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THE GOLD MEDALIST YOU NEVER HEARD OF

The little-known story of skiing pioneer Gretchen Kunigk Fraser ’41.
UNDER THE LIGHTS
The baseball team picked a glorious night in January to kick off practice for the 2023 season on Lower Baker Field.

Tina Hay, editor
Kristofer Nyström, art director
Sarah Stall, assistant editor
Jonny Eberle, contributing editor
Charis Hensley, graphic designer/production artist
Sy Bean, photographer, except as noted

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Editorial Office arches@pugetsound.edu; or Arches, Office of Marketing and Communications, University of Puget Sound, 1500 N. Warner St. #1041, Tacoma, WA 98416-1041.

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Featured Contributors
Michael Weinreb (p. 14) is an author, journalist, and screenwriter specializing in sports, American culture, and 20th century history. He has written four books.

Amy Downey (p. 4, p. 20) has written for Boston and Philadelphia magazines and is a regular contributor to Arches.

Karin Vandraiss ’13 (p. 28) has written for more than a dozen publications, on travel, mental health and wellness, and social impact.

Juliane Bell ’13 (p. 34) is the food editor at EverOut.com and a freelance writer based in Seattle.

Christopher Hann (p. 38) is a freelance writer whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Entrepreneur, Art & Antiques, and numerous alumni magazines.


Cover Gretchen Kunigk Fraser ’41 was a quiet hero—and not just on the ski slopes. See p. 14. Photo: Bettmann Archive; colorization: Kristofer Nyström.
Puget Sound athletics just received a huge boost: a historic $10 million gift. What will that make possible?

Obviously, we’re very excited about the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation’s gift. It’ll be transformational for us. Athletics plays a key role in advancing our mission and goals, and we’re committed to building a championship culture centered on the student-athlete experience. We aspire to have our sports teams be routinely competitive at the national level. We believe that will create energy and excitement on campus, promote a sense of pride among our students and alumni, enhance student recruitment and community engagement, and increase the visibility of the university.

Some people might be surprised that a gift of this magnitude went to athletics. Well, both Tom and Meg believed in the power of the student-athlete experience to provide unique opportunities to develop habits of mind and skills that foster a strong work ethic, personal responsibility, teamwork, leadership, and time management. We agree with the perspective they held. These are attributes and qualities that are attractive to employers, and they also help make for fantastic human beings and citizens. This incredibly generous gift will help us in the promotion of the holistic development and well-being of our student athletes, which will position them for lifelong success.

And I believe the statistic has long been that one in four students at Puget Sound is involved in intercollegiate athletics. Yes, actually, this year, 27% of our students are engaged in varsity athletics.

I know you especially love Division III sports, with its relative purity and its emphasis on playing for the love of the game. Absolutely. With Division III, the emphasis is fully on the student-athlete, where rigorous academic study is wonderfully blended with the pure joy of engaging in one’s sport and athletic competition. I just really love seeing that made manifest at the Division III level. It’s a thrill to observe.

And it doesn’t have to mean not being competitive, right? In fact, you talk about building a championship culture. How will this gift help? One of the reasons we’re excited about the gift is that it will support our Puget Sound Performance Success initiative, which focuses on three areas. The first is physical readiness: The gift will enhance our strength and conditioning programming for student-athletes, which will help elevate their athletic prowess, so they can compete at the highest levels. The second component is wellness—we will be able to further offer intentional and proactive care for our student-athletes and enhance our ability to support their physical and mental health and safety. And third, the gift will allow us to promote the personal and professional development of our student-athletes, to help them learn how to use the skills they’re developing from their athletic activities in their personal and professional lives. Through all of that, we believe our student athletes will be able to compete at the highest levels—in all aspects of their lives.

How close are we to having that championship culture?

This past fall, we were very close: Our women’s soccer and women’s volleyball teams made it to the NCAA championships. And we’ve had other types of success across the years. Our hope is that with the generosity of this gift, we’ll routinely see our teams compete at the highest levels—so much so that we’ll grow accustomed to it.

How about you? You’ve been an athlete all your life. Are you still playing softball?

I am. Thank you for remembering that. I play in a league up in Seattle, and I’m looking forward to our 2023 season; I’m hopeful that my knees will hold up. I played last year—I primarily play second base, sometimes right or left center—and I had a great time. The team is very generous to me, given the demands on my time with the university. I’m essentially a part-time player, but the team is gracious in allowing me to continue to play with them.

—Interview by Tina Hay
What We’re Talking About on Campus

TOGETHER AGAIN
Seventy Adelphian alumni joined current Adelphians for a concert in October to mark the group’s 90th anniversary. The singers performed Morten Lauridsen’s Lux Aeterna, Brahms’ How Sad Flow the Streams, and a choral piece by music prof Robert Hutchinson, Music Was Given. The weekend also included a Friday-night social and a Sunday brunch.

DEMOCRACY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE
“What Just Happened? And What Will Happen Next? Examining American Democracy in an Uncertain Moment” was the topic of the Pierce Lecture, given by Melissa Harris-Perry, host of the public radio show The Takeaway and Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University. Harris-Perry visited in November.

CONFERENCE CHAMPS
The women’s volleyball team had a great season, winning the Northwest Conference championship for the first time since 2000 and earning a bid to the NCAA tournament. Head coach Mark Massey was named NWC Coach of the Year.

EQUALLY SUPER
This year’s recipients of the Matelich Scholarship are Mercer Stauch ’26 of Niwot, Colo., and Alex Bude ’26 of Boise, Idaho. The full scholarships honor students for academic achievement, leadership, and a commitment to the community. They’re made possible by a gift from George Matelich ’78 and Susan Matelich.

STAR QUALITY
The women’s soccer team—under the direction of an Olympic gold medalist—posted a 16-3-1 record and qualified for the NCAAs. Stephanie Cox (above), who played on the U.S. Women’s National Team that won gold in 2008 in Beijing, was named interim head coach in August; after the season was over, the “interim” tag was removed.

SUPER SCHOLARS
Two first-year students have received prestigious Lillis Scholarships. The scholarships will fund a Puget Sound education for Nora Panoosha ’26 of Portland, Ore., and Dominique Langevin ’26 of Coronado, Calif. Gwendolyn Lillis P’05 and Charles Lillis P’05 created the scholarships to honor and support outstanding students.

EMPOWERMENT EXPERTS
Diversity, equity, and inclusion consultant Lia Shigemura ’80 (above) was one of three speakers in a panel discussion on “Community Advocacy: Empowering Asian Americans,” held during Homecoming & Family Weekend in October. Shigemura is a leadership development consultant and trainer in Oakland, Calif. Also on the panel: Chevi Chung, community programs specialist for the city of Tacoma, and Daniel Nguyen ’01, a city councilor in Lake Oswego, Ore., and the founder and CEO of Bambuza Vietnam Kitchen.

RAISING AWARENESS
Disability advocate Rosemarie Garland-Thomson spent two days on campus in November as a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar. Named by the Utne Reader as one of “50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World,” Garland-Thomson visited classes, met with faculty and students, and gave a public lecture, “Building A World That Includes Disability.” More than a dozen academic departments and other units worked together to pull off the visit.

GOODBYE TO GAYLE
Longtime communications professional Gayle McIntosh retired from Puget Sound in January. She served the university for nearly 20 years, most recently as vice president for communications and chief of staff to President Isiaah Crawford. Before coming to the university, she spent 14 years in public television in Seattle and St. Louis.

LET’S MAKE CONFETTI!
Mark Martin, associate professor of biology, offers students in his microbiology class a colorful way to learn how to count bacteria in a cell culture: They use a strain of E. coli that produces pigments. Here, Melissa MacDonald ’24 shows the result. (We first spotted this photo on Martin’s Twitter feed; follow him at @markowenmartin.)
“Every moment of my trip was worth the several frighteningly realistic school anxiety dreams that now haunt my nights.”

—NABIL AYERS ’93, ABOUT RETURNING TO CAMPUS AS PART OF HIS BOOK TOUR TO PROMOTE HIS MEMOIR, “MY LIFE IN THE SUNSHINE”

**OH, SNAP!**

**All Smiles** If the photos are any indication, Alpha Phi’s 2022–23 recruitment was a great success. @kana.photographs

**Perfect Fit** If someone posts a photo of a dog in a Puget Sound sweatshirt, we have to put it in *Arches*. It’s the law. @finnicktheadventurer

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**Ask the Expert: Lotus Perry**

**The Lunar New Year: What You Might Not Know**

The Lunar New Year arrived this year on Jan. 22, when communities around the world began a 15-day celebration. We asked Lo Sun “Lotus” Perry, who has taught Chinese language and culture at the university since 1986, to explain the centuries-old tradition—a time to rest, gather with family, eat delicious food, and be filled with optimism about the year ahead. —Amy Downey

**PROPER NAME**

Some call it the Chinese New Year, but Perry says it should be referred to as Lunar New Year. Why? The holiday isn’t exclusive to the Chinese (and, in fact, not all of Asia celebrates). Korean and Vietnamese cultures, plus their diaspora all over the world—including Tacoma and its strong Korean American community—recognize the holiday. Perry, herself a native of Taiwan, adds that calling it the Lunar New Year also acknowledges its origin: a tradition guided by moon phases, aimed at letting farmers rest from their work.

**FAMILY MATTERS**

One important custom is reunion dinner on the Lunar New Year’s Eve—this year, it took place on Jan. 21. “It’s like Thanksgiving,” says Perry, adding that meal prep for this family feast can take several weeks.

**SEEING RED**

The lucky color red is everywhere from clothing to gifts; people frequently give red envelopes filled with money to kids.

**“YEAR OF THE ...”**

Every year, a different zodiac animal is ushered in. But there’s more to it than the rotation of animals. “We have five elements—metal, wood, water, fire, and earth—that also intermingle,” says Perry. So, 2023 is the Year of the Rabbit, specifically the Water Rabbit, a zodiac alignment that happens every 60 years, bringing peace and luck. Each of the 12 animals has its own forecast; 2024’s Year of the Dragon has such a “fortunate” meaning that baby booms are expected.

**CAMPUS TIES**

Perry often helps organize a Lunar New Year party for students and staff, with traditional favors from bubble tea to Vietnamese candies. She also puts cultural artifacts on display in Wyatt Hall around the time of the festival.
Logger student-athletes will benefit on and off the field from a historic gift to the university. The Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation has committed $10 million—the largest single gift in the university’s 134-year history—to the Puget Sound endowment. The gift will add to the existing Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation Endowed Fund for Athletics and create a new fund to support the health, wellness, and development—both personal and professional—of Logger student-athletes.

President Isiaah Crawford calls the gift “transformational.”

“As I affirmed to the board of trustees in May 2022, it is a goal of the university to build a championship athletics culture on our campus,” Crawford says. “This commitment provides a strong foundation as we set our sights on competing regularly at the national level. This work, overseen by Director of Athletics Amy Hackett and our talented coaches and athletics staff, is well aligned with the goals and objectives outlined in our strategic plan.”

The commitment represents a strategic investment in athletics as an essential part of a liberal arts education. About one in four Puget Sound students competes in athletics, and the school offers 23 varsity sports—tied for the most in the Pacific Northwest Conference. The graduation rate for student-athletes is more than 80%, higher than the conference and national averages.

Among other benefits, the gift will support in perpetuity the Puget Sound Performance Success (PS2) Program, which blends athletics with experiential learning. The PS2 Program supports student-athletes through opportunities and services related to physical readiness, wellness, and personal and professional development.

The gift honors Tom ‘59 and Meg ‘56 Names, who met at Puget Sound and remained supporters throughout their lives. (Tom died in 2015; Meg, in 2016.) Previous gifts from the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation and a related organization, the Names Family Foundation, have supported the university’s general endowment and the Puget Sound Fund, as well as the construction and renovation of Lower Baker Field, the Wilson Welcome Center, and the Athletics and Aquatics Center.

Among the board members of the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation are Tom and Meg’s daughters, Erin Shagren ‘88, P’17 (who also is a Puget Sound trustee) and Monica Names-King.

The newest crop of Loggers—the Class of 2026—arrived last fall, and their numbers tell some interesting stories:

3.59
Average high school GPA of the incoming class

50
Number who have come from at least 2,000 miles away

4
Number from less than a mile away

21
Different languages spoken

22
Different musical instruments played

40,000
Number of followers one first-year student has on TikTok

1
Number who have studied for their falconry license

‘Transformational’
$10 million commitment is the biggest single gift in Puget Sound’s history.
A Close Look at Redistricting

Students use math, geography, and other disciplines to examine the way electoral maps are drawn.

BY JONNY EBERLE

In 2019, as the federal government began preparations for the 2020 U.S. Census, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science Courtney Thatcher was doing a lot of thinking about the problem of redistricting.

Every 10 years, the states use population data from the census to redraw election maps. In theory, this redistricting process ensures that there are the same number of people in each district, giving them equal representation in Congress. In practice, though, the process is often mired in partisan attempts to gerrymander districts to benefit one political party over another. Thatcher figured there had to be better ways to think about drawing district maps, so she decided to look for them.

“There are lots of ways to think about redistricting,” Thatcher says. “In recent years, policy-makers have turned to statistics, machine learning, and data science to make districts using algorithms. That’s one way to do it, but without taking in the geographical, social, and political context, you’re really missing the point.”

Working with geographer Jim Thatcher at University of Washington Tacoma and several other senior personnel, including computer scientist Adam Smith at Puget Sound, Thatcher developed a proposal that resulted in a $343,000 grant from the National Science Foundation’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates program. The grant funded a four-year investigation into whether machine learning algorithms that take social and geographic factors into account could shed light on how to create more equitable districts.

“Something we had to keep in mind is that there is no ‘correct’ district. We’re not trying to create new districts; we’re trying to evaluate existing districts to see if there are ways to make them work better for the people who live there,” Thatcher says.

The research project ran for four summers, from 2019 through 2022. For eight weeks each summer (with the exception of 2020, when COVID-19 forced Thatcher to switch to a remote program), 12 students from Puget Sound, University of Washington, and across the country came to live and work on the University of Puget Sound campus.

Each student was selected in order to bring a unique skill set to the team: distill the key points of a political science paper, use geographic information software, or hard-code computer programs. Together, these students from different backgrounds and academic disciplines gained hands-on experience applying social theory to empirical data, building spatial models to evaluate district maps, and teaching—and learning from—each other.

“Teaching at a liberal arts college, providing undergraduate research opportunities is a core part of what I do,” Thatcher says. “So, another goal of the project was to get students involved and help them build critical thinking and problem-solving skills to help them be successful in the things they want to do after college.”

Drawing on the skills of an interdisciplinary research team helped Thatcher and her students understand the real-world implications of redistricting, particularly how the lived experience of people in a given district often differs from the way policy experts think about the region.

“As a mathematician, it’s fascinating to work with geographers to think through how people actually live in the space and how redistricting affects them,” Thatcher says. “Two points that look close together on a map may be separated by a river or a mountain range or a prison that you have to travel around. In those districts, someone may have to drive an incredibly long distance to vote, for instance.”

When Thatcher and her students started the project, they had to rely on data from the 2010 census to train their machine learning models. Now that population data from the 2020 census has been released and states are actively engaged in the process of reapportioning their congressional districts, the researchers can apply their models to the process in real time and see the implications of the newly drawn maps. Over the past two summers, the team also worked on ways of predicting what factors will cause a district plan to be challenged in court or thrown out as unconstitutional.

So far, the team has produced one paper and a peer-reviewed abstract, with more publications to come. While Thatcher is hopeful that the research may help reduce gerrymandering and produce fairer election districts, a primary benefit has been to build up the confidence and experience of the students who have passed through the program.

“We’ve sent students off to funded Ph.D. programs; one of them got a National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship; several of them have gone to highly competitive data science programs and research groups; and others have presented our findings at their home institutions,” Thatcher says. “So, there’s the research component, but we also try really hard to give students a leg up in understanding where they want to go and how to get there.”
MORE THAN MATH
Associate Professor Courtney Thatcher teaches math and computer science—but says understanding redistricting also requires taking into account “the geographical, social, and political context.”
Spreading the Joy

In the classroom, in the choir, in a children’s book, in a documentary: Tina Huynh is always finding new ways to preserve and share the importance of music.

BY JONNY EBERLE

Assistant Professor Tina Huynh wants to share the joy of music with everyone. Whether she’s collecting Vietnamese children’s music, teaching undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in music and music education at the university, or serving as the Tacoma Refugee Choir’s project scholar, Huynh is passionate about preserving music and passing it on. Here, she talks about her creative and scholarly projects, her favorite instruments, and a documentary she’s created.

Where did your passion for music start?
I’ve always had an attachment to music. When I was young, I had this little music box that played “Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” I played it over and over. My parents sang to me, and I loved all the songs on TV shows, and I played the Wee Sing series constantly.

My parents put me in piano lessons when I was 6, and then I picked up the flute when I was 10. Later on, I also learned to play tenor saxophone. When I entered college at California State University Long Beach, I had to decide: Do I audition on piano or flute? Ultimately, I chose flute because I really liked being with people, playing in the marching band and in ensembles.

Your research into Vietnamese children’s music led you to create a book of music for families and teachers. What inspired you to do that?
For my dissertation at the University of Southern California, I studied how Vietnamese families in the United States were passing on their culture through music. What I found was that, while some of the parents I interviewed knew some of the songs they grew up with, many of them didn’t, or only the grandparents still knew the songs. There wasn’t a resource for these songs to help parents and educators teach them. So, I collected 10 children’s songs and worked with a friend who is an artist to do the illustrations, and we made a book. I deliberately chose songs that were easy to learn, and included sheet music and an English translation in the form of a poem. The primary audience is Vietnamese American parents and children; it would be a cultural archive that they could have at home and read with each other or sing with each other. The other audience is classroom teachers. I wanted to make it accessible enough that anybody can pick it up and learn these Vietnamese songs and teach them, perhaps as part of a unit on world music. The book also has some cultural information: What is the Harvest Moon Festival? What are moon cakes? How do you make lanterns? So parents can do it and teachers can do it within their classes if they want.

How did you get involved with the Tacoma Refugee Choir?
I sing with them as a choir member, but originally the director asked me to be a “project scholar.” In that role, I’m interviewing people in the choir who are refugees. I want to know how their experience in the community choir affects their lives and well-being as refugees. Does choir help you? How does choir help you process? Are you in the choir because you want to meet new people, or because you want to learn more about the American culture?

You recently produced a documentary. Can you tell me about that?
The film is called Songs of Little Saigon. It follows the stories of eight Vietnamese American refugees. We see their resilience through the ways that they continued to make music and rebuild their lives after fleeing from a war-torn Vietnam. I wanted to do deeper research on these stories, but I knew I wanted to share the research through a medium that was more accessible than a scholarly paper, so I gathered a team to make a film. The people we interviewed are all people I knew from growing up in the vibrant Vietnamese community in Southern California. Most of the featured musicians are my mentors, former teachers, people I’ve worked with or gigged with. It was originally supposed to be a short film, but when it came to asking if I could interview them, everyone said yes, so it wound up being 96 minutes long.

What do you hope students take away from your classes?
For my music education students, I hope that they take away that music is a joy and also a responsibility. As music teachers, we have the responsibility to not just teach music in its technical and formal sense, but to teach the joy of music. For my all my students, I hope they learn to appreciate music and have the tools to be able to speak and write about it intelligently and eloquently.

What about your life outside of the classroom? I like to hike and be out in nature. I can’t wait to get back to Mount Rainier because it’s just majestic. Every time I look at it, I’m floored. I also love to watch films. I watched Dune, for example, and the whole time we were watching it, I was thinking, Oh my gosh, this music is epic.
FEATURE FILM
Huy nh’s documentary, *Songs of Little Saigon*, focuses on the resilience of eight Vietnamese American refugee musicians. It has won 12 awards from national and international film festivals.
Searching Among the Stars

Austin Glock ’23 spent his nights last summer in the Puget Sound observatory atop Thompson Hall, looking for planets outside our solar system.

BY JONNY EBERLE

It’s a cold, clear night in the pitch-black dome of the observatory at University of Puget Sound. In the dark, Austin Glock ’23 makes minute adjustments to the telescope by the light of a headlamp. He’s focusing on Arcturus, a bright orange star located 37 light-years away. He’s using Arcturus to calibrate the telescope in order to observe something that few people have ever seen—a planet orbiting another star in our galaxy.

“T’m doing differential star photometry, which means we’re looking at stars with light levels that fluctuate. This could be due to a number of factors, but one thing it might mean is that there’s a planet orbiting that star,” Glock says.

“By measuring how much the light dips, how long it dips for, and the shape of the resulting light curve, we can determine whether or not it is an exoplanet [one found outside of our solar system] and get some information about its orbital period and size.”

Glock spent most nights last summer in the observatory, which is located on the roof of Thompson Hall clock tower and requires climbing eight flights of stairs and one ladder to access. His project is part of Puget Sound’s long-running summer research program, which enables undergraduate students to design and carry out projects in the sciences and humanities under the guidance of a faculty advisor.

Glock partnered with Tsunefumi Tanaka, visiting assistant professor of physics, to identify, using a NASA database, stars suspected of having planets. After successfully observing several known exoplanets, the next step was searching for unconfirmed planetary candidates—and hoping to image the right patch of sky at precisely the right moment to catch a planet in transit in front of its host star.

The process involves linking the observatory’s massive telescope to two separate computers. Glock explains: “Using those computers, we’ll take images, then we’ll calibrate the images and process them using specialty software, like AstroImageJ, to refine them and get our final light graphs.

“Once I processed our first data set, it conformed to the known data really well,” Glock says. “That was amazing for me to see, just knowing that I took pictures of an exoplanet several light-years away.”

Glock, who grew up in Glenwood Springs, Colo., ended up at Puget Sound almost by accident. He had looked at a number of colleges and was “pretty settled” on one elsewhere in Washington state. “Then Puget Sound contacted me and they’re like, ‘Hey, we’re doing a special tour day, if you want to come down and take a look.’ And I thought, It couldn’t hurt. Might as well.” He toured the campus and sat in on a class with Physics Professor Andy Rex. “It was great,” he says. “I fell in love with the campus, I fell in love with the professors I met, and it just felt exactly like where I needed to be for college.”

The week before he arrived on campus, he happened to buy a book called The Planet Factory: Exoplanets and the Search for a Second Earth, by Elizabeth Tasker, at the Barnes & Noble in Lakewood. He became more curious about how planets are formed, and when he saw a chance to do summer research on the topic, “I wanted to hop on that as soon as possible.”

Last summer he spent just about every clear night in the observatory, heading up around 9:00 p.m. and spending four to six hours setting up the equipment and collecting the images. When not working on his research, he trained the telescope, just for fun, on other objects in the night sky, like the Moon, the planet Saturn, and star clusters.

He had been hesitant about signing on for a summer research project—“I was like, ‘I don’t want to have to write that much’”—but is happy he did. “It’s the most worthwhile experience I’ve had while at school,” he says. He especially enjoyed the weekly Wednesday get-togethers where students doing summer research in various fields shared their experiences with each other.

As a physics major with minors in mathematics and English, Glock is passionate not only about astronomy but about science communication and conveying the discoveries in the field to a broad audience. After graduation, he hopes to attend graduate school and continue to be a part of the hunt for more planets beyond our solar system.

“One of the biggest things that comes with researching anything outside of our own solar system is understanding how other solar systems form,” he says. “We don’t know if our solar system is rare, or if planets like the Earth are common. So, by understanding different planetary formations and other star systems, we can better understand our own.

“Having the opportunity to do that while still an undergraduate has been incredible.”

Glock’s research was funded by a grant from the Alan S. Thorndike Summer Research Endowed Fund, which was created in memory of a longtime Puget Sound physics professor.
AT WORK IN THE DARK: Austin Glock ’23 loved searching for exoplanets under the direction of faculty member Tsunefumi Tanaka. “It’s the most worthwhile experience I’ve had at school,” he says.
PUTTING ON A SHOW

Years of commercial whaling eliminated humpback whales from Puget Sound, but scientists say the animals are making a comeback. This juvenile, known as Malachite, has been hanging around the Sound since August, treating locals to breaches, lunge feeding, and tail lobs. Photo by Craig Craker.
Fraser—described by one newspaper as “a pretty western housewife, her pigtails flying”—surprised the ski world by winning two medals at the 1948 Winter Olympics at St. Moritz.
HIDDEN GOLD

BY MICHAEL WEINREB

Atop a mountain thousands of miles from home, Gretchen Kunigk Fraser ’41 eased into the starting gate, set into a crouch, and awaited the signal to start the biggest ski race of her life.

The odds against Fraser were already tremendously long. The fact that she had...
As a full slate of alpine skiing events made its "ladylike" enough for women to participate.

Many people debated whether skiing was "ladylike" enough for women to participate.

In Sun Valley, where they named a restaurant after her, as well as a ski run, and erected a pair of statues in her honor. But as a man named John Bechtholt soon discovered, outside of Sun Valley—and even in Bechtholt's hometown of Tacoma—Fraser's legacy had largely been forgotten.

But by 1982, when the Washington Post wrote an article about America's first Olympic medalists in skiing, it didn't even mention Fraser.

Over time, Bechtholt discovered there was a lot more to Fraser's story than a single gold medal. In fact, beyond her brief dalliance with fame, she engaged in the kind of quiet heroism that Bechtholt and many others believe should not be forgotten—and, in fact, should earn her an enduring legacy in America's Olympic history.

Gretchen Kunigk was born in Tacoma on Feb. 11, 1919, to a Norwegian mother and a German father who was the longtime head of the city's water utility. Kunigk's mother, Clara, had grown up skiing in Norway, and gave Gretchen her first pair of skis when she was 13, taking her to Mount Rainier's Paradise Valley for her first ski trip.

In the 1930s, skiing in America was still in its nascent stages; without even a rope tow to get up the hill, Gretchen and her brother would hike up, ski down, and hike back up. Soon after, Mount Rainier began to host ski races. Among the winners of one of those early races was Don Fraser, a University of...
Fraser acted as a skiing double for Sonja Henie in the films *Thin Ice* (1937) and *Sun Valley Serenade* (1941). She qualified for the 1940 Olympics, but the start of World War II canceled them. At the 1948 Games, she won gold in slalom and silver in alpine combined.
WASHINGTON student who also worked at Boeing and who would be selected to compete in the 1936 Olympics in Germany, assuming he paid his own way there. (He made the money by working on a freighter, then injured his hip in practice and was unable to race.)

In the wake of those Olympics, skiing began to take hold in the Pacific Northwest and beyond—including at Puget Sound, where Kunigk joined the ski-racing team as a student from 1937 to 1939. At the same time, Mount Rainier attracted a key visitor: Otto Moritz, an instructor at a prestigious ski school in Austria, who came to the mountain to film an educational movie and was so taken by it that he opened a ski school. And then he dis-covered his star pupil: Gretchen Kunigk. “In a very short time, I detected that this young lady had the determination and the doggedness to go places,” Lang would say.

In 1937, the 18-year-old Kunigk got her first big break: 20th Century Fox wanted to film a movie with the actress and former figure skater Sonja Henie that featured the hot new sport of downhill skiing. But they needed a double, and contacted Lang, who suggested Kunigk could do the job. The movie, starring Henie and Tyrone Power, was called Thin Ice, and it was enough of a hit that it helped promote skiing to the masses of Americans who were just becoming acquainted with it and began to view it as a destination sport.

Among the epicenters of that ski boom in America was Sun Valley, Idaho, a small resort town that began to attract a crowd of movers and shakers from business, politics, and Hollywood. In 1938, Gretchen and Don Fraser—who had been competing side-by-side in Pacific Northwest ski races for the past couple of years—rode the train from Seattle to Idaho for the Harriman Cup, a relatively new competition that gathered some of the best ski racers in America at Sun Valley. Neither of them won any events, but a year later, they got married.

In Sun Valley, Fraser served as Henie’s double in another ski movie, Sun Valley Serenade. She and Don moved to Denver, where after the 1940 Olympics were canceled due to the war in Europe, Gretchen would win the national championship in two events in 1941. When Don went off to serve in the Navy, Gretchen took flying lessons and earned her pilot’s license. Lang began making a series of patriotic films and asked Gretchen to ski for Henie in Utah, where she saw something that would change the course of her life. After meeting amputees returning from the war at a nearby hospital, Fraser became determined to teach them to ski.

“I had no idea how to do it,” she later admitted. “I just figured there must be a way to help them enjoy life again and show them confidence.”

As the war ended and the 1948 Olympics approached, Fraser figured her competitive skiing career was probably over. But Don urged her to attend the tryouts in Sun Valley; she referred to herself, only half-jokingly, as a “retread.” Still, she managed to beat out 14-year-old phenom Andrea Mead and win a place on the team. She boarded a train from Seattle to New York, sailed across the Atlantic, took a train to Paris, and spent two days on a narrow train riding up the mountain to St. Moritz.

“She is blonde, pretty, proficient, and strangely inclined to humbleness,” one reporter wrote of Fraser after she won the gold medal, and when she finally made it back to the United States after her victory, she was feted as an All-American hero.

In New York, Sonja Henie threw a party celebrating America’s two newest gold medalists, Fraser and ice skater Dick Button. When Fraser returned to the West, she was honored in Portland and Tacoma; in Vancouver, Wash., they held a parade for their newest local hero, with dozens of local girls doing their hair up in pigtails like Fraser’s. Advertisers jockeyed for her endorsements; in addition to promoting the Union Pacific resort in Sun Valley, Fraser signed deals with Wheaties, where she appeared on trading cards and cereal boxes, and the sportswear company Jantzen. She appeared in dozens of comic books, as well, and traveled to Norway to visit her mother’s relatives and meet the prince of the country.

But one of Fraser’s first stops upon her return home set the tone for how she viewed her obligations, both as an Olympic medalist and able-bodied athlete. She went to Barnes General Hospital in Vancouver and visited injured veterans. Eventually, she would start a program for disabled skiers in Portland called the Flying Outriggers; she also became an honorary chairman of the Special Olympics. When 16-year-old Sun Valley ski racer Muffy Davis was paralyzed in a ski training accident in 1989, Fraser showered Davis with gifts and encouragement, including a four-leaf clover pin that the founder of Sun Valley, Averell Harriman, had given to Fraser before the 1948 Olympics.

In an interview with Ski magazine, Davis said Fraser told her the pin had brought her good fortune, and she wanted to pass the luck on—and apparently it worked, as Davis went on to win seven Paralympic medals in skiing and cycling, and later served in the Idaho state legislature.

“If you accept and take advantages offered by a community or country,” Fraser wrote to herself in papers found after her death, “you
give of volunteer time and money in return for that privilege.”

Fraser spent four years after the 1948 Olympics as an ambassador and endorser. And then she gave up that public profile in order to spend time raising her family and pursuing the causes she was passionate about. “I did what I could to help out our business,” she later told the *Columbian* newspaper. “I had a contract [for endorsements], but I had to be an All-American girl. I never smoked anyway, but that was one of the things the contract didn’t allow.”

Over the course of her retirement, as she retreated from the public eye, Fraser’s fame began to dim. She joked that one magazine article about her “said something like, ‘I won the first American medals, had a child, and went back home to oblivion.’” Her life may have quieted, but it was anything but pedestrian: After serving as manager of the Olympic ski team in 1952, she continued to fly planes (famed pilot Chuck Yeager was among her mentors), continued to work with disabled skiers, continued to indulge her passion for horses by serving on the Olympic equestrian committee, and continued to promote skiing at home and abroad. She was inducted into the Puget Sound Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989. She died in Sun Valley at the age of 75, in 1994, just a few weeks after her husband.

It took almost three decades after her death, but in 2022, Fraser was finally inducted into the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Hall of Fame, alongside Muffy Davis.

As he continues to study the details and gather mementoes from Fraser’s career, Bechtholt presumes—as many others have—that Fraser was overlooked for decades in large part because of her gender. And he’s hoping that will change for future generations, particularly in the town where she grew up and at the college she attended. He’s given away some of his materials to both the Tacoma Public Library and the Tacoma Historical Society, and as he seeks a home for the remainder of his collection, he’s hoping Fraser’s story will be told over and over again.

“It was just shocking to me—she’s the most celebrated and achieved athlete to come out of Tacoma,” Bechtholt says. “And no one had heard about her.”
Every year, Puget Sound students turn their academic interests into summer internships, learning the sorts of things that come from hands-on experience: the pace of the corporate world, the responsibility of community engagement, the fulfillment of working for a nonprofit. It’s one of several forms of experiential learning that Puget Sound offers. Here, we look at how eight Loggers spent last summer.
Corey Hodder ’23

Uncovered a piece of Tacoma history in the local library.

MAJORS: Business leadership; environmental policy and decision making

ABOUT THE GIG: The Tacoma Public Library recently established the Community Archives Center to fill in some gaps in the local record. “Historically, community archive centers are very whitewashed,” says Hodder. At Puget Sound, he learned about environmental policy and how it impacts indigenous communities—and, through his internship, he could help discover, and share, a part of Tacoma’s past.

WHAT HE DID: With support from the university’s Summer Fellowship Internship program, Hodder (who also captains the swim team) organized more than 25 bankers boxes’ worth of documents related to the Indian Land Claims Settlement from the 1980s. He spent time in the library basement and stacks, sorting information that had been stored away for years: maps of land that the Puyallup Tribe claimed; correspondence (letters, faxes, printed emails) among local organizations and government officials; and notes from various committees.

LESSONS LEARNED: “At times, it hit me that I was the first person in probably over 20 years to actually dive into those documents,” says Hodder. “I was really proud of being able to be part of such a huge project.” His work will be accessible to the public through the archive center’s online database.

Ryan Smith ’23

Advocating for the environment through ESG initiatives.
MAJOR: Sociology

ABOUT THE GIG: Cañeda-Santos spent last summer working at LifeMoves, whose mission is to end homelessness in California’s San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. She says the services (like case management) and programs for families are just as valuable as the shelter that’s offered. The free summer camp that she planned, for example, is critical for working parents or those out seeking employment.

WHAT SHE DID: Cañeda-Santos ran camps for the 15 to 20 kids staying in the shelter. She supplied healthy snacks; managed high school counselors; organized trips to the park and pool; and put together a full schedule of arts and crafts, games, and activities—including a magic show and a movie screening. She also implemented STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) lessons and conducted reading evaluations.

LESSONS LEARNED: Cañeda-Santos, a POSSE scholar who might eventually work in nonprofits, knows how much homelessness is an issue in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties—especially after the pandemic. It’s also something that her own family has struggled with in the past. “Something I learned from my internship,” she says, “is that it’s important to provide a safe space for kids to be unapologetically themselves.”

MAJOR: Economics; environmental policy and decision making

ABOUT THE GIG: Smith interned in Sandy, Utah, as an ESG and sustainability analyst for Bridge Investment Group. The worldwide interest in ESG—environmental, social, and governance issues—is growing, he says, but it’s not yet prevalent: “One of the biggest challenges is convincing people that spending time and, sometimes, investing money on ESG-related initiatives is worth it.” The summer prior, Smith worked for Sustainability Services at University of Puget Sound.

WHAT HE DID: Smith, who also plays soccer for the Loggers, taught Bridge employees about ESG-related criteria and how to reach goals. (Teaching comes naturally: He tutors students as a course assistant in economics.) He also updated the group’s corporate policies to better align with industry standards. Finally, he reported the group’s ESG information to the global database GRESB for benchmarking.

LESSONS LEARNED: The private sector’s influence on climate change is growing, says Smith. “Companies are trying to reduce carbon emissions or create a more socially responsible company in a better form of capitalism,” he says. After graduation, he wants to pursue sustainability consulting so that he can help as many companies as possible bolster their ESG programs.
MAJORS: Economics; business administration

ABOUT THE GIG: The internship, supported by the Puget Sound Summer Fellowship Internship program, was developed around Gruidl’s interests: photography, the arts, and small business entrepreneurship. “I wanted to engage with the larger community and learn about the people who make up Tacoma,” she says. She interned downtown at Spaceworks Tacoma, which supports the local economy and arts scene through incubator business programs and commissioning works like murals and window installations.

WHAT SHE DID: Gruidl’s main responsibility was photographing the people and businesses who benefited from the nonprofit. One person she met is Benita Ki ’11, a founder of Civic Roasters coffee shop, who went through the Spaceworks incubator program in 2021. In all, the summer experience was fully integrating, she says: “There’s so much more to Tacoma than North Tacoma.”

LESSONS LEARNED: Gruidl was asked to stay on as a communications coordinator, where she fields questions and does social media and marketing, including cataloging even more stories of Spaceworks alumni. “The power that community has—both on campus and in the greater community—is strong,” says Gruidl, who moved to Washington from Minnesota. “Those connections can make Tacoma feel like home.”
MAJORS: Business leadership; politics and government

ABOUT THE GIG: At Boeing’s factory in Renton, Wash., Diodati worked as a 737 business operations program management intern and saw (literally, through office windows overlooking the production line) nearly 100 commercial airplanes being built throughout the summer.

WHAT HE DID: Diodati studied the assembly for the 737—“I don’t see planes the same way anymore,” he says—and then outlined the key steps of the process (think: installing wheels, painting the aircraft) on a dozen storyboards. “It was important to get the story right, but also tell it in a way for people who are not engineers,” he says. His project is on display in the mezzanine and supports self-guided walking tours. While doing the internship, he simultaneously processed the experience through a Puget Sound seminar, Experiential Learning 350. After the internship wrapped, he continued to work for Boeing on long-term projects.

LESSONS LEARNED: Diodati, who served as last year’s ASUPS president, talked to someone new every day at Boeing. He soaked up the business—and business culture—and made observations about managerial practices and the corporate environment. “It was fascinating to see textbook ideas applied in the real world,” he says. “I’d learn something in my strategic management and consulting capstone class and then see it play out in a work meeting the next day.”

John “Kayden” Diodati ’23

Told the story of a Boeing 737 being built—and was a student of the corporate world.
MAJORS: International political economy; Chinese language and culture

ABOUT THE GIG: Two miles from campus is Second Cycle, a retail bike shop and nonprofit organization that repurposes bikes and bike parts. Its goal? Make biking more accessible, especially to people with low incomes. Everett, a Colorado native with family roots in cycling, played a large role in Second Cycle’s recycle and reuse program that services donated equipment for new owners.

WHAT HE DID: He landed the position through Puget Sound’s Summer Fellowship Internship program, which connects students with Tacoma-based nonprofits. (Students are given a grant for their time.) At the shop, he sorted through the back stock and identified salvageable items. He set up garage sales and—for more expensive vintage parts—created an eBay storefront for Second Cycle. In its first week, those listings brought in $800.

LESSONS LEARNED: There was plenty of hands-on experience retooling bikes—he even built himself a bike over the summer. (And he’ll need it: The shop offered Everett a part-time job there.) But mostly, he gained a profound satisfaction in community work; he especially felt it while creating Second Cycle’s new community outreach board committee. Says Everett: “It’s crazy that biking is inaccessible to a lot of people because of the costs.”
MAJORS: Communication studies; African American studies

ABOUT THE GIG: Pargmann-Hayes served as the marketing and communications intern for the City of Tacoma, in which she helped organize and introduce the Black Lives Matter mural that’s sprawled on the Tollefson Plaza steps. The project, supported by the Civic Scholarship Initiative, was finished in September; since then, she stops by the mural whenever she’s visiting the museums in that part of town.

WHAT SHE DID: Pargmann-Hayes met with artists to learn their needs, posted project updates on social media, touched base with dozens of volunteers, and managed the logistics of “painting days.” She even painted a little bit herself—the tops of steps, plus a few sections that were outlined. “Art is a really important part of activism,” she says.

LESSONS LEARNED: The mural project aligned with Pargmann-Hayes’s passions for social justice issues. In addition to working at Puget Sound’s Race & Pedagogy Institute, she is a member of the Black Student Union and serves as the director of equity, inclusion, and justice in ASUPS. In making the mural, it was helpful to hear from people in Tacoma, she says, and compare their experiences with what it’s like on campus. That kind of feedback, she says, can be used to connect more deeply with the community.

MAJORS: Computer science; psychology

ABOUT THE GIG: DocuSign, a popular e-signature platform, acquired an API library and hired Mathur to write up the specifics of what they did. (APIs send data between the front and back ends of a system.) His findings were used to catch up other developers at the company. And, as part of DocuSign’s global team, Mathur—in true tech fashion—was able to work remotely from his home in San Jose, Calif.

WHAT HE DID: Mathur, who grew up around Silicon Valley, also hosted online workshops for engineers and new members during his internship; he demonstrated how different products are used and integrated into other businesses. “Oftentimes, we don’t know what the product looks like on the front end,” says Mathur. In his tutorials, he showed—side by side—how code translates to what the customer sees.

LESSONS LEARNED: “A big takeaway was learning how a larger company structures itself,” he says. He was particularly interested in the makeup of departments like the depth of a support team. Thanks to this internship, Mathur feels he’s now capable of working with all areas of a software product, from idea to distribution. In the future, he might marry his majors and explore apps in mental health and mindfulness, not unlike Headspace or Calm.
Roger Allen has been a professor, a sailor, a celestial navigator, a physical therapist, and a professor again. The latest leg of Allen’s unconventional career path has lasted nearly three decades, a different sort of adventure than life at sea, but no less intrepid. Or, as Professor George Tomlin said in his introduction to Allen’s Regester Lecture in 2016: “Dr. Roger J. Allen, professor of physical

BY KARIN VANDRAISS ’13
therapy, is not the kind of person you'd think of as coming from Kansas—but he does. Or did ... just like Amelia Earhart ... first female to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Daughter of an explorer of boundaries. A lot like Roger. Except that Roger hasn’t disappeared.”

It’s been 25 years, to be exact, of teaching doctoral students in physical therapy at Puget Sound, of using his gift as a storyteller to make obscure anatomy or neurophysiology facts come to life, of guiding research that often leads to questions bordering on the

philosophical and metaphysical. We sit in his office on the second floor of Weyerhaeuser on a fall morning; Allen wears wire-rimmed glasses, scrubs, jeans, and Sperry’s. He doesn’t usually pair scrubs with jeans, he explains, but his anatomy class that afternoon is dissecting. I ask him to start from the beginning.

In high school in Topeka, Kan., Allen was the type of kid who built a particle accelerator in his basement (a small one, he assures me). He was initially interested in physics and astronomy, but visited nearby Washburn University with classmates each week to listen to scientists talk about their work, and a lecture by biofeedback pioneer Elmer Green “blew my mind.” He shifted focus to psychophysiology—the study into the physiological connections linking our thoughts and emotions with our susceptibility to physical illness.

Our conversation has already paused a handful of times as Allen greets students passing by the open door. I take the opportunity to peruse the floor-to-ceiling shelves of VHS tapes and books—Investigations in Stress Control, Contemporary College Physics, Maps of the Mind—and anatomy curios (the stockinged

command his attention. He also hates leaving Loki, his chihuahua-poodle-dachshund rescue, at home. “Being a teacher is what I was built for. But I realized I could let it go. I could be something else,” Allen says.

It’s not the first time he’s let go of teaching. On land, at least.

In the early 90s, after 12 years of teaching psychophysiology at the University of Maryland, Allen knew he was running on autopilot. He started to think about finding something new. At the time, he was living on a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay and felt more at home on the water than on land. One morning, he pulled into the Annapolis Sailing School and asked if they needed any part-time instructors. But instead of just taking on the weekend shift, he ended up giving notice at the university. He spent the next few years “bumming around on boats,” taking sailing gigs in the North Atlantic and Caribbean and working at sea as a celestial navigation instructor.

Allen loved being immersed in sailing, but “smelled like a fish marinating in diesel oil and was getting tired of not being terribly comfortable for weeks on end.” He had taught a number of physical therapy doctoral students in his psychophysiology courses at Maryland, and wondered if becoming a physical therapist could offer him a more applied outlet for his expertise. Instead of just teaching ideas, he wanted someone to show up with a problem he could actually fix.

Allen was drawn to the University of Washington for its pain treatment center established by John Bonica, the founding father of pain management and author of the widely used reference Bonica’s Management of Pain. When he mentions Bonica, Allen gestures to a stack of books on a nearby shelf. He doesn’t mention he was asked to write chapters in the three most recent editions. Or that he’s authored three textbooks of his own.

After earning a bachelor’s degree at UW (to go with the bachelor’s, M.S.Ed., and Ph.D. he already had), Allen practiced physical therapy full-time, with an emphasis on treating a chronic disorder called complex regional pain syndrome. But it didn’t take long for him to start to miss the classroom. And when he saw an open faculty position at Puget Sound, he threw in his hat.

Allen started teaching clinical anatomy and functional neuroanatomy at the university in 1998. By now he was married with a toddler and a newborn at home, and he frequently set an alarm for 4 a.m. to prepare his lectures. “I’m not sure how I did it that first year, teaching two subjects I’d never taught before, just trying to stay one chapter ahead of the class.”

Over his tenure, Allen has added two classes (neuroscience and psychological aspects of physical therapy practice), made more than 100 national and international research presentations, often with student co-presenters/co-authors, and in 2017 received the President’s Excellence in Teaching Award from Puget Sound. “I can’t believe I was able to study with him, says Allen’s final research assistant, Kate Hovde DPT’23. “Here’s this person who’s done such meaningful, interesting work, who has also completely shifted paths. It’s reinforced that it’s okay to take a different type of journey.”

On our way to the teaching clinic downstairs, which offers pro-bono physical therapy

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**ALLEN DISCOVERED THAT A STRESSFUL EVENT CAN RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN PERCEIVED PAIN 10 DAYS LATER.**
to people from the local community, Allen continues to greet, by name, everyone we pass. He says things like, “I’m so glad you’re here!” and “It was so good to see you, really!” You can tell he means it. Students and faculty are still adjusting to seeing one another in person again—he’s proud of how they were able to adapt during COVID, but teaching clinical anatomy over Zoom, he says, was not ideal.

Allen has undertaken two dominant lines of research into pain. The chronic pain that he studies ranges from the exhausting, full-body pain of fibromyalgia to phantom limb pain, where a person experiences painful sensations in amputated limbs that no longer exist. Evolutionarily, pain is a valuable danger signal. But if it persists past the point of being helpful, its source can move from the body tissue into the nervous system and construct an experience of pain that the mind, not the body, perceives and suffers.

“For 30 years,” Allen says, “the pain science field has known what the physical therapy profession has only begun to embrace in the last decade—that pain is a phenomenon of the mind.” Allen raises his hand. “It’s not your hand that hurts, it’s your awareness of it.”

From 1996–2009, Allen focused on something called neurovascular innervation mapping. He and his research team realized that a host of puzzling symptoms were caused by a pattern of nerve innervation (stimulation) to blood vessels, and that the current understanding of the peripheral nervous system had never adequately mapped those patterns.

Allen repeatedly credits his collaborations with students for igniting and nurturing these sparks of insight. Most of his research has involved doctoral physical therapy students and undergraduate neuroscience interns. He’s especially proud of how more than 90 of his students have presented their work nationally or internationally or have published work in peer-reviewed journals.

“In graduate classes, students’ thought processes about what’s possible are still fairly naive, so they often come up with left-field questions,” Allen explains. “But, if you know enough about the field, you can see how those questions might fit into the big picture. It can get really interesting.”

Allen’s more recent work—which stemmed from a grad student’s question in one of his classes—involves discovering and validating a 10-day delay between stressful events and increases in the perceived severity of pain in people who suffer from chronic pain. A person might have an argument with their spouse, or even just forget a friend’s birthday, and 10 days later might have a flare-up of their shoulder pain. The culprit: the hormone thyroxine, which after being released during times of stress is bound by blood proteins and—for reasons unknown—held inactive for 10 days. The next question is how to intervene and prevent the flare-up, but just knowing that a 10-day lag exists is beneficial to both health care providers and patients. Therapists can now help patients differentiate between stress-related pain increases and those potentially brought on by, say, physical therapy, and perhaps help them exercise some control over their suffering.

“Experiencing the sensation of pain is one thing, but how we suffer from it is a more complex matter,” Allen said in his Regester lecture. “The emotional experience associated with pain, or the actual suffering component, is intensified by uncertainty and fear. When we have a plausible explanation for why a flare may have occurred, much of the emotional impact is defused.” Emphasizing the complexity of individual pain helps students develop a true appreciation for how people are affected by the pathologies they study in class, says Danny McMillian, a faculty colleague in the School of Physical Therapy. “That awareness of the lived experience is critical in the development of holistic practitioners.”

Allen has also collaborated with doctoral students on research outside of chronic pain, including the discovery and application of what he calls a “curiously useful” treatment for vertigo based on electrical stimulation of the bottoms of the feet—another idea sparked by a student’s question in class.

We enter the clinic, where the main room hums with activity. One student encourages a patient ascending a flight of training stairs; another holds out an arm to steady a man on a wobbling balance board. A staged living space down the hall allows clients to safely practice activities like showering or getting off the couch.

It’s taken some time for Allen to get used to Weyerhaeuser, which opened in 2011—he never minded the pink portables with peeling
paint that previously housed the PT/OT program, where he once had to choose between heating his office and the welfare of a family of raccoons living under the floor. But if the structures were temporary, the program could be as well. “The investment in the new building offered a sense of value and commitment to the programs,” he says. “There was no question we’d remain here.”

A few days before my deadline, I receive an email from Allen: “Quick update. I’ve elected to fully retire at the end of this academic year, after I teach my last clinical class in the spring.” He includes a picture of Loki, staring dolefully up at the camera.

Allen says he’s never had much trouble closing chapters, even one that defined so much of his life. But before this one ends, he hopes to teach his most engaging, relevant class yet. “There are recent developments in the field that will change medicine significantly, that will change the way students approach the profession,” he says. “I want to carry that into this last class.” Those developments involve a new approach to neuroplastic intervention—increasing the brain’s plasticity and responsiveness to remodeling. Combined with therapy, the approach could radically change the effectiveness of treatments to help restore movement, function, cognition, and communication. It also could reduce the suffering that comes with many disorders and chronic pain states.

Then it’s on to unlimited time with Loki and continuing guitar lessons. Allen has played for about 10 years but is now studying music theory with a jazz teacher—he wants to be able to improvise. It’s the hardest thing he’s ever tried to learn, “much harder than neuroscience.” And any day he’s able to work with his hands, to be creative and productive in some way, will be a good one.

When we talked last, he was waiting to receive a shipment of rosewood for a guitar he’s building by hand, clearly thrilled at the prospect. If there’s one thing that’s clear about Roger Allen, it’s that he doesn’t do anything halfway.

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**A Little Help From My Grad Students**

Roger Allen has studied chronic pain—its mechanisms, modulators, and treatments—for 25 years. During that time, he has involved a long line of doctoral students in the work. Here, he spotlights a few of them and what they’re doing now.

**Lexi Harlow ’03, DPT’05**

“Lexi was part of the student research team, along with Ty Allen DPT’05 and Kelsey Kumiji DPT’05, that conducted the initial patient case studies on latent increases in pain due to stress in patients with fibromyalgia syndrome.”

**NOW:** Manager of rehabilitation services and physical therapist, Fred Hutch Cancer Center, Seattle

**Lexi Harlow ’03, DPT’05**

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Always a Logger

**RETRO RETAILER**
Madyson Willoughby ’19 used her business degree to start a vintage clothing shop in Tacoma. See story, next page.
A Life in Clothes
Madyson Willoughby ’19

BY JULIANNE BELL ’13

Madyson Willoughby ’19 hadn’t planned to become an entrepreneur right out of college, but she was perfectly positioned for it to happen.

The Tacoma native majored in business at Puget Sound, and after graduation was waiting tables and selling her vintage clothing collection on the app Depop when she stumbled across an opportunity to lease a pint-sized storefront on 6th Avenue. Several months later, Willoughby opened Good Vibes Vintage & Resale, a pastel-pink treasure trove of pre-loved clothing.

As a kid, Willoughby wanted to be a fashion designer and watched Project Runway religiously. She cites Bette Midler’s “amazing, tacky” wardrobe in the 1986 black comedy Ruthless People as influential on her sense of style. In high school, she’d save up tips from her job at Sonic Drive-In to spend on secondhand finds.

Getting a picture of someone’s life through clothing is one of the things Willoughby finds most rewarding about her job. Last summer, a relative contacted her to ask if she’d like to take her late great aunt’s wardrobe, which was full of one-of-a-kind pieces from the 1960s and 1970s. Willoughby hired two interns from Puget Sound to create a lookbook commemorating the collection, a project she’s “super proud” of.

Willoughby describes her buying strategy as a Venn diagram of “old and weird and ugly.” She’s not interested in luxury or designer fashion, but in more unusual items. One of her favorite discoveries to date is a Scorpio-themed Garfield T-shirt from 1979, which she scored for $2 at an estate sale.

“I’ve always found this private joy in loving things that were once loved by someone else,” she says. “It’s like, maybe no one else appreciates this cat sweater, but I see you, Linda, and you loved this cat sweater and I do too—and I will find the next person who will wear it and love it as much as you did.”

1973 The Rev. James Speer ’73 has been named priest-in-charge of St. James Episcopal Church in Higganum, Conn. An economics major at Puget Sound, he felt called to the priesthood in 1975 and earned a divinity degree from Vancouver School of Theology at the University of British Columbia. He has served as pastor to Native American and non-native communities in British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia, and several U.S. states.


1975 Margret Riddle Kingrey ’75 is author of a new book, Alaska Stories: A Memoir, billed as a “travel log of romance, adventure, and spiritual quest.” Margret earned a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy at Puget Sound and taught OT before retiring. She earned her M.F.A. in writing from the University of Nebraska in 2019, and lives in Blair, Neb.
Roosevelt (Ted) Mercer Jr. ’75, a retired Air Force major general, is CEO and executive director of Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority, which owns and operates the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) on Wallops Island, Va. “We launch rockets for government and commercial customers,” he explains. “We are one of only two locations that launch rockets to resupply the International Space Station. It is an exciting business and I love every minute of it. We actually do deal in rocket science!”

1976 Elaine Woodworth Stanovsky ’76, P’10, retired in January as bishop of the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area of the United Methodist Church. She served as bishop in eight different states, and always “made space at the table for new voices,” according to a Faith Foundation announcement about her retirement. “She’s shown us that women belong in the pulpit, the cabinet, and the boardroom,” the announcement said. “She’s used her power and privilege to fight injustice by offering safe sanctuary for queer pastors, speaking out against racism, and prioritizing new church starts that reach underserved communities.” At press time, a crowdfunding effort in her honor (faith.foundation/circle) had raised more than $66,000 to support the Circle of Indigenous Ministries.

1977 Pastor June Fothergill ’77, who led the Ebbert United Methodist Church in Springfield, Ore., for 10 years, retired in July 2022. Before arriving in Springfield in 2012, she had been a pastor at churches in Wasco, Ore.; Boise, Idaho; and Middleton, Idaho. In retirement, she’s working to establish transitional housing for homeless women in Springfield, according to a profile of her in Eugene Weekly.

1981 A book by Russ Stoddard ’81, Rise Up: How to Build a Socially Conscious Business, was named No. 1 in StartupSavant.com’s “Top Startup Books for Social Entrepreneurs” in October. Russ is founder and president of Oliver Russell Company, a social impact branding agency that is a certified B Corporation, meaning it meets certain standards for helping solve social and environmental issues.

1982 PacRim alums Paul Dieter ’82 and Meg Sands ’82 joined forces as Team Loggers for a pickleball tournament at Normandy Park (Wash.) Community Club in October. Paul reports that they dominated the round robin, finishing undefeated, and are “ready to challenge any and all PacRim alumni.”

Niki Fox Elenbaas ’82 and her husband, Jamie Elenbaas ’82, send greetings from their catamaran, s/v Grateful, which they’ve sailed in the waters of five continents since their retirement in 2016. They recently welcomed Rufus Woods ’80 (middle photo at right) for an Atlantic crossing: He joined the crew in Cabo Verde, off the west coast of Africa, for a 16-night sail to Grenada, in the Caribbean. Niki and Jamie are now planning a circumnavigation that they’ve been talking about since their third date. They write about their sailing adventures at Facebook.com/svGrateful and post to Instagram under the handle @goodshipgrateful.
As a kumu hula, or master teacher of hula, Michael Pili Pang ’84 firmly believes in the concept of huliau: to look back in order to move forward. “Hula is an indigenous art form, but it is not something that is to be kept on a shelf,” he says. “It evolves.”

Over the past 36 years, more than 500 students ages 4 to 95 have studied at Pili Pang’s school, Hālau Hula Ka No`eau, which started on the Big Island and opened in Honolulu in 2002. His dancers have performed in Taiwan, Japan, Canada, and across the mainland U.S., as well as at festivals throughout the Hawaiian Islands.

Pili Pang started studying hula when he was 7 and advanced under the mentorship of Ma`iki Aiu Lake (“Aunti Ma`iki”), considered one of the most important hula teachers of the 20th century. He adopted her style of hula ku`i, meaning to sew or piece together. It reflects a style popular during the 1800s but uses simpler, more contemporary movements.

“Our dancers stand very tall and use simpler body movement and facial expressions, rather than hand motions, to suggest the content of the poetry without completely explaining it,” he says. “The feelings that you express in the dance are the most important.”

At Lake’s encouragement, Pili Pang started teaching hula as a first-year student at Puget Sound through the Hawaiian Club; he also was in charge of entertainment for the university’s annual lū`au, a role he was honored to repeat twice more.

He earned the title of kumu hula at the age of 23 in 1985—a year after Lake’s passing—and opened his school the following year. He’s extremely proud to have trained 31 kumu hula since then to carry on the art of hula.

“To this day, we are recognized as the keepers of Aunti Ma`iki’s tradition,” Pili Pang says. “When I dance, I still see her in front of me, showing me what to do.”
Finding Home on the Field

Erin Peterson ‘00, DPT’03

BY ZOE BRANCH ‘18

Growing up, there weren’t many sports Erin Peterson ‘00, DPT’03 didn’t try. “If it was a sport, I played it,” says Peterson, who played varsity softball and basketball at Puget Sound while she studied natural science. It was softball that earned her a spot in the Puget Sound Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013, thanks in part to school records she set, some of which still stand. Softball was always her first love: When she discovered it at the age of 6, she says, it “felt like coming home.”

Peterson served as an assistant coach on the Puget Sound softball team while making her way through the university’s graduate program in physical therapy. Then she saw her involvement in the sport fall away while she focused on her career as physical therapist in the Puget Sound region. But she ultimately found her way back: A former Logger basketball teammate saw an ad for softball umpires and told Peterson, who immediately signed up for the training. “Two weeks later I was on the field, and it had the exact same feeling of home as it did when I was a player.”

As an umpire, Peterson has called games in the PAC 12 and Big Ten, at the NCAA’s Women’s College World Series in Oklahoma City, and at international tournaments as far away as Japan. One of the most gratifying things about the side hustle is representing women in the profession, as they continue to make up a low percentage of umpires. “The players or families almost always say something about how great it is to have a female umpire,” Peterson says. “That visibility matters.”

Peterson balances umpiring with her ownership of Renew Physical Therapy in Seattle’s Beacon Hill neighborhood. Of juggling the two passions, Peterson says each role makes her better at the other—and both, she says, have made her a better listener and communicator.
Rocks and Volcanoes in Alaska

Matt Loewen ’08

BY CHRISTOPHER HANN

Matt Loewen ’08 studies the rocks he finds in some of the most remote corners of Alaska to help him understand volcanoes.

Loewen is a research geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey; he and his colleagues at the Alaska Volcano Observatory monitor dozens of active volcanoes across the country’s largest state. (Since records began to be kept in 1760, more than 50 volcanoes and volcanic fields have been active in Alaska.) Loewen’s field work—about four to six weeks each year—takes him from the observatory’s base in Anchorage to the western Aleutian Islands, some 1,500 miles away. The work can demand long days spent in less-than-luxurious lodgings.

For Loewen, it’s a dream job. “I get to do incredible field work all the time,” he says. “In terms of experiences, this job is like a vacation. I get to go to unbelievably beautiful places that very few people get to go.”

When working at volcanic sites, such as a trip in 2019 following the eruption of Veniaminof—“The lava flow was still quite warm”—Loewen studies the chemistry and the mineral composition of volcanic rocks. With each eruption, he says, “We try to understand why it did what it did, and you can look at rock composition to understand that.”

The most practical application of the work is to steer aircraft away from life-threatening volcanic ash clouds. “If we can prevent one aircraft encounter,” Loewen says, “that pays for what we do.”

Loewen credits the geology department at Puget Sound with launching his passion for volcanology. As an undergraduate working with Professor Jeff Tepper, Loewen studied volcanic activity that occurred 40 million years ago in northeast Washington. “What I’m doing now,” he says, “isn’t all that fundamentally different from what I started doing as an undergrad.”

Anne, his wife of almost 25 years, have settled in Gulf Breeze, Fla.

1999 Rochelle Nguyen ’99 has been appointed as the first-ever Asian American state senator in Nevada. She’ll fill the unfinished term of a state senator who retired. Rochelle majored in comparative sociology at Puget Sound and went on to earn a law degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She had been serving in the Nevada State Assembly, representing the 10th district, which includes a portion of Las Vegas; she was appointed to the assembly seat in 2019 and won election in 2020 and 2022.

2005 Caitlin Quander ’05, a shareholder in the Denver law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck LLP, has been appointed to the Denver Planning Board. The board advises the mayor and Denver City Council on land use matters including planning and zoning. Caitlin earned a communication degree from Puget Sound and a law degree from the University of Denver.

2006 Steven Baker ’06, who majored in business administration and minored in economics at Puget Sound, was named chief philanthropy officer at the Minnesota Jewish Community Foundation and Minneapolis Jewish Federation. He also is a 2022–24 fellow at the Mandel Institute for Nonprofit Leadership, and recently became a certified family philanthropy advisor. He lives in Minneapolis.

Ben Lee ’06 and his wife, Jen Salisbury, started a nonprofit mobile library on Vashon Island. Their aim is to foster a love of reading and to promote literacy by delivering books to the island’s young people, with an emphasis on kids whose families...
lack resources to get to the local public library. Their bookmobile is a converted Japanese fire truck that plays jingles while they drive. “It’s like the ice cream truck, but cooler,” says Ben.

**2007** Brian Marrs DPT’07 is director of a new physical therapy clinic, Sound to Summit Physical Therapy, in Bellingham, Wash. It’s the second location for Sound to Summit; Brian previously directed the clinic in Mount Vernon. He is an orthopedic clinical specialist and also serves as a clinical instructor for PT students.

**2008** The University of Colorado Denver has named Rachel Gross ’08, an assistant professor of history, as its Chancellor’s Faculty Fellow for the current academic year. She advises the chancellor and her senior leadership team on implementing the university’s strategic plan. Rachel majored in history and Spanish at Puget Sound, then went on to get a master’s and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She has a book forthcoming from Yale University Press, Selling Nature: The Outdoor Industry in American History.

Carolyn Ham ’08 recently published a journal article, “A Home by Any Other Name: Building an Understanding of Infection Prevention in Small Residential Care Facilities,” in the Public Policy & Aging Report. The article explores the unique infection prevention needs of small facilities. She also presented the research at the Gerontological Society of America’s annual scientific meeting in November.

**2011** Hanna Kregling ’11 has joined Nail Communications, an award-winning creative agency in Providence, R.I., as a senior creative. She’ll be focused on conceptual design and art direction for key clients, including the pet food brand Natural Balance. Previously she worked at agencies in the Boston and New York metropolitan areas, including Ogilvy, Allen & Gerritsen, and Momentum Worldwide. She majored in theatre arts at Puget Sound.

**2012** Ariel Downs ’12 graduated in May 2022 with her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in voice performance from the conservatory at the University of Missouri–Kansas City. Her research focused on the Pre-Raphaelite Aesthetics of Claude Debussy’s cantata “La damoiselle éluë” and opera Pelléas et Mélisande. As part of her graduate work, she also produced, directed, and starred in a film of “La damoiselle éluë,” which can be viewed on her website, ariel-downs.com.

Darcy Nelson ’12 shared stories and songs as part of a TEDxWomen event in Denver. She hopes that her topic, “Music is Medicine,” helps lessen the stigma of talking about addiction and encourages people to explore healthy coping mechanisms like music and meditation. You can find her TEDx presentation on YouTube. She also has created a website, darcynelson.com/be-well, for people curious to explore connections among mind, body, and mood.

**2013** Herrera Environmental Consultants has hired Liza Holtz ’13 as an environmental designer, based in the firm’s Portland, Ore., office. A natural sciences major at Puget Sound, Liza recently earned a master’s in landscape architecture from the University of Oregon. She’s especially interested in the design and management of landscapes that are sustainable, inclusive, and meaningful.

**2014** Alicia Matz ’14, a Ph.D. student in classics at Boston University, is co-editor of a special issue of the journal Thersites on “There and Back Again: Tolkien and the Greco-Roman World.” Thersites bills itself as the “journal for transcultural presences and diachronic identities from antiquity to date.” Matz also contributed an essay to the issue, on “Ents, Sacred Groves, and the Cost of Desecration.” Kathryn Stutz ’18, a Ph.D. student in classics at Johns Hopkins University, also contributed a paper to the issue, on “G.B. Smith’s Elzevir Cicero and the Construction of Queer Immortality in Tolkien’s Mythopoeia.”

**2015** Zachary Hamilton ’15, who graduated with a degree in violin performance, released a new EP, You’re My Favorite. The short album includes an arrangement and accompanying video of the Scottish folk song “Loch Lomond,” which he wrote and performed for his senior recital. Zachary, who also has a master’s degree in viola from the Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, in the Netherlands, released a viola cover of comedian Bo Burnham’s comedy bit/song “Can’t Handle This (Kanye Rant).” Website: zacharyhamiltonmusic.com.

**2016** Michellie Hess ’16 graduated in November from the University of Glasgow in Scotland with a master’s degree in political communications. At Puget Sound, she was a politics and government major with a minor in French.
IN MEMORIAM

Known to friends and family as “Jolly,” Jolafern Torgerson Crawley ’45 died Sept. 26, 2022, two weeks shy of her 99th birthday. She grew up in Tacoma and earned a sociology degree from Puget Sound, where she was president of Tri Delta sorority. She later earned a master’s degree and was a social worker in the Seattle and Federal Way areas from 1950 to 1985. In retirement, she traveled to more than 80 countries. Among her many survivors is brother Jon Torgerson ’54.

Emma Nelson Doan ’49 served in the Navy during World War II, then earned a degree in business administration from Puget Sound. She and her husband, Raymond Doan ’49, were married for 67 years until his death in 2015. She was known for her love of tennis and travel. She died Dec. 22, 2022, in Houston at age 97.

Donald Bremner ’50 majored in philosophy at Puget Sound; he also met his future wife, Delores (Dee) Breu ’51, at the university. He later earned a master’s degree in journalism and Far Eastern studies and spent decades working in newspapers, much of it as an editor and foreign correspondent at the Los Angeles Times. In retirement, he volunteered as a hike leader for the Sierra Club and was active in politics. He died Aug. 22, 2022, in Pasadena, Calif.; Dee preceded him in death. Among his survivors is a nephew, James Douglas Bremner ’83.

Lois Poindexter Haley ’50 died Oct. 12, 2022, in Mt. Vernon, Wash. She was 95. She was active in her church, singing in the choir, playing piano and organ, and teaching Sunday School; she also helped develop a handbell choir. She and her husband helped build homes for Habitat for Humanity and served local food banks. In their free time they enjoyed hiking, sailing the San Juan Islands, and riding motorcycles.

David Charles Lundberg ’50 died May 16, 2022, in Tacoma at age 94. He grew up in Puyallup, Wash., attended Puget Sound, and earned a dentistry degree from the University of Oregon. He was a elder and trustee of First Presbyterian Church in Tacoma; was a trustee of Highline Community College in Des Moines, Wash.; and served on the Federal Way School Board. His wife preceded him in death.

Derrill Fransen ’51 started college in 1942, working as a machinist apprentice in Tacoma to pay for school, but World War II interrupted his studies. He joined the Army and spent two years serving in the Philippines, Okinawa, and Korea, then returned to finish his education, graduating from Puget Sound with a degree in sociology. He owned several businesses, and he and his wife raised a family in a house they built on Browns Point. In retirement, they traveled the world and enjoyed time on their 40-foot cruiser. Fransen died Nov. 7, 2022, at age 97.

Martin “Marty” Lougee ’51 died Nov. 4, 2022, in Sun City West, Ariz., at age 96. He served in the Army in World War II, receiving a Purple Heart, and again in the Korean War. He worked as an accountant at Weyerhaeuser, a branch manager for Great Western Savings & Loan, and a business consultant at City Sign Company in Tacoma. An outstanding golfer, he was former president of Fircrest Golf Club in Tacoma and recorded nine hole-in-ones over the years. He also was an avid card player and a family man who thoroughly enjoyed his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

We received word in August 2022 of the death of Robert Bruce Smith ’51 of Spokane, Wash. After high school, he worked at the Tacoma shipyard, then as a welder and sawmill hand, among other jobs, before joining the Navy. Later he attended Puget Sound and earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Washington. He taught English at Eastern Washington University for 28 years. An avid golfer, he played at courses all over Washington and British Columbia.

Mercedes Cox Tate ’53 and her husband, Terry Tate ’52, met at Puget Sound and were married for 59 years, spending most of that time in Spokane, Wash. Like Terry, Mercedes was active in her church and community. She was a church youth group leader, sang in the choir, and taught Sunday School; she also was a volunteer at Spokane’s Museum of Arts and Culture, ultimately serving as president of the museum’s board of trustees. Mercedes died Aug. 7, 2022, at the age of 93; Terry preceded her in death in 2012.

When Donald Acheson ’55 earned his degree in biology from Puget Sound, he became the first college graduate in his family’s history. He went on to earn a master’s in ornithology.

George Obiozor ’69
1942–2022

A native Nigerian, George Obiozor ’69 rocketed from a Puget Sound undergraduate and three-time graduate of Columbia University to eventually become Nigeria’s Ambassador to the United States from 2004–08. He also served as High Commissioner to Cyprus and Ambassador to Israel.

Obiozor had been a student at Albert Schweitzer College in Switzerland when a chance encounter with then-Puget Sound Dean John Regester led to Obiozor enrolling at Puget Sound. He majored in political science, which he saw as the intersection of history and philosophy, peace and justice. “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,” Obiozor told Arches magazine in 2019.

In the 1970s he taught at Pratt Institute, at CUNY-Medgar Evers College, and in CUNY’s Graduate Center, where he was a Ralph Bunche Fellow. As a member of Nigeria’s Igbo people, he served as president of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, a sociocultural organization for the Igbo, who are largely based in southeastern Nigeria. In that role, he strongly advocated for the 2023 election of a first Igbo president since 1966.

“Professor George Obiozor has been a high flyer all his life,” said Chief Goddy Uwazurike, a lawyer for Ohanaeze Ndigbo, in Prime Business Africa. “In academia, he was a star. In political life, he excelled in the appointments he held. As president of Ohanaeze Ndigbo, he stood like a rock of Gibraltar.”

A husband and father, Obiozor died Dec. 26, 2022, at age 80 after a brief illness. —Renée Olson
and teach at both the high school and college levels, including a stint teaching at Puget Sound. In retirement, he volunteered for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Habitat for Humanity, and was a master gardener. He died Dec. 12, 2022, in Shelton, Wash., at the age of 94.

Ann Marr Ott ’56 majored in education at Puget Sound before finishing her degree at the University of Washington. She taught school in New York state and later was a substitute teacher in Massachusetts. She was a ruling elder in her church and took great pleasure in her large family. She died July 23, 2022, in Westford, Mass.

Marilyn Gale ’58 of Santa Rosa, Calif., died July 2, 2022, at the age of 85. She earned a degree in education from Puget Sound.

Rev. Donald Larson ’59 died Nov. 12, 2022, in Othello, Wash. A psychology major at Puget Sound, he earned a master’s degree at Claremont School of Theology in California and was ordained as a United Methodist Church minister. He also was passionate about his family and golf; he learned the latter in high school and continued playing and watching until his passing at age 87.

Elizabeth “Liz” Schenken Roach ’60 was born in Seattle and spent most of her life in the Magnolia neighborhood. She had a 23-year career as a reference librarian for Seattle and King County; she also sang in the choir at Magnolia United Church of Christ and was a founding member of the Magnolia Chorale Choir. While a student at Puget Sound, she met Thomas Roach ’63; the two were married until his death in 2004. Liz died Nov. 11, 2022, at age 84.

Lyne Hartshorn Rummel ’61, of Longmont, Colo., died Dec. 20, 2022. She was 83. A medical technology major at Puget Sound, she met her future husband, Jack Rummel ’61, in a chemistry lab. They eventually settled in Colorado, where she taught skiing in Winter Park’s Blind Skier Program, was active in the Boulder Unitarian Church, volunteered for the Red Cross, and made Rotary-sponsored medical visits to Guatemala, Venezuela, and Nepal.

Richard “Rick” Wagner ’61 was born in Fairbanks, Alaska, and lived almost his entire life in Alaska. He was a certified insurance broker for Frank B. Hall and Company, then started his own company, Alaska 100 Insurance Inc. He also was involved in establishing Denali State Bank, and in the 1970s he purchased Ski Boot Hill. He died in Fairbanks in October of 2022.

Deanna Tunks Wasson ’62 attended Puget Sound on a music scholarship. She became a first-grade teacher in Adna, Wash., and was also known for her talents as a pianist, artist, seamstress, and gardener. Married for more than 60 years, she and her husband raised two children and enjoyed traveling, visiting all 50 states and 46 countries. She died Sept. 13, 2022, in Lacey, Wash., at the age of 82.

Gloria Jackson ’66 earned a German degree from Puget Sound and intended to pursue a career in law, but an acquaintance persuaded her to get her realtor’s license. She ended up working in commercial real estate in Salem, Ore., for 20 years. She was vice president of Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate and the company’s top commercial realtor for seven straight years. She also gave served on the board of the Boys and Girls Club and as president of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce. She died Nov. 4, 2022, in Salem.

Susan Black Schalock MEd’68 spent 33 years at Hastings College in Nebraska, where she was professor of physical education and head women’s tennis coach. She was NAIA Tennis Coach of the Year six times. She gave workshops on adapted physical education and modern dance nationally and internationally, and she served three years as president of the Nebraska Association of Health, Physical Education, and Dance. She and her husband retired from Hastings in 2000 and moved to Chelewah, Wash.; she died in Chewelah on Dec. 17, 2022.

Gregory Olson ’69 earned an economics degree from Puget Sound, where he was active in Sigma Chi. He later earned an M.B.A. from Western Michigan University and became a marine insurance underwriter, starting a Seattle office that eventually became Navigators Insurance. He and his wife enjoyed cooking, hiking, fishing, and traveling; he also loved to take his daughters and grandchildren skiing in Sun Valley, Idaho, which he had first visited while on the ski team at Puget Sound. Olson died April 30, 2021, in Seattle.

Margaret Gish Campbell ’71 of Anacortes, Wash., died of cancer Nov. 7, 2022. She earned a degree in education at Puget Sound, where she met Donald Campbell ’71, to whom she would be married for 51 years. She taught in the Coeur d’Alene school district in Idaho for 21 years; her career also included stints as a banker, licensed practical nurse, and realtor. She was a church deacon, Bible study leader, and Sunday School teacher, and started several ministries, including one called Cancer Companions. She and Don traveled extensively; she also enjoyed skiing, swimming, scuba diving, and whale watching.

John Anderson ’73 died Sept. 3, 2022, in Sumner, Wash. He was 88. He spent 35 years working for the Sumner School District, including 16 years as head football coach and 16 as athletic director. His teams posted an overall record of 144–52–6 and won two state championships; Anderson was named State Coach of the Year and State Athletic Director of the Year, and was inducted into the state’s Coaches Hall of Fame and Athletic Director Hall of Fame. Active in the local Rotary, he received a Rotary Lifetime Achievement Award. He also was a talented craftsman who made beautiful wood furnishings for his family.

Jimmie Hager ’73 died Oct. 29, 2021. He earned a degree in accounting from Puget Sound and lived in Mission Hills, Calif.

Col. Dennis Meyer MBA’75 spent 28 years in the U.S. Army, serving in Central America, Vietnam (where he was a medic), Guam, and Germany, as well as stateside in Washington, D.C., and Madigan Army Hospital at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. His awards included the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service, Legion of Merit, and Humanitarian Services medals, among others. He also was a passionate skier, soccer player, and golfer, and a soccer and golf coach to his children and community. He died Nov. 16, 2022, in Lakewood, Wash.

Norman Bailey ’76 died Sept. 1, 2022, in Poulsbo, Wash., at the age of 74. Born in Petersburg, Alaska, he grew up in Alaska’s Mit-
Florence Phillipi 1936–2022

Florence Phillipi, administrative assistant to the Department of History, began at Puget Sound in 1973. First hired on a temporary basis to assist the committee that chose Philip Phibbs as the university’s 11th president, Phillipi caught the eye of committee member and history professor Walter Lowrie, who convinced her to join the department full-time. For nearly half a century, she was the ultimate nonstop juggler.

“With amazing efficiency and seriousness of purpose, Florence typed and proofread reports, and academic articles, booked rooms and flights, and maneuvered the university bureaucracy for faculty,” says history professor John Lear. “She was the first person to arrive at the department every morning. Because faculty depended on her so much, we were more likely to talk with Florence every day than with each other.”

Phillipi, who died on Dec. 11, 2022, impressed Professor of History Nancy Bristow, who credited Philip Phillipi in the acknowledgments for her 2012 book American Pandemic: The Lost Worlds of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic. “I would never have made it through my first week, let alone 21 years, at the university without [her] support and expertise,” Bristow wrote. A wife and mother to two athletically inclined sons, Phillipi, who had no use for retirement until 2022, had a mellowing effect.

“With kind reassurances, a dry wit, and subtle rolls of her eyes, she put the stressful and self-dramatizing elements of academic life in perspective,” said Lear. “She helped keep the department on an even keel.”
—Renée Olson

Florence Phillipi

Carrie Asleson Holo ’77 of Bellevue, Neb., spent much of her life raising a family and serving others. A mother of two and grandmother of two, she also was active in her church, teaching Sunday School and offering care and comfort to people who had experienced trauma and adversity. She helped care for older adults and people with disabilities, and volunteered her time to help Sudanese refugees navigate their new life in the United States. She died Oct. 10, 2022, at the age of 66.

Elizabeth Andrews Williams ’79 of Spokane, Wash., died Nov. 30, 2022, after a yearlong battle with brain cancer. She was 65. A psychology major at Puget Sound, she also competed in track, cross country, and cross-country skiing. She worked in recreational therapy at Providence St. Joseph Care Center in Spokane, was social action coordinator for the Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith, and was active in the United Methodist Climate Justice Movement and the environmental group 350 Spokane.

Jim Coury ’80 of Seattle died Oct. 1, 2022, at the age of 67, after suffering two strokes. At Puget Sound he majored in economics and played four years on the golf team; he also married Lynn Majors ’80 in Kilworth Chapel. He worked in the maritime shipping industry, retiring in 2013. He enjoyed traveling with the family and especially loved fishing trips to Alaska with his two sons.

Kristen Hartwigsen ’97 of Peralta, N.M., earned a degree in mathematics from Puget Sound, where joined Kappa Alpha Theta and served as a campus visit coordinator in admission. She later earned a master’s in organizational leadership from Gonzaga University, then worked for Starbucks for eight years and Nike for 11; more recently, she was head of people solutions at the IT services company Concentrix. She was passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and had recently begun work on a certificate in intercultural/multicultural and diversity studies at Gonzaga. She died Dec. 21, 2022, after battling ongoing health problems. She was 47.

Daniel Springer ’98 graduated from high school in Port Angeles, Wash., earned a community-college degree in architectural drafting, and worked for Boeing Aircraft. Later, he went back to school, earning a bachelor’s degree at Puget Sound, then worked at SeaTac as a cargo operations supervisor for Alaska Airlines. He also was an accomplished cook, happiest when in the kitchen or barbecuing. He died Oct. 26, 2022, in Renton, Wash., at the age of 55.

Patrick Sullivan ’02 of San Diego ran Menifee Fuels, the family business of convenience stores, gas stations, and car washes. After being diagnosed with colorectal cancer at age 37 and enduring several surgeries, chemotherapy, and radiation, he was declared cancer-free. He helped raise thousands of dollars for the American Cancer Society and for a genetic disorder called epidermolysis bullosa (EB). He also was a family man, an outstanding chef, and a music fan who attended more than 50 Pearl Jam shows. A Lego enthusiast, he used his Lego skills to build a mosaic to raise money for EB research. He died Oct. 27, 2022, at age 42.

Matthew Firn ’17, a native of Moscow, Idaho, earned an associate degree from Wenatchee Community College in Wenatchee, Wash., before attending Puget Sound, from which he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy. As a student he co-hosted a two-hour radio show during KUPS’S Loud Rock station. He died in Eugene, Oregon, on July 8, 2022.
On June 25, 2022, Alex King ’14 married Kimberly Lowell ‘15 in the presence of many of Logger friends. They celebrated at CedarVale Events in Hubbard, Ore. From left: Rebecca Zavala ’13, Michael Lim ’14, Eric Kenji Lee ’15, Christian Foster ’15, Luis Rodriguez ’14, Peter Bergene ’15, Grace Ferrara ’13, the bride and groom, Taiga Harimoto ’15, Dayna Ko Nham ’15, Bryston Nham ’16, Madeline Berry ’15, and Drew Anderson ’15.

Rachel Ridings ’06 and Scott Lelli ’08 welcomed their son, Luka Lelli, in January 2022 in Northeast Tacoma.


Send Scrapbook photos to arches@pugetsound.edu.
KUPS Runneth Over

BY STELLA ZAWISTOWSKI

The campus radio station always has some good programs, and some intriguing names for them. You’ll find a few in this puzzle. Send a photo of your completed puzzle to arches@pugetsound.edu, or post it on Instagram or Twitter and tag us (@univpugetsound). We’ll pick a successful puzzler to win a prize from the Logger Store. (Congrats to Trevor Anthony ’02 of Philadelphia, who won the prize from the Autumn 2022 puzzle!) See the solution to this issue’s puzzle at pugetsound.edu/KUPSRunnethOver—and check out what the student radio gang is up to at kupsfm.com.

ACROSS
1. More, according to a minimalist
5. Stare open-mouthed
9. Played for a fool
14. “La ____ Bonita” (‘80s Madonna hit)
15. Actress Shawkat of Arrested Development
16. Drama with singing
17. Polite form of address
18. For fear that
19. Sculptor of “The Thinker” and “The Kiss”
20. KUPS show that sounds vaguely plague-y
23. Nickname that drops “-vatore”
24. “And even so ...”
25. Long, slender cigar
28. Now, in Nogales
30. Sighting in Jordan Peele’s Nope
34. KUPS show with beboppin’ bops
35. Chapati relative
40. Apt name for a cat burglar
41. ____-Ball (arcade classic)
42. KUPS show with a colorful name
47. Important time period
48. Gender-neutral possessive
49. Adoption or advocacy
51. Bit of hand cream
53. Atom with a charge
54. KUPS show with an emphasis on strings
58. Solo in a 16-Across
59. Ranked tournament competitor
60. “____, old chap ...”
61. Doesn’t just assume
62. Component of a balanced meal, for short
63. iPhone’s voice since 2011
64. First lady ____ Truman
65. Mexican street corn
66. Yeah Yeah Yeahs, for one
67. Journalist’s source, at times
68. They’re studied in BIOL 213
69. Penn who lent an Oscar to Volodymyr Zelenskyy
70. What Dreyer’s is called in the eastern U.S.

DOWN
1. An arm or a leg
2. Biblical birthright seller
3. Thick slice
4. Savory pastr y in Indian cuisine
5. NASA space probe named for an Italian astronomer
6. Baldwin brother with the shortest first name
7. Milwaukee’s loc.
8. Najimy who starred in Hocus Pocus
9. “Over the Rainbow” singer
10. “____ my word!”
11. Mani’s companion service
12. The Little Mermaid prince
13. Level in a judo gym
21. Not fake
25. Kitty’s sound of contentment
26. Underway, to Sherlock Holmes
27. V-shaped cut
28. Chicago mayor Lightfoot
29. All together now!
31. Breakfast beverages, for short
32. Performs an autumn chore
33. Hyundai sedan model
36. Flows back
37. Extreme enthusiasm
39. Likable President?
43. Challenges from the Sphinx
44. Kazakhstan’s ____ Sea
45. Viewpoint in The Trail
46. “Rock on!”
50. Lacking the skill, say
52. Defeats in a match
54. Item in a folder
55. Element in steel
56. Fruit from a palm
57. Hot thing to build
Shawna Smith ’17 and Sean Reilly ’15 got married on Oct. 2, 2021, at Smith’s grandparents’ home in Oak Harbor, Wash. Both student-athletes (Smith played volleyball for Puget Sound and Reilly played football), the couple met at the gym in 2014. Loggers attending the wedding include, from left (back row): Ricky Howard ’15, Josh Zavisubin ’18, Erika Smith ’18, Maggie VanWheele ’18, Katie Rice ’18, Zal Robles ’16, Graham Cobb ’17, Aliy Eisenstein ’19, Hans Fortune ’16, Kenchi Aga ’17, Nolan Haver ’17, Sean Whaley ’17, and Ross MacAusland ’16. Middle row: Megan Lambert ’16, Emma Richardson ’17, Shelby Kantner ’18, Bella Graves ’16, JP Campbell ’16, Parker Brisebois ’16, Austin Wagner ’16, and Nick Nestingen ’16. Front row: Riley Lawrence ’17, Rita Dexter ’18, Lauren Engstrom ’16, the bride, Gabby Green ’18, Taylor Johnson ’16, Brennan Schoen ’16, the groom, Matt Gilbert ’16, Dan Nakamura ’16, and Anthony Furr ’16.

About 200 men and women who graduated from Puget Sound in the mid to late 1970s have stayed close and held a reunion once every 10 years or so. The most recent was in Sept. 8, 2022, in Gig Harbor, Wash., with about 65 Loggers in attendance; it included a special remembrance for Bob Patterson ’74, who died last winter. From left: Carol Cummins LeGrande ’74, Tom McCarter ’75, Alice McCarter, Art Barlow ’68, Kathy Werner ’76, Chris Gentry ’73, and Carolee LaPeyre.

Another photo from the same reunion as shown at left. Back row, from left: Margo Wilson MacDonald ’76, Tom McCarter ’75, and George Gavigan ’75. Front row: Carolee LaPeyre and Art Barlow ’68.

Douglas Landreth ’73, Margie Zane Landreth ’73, and Linda Vert ’73 travelled to Vienna 50 years after meeting and spending their spring semester abroad, even staying at Pension Neuer Markt, where they lived in 1972. Says Margie, “It was so much fun rediscovering familiar haunts together!” Linda adds: “We had such a spectacular trip, and have been such longtime friends thanks to good ol’ Puget Sound, that we just had to share.”

Loggers showed up in force in New York City in December for the New York Regional Alumni Club’s happy hour social at Bryant Park Winter Village. Back row, from left: Rick Hinkson ’80, Olivia Cadwell ’16, Liz Frost ’17, Ilana Dutton ’20, Jordan O’Hanlon ’19, Sofia Scott ’11, Maddy Kunz ’17, Allie Lawrence ’18, Alexandra Keysselitz ’18, Conner Elliott ’13, Ellie Casey ’20, and Eva Baylin ’21. Front row: Brian Cross ’15, Lucy Fey ’15, Ameer Mohit ’12, Carrie Blodgett ’12, and Jack Simon ’12. (Interested in joining the New York alumni group? Email alumoffice@pugetsound.edu.)
On July 28, 2022, on a bluff overlooking the Columbia River in Hood River, Ore., Clay Thompson ’09 married Stéphane Mead, with a number of Loggers in attendance. From left: Maddy Ryen ’09, Caroline Nelson Brandeau ’08, Ryan Fish ’08, Elizabeth Fei ’09, Matt Hoffman ’08, Nani Vishwanath ’09, the grooms, Lucinda Stroud ’09, Sean Carvey ’09, Marcos Goldstein ’08, Charlotte Emigh ’08, Justin Harvey ’09, former Puget Sound admission staffer Chad Guenser-Minnick, and Travis Rahe ’11. Stéphane and Clay met in Seattle in 2014 and now live in Amsterdam.

A number of Logger alumni competed for the Tacoma City Running Club in the USA Track & Field national club cross country championships. The meet was at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on a wet, blustery December afternoon. From left: Francis Reynolds ’10, MAT ’11, Dave Davis ’00, Sam Berg ’00, Dan McLean ’04, MAT ’08, Ben Mangrum ’99, Liam Monaghan ’19, Colin Monaghan ’22, and Jimmy O’Dea ’04. (Davis won the Division III national cross-country championship as an undergraduate in 1999.)
Anthony Warmuth '12 and Morgan Giese '14 were married on July 29, 2022, at Trinity Tree Farm in Issaquah, Wash., with a large cohort of Puget Sound alumni on hand. From left: Jordan Bock '12, Harry Yu '12, Emily Brothers '14, John Derksen '12, Kayla Jacobs '14, Andrew Mark '12, Zach Benton '12, Anthony Warmuth '12, Morgan Giese '14, Brenda Seymour '14, Dana Zillgitt '12, Blake Titcomb '13, Hannah Miller '14, Lisa Fazzino '12, Chris Gilbert '11, Carrie Eidsness '12, and Bill Bugert '12.

Sigma Nu alums met on campus during Reunion Weekend in June, their first gathering since the beginning of the pandemic. Front row, from left: Steve Flexer '76, Tom Jobe '62, Chuck Fowler '60, Bob Beale '58, guest speaker Grant Blinn, Vince Vonada '83, Jim Guthrie '61, Ray Jones '64, P'98, Steve White '68, and Rick Anderson '64. Back row: Bill Nelson '69, Barrie Wilcox '62, Hon’62, P’91, Jerry Boos ’77, Bruce Reid ’78, P’12, Bill Baarsma ‘64, P’93, Mark Honeywell ’66, Dick Peterson ’67, George Kirk ’86, Tony Trunk ’82, Jens Jorgensen ’85, Craig Duvall ’83, and Tim McVicker ’83. Not pictured: Paul Stone ’83, Dave Udell ’81, and Jamie Will ’69, P’97.

Archives & Special Collections recently acquired 150 pop-up books, donated by retired art librarian Stanley Hess of Bremerton, Wash. Pop-up books, which date to the 13th century, are intricate and highly interactive; they’re popular not just with kids but also art lovers and book collectors.


See more—including a pop-up book of scenes from Alfred Hitchcock movies—at pugetsound.edu/popups.
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