ’12; Lizzy Mosher ’10; Katelyn Stinde Manzella ’10; Christi Mosher Walsh ’08; the bride and groom; Carrie Carr Reese ’08; Sarah Rake ’10; Abi Dvorak Ameen ’10; Spencer Crace ’10; Cory Dunn ’10; Matt Manzella ’10; Michael Pannier ’10; and Brian Walker ’10.

Lael Carlson Krug ’02 and her husband, Michael Krug, welcomed their first child in fall 2017. Margreta Belle was born on Nov. 2, 2017. The Krugs live on the Hood Canal, in Seabeck, Wash., where Michael works as an engineer and Lael is a deputy prosecuting attorney in the general felony trial unit at the Kitsap County Prosecutor’s Office.

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While touring Minnesota colleges with their daughter, Puget Sound professors Eric Scharrer and Jo Crane were able to have dinner and tour the chemistry facilities at the University of Minnesota, where several Puget Sound chemistry alumni are currently working on their graduate degrees or postdoctoral research. From left: Craig Van Bruggen ’12; Eric, Robin Harkins ’14; Mary Packard ’15; Zoe Maxwell ’17; Jo, and Wilson Bailey ’11. Not pictured: James Gallagher ’11 and Jack Elder ’15.

On Sept. 1, four members of the Class of 1993 got together in Columbus, Ohio, to watch The Ohio State University Buckeyes defeat the Oregon State Beavers. The group visited Raymond Mineau ’93, who now lives in Columbus. Pictured from left: Karl Zener ’93, M.A.T.’94; Christopher Kuhl ’93; Raymond; and Steve Little ’93.

Send Scrapbook photos to arches@pugetsound.edu.
Each year, a group of Gamma Phi Beta alumni who graduated in 1993 get together for a girls’ weekend in the Pacific Northwest. The event took place on campus this year and brought together, from left: Kimberly Norman Ledford ’93, Amy Hall ’93, Sarah Hynes Cheney ’93, Eileen Lynch ’93, Krista West Welch ’93, Tanya Saine Durand ’93, Jennifer Teunon ’93, Jennifer DeBoer Roark ’93, Robin Harris Reents ’93, Tiffany Ross Davies ’93, Jenny Cook Morrison ’93, Julia Trumbo Primozich ’93, and Erika Riddle Primozich ’93.

T’wina Franklin ’06, M.A.T.’07 married J.R. Nobles on Saturday, Aug. 25, at St. John Baptist Church in Tacoma. T’wina is the president and CEO of the Tacoma Urban League, and J.R. is director of the Tacoma/South Puget Sound MESA program at Pacific Lutheran University.

Cape Decision Lighthouse on remote Kuiu Island, Alaska, was the backdrop for an unexpected gathering of Puget Sound alumni last summer. The group completed lighthouse restoration projects, trail work (notice the Logger gear), and marine plastics debris research with the Ikatsu Project. The week of work allowed time for many stories, including proud memories of time well spent as Loggers. From left: JoAnn Moore ’78, Rhonda Gilliland Higgins ’80, Chris Brooks ’96, Brooks Einstein ’02, Ryan Allen ’02, and Steve Lanwermeyer ’02.

Anneke Mohr ’03 (right) married Jackie Scott at Kohler-Andrae State Park in Sheboygan, Wis., on June 30. The couple lives in Milwaukee, where Anneke coordinates a tobacco prevention coalition and Jackie is a seventh-grade social studies teacher.

Nina Natina Gibbs ’00 and husband Joshua Gibbs welcomed their daughter, Sasha, in April 2017. The family lives in Redding, Calif., and Nina recently founded her second business—Swim Foundations, which is a mobile swim school and training program for professional swim instructors. Nina was a member of the Logger swim team while studying politics and government at Puget Sound.
On Sept. 23, 2017, Kate Cohn ’00, P’19, Puget Sound’s assistant dean for operations and technology, and her partner of nearly 20 years, Alex Bittmann P’19, celebrated their wedding in Tacoma. Kate says the occasion was “a great reason to pull together a whole bunch of Loggers for a party that will certainly go down in the books.” Back row, from left: Puget Sound’s former Associate Director of Annual Giving Debbie Loomis; former Vice President for Enrollment Jenny Rickard; Director of Donor Relations and Campaign Programs Rebecca Harrison ’01; Daniel Hulse ’02; former Director of Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services Donn Marshall; Matt Sanborn; Scott Wurster ’96; Kate; Brooks Einstein ’02; and political economy assistant professor Emelie Peine. Front row, from left: Puget Sound Director of Residence Life Deborah Chee; Director of the Office of the President Liz Collins ’81, P’02; Robin Seiwerath M.O.T.’80; Lauren Meyer ’02; Chris Bachman ’02; Rhonda Gililand Higgins ’80; Kristin Williamson ’02; Gretchen Van Dyke Miller ’99; Maya Bittmann ’19; Brynn Hambly ’02; and Elizabeth Beaulieu Stumpner ’02, holding future Logger Greta Stumpner. In addition to working at Puget Sound, getting married, and being a proud parent to daughter Maya, Kate finished her first year of law school at Seattle University last summer. She says pursuing a law degree has been on her radar for many years, and she plans to use the degree to strengthen her skill set working in higher education administration or to pursue a completely new path as a practicing attorney.

Nearly 20 Loggers and Kappa Sigma brothers gathered in Gig Harbor, Wash., in July for the annual Kappa Sigma Golf, Barbecues, and Draft. Charles Wolsborn ’73, P’10 sent in this photo and said that while the group did not set any golf records, a significant dent was put in the local butter clam population. Standing, from left: C.S. McCartney ’76; Larry Eckert ’72, M.B.A.’84; William Lincoln ’72; Arthur Samuelson ’74; Dan Abbey ’73; Larry VanLanningham ’73; Bruce Uppinghouse ’73; Peter Lobb ’76; Donald Jacobs ’75, P’06; Paul Ferry ’71; Steven Zimmerman ’73; and Richard Tucker ’76. Seated, from left: Thomas Brown ’73; John Kucher ’77; Charles; Richard Aeschlimann ’72; and Patrick Anunsen ’73, P’12. In attendance, but not pictured: Steven Westerberg ’73 and James Peters ’76.

Andy Frank ’09 and Gabrielle Davis ’10 got married in Seattle on Sept. 8, surrounded by many fellow Loggers. Back row, from left: James Lee ’09, Aaron Soffer ’09, Max Kabrich ’09, Max Dworkin ’09, Carly Cruz ’09, and Heather Carr Tolbert ’09. Front row, from left: Kaitlyn Kubokawa Zarlee ’09; Stacy Swiess ’09; Hannah Horsfall ’10; Maureen Wolsborn ’10, the bride and groom, and Melissa Maier Murphy ’10.

As part of their Biology 211 - Ecology course, Puget Sound students took a field trip in November to the Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge to look at and count bird species. The course explores the interactions among individuals in a population, populations in a community, and communities in ecosystems.
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