SHEER BEAUTY

The artistry of mountain climber, skier, and photographer Sarah Strattan ’11.
TO THE HEIGHTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT
Isaiah Crawford on the not-so-sleepy summe r on campus.

DISPATCHES
Going-on on campus and off, including a visit by Rita Moreno, the return of the Fieldhouse Flea Market, and advice on staying safe online.

CONNECTIONS
Bella Rodriguez ’24 investigates the roots of the Cuban-American community in Portland, Ore.

GALA
Laura Knuppff on writing and teaching—and on swimming in Puget Sound.

EXPLORATIONS
Megan Mooney ’23 gets muddy in search of parasites that threaten seagrass.

YOU ARE HERE
Cherry trees add beauty to campus every spring.

FEATURES

ENDLESS BEAUTY
For Sarah Stratton ’15, she revives around mountains. She shares with us some of her stunning images from the world’s tallest peaks.

PARTING THOUGHTS
We asked seven retiring faculty members to reflect on their Puget Sound careers—and to tell us what’s next.

ALWAYS A LOGGER
Alex Kaufman ’17 brings comedy to Montana; Anthony Madia ’87 finds his happy place in the Catskills; and Bob Rosner ’80 helps get clean water to Kenya.

PROFILES

Remembering Ronald Thomas, the university’s 13th president, who passed away April 12.

COMING HOME
Remembering Ronald Thomas, the university’s 13th president, who passed away April 12.

IN MEMORIAM
Remembering members of our community who have passed.

SCRAPBOOK
Loggers share photos of their reunions, weddings, serendipitous encounters, and more.

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One hundred years ago, ground was broken for the first building on our new campus.

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Summer around here has a different rhythm than the rest of the academic year. What does it feel like to you?

It’s not quite as busy on campus as it is between September and May, but it’s far from a ghost town. We have students here taking classes and doing summer research, and we have a very vital and busy conference schedule, among other activities. Conferences, summer camps, and our Summer Academic Challenge allow us to make the campus available to the broader community, where people are able to utilize our facilities in a variety of ways.

How important are the summer offerings to the overall vitality of the university? Very important. Students are able to pursue some of their interests that they wouldn’t be able to explore during the academic year. We’re able to engage our community, help young people appreciate the opportunities they have locally to pursue their intellectual interests, and to help them be open to pursuing a college education—be it with us or any other college or university.

You mentioned conferences that take place on campus. Those happen year-round, but they seem to increase in the summer.

Yes, it’s far more robust during the summer than during the academic year. We are looking at expanding our conference programming throughout the academic year in some new and novel ways. And that’s something that our executive vice president, Kim Kvaal, and associate vice president for facilities, Bob Kief, are exploring in earnest.

There also are opportunities for lifelong learning. I was impressed with the roster of Community Summer programs this year—everything from ceramics to white-water kayaking. That’s key to understanding issues faced by Native Americans.

We’ve been expanding those types of community courses that relate to our commitment to lifelong learning and enrichment. Again, these are ways in which we want to promote our role as a cultural and intellectual asset to Tacoma and the Pierce County region.

—Interview by Tina Hay

WE’RE BACK!

After missing three years because of COVID-19, the Fieldhouse Flea Market returned in March. With more than 60 vendors on hand, the event raised more than $32,100 for student scholarships. The Women’s League has been organizing the flea market since 1968.

NEW PROVOST

Drew Kerkhoff, associate provost at Kenyon College in Ohio, has been named provost at Puget Sound. A biologist, he’s been on the Kenyon faculty since 2005; he recently led the development of a plan to attain carbon neutrality by 2040.

PUT ME IN, COACH

The university has hired two “student success coaches” to support incoming students. Tiffany Williams and Will Holland will help students find resources and navigate the challenges of the first year on campus.

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

This year’s Legacy Day Challenge in March was a strong success, raising $486,384 from 1,530 donors in 47 states. Class of ’79 alumni gave the most of any class ($105,215), and football alumni donated the most of any sport ($29,393). The money goes to financial aid, academic programs, and student life, among other areas.

LOCAL FAVORITE

South Sound Magazine named University of Puget Sound its top college in the 2023 Best of the South Sound rankings, based on voting by readers.

BASEBALL HISTORY

Robert Guerrit, emeritus professor of English, has a new book, Jazz Age Giant: Charles A. Stoneham and New York City Baseball in the Roaring Twenties. The University of Nebraska Press is the publisher.

TOP STUDENT-ATHLETES

Ava Cholakian ’23 and Dylan Joyce ’23 have been named Puget Sound’s most outstanding student-athletes for 2022-23. Cholakian netted 17 goals and led the women’s soccer team to an NCAA tournament appearance. Joyce, a pitcher and infielder on the baseball team, set the school career records for home runs (86) and runs batted in (134).

NEW MENTOR

Oscar Essa, associate professor of biology, has been named the newest mentor for the Access Scholars Cohort. The program provides financial, academic, and social support to Tacoma Public Schools students who enroll at Puget Sound.

WHAT WE’RE TALKING ABOUT ON CAMPUS

What’s the idea behind that program?

We’re very proud of our Academic Challenge program. It’s one of the ways we feel that we’re able to engage our community, help young people appreciate the opportunities they have locally to pursue their intellectual interests, and to help them be open to pursuing a college education—be it with us or any other college or university.

Summit at Puget Sound

Baccalaureate degrees. And, of course, our graduate programs continue to operate throughout the summer in various forms. We’re looking to grow our summer session programs to appeal not only to Puget Sound students, but also to other college students who are returning to the South Sound for the summer and who may want to take advantage of some of our offerings.

Students also use the summer session to do research, internships, and other kinds of experiential learning, which we know is essential to a Puget Sound education. Absolutely. We’re actually making it very much a cornerstone of a University of Puget Sound education. We believe that a University of Puget Sound education is not something you get; education—be it with us or any other college or university.

Students have the opportunity to do an internship, do a community-based project, or do a study abroad or study away. And students often take advantage of the summers to have those experiences.

Summer is also when we see middle school and high school students on campus as part of the Summer Academic Challenge. What’s the difference?

We’ve been expanding those types of community programs this year. There also are opportunities for lifelong learning. I was impressed with the roster of Community Summer programs this year—everything from ceramics to white-water kayaking. That’s key to understanding issues faced by Native Americans.

We’ve been expanding those types of community courses that relate to our commitment to lifelong learning and enrichment. Again, these are ways in which we want to promote our role as a cultural and intellectual asset to Tacoma and the Pierce County region.

Love wins the day

A 17th-century French romantic comedy called Games of Love and Chance was the Department of Theatre Arts’ marquee production this spring. Mya Woods ’25 (above, left) and Allison Turk ’29 were among the performers in the Norton Clapp Theatre.

FULLBRIGHT LOVE

Puget Sound has once again been named among the colleges and universities that produce the most Fulbright Students, according to the State Department. Six Puget Sound students earned Fulbright awards in 2022-23.

S K E T C H B O O K

IN PRAISE OF SALMON

Artist Eileen Klatt worked for years on a series of 61 large paintings dedicated to salmon species that have become extinct. Four of those paintings—including The Wallowa Wallowa River drum shown above—were part of Honor: People and Salmon, an exhibition by artist-advocates in Kittredge Gallery this spring. The exhibition was organized by Northwest Artists Against Extinction.
Tales of a Legend
Stage and screen star Rita Moreno visits campus to give the Pierce Lecture. By Tina Hay

Hollywood legend Rita Moreno charmed the campus community in April when she delivered the Spring 2023 Susan Resneck Pierce Lecture and spoke to a class. Now 91, Moreno is perhaps best known for playing Anita in the 1961 film West Side Story, a role that earned her an Academy Award for best supporting actress—and made her the first Latina to win an Oscar. Born in Puerto Rico, she moved to the U.S. with her mother at age 5. “I learned very quickly, with language, it was either sink or swim,” she told an audience in Schneebeck Hall. “I wanted to swim. So I learned English very quickly.”

She recalled performing at a dance recital in New York City at age 15, after the recital, an MGM talent scout in attendance gave her mother his business card. “I’m not sure she’s ready yet,” he said, “but I want to give you my card as I believe she may have a future at MGM.” Says Moreno, “I damn near peed in my pants!”

Moreno, who has earned Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony Awards, has also received the Kennedy Center Honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the National Medal of Arts, among other honors. For her lecture, she was joined onstage in a Q&A format by Andrew Gomez, associate professor of history. She also fielded audience questions: Asked who her favorite current actors are, she mentioned Brad Pitt, Bradley Cooper, and Cate Blanchett. And, asked if she sees herself ever slowing down, she offered a quick and emphatic response: “Hell no!”

His Toughest Challenge
In his first season on the Puget Sound swimming team, Brett Kolb ’23 qualified for nationals. Then his health took an ominous turn. By Meri-Jo Borzilleri

Brett Kolb’s breakout freshman swim season came with an odd aftertaste: He couldn’t keep hydrated.

Kolb ’23 would go to the Diner on campus and drink a 64-ounce cup of water. Then another. And another. He didn’t think much of it, or of the numerous nightly bathroom trips, figuring he was recovering from a hard season. Weeks later, he mentioned it to his roommate’s mother—a nurse—who urged him to get checked for diabetes.

Busy with school, Kolb didn’t see a doctor right away. By the time he did, on a Tuesday, the doctor said he probably wouldn’t have made it to the end of the week. Kolb was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. He was quickly reunified with his blood-sugar medication and training regimen.

His condition required Kolb to monitor his blood sugar levels, adapt to carbohydrate-heavy meals, and train and manage his diabetes. When Kolb, who now wears a blood-glucose sensor while swimming, felt guilty about having to leave the pool due to dangerous blood sugar levels, teammates reassured him it was OK. When he felt spent after a race, teammates made sure he was safe.

Teammates and coaches helped Kolb reset his priorities in the pool, making it less about times and more about fun. When he went back home to Carson City, Nev., during the pandemic, his club coach, Julie Hardt, helped him train and manage his diabetes. When Kolb, who now wears a blood-glucose sensor while swimming, felt guilty about having to leave the pool due to dangerous blood sugar levels, teammates reassured him it was OK. When he felt spent after a race, teammates made sure he was safe.

Busy with school, Kolb didn’t see a doctor right away. By the time he did, on a Tuesday, the doctor said he probably wouldn’t have made it to the end of the week. Kolb was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, his condition serious enough that he needed to be hospitalized for two days.

That was in 2019, not long after Kolb had been named Northwest Conference Freshman Swimmer of the Year and qualified for the NCAA Division III championships. Suddenly he was low on energy, faced with constant monitoring of his blood sugar, having to adapt to a radical change in diet. He struggled with his identity (“I wasn’t viewing myself as a good swimmer anymore!”) and wondered if his swimming days were over. For a time, he contemplated suicide.

“It was a really dark point where I was thinking about just not wanting to be here anymore,” he says now. He leaned on a built-in support system of friends, family, and teammates. Still, he says, teammates and coaches helped Kolb reset his life and his priorities in the pool, making it less about times and more about fun. When he went back home to Carson City, Nev., during the pandemic, his club coach, Julie Hardt, helped him train and manage his diabetes. When Kolb, who now wears a blood-glucose sensor while swimming, felt guilty about having to leave the pool due to dangerous blood sugar levels, teammates reassured him it was OK. When he felt spent after a race, teammates made sure he was safe.

We asked her advice on steering clear of hackers, scammers, and bots. —Amy Dooney

TIP: Don’t let the password won’t be compromised everywhere—includes passwords that matter.

**USE PASSPHRASES**

A string of words is stronger than short passwords. Why? Length trumps all. “It takes an attacker a lot longer to guess a passphrase through computational algorithms,” Abeshima says. Passphrases can be easier to remember, too—just think of a famous quote or favorite song lyric.

**USE MULTIPLE EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Create separate email addresses for different parts of your life, says Abeshima. Have email addresses that are specifically for work, personal correspondence, sensitive accounts (e.g., banking, online shopping, and even social media). That boosts both privacy and security. If one of the accounts gets hacked—as opposed to all of them—it should be easier to isolate and resolve the problem.

**SET UP ALERTS**

Adjust your account preferences to send alerts when there’s unusual activity. Configure your notifications to tell you if someone logged into your account or a transaction was made.

**TAKE BABY STEPS**

Protecting your digital footprint may seem overwhelming. Start by securing what’s most valuable—for many, that means banking, credit card, retirement, or investment accounts. In addition, your primary email account, which is often used to reset passwords or confirm your identity, should be a top priority. “If someone has access to that,” says Abeshima, “they have keys to the kingdom.”

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An Untold Story
Bella Rodriguez ’24 has uncovered the history of 1960s Cuban refugees in the Pacific Northwest.

BY JONNY EBERLE

Growing up in Portland, Ore., Bella Rodriguez ’24 was struck by the absence of Latino stories in the narrative of the city’s history. It wasn’t until she started studying history, environmental policy and decision making, and Latino studies at University of Puget Sound that she started to ask questions about the history of Latinos in her hometown.

That curiosity led her to dig deep into the city’s complicated racial history and uncover the story of the Cuban refugee community that sprang up almost overnight in the 1960s.

“My family is Dominican, but there’s a lot of shared community in Portland between Dominicans and Cubans,” Rodriguez says. “I knew I wanted to research the history of the area, and my dad told me that there used to be a lot more Cubans there when he was growing up. In fact, he said, there were a lot of Cuban women who would watch him when he was little. “That’s when I first heard about Operation Pedro Pan.”

Following Fidel Castro’s rise to power in the Cuban Revolution of 1959, Cubans who opposed the new communist regime started to look for ways to get their families off the island. In response, a group of Catholic charities organized Operation Pedro Pan—a massive effort to evacuate children from abroad to the United States after Fidel Castro came into power.

Rodriguez interviewed the now-grown unaccompanied minors, known as Pedro Pans, still living in the area, relying on referrals within the community to find her interviewees. With help from her summer research advisor, Assistant Professor of History Andrew Gomez, Rodriguez developed questions and a research framework to create an oral history of the Pedro Pan program.

“That kicked off the largest exodus of children traveling from a foreign country to the United States in history.”

Growing up in Miami from Cuba, Rodriguez was sent to foster homes around the country until they could be reunited with their families. Eventually, many of them ended up in Portland, where they formed a tight-knit Cuban American community in a predominantly white city.

To learn more about this chapter in Portland’s history, Rodriguez interviewed the now-grown unaccompanied minors, known as Pedro Pans, still living in the area, relying on referrals within the community to find her interviewees. With help from her summer research advisor, Assistant Professor of History Andrew Gomez, Rodriguez developed questions and a research framework to create an oral history of the Pedro Pan program.

“It’s important to capture these stories while we still can,” Rodriguez says, pointing out that many of the people involved have died or no longer live in the Portland area.

Between 1960 and 1962, more than 14,000 unaccompanied minors arrived in Miami from Cuba. Some went to stay with relatives in the United States, and the rest were sent to foster homes around the country until they could be reunited with their families.

“In the early years, Rodriguez still sees its mark on the fabric of her hometown.”

Some also talk about how the experience has shaped their politics. There is this aspect of fear around communists that a lot of these people have, understandably,” Rodriguez says. “That explains a lot as to why today a lot of Cuban people lean more conservative. If you look at the history, you can see why their experiences have made many of them afraid of more leftist politics. I think that’s a really nuanced, interesting thing that’s important to look at.”

In her research, Rodriguez also has found books, monographs, and a thesis, as well as smaller snippets of the story of Portland’s Cuban community, including a news article from 1967 profiling a Cuban refugee who was crowned queen of the annual Portland Rose Festival, and a business license for a Cuban social club that has since closed. These records, combined with Rodriguez’s oral history project, help to paint a fuller picture of the brief period when Portland’s Cuban American community flourished.

“With Rodriguez—who chose University of Puget Sound in part because it offers a chance to study environmental policy—still has another year of college to go, but is starting to think about future plans. She’s considering law school, specifically environmental law.”

Rodriguez says, pointing out that many of the people involved have died or no longer live in the Portland area.

Rodriguez asked her interviewees about their childhood in Cuba, what they know about their parents’ decision to send them to the United States, what they remember about the trip, how they ended up in Portland, and what the Cuban community in Portland was like.

Some also talk about how the experience has shaped their politics. “There is this aspect of fear around communists that a lot of these people have, understandably,” Rodriguez says. “That explains a lot as to why today a lot of Cuban people lean more conservative. If you look at the history, you can see why their experiences have made many of them afraid of more leftist politics. I think that’s a really nuanced, interesting thing that’s important to look at.”

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“The history of the Pacific Northwest is very centered on white people, but there have always been other groups here. When my family came to Portland in the ’60s, the majority of Latino people that they met were Cuban. They laid the foundation for the Latino community in the Pacific Northwest today.”

Rodriguez—who chose University of Puget Sound in part because it offers a chance to study environmental policy—still has another year of college to go, but is starting to think about future plans. She’s considering law school, specifically environmental law. Which isn’t as unrelated to her summer research as it might seem: “I think there’s a lack of understanding of marginalized communities and their histories in environmental policy and environmental law more generally,” she says.

“I think that the fact that I’m spending this time learning this history will be important.”
Laura Krughoff talks about her fiction writing, her dual role as an educator and an administrator, and swimming in Puget Sound.

BY JONNY EBERLE

Laura Krughoff, associate professor of English and director of gender and queer studies, is a fiction writer and essayist. She won a Pushcart Prize for her short story “Halley’s Comet” in 2007 and her debut novel, My Brother’s Name, was a finalist for a 2014 Lambda Literary Foundation Award. A more recent book, Wake in the Night, is a collection of short fiction about women in rural Indiana. We asked her about her work.

You’ve been teaching at Puget Sound since 2014. What brought you here? I grew up in the Midwest and did my undergrad at Loyola University of Chicago. Then, I got an M.F.A. degree in fiction writing at the University of Michigan. After that, I was living in Chicago, teaching, and starting to get published. In 2008, I decided I wanted to go back to school and I started a Ph.D. program in creative English at University of Illinois Chicago. After that, I was ready for a change and did a national job search. I found Puget Sound and I haven’t looked back.

Can you tell me about your dual role in the English department and as director of the gender and queer studies program? How do those positions complement each other? My first experiences were when I discovered I had already interested in gender and queer studies. A few years later, I started a QGS course and then four years ago, I took over from Georgia Austin as director. It’s an administrative position, thinking about the courses that our students are interested in, figuring out what we can offer and how to staff those classes. One of my favorite things to do on campus is to see where the energy is and figure out how I can help foster that. What very unglamorous things behind the scenes need to be done so that these conversations can flourish? That’s the part I really love.

Beyond your work as an academic and a program administrator, you’re also a writer. Can you talk about your writing? I have almost exclusively published fiction. My first novel, My Brother’s Name, is about gender passing and follows a character who assumes her brother’s identity. She’s successful for a while and comes to discover that she really loves this narrative that she’s creating, but it’s not her life to live. So much has changed since that book came out, and the conversation about gender and the trans experience in particular is very different now than it was 10 years ago. Not only that, but I’m different, too. What’s amazing to me is how quickly you outgrow yourself. Like cicadas, we’re always leaving our little shells behind. If all goes well, we bust through the shell and climb off to do something else. There’s nothing wrong with that shell being what it is, but it’s not you anymore—you’ve moved on. Now I’m writing fiction and essays that deal with growing up in a conservative Quaker community in Indiana. I’m thinking and writing about love and religious harm in contemporary American life. And I’m also working on a historical novel about an early 20th-century woman who was a Quaker pastor, an Evangelist, and the head of one of two competing women’s divisions of the Ku Klux Klan.

Have you always been interested in teaching creative writing, or did you discover your passion for education later? I’ve wanted to be a college professor since I was a kid. I’d never met a professor, but I guess I’d seen enough movies to make it seem like a good profession. Now, I’ve been putting a roof over my head teaching college writing since I was barely out of school myself, and I liked it from the start. The thing I love about teaching—and this shows up in my gender and queer studies courses as well as my creative writing classrooms—is you get to be there while someone else is having an experience for the first time. I remember how powerful those first experiences were when I discovered I had something to say. There’s a feeling when you’re learning something new that a door is open and something wonderful is about to happen.

How do you spend your time when you’re not on campus? I do a lot of open-water swimming. I’ve been part of U.S. Masters Swimming for 15 years at the downtown Tacoma Y. When COVID-19 shut everything down, I couldn’t swim in the pool anymore, so a handful of friends and I grabbed our wetsuits and went straight to the open water. It’s so fun to swim in the Sound.
Getting Slimy for Research

For Megan Mooney ’23, spending time in the muck next to the Puget Sound led to finding an important new parasite.

By Karin Vandraiss ’13

Megan Mooney’s ’13 stepped onto campus in 2019 a declared biology major—unusual, since students usually take the first year to decide—and high expectations for her college career. The valedictorian of her high school in Arvada, Colo., Mooney was determined to do just as well, if not better, at Puget Sound.

“I just hit the ground running,” says Mooney on a bright April afternoon, sitting in the courtyard outside Oppenheimer Café. “This is a school where, if you get to know your professors, they become your community, cheering you on. It made me feel like I could do everything I set out to achieve.”

“Everything” feels apt. Mooney was quickly invited to the Phi Eta Sigma honor society, added a major in environmental policy and decision making, joined Pi Beta Phi, and signed up to be a resident assistant the next fall. Today, she sits on both the ASUPS Finance Committee and the Faculty Senate’s Academic Standards Committee, is a member of honor society Phi Beta Kappa, and volunteers at the Tacoma Boys and Girls Club.

Mooney figured a career in biology would allow her to maintain her strong connection to the outdoors, cultivated by weekends spent hiking with her family. Students often don’t get involved with research until their sophomore year, but Mooney knew that technically, there wasn’t anything stopping her from getting a head start. She hung back after class times included kayaking into Dash Point State Park after dark, in the middle of winter, to collect samples. (But something didn’t add up.

When DeMarais retired in 2020, she pointed Mooney toward colleague Joel Elliott, who studies the ecology and evolution of aquatic organisms, from sea star wasting disease to microbial interactions in eelgrass. Elliott was studying pathogens that infect sea grass roots and had discovered a parasite that was infecting the roots of seagrasses worldwide, which in turn affected marine animals that depend on eelgrass for habitat, food, and shelter. At their first meeting, he presented Mooney with a list of questions related to his research, telling her to pick whichever looked most interesting. She couldn’t tell eelgrass from seaweed, but found Elliott’s passion for the subject—and how much was still unknown about the parasite he had discovered—compelling.

For the next two summers, Mooney worked alongside Elliott and other student research assistants to characterize the parasite by collecting and processing specimens from the Puget Sound for analysis. (The job sometimes included kayaking into Dash Point State Park after dark, in the middle of winter, to collect samples.) But something didn’t add up. The specimens all had different characteristics, from size to impact on the seagrasses, and they realized they had discovered a novel, second species of parasite.

Over the next year, Mooney, Elliott, and Kate Kelly ’22 collaborated with researchers from Canada and Europe on a paper detailing their findings. The article was published this spring in the journal Environmental Microbiology with Mooney and Kelly among the coauthors.

“It’s a challenge to write a letter of recommendation for someone like Megan,” Elliott says over Zoom. “I find myself running out of superlatives. The last thing I expected was for an undergraduate working in the lab to go out and amplify our research and discover an entirely new species.”

In summer 2022, Mooney and Elliott traveled to the University of Washington’s Friday Harbor lab in the San Juan Islands. Talking with other eelgrass researchers, Mooney realized how few people ever learn about a discovery like this, despite its wide-reaching implications. She found herself doubting her work—and her potential to make an impact. How could she defend the organisms she’d spent countless hours analyzing if most people weren’t paying attention in the first place?

Back at school, Mooney thought about bridging the gap between science and environmental policy. She thought of her mother, a youth criminal appellate defender. “Growing up, I saw my mom’s passion for every detail of her work, putting in insane hours trying to find the thing that could win her case,” says Mooney. “That’s the passion I’m looking for. I want to do something where I can see people’s perspectives change.”

By the end of the summer, Mooney had started studying for the LSAT, her sights set on environmental law. With her pick of schools, she recently committed to the University of Colorado Law School. Mooney was recently chosen to receive the Gordon D. Alcorn Award, given to the outstanding senior in biology, at Convocation. Elliott admits he was disappointed when she said she was going to law school, but quickly saw it was the right fit. “I think she would be a fabulous researcher,” he says. “But given her interest in environmental policy and decision making, and how she thinks about the world, this will allow her to use her skills to make a broader contribution to society.”
Spring Glory
Five Yoshino cherry trees planted in 2017—continuing a nearly 80-year tradition of honoring Japanese American students who were incarcerated during World War II—bloom beautifully outside Howarth Hall every spring.
Ronald R. Thomas is home. For 13 years, from the summers of 2003 through 2016, that beloved home was here, as president of University of Puget Sound. His irrepressible enthusiasm for all things Puget Sound so animates the campus today that it’s impossible to speak of it in the past tense. He loved it all: every student, every possibility, every building, every blade of grass. The campus looks the way it does because he was a master of master planning. He envisioned a campus that was a true “tapestry of learning,” welcoming people and connecting them not only to ideas and
the life of the mind but to each other. Before Ron, there was no Commencement Walk. No Event Lawn. No center for the health sciences, now known as Weyerhaeuser Hall. No Athletics & Aquatics Center. And perhaps his greatest point of pride: Commencement Hall—now Thomas Hall—a living and learning center meant to be both a home for ideas and a home for students.

Home. If you knew Ron Thomas at all, or heard him speak even two or three times, you know how important the concept of home was to him. Home is more than a place. Home is the person who inhabits it, the people who are welcomed there. He would quote one of his favorite novelists, Charles Dickens: “Home is a name, a word, it is a strong one; stronger than any magician ever spoke, or spirit ever written.”

His first home: Ocean Grove, N.J., in Neptune Township, where he walked the same streets and boardwalks referenced in the lyrics of another local son, Bruce Springsteen, whose streets and boardwalks referenced in the lyrics into the ear of Springsteen and quoting Bob Dylan and landing Maygoodnight. Someone so made to love this life can’t help but love it, and love it well.”

Perhaps the most fitting benediction for a truly one-of-a-kind president is from novelist Ursula K. Le Guin. It is a Springsteen concert. In our end is out there. It’s a promise that’s always out again, with me, as the sun, off to the west, is shining in my eyes and I’m sitting you all in a golden glow. For ever younger.

“We shall not cease from exploration. Eliot and at the end of all of our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time.” That’s the ultimate homecoming, I guess. It reminds us to leave the place we thought was home, and the family and friends who make it the familiar place of rest we desire above all. And so it seems right that in the academic we should call the end of all our labors a “commencement,” a beginning. And, too, is a sacred ritual—like a Springsteen concert. In our end is our beginning, the starting point for all that comes next. The continuation and renewal of the quest for home, and the eternal refreshment of the hunger in the heart that moves us forward, presses us onward, lifts our eyes to the heaving, calls us home. To offer a place to seek a newer world.

Now, as I approach my final Commencement, my last new start at Puget Sound, I am reminded of the advice I have dispensed through 13 years at convocations and commencements, coming and goings, beginnings and ends. Like a senior about to graduate, I have a heart that is hungry still. “Always roaming with a hungry heart,” as Tennyson said of Ulysses.

I think of the longing in those paintings of van Gogh’s bedroom and the dreams he dreamt of the home it might become and, finally, might have been. I think of every Springsteen concert I’ve ever attended, all his heartfelt affirmations of the promised land to which we are all drawn. Of Chicago, and how I hated to leave it in 1990. Of the paradise within Hartigan, happier far, named Mary, who awaited me there. Of the City of Destiny that would draw you and raise your eyes to the heights in 2003 and offer us a new beginning. I think of all of you, every one, and of your families. I see you before me gathered in a vast stadium, starting out again, with me, as the sun, off to the west, is shining in my eyes and I’m sitting you all in a golden glow. For ever younger.

“One thing is clear as I meet and talk with you in your hometowns: Wherever you are now, when you think of home, so many of you still think of Puget Sound. Me, too.”

In every August Convocation (as first-year students and families gather to start their Puget Sound careers) and at every May Commencement (when they gather again, as seniors, to complete them) I speak of that quest for home. I cite Homer and Tennyson, T. S. Eliot and Charles Dickens, Frost and Twain, Martin Luther King and Ralph Waldo Emerson, Eleanor Roosevelt and Toni Morrison. But I imagine I always also have Springsteen’s “Hun- gry Heart” and “Promised Land” hum- ming in my head. The point of all those references to home in all those voices: to try to learn something at these threshold moments of our lives about leaving one home for another, about the universality of the idea of home being not so much a destination but an aspiration, as a dream, a quest, a goal. It’s a promise that’s always out there.

So it seems right that in the acad- emic we should call the end of all our labors a “commencement,” a begin- ning. And, too, is a sacred ritual—like a Springsteen concert. In our end is our beginning, the starting point for all that comes next. The continuation and renewal of the quest for home, and the eternal refreshment of the hunger in the heart that moves us forward, presses us onward, lifts our eyes to the heaving, calls us home. To offer a place to seek a newer world. Now, as I approach my final
For Sarah Strattan ’11, life revolves around mountains—climbing them, skiing them, and photographing them. Strattan grew up in Evergreen, Colo., fascinated by the “Fourteeners”—the Colorado peaks that exceed 14,000 feet. In college, Puget Sound Outdoors introduced her to backpacking, and an outdoor leadership experience in Alaska taught her about mountaineering. She climbed Rainier, then Denali. Then she set her sights on the Himalayas. Strattan, who taught middle school science for a time and now works on the ski patrol at Aspen Highlands Ski Area, spends part of each summer challenging herself on Asia’s tallest peaks. Last year she summited K2, the world’s second highest mountain; this June she’ll head to Pakistan to climb Nanga Parbat. Here, she shares some images of her time in the mountains. —Tina Hay
K2 VIEW
Strattan photographed K2—at 28,251 feet, the world’s second tallest peak—through a hole in the glacial ice at base camp. After summiting K2 last July, she wrote on her Instagram page: “Standing on top of this mountain and making it down alive is something I’ll be proud of for a very long time.”

A LESSON FROM FAILURE
In 2021, Strattan tried to reach the summit of Broad Peak in the Karakoram Range, a sub-range of the Himalayas that she calls “steeper, harsher, more imposing and incredible than any place I had ever been.” She didn’t achieve her goal, but gained a new insight: “If I can recognize and appreciate the beauty in places like these, every expedition will be a success, no matter if I reach the summit or not.”

AT HOME IN COLORADO
While she says, “the beauty of the Himalayas is unmatched,” Strattan has also climbed many mountains closer to home. She took this selfie on one of the Colorado’s “Fourteeners”—Quandary Peak, at 14,271 feet.
Strattan made an expedition last fall on Manaslu, a 26,781-foot peak in Nepal. The trip was plagued by heavy rain and snow, and several climbers were killed in avalanches. Strattan didn’t reach the summit, but said later, “It’s clear that there was more beauty than negativity, more good times than bad. Lots of lessons learned, and as always, memories that will be with me forever.”

Strattan photographed this Nepalese man on a trek on Putha Himchuli, a 23,773-foot peak in the Dhaulagiri Range, in 2017.

Plant life can be found even at 17,000 feet. Strattan photographed this on K2 last summer.
RAINIER: AN EARLY SUMMIT

While a student at Puget Sound, Strattan learned mountaineering skills in a National Outdoor Leadership School course in Alaska. One of her first goals was to climb Mount Rainier, which she did for the first time in 2008. “I love Mount Rainier. It’s got everything—hiking in the forest, backpacking, rivers, and then you get up on the glaciers and it’s got steep climbing, all on one mountain, which is super cool.”

STUNNING SCENERY

The rugged Karakoram Mountains, which straddle the borders of India, Pakistan, and China, are amazing of “incredible beauty,” Strattan says.

COOL REFLECTIONS

A mountain lake near the base camp at Manaslu, the world’s eighth tallest peak, located in the Nepalese Himalayas.
WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE COURSE TO TEACH?

Jim Jasinski, professor of communication studies, retiring after 20 years at Puget Sound

I’ve loved teaching the senior-level quantum mechanics course. At this stage of the game, students have enough math skills and physics background to delve deeply into the subject—it’s pretty exciting for them and for me as well. It all starts to come together. I learn more every time I teach the course.

Greg Elliott, professor of physics, retiring after 30 years at Puget Sound

I was very interested in film studies as an undergraduate and in my early graduate career. While working on my Ph.D., I concentrated on legal and political rhetoric. Most of my research and teaching focused on what I call “constitutional discourse.” I dabbled in film studies over the years, and this semester I taught “politics and film.” My students and I analyzed how films about politics work over the years, and this semester I taught “constitutional discourse.” I dabbled in film studies focused on what I call “constitutional discourse.”

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU ALWAYS GIVE TO GRADUATING SENIORS?

Peter Winmerger, retiring after 30 years as professor of biology

I always tell students to get rich, to become billionaires quickly—so they can have a midlife crisis as easily as possible and begin to question more profoundly how they want to live, how they will spend the limited time they have here on the planet. Some of us totally identify with our jobs; we live to work, and have lost touch with the reality that we work in order to live. It’s a confusion of means and ends. I always hope that our students are excited about thinking partners and continue to ponder what the “good life” might be—beyond our own.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL PROUDEST ABOUT IN YOUR PUGET SOUND CAREER?

John Hanson, professor of chemistry, retiring after 33 years at Puget Sound

Playing a part in helping students figure out their passion. For some, that involved pursuing graduate work in theiroric and communication. I really enjoyed having a drink at conferences and catching up with former students who are now my professional colleagues. Other students discovered or perhaps confirmed their interest in the law in several of my courses. I occasionally receive an email from a former student who simply wanted to let me know that something happened to them—usually at work—that made them think about something we discussed in one of their classes. Those emails are very gratifying.

WHAT’S YOUR GREATEST JOY IN TEACHING?

Jim Jasinski, professor of communication studies, retiring after 20 years on the faculty

My favorite course to teach was… [insert a course you took with me here]. Seriously, it’s impossible to name a favorite course: I am lucky to have been asked to teach classes that always felt important. There are classes I wish I’d been able to teach—but that’s another story.

Terry Beck, distinguished professor, School of Education, retiring after 24 years

Organic chemistry is a notoriously difficult class and I expected that the students would resist it. What I didn’t realize was the power of expectations and how they can be used to good advantage. The students come in prepared to put in their best effort to succeed—they don’t expect O-Chem to be their “easy A.” This is a remarkably powerful gift for a teacher! I’ve had dedicated colleagues marvel at the amount of work students are willing to put into their O-Chem course. But just because they’re primed to work hard doesn’t guarantee that the students will immediately succeed. All of a sudden they encounter something that requires real effort to master, and they don’t know how to respond when their usual study strategies (or lack thereof) fail to produce the desired result. This is something else I didn’t realize when I started teaching: Being a teacher is more than simply conveying information; it involves working with students to encourage them, giving them the tools they need to succeed, and inspiring them to rise to the challenge. The amazing thing is that the majority of students eventually figure it out, transformed by the experience, and feel a real sense of pride and accomplishment. There are few things more rewarding than seeing a student make that transition, and that happens more organically than in any other course I’ve taught.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU ALWAYS GIVE TO GRADUATING SENIORS?

John Hanson, professor of chemistry, retiring after 33 years at Puget Sound

Through interdisciplinary teaching I’ve had the joy of teaching with more than 20 different colleagues. Some of the memorable interdisciplinary courses have been Salmon Recovery in the Columbia River, which provided a conceptual chrysalis from which Environmental Policy and Decision Making eventually emerged; Hoos: The Natural and Social Science of Liquor, a class modeling how to pursue one’s interests and passions post-graduation (and we didn’t mean drinking); Conservation and Biodiversity in Borneo, a travel course that I initially taught through Pacific Rim and then as a Luce-funded field school; and the intro EPDM course where we used Puget Sound wetlands and salmon as a case study to ground students in politics, ethics, culture, history, and science. But probably my favorite course to teach over the long term has been Biology 112. It allowed us to get into the field, learn natural history, and consider the explanatory power of evolution as a lens to think about all things living.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL PROUDEST ABOUT IN YOUR PUGET SOUND CAREER?

John Hanson, professor of chemistry, retiring after 33 years at Puget Sound

I remember reading in my job description that I was supposed to be an excellent teacher and to demonstrate that I was constantly growing professionally. They wanted to pay me to learn as much as I could and to hone my craft as a teacher. Want For me, it doesn’t get better than that.

Terry Beck, distinguished professor, School of Education, retiring after 24 years

The good fortune to teach with and learn from Doctor of Physical Therapy students who brought to our program and profession so much talent, inquisitiveness, and altruism. Sharing with them and exploring moments when one of their insights ignites a novel perspective on an existing area of thought is simply an unparalleled delight.

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Getting to work with Puget Sound’s amazing students was what kept me getting up in the morning for over 30 years. Their energy helps buoy my spirits, and gives me faith for the future. Even though our world faces many challenging problems, there were times when I could almost see a glimmer of hope that our students will find thinking partners and continue to ponder what the “good life” might be—beyond our own.

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SMARTPHONES AND LAPTOPS?

These days I routinely start each class with, “It’s time to put your devices away.” And sometimes I have to follow up by pointing out to a student that their device is still out. Pre-pandemic, this was a much smaller issue.

_Terry Beck_

Let’s just say that I’ve been here so long that my email address doesn’t have a first-name initial (I’m just hansonn@pugetsound.edu), and I was one of the first faculty on campus to create websites for my courses.

_John Hanson_

**DID YOU MAKE A PIVOT DURING COVID THAT YOU’RE ESPECIALLY PROUD OF?**

Pre-COVID, I didn’t use a lot of technology such as PowerPoint in my classes. I relied on handouts and white boards. I realized very quickly that I needed to develop expertise in creating PowerPoint presentations, but I think I’ve become competent and done a decent job incorporating PowerPoint in my in-person classes.

_Jim Jasinski_

I’ve taught a course on Barack Obama’s rhetoric a couple of times. If I could offer the class one final time, I would love to have the former president join us to discuss the composition process that shaped some of his most famous speeches, such as his March 2018 speech on race in America, his December 2009 Nobel Peace Prize lecture, or his March 2015 speech commemorating the 56th anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

_Jim Jasinski_

**IF MONEY WERE NO OBJECT, WHAT SPECIAL TRIP WOULD YOU TAKE STUDENTS ON?**

I discuss Supreme Court cases and opinions in a number of my classes, so a trip to Washington, D.C., to tour the Capitol and U.S. Supreme Court would be fantastic.

_Jim Jasinski_

**IF YOU COULD INVITE ANY GUEST LECTURER, LIVING OR DEAD, TO SPEAK IN YOUR CLASS, WHO WOULD IT BE?**

I was able to bring in several distinguished practitioners in a number of my classes, so a trip to Washington, D.C., to tour the Capitol and U.S. Supreme Court would be fantastic.

_Jim Jasinski_

**WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE OR REGRET?**

I devote significant time in my classes to help students develop as writers. Perhaps one of the hardest challenges I’ve faced is getting a student to understand that a really good sentence that they buried in their paper is wasted if no one reads it. I wish I had more team-taught courses, and I wish I had more team teaching over the years. I wish I had more students experience, enjoy, and take with them into their futures.

_Roger Allen_

**IS THERE SOMETHING ON YOUR OFFICE DESK OR SHELVES THAT TELLS A STORY ABOUT YOUR WORK?**

My shelves are full of picture books I’ve used in several classes. From classics like Sendak’s Where the Wild Things Are to more contemporary books like Barrenwell’s No Moremen in My Name’s House and Love’s A Falstaff, I’m reminded of the importance of being colorful and communicating important ideas, while not taking myself too seriously.

_Terry Beck_

Now that I’m retiring, I’m cleaning my office for the first time. There were occasional moments when I threw things into boxes because a dean or provost was coming to visit, but my office is a living monument to teaching, to the life of the mind, and chaos! As I work through the boxes, I feel like an archivist working down through the different levels of sediment and detritus that have accumulated. I can’t quite bring myself to throw away things like the note from a student who described me as “a formidable friend” or the photograph from a student of the high plains in Wyoming, and a note on back that described himself running through the vastness, only “beginning to stumble when I slowed down.” It was an example of how we communicate more meaningfully and directly through stories. My office is chock-a-block with prints, photographs, ceramic pots, and other gifts from
students. Many of the students I lost touch with as they moved on into life, formed families, and grew into careers. But one of the most rewarding aspects of life in the liberal arts is forming lasting friendships and relationships with students. When I travel, there’s often a student I will remember to have lunch with—in London, New York, or maybe Jackson, Wyo. And I am always grateful when a student remembers me years later and makes contact.

Stuart Smithers

IF YOU COULD BE A STUDENT IN ANY COURSE AT PUGET SOUND, WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Just about any of them! The faculty here are amazing teachers. The topic isn’t really that important; an excellent teacher will make any subject come alive. My advice to my advisees has always been to ask their friends who are the best teachers they have had, and then take a course from that teacher. I have fond memories of auditing Bev Couper’s introduction to Writing Poetry course a number of years ago. I’m a chemist and spend much of my intellectual energy focused on STEM topics, so it was particularly refreshing to get to explore other parts of my brain. Bev was such a compassionate and gentle teacher that I never felt intimidated, even though I was outside my comfort zone. Her insightful comments were always illuminating and helped me grow, both as a writer and a person. Being in that course also reminded me what it’s like to be a student, which is easy to forget after you’ve been a professor for many years. That helped me grow as a teacher.

John Hanson

WHAT’S NEXT FOR YOU?

Some shoulder-season travelling, some volunteer work (most likely involving animals), lots of reading and bike riding. I’ll probably pick up a guitar again, maybe work on my very bad French.

Jim Jasinski

I was really on the fence about retiring because I love teaching. But when I learned that I could teach a limited number of courses as an emeritus professor, the decision was easy. My partner is a doctor serving the Yupik peoples in Alaska. He’s reducing his work schedule too, so we’ll be able to spend more time together.

We have a place in Montana in Paradise Valley; in late summer and fall we’ll be hiding out near the Yellowstone River and the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Fishing and hunting with our pointing dog, a 3-year old Brittany named Nikka (she’s got a lot of fans among students and faculty in Wyatt Hall). But next spring I’ll be back in Seattle and hopefully teaching a couple courses on campus for a few more years. And I’m already putting together a couple of seminars on “Modalities of the Mind and the Good Life” that will be taught at Smoke Farm, an amazing former dairy farm on the Stillaguamish that has been developed as a kind of retreat center through the years with university alumni. I truly hope to stay in touch with students after they graduate and continue our exploration of life together. In fact, I always tell my students: ‘We’ve got email now, so whenever gets enlightened first, let me know!’

Stuart Smithers

I’m trying not to over-plan my retirement at this point. But I do know that I’ll be spending more time with family and friends. I’m also excited to have time to continue playing tennis (I’ve been playing with faculty colleagues on Tuesdays and Thursdays at noon for 50 years and plan to continue that tradition), riding my bike, and reading books, as well as having the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument or two. And who knows, maybe I’ll have time for more poetry writing. I’m also looking forward to finding opportunities to give back.

John Hanson

You’ll still find me in the museum. There may be a book in the works on an important but unknown early 20th century Pacific Northwest biologist with whom I’ve developed a “necbromance.” There will still be some ice worms, bug, and beaver research. Probably a little side gig being a naturalist-guide. And I might be found running a backyard speakeasy when the sun is shining.

Peter Wimberger

My friend Luisa Motten retired a few years ago. She announced that “retirement” sounded too much like she wouldn’t be doing anything. Instead, she’s now in “preferment”—she is doing what she prefers. That’s me, starting this summer. I’m doing whatever I feel like.

John Hanson

It’s impossible to say at this point what that will be—I’m giving myself time to figure it out. But it won’t include grading papers, that much I know.

Terryl Beck

You can find it online at pugetsound.edu/partingthoughts.
As a lifelong learner, W. Houston Dougharty ’83 considers himself lucky to have figured out how to “never have to leave college,” a feat he’s achieved by spending 40 years working in higher education.

Dougharty, now finishing his career as vice president for student affairs at Hofstra University in Long Island, N.Y., is this year’s recipient of the Puget Sound Professional Achievement Award. The honor recognizes lifelong contributions to higher education, and is presented at the university’s Reunion in June. The theme this year is “Always a Logger,” paying tribute to the 35 arches that make up Puget Sound’s sprawling campus.

Dougharty joined Puget Sound’s student affairs team in 1980, when he was the first member of his family to go to school outside the Southwest—one of the best choices I could have made,” he says. He studied English literature, participated in the debate team, and caught the theatre bug, performing in more than a dozen shows as an undergrad—indeed, in addition to professional productions with the Tacoma Actors Guild.

In the spring of his senior year, he joined the Puget Sound admission staff, staying a decade and igniting his interest in working with students. Dougharty has since worked as the associate dean of students at Puget Sound and Iowa State university, dean of students at Lewis and Clark, and vice president of student affairs at Grinnell College and now Hofstra, among other stops.

Dougharty considers relationships fundamental to the work he does. “It’s all about being curious about people: their lives, what they’re experiencing, what they want to experience, and what risk you’re willing to take in providing an environment of curiosity,” he says.

Still a theatre buff, Dougharty attends several live productions on campus as well, often bringing students and alumni along with him. He estimates that he’s seen more than 1,200 shows in the nine years he’s lived in New York.

His faithful rescue pug, Otis, has become something of a Hofstra campus celebrity. “If you’re on a college campus, you’ll never have to talk to Otis, who always hangs out with you,” Dougharty tells students. To this, Dougharty credits Puget Sound with sparking his insatiable appetite for learning and “for giving me my closest friend and relationships, my love for the college experience, and my lifelong enthusiasm for learning, the arts, and having fun.”

Today, Palmer is a social impact officer at The Beacon Fund, an organization focused on social change, its role involves supporting a range of philanthropic projects. He serves on the board of The Place, a Colorado-based provider of services for runaway and homeless youth, and is active in the Puget Sound Fund Committee, the dean of student affairs for his younger alma mater, and Puget Sound’s alumni board. Dougharty has recently completed his second year as a Puget Sound trustee.

Dougharty says his connections to students have brought him life—sometimes quite literally. After he was diagnosed with a life-threatening kidney disease in 2018, dozens of friends, family, and former students volunteered to donate a kidney for the transplant. In the end, a Hofstra alumnus proved to be a match. She said that she’d agreed to become a vice president of student affairs since meeting Dougharty at orientation and quipped that even if she never did, at least her kidney could live on her behalf. Today, Dougharty is healthy and strong, and good-humored enough to crack a joke about the experience: “I’ve never had the chance to get a degree from Hofstra,” he says.

“My kid has two,” Dougharty jokes.

Dougharty joined the admission staff at Puget Sound in his senior year. He’s been working with students ever since.

LONG CAREER Dougharty joined the admission staff at Puget Sound in his senior year. He’s been working with students ever since.

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**Advocate for Inclusivity**

Czarina Ramsay ’02

**BY DORI CAHN**

Czarina Ramsay and her triplet siblings were 5 when their father moved the family to Anchorage, Alaska, for an assignment as a sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. As Panamanian immigrants with West Indian roots, their language and culture contrasted dramatically with the predominantly white community they settled into.

Ramsay’s school didn’t know how to help her transition into her new environment, so her mother decided to intervene and advocate on her daughter’s behalf. Those early experiences shaped her perspective about education and what’s needed to help people from marginalized and underserved communities succeed in school. “My life started with this need to be seen, heard, and advocated for. Had my mom not done that for me at an early age, who knows where I would be.”

Ramsay brought that awareness to college at Puget Sound, where she studied cultural anthropology and grew into a skilled advocate for people traditionally marginalized because of their race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, or other identities. When she returned to campus a few years later as director of intercultural engagement, she was supporting students who reminded her of herself.

“Moving from higher education to global refugee work with hundreds of thousands of employees has challenged her to be effective in different environments, but she sees it as an extension of her earlier work. She’s particularly excited about fostering learning among employees and senior leaders to increase their awareness, knowledge, and skills on topics related to inclusion, diversity, equity, and culture.”

**NEW ROLE**

In January, Ramsay was named director of executive leadership development at Walgreens.

**r e s e r v o r of executive leadership development at Walgreens.**

**Zachary C. Person ’02** is a photographer based in Puyallup, Wash., previously, by-spent nearly two decades living and working in Oregon. He recently released a book, *Visibly Typologies: One Year at Billy Frank Jr. National Wildlife Refuge*, which includes 108 images documenting the natural systems that make up the refuge in Olympia, Wash., as those systems adapt to each season.

**2005 Michael Allen ’05** was promoted to full professor in the Department of Political Science at Boise State University. He also is lead author of a new book, *Beyond the Wire: U.S. Military Deployments and Host

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**From Physics to ... Comedy?**

Alex Kaufman ’17

**BY RENÉE OLSON**

On the verge of starting a Ph.D. in physics, Alex Kaufman ’17 ditched it to launch Bone Dry Comedy. “I am passionate about more comedians—new and veteran—laughing together and connecting,” he says. “In the spirit of Bone Dry, I am taking a very different path from physics.”

A friend of mine described event promotion as “a way to make it worth them coming out. I guarantee them a pretty solid chunk of shoreline.”

“From Physics to Comedy?”

It sucks that that’s not believable funny people. I was like, ‘Wow, I had nothing to do with you going into physics, senator representing District 3 (Clark County).”

“I’m a big fan of Bo Burnham. I think Kyle Corby brings in some of my favorite comedians. I know where I would be.”

Kaufman brings in some of my favorite comedians. I know where I would be.”

“Tell me about your effort to seed stand-up in Big Sky Country.”

I was doing open mic sets here in Bozeman (as a student at Montana State University). While in Tacoma and Seattle, I had gotten to see cool, unbelievable funny people. I was like, ‘It sucks that that’s not here in Montana.” My motivation was to bring those experiences here.

**How does Bone Dry money flow to the comedians you invite?**

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On a Quest for Clean Water

Bob Rosner ’80

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS

Bob Rosner ’80 was a best-selling author and syndicated columnist when he heard a fact so shocking that it changed his career: Every 14.5 seconds, a child dies of a water-borne illness.

He heard the grim statistic during a conversation with a colleague, former Tacoma pastor Danny Thomas, who was telling Rosner about his Tacoma-based nonprofit, Water for the World, which sends portable water filtration units to Kenya.

As Thomas developed the organization, the two kept in touch. Five years ago, Rosner joined Water for the World, putting his communication skills to use as the chief communications officer.

In pithy, soundbite-ready quotes, Rosner shares the word about the pastor who quit the pulpit to sanitize water in towns halfway across the world.

The suitcase-sized units use a 14-stage filtration system to clean 5,000 liters of water—enough to support a school or a neighborhood—per day. The nonprofit finds the water useful in a variety of ventures.

Earlier in his career, he wrote books on workplace issues, such as The Boss’s Survival Guide, launched a smoking cessation initiative; and started a crime prevention program for seniors. Now he’s putting his skills to use helping children to access safe, clean water.

Rosner now invests his time in Water for the World, a nonprofit that he says, “It’s just an amazing business model,” said Rosner, who bought half a share of a purifying unit. After adding more units in Kenya, Water for the World plans to expand into other African countries.

Though he never worked in the field, Rosner credits the occupational therapy degree he earned at Puget Sound—as well as working with Seri Solidaridad in student programs—with his talent for solving problems.

2009 Taylor Ash ’09 and Anna Hansen Sayre ’05

2010 Joan Ilacqua ’10

2013 Robert (Bert) Lechner ’13

Andrea Gorton ’09 was tenured in March 2023 as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Department of State. She’s currently posted to Tel Aviv, Israel, with her husband, Jacob, and three daughters, Eva, Malia, and Milicent. Her prior postings include Guangzhou, China; Accra, Ghana; and New Delhi, India.

2009 Taylor Ash ’09 and Anna Hansen Sayre ’05 work together at The Trade Desk in New York City. Both IPE majors and Phi Phi alums, they report that “the Logger hand-shake is a great icebreaker at work events.”

38 arches spring 2023

Enjoy the beauty of Pacific Northwest—at last vicariously—with this issue’s crossword puzzle, which has the region’s outdoor pursuits as its theme. Draw a photo of your completed puzzle and you might win a prize from the Logger Store! Send the photo to arches@pugetsound.edu, or post it on Instagram or Twitter and tag @pugetsoundLogger. Congrats to Eli Harris ’21 of Berkeley, Calif., who won the prize from the Winter 2023 puzzle. See the solution to this issue’s puzzle at pugetsound.edu/getit.

Country Public Opinion, published by Oxford University Press. Using surveys in 14 countries and in six, the book examines how U.S. service members overseas can create support for—and opposition to—their presence.

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IN MEMORIAM

Hermin B. Kleinier '43, P71, P73 died April 1, 2023. After graduating from Puget Sound, he entered the Air Force during World War II, then went into business with his father at Model Lumber Company in Tacoma. He helped to rewrite sales contracts. He was a lifelong member in the areas in the 1990s. Among his survivors are sons Greg- ory '71 and Douglas '73.

Patricia J. Hildebrandt Owen '45 died Feb. 28, 2022. She had a degree in art criticism from Puget Sound and a one time-owned Owen Art School and Gallery.

Mary Emma "Polly" Packard Finucane '47, 41,570 died March 2, 2023, in Tacoma, Wash. She was 92. She studied English and French literature at Puget Sound and at one time worked in student services.

Virginia Kilde Lease '47, died March 17, 2023. She studied English and French at Puget Sound and worked in student services in several other West Coast universities. Beginning as Puget Sound vice president for public relations and dean of students in 1970, English later served as acting dean of the School of Education and as a faculty member in the School of Education, twice earning the Distinguished Professor Award. He was remembered by colleagues for his keen sense of humor, strong moral compass, and deep commitment to students. A South Sound resident for 46 years, English was also actively engaged in his off-campus community, serving as a member of the Gig Harbor planning commission and an elected city council member. He enjoyed birding, books, and sports—especially baseball—and was a Mariners fan and a collector of memorabilia. He was also an active member of Puget Sound’s lunchtime basketball league for faculty and staff.

John English 1933–2023

John English died March 31, 2023. She was 92. An education major, she taught in University of Washington, Idaho, and Arizona, then became an insurance agent. He was married to Jeanette "Wilk" Wilson '57 for 65 years. He died Sept. 14, 2022, in Cottonwood, Ariz. He was 88.

Sandra Lee Ehrend '19 of Puyallup, Wash., died at age 83 on Dec. 3, 2022, after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer’s disease. She attended Puget Sound and worked in accounting at University of Washington. She was a wife and a mother of three children.

Rudy Hanson '61 died Oct. 27, 2022, in Gig Harbor, Wash., at age 88. He emerited at Puget Sound after serving in the Army during the Korean War; after graduation, he spent 10 years in the U.S. Navy and managing fishing companies. He displays the charisma and wit for which his colleagues remember him.

Evelyn Jane Providence '65, 80, died March 10, 2023. She was a home economics degree she taught in South Dakota.

Keith Weeks '68 died Jan. 26, 2023, at age 75. He was a Pacific Air Forces officer and served as an Air Force officer in Vietnam. During his discharge, he became a pilot and moved to California. He was a Marine Corp pilot. He died Feb. 7, 2023, in Cottonwood, Ariz., at the age of 77.

William Nelson '67 served as a lieutenant in the Army during the Korean War; then went into the forestry business. He was manager of Saleet Realty Inc.; owner of the Spokane music and arts venue, the Big Dipper, and founder of a spiritual center in the Washington State public state prison system and head psychologist at Napa State Hospital in California. Later he launched The Mathis Project,. He was 80.

Donald Argetsinger '68 died Jan. 26, 2023, at age 78. He was a pediatrician with the Washington State Department of Health. He was a member of the military, and served as chairman of the board until his death.

Joyce Fry Lambert '68 died in Gig Harbor, Wash., at age 78. She attended Puyallup District for more than 30 years. She was a member of the National Snowmass, Colo., at age 77, after a lengthy illness.

Dennis E. Anderson '72 joined the Navy during the Vietnam War, doing rescue work off the coast of Vietnam in a helicopter squadron. She was a Chi Omega. She was 73.

Kathleen Speich '71 earned an art degree from Puget Sound, where she was a Ch Omega. She was an interior designer and occasionally worked in Spokane, and worked as a caregiver. She died Jan. 6, 2023, in Puyallup, Wash. She was 77.

Harry “Corky” Dieth '68 was a high school football teacher, principal, and coach. He died Feb. 16, 2023, in Poulsbo, Wash., at the age of 77.

Joyce Fry Lambert '68 died Jan. 20, 2023. She lived in Mercer Island, Wash.

Robert Countryman '69 was a member of the Pacific Northwest Art and Theatre arts and theatre arts from Puget Sound, then went on to teach at the University of Montana and later taught technical theatre at a high school. He died in Jasper, Ga., May 15, 2022, at age 75.

Jeffrey J. Davison '70 joined the Navy during the Vietnam War, doing rescue work off the coast of Vietnam in a helicopter squadron. She was a Chi Omega. She was 73.

Amey died Dec. 13, 2022, in Vancouver, Wash., at age 85. His late brother, Roger '63, was also a member of the medical school.

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suggesting that an active fault cuts across Elliot Bay published a paper in the Moon, and planets, among other areas. In 1965, Daneš a refugee camp in Germany before an American couple crossing the border on bicycles and spending two years in Party took over Czechoslovakia, Daneš and his wife fled, pain so as not to give anything away during the torture “I was active in Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He spent his career in industrial equipment sales and at the time of his death was regional whole- Ronald Leighton ’75 of Fairwood, Wash., died Jan. 16, 2023. He was 70 and had lived with Marfan syn- drome for many years. He attended Puget Sound on a football scholarship; after graduation he worked in welding, burning, and pipe- fitting, and owned a ship repair company in Ballard. William J. “Bill” Tuk ’76 died Jan. 31, 2023, in Wasilla, Alaska. He was 69.

Jim M. Vincent ’76, P’14 was a chemistry major at Puget Sound and went on to earn a medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine. He was a physician in the Seattle area at Minor and James, Swedish Hospital, and the concierge medical firm MDG. He died March 29, 2023, at age 69. Among his survivors is son Maxwell Vincent ’14.

Patrick Ebert ’79 of Bainbridge Island, Wash., earned an accounting de- gree from Puget Sound, where he was president of Sigma Chi fraternity. He worked as a CPA and certi- fied financial planner. He died Jan. 30, 2023, at the age of 67.

Fred Amhrin MBA’80, died Feb. 1, 2023, in Good- year, Ariz. He was 74.

Ernest Robert “Ernie” Pe- terson ’80, age 66, of Bel- levue, Wash., died Feb. 12, 2023. At Puget Sound he was on the swim team and was active in Beta Theta Pi fraternity. He spent his ca-

earned an accounting de- gree from Puget Sound. He worked as an accountant for Viking Industries and for the Boy Scouts of America before retiring in 2011. He lived in Gretnah, Ore. We received word of his death in March.

Robert Scoville ’72 was an occupational therapist at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Wash., from 1974 until retiring in 1998. While there, he mentored many Puget Sound students in their occupational therapy internships. He died Dec. 4, 2022, in Winnabigon, Minn., at the age of 79.

Allen Edmundson ’73 of Grapeview, Wash., died Jan. 27, 2023, at the age of 75. He had a degree in busi-

William J. “Bill” Tuk ’76 died Jan. 31, 2023, in Wasilla, Alaska. He was 69.

Jim M. Vincent ’76, P’14 was a chemistry major at Puget Sound and went on to earn a medical degree from Emory University School of Medicine. He was a physician in the Seattle area at Minor and James, Swedish Hospital, and the concierge medical firm MDG. He died March 29, 2023, at age 69. Among his survivors is son Maxwell Vincent ’14.

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Robert Scoville ’72 was an occupational therapist at Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Wash., from 1974 until retiring in 1998. While there, he mentored many Puget Sound students in their occupational therapy internships. He died Dec. 4, 2022, in Winnabigon, Minn., at the age of 79.

Allen Edmundson ’73 of Grapeview, Wash., died Jan. 27, 2023, at the age of 75. He had a degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He spent his career in industrial equipment sales and at the time of his death was regional whole-

Ronald Leighton ’75 of Fairwood, Wash., died Jan. 16, 2023. He was 70 and had lived with Marfan syn-

do- drome for many years. He attended Puget Sound on a football scholarship; after graduation he worked in welding, burning, and pipe-

fitting, and owned a ship repair company in Ballard. William J. “Bill” Tuk ’76 died Jan. 31, 2023, in Wasilla, Alaska. He was 69.

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Patrick Ebert ’79 of Bainbridge Island, Wash., earned an accounting de-

gree from Puget Sound, where he was president of Sigma Chi fraternity. He worked as a CPA and certi-

fied financial planner. He died Jan. 30, 2023, at the age of 67.

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sales manager for King Electric.

Donald Gary Wall M’82 worked in education for more than 30 years, as an assistant principal and as-

sistant superintendent in Lynnden, Wash., as super-

intendent in Granite Falls, Wash., as an adjunct profes-
sor at Western Washington University and Brigham Young University, and as director of human resources for Provo City Utah Junior District. He died Jan. 23, 2023, in Orem, Utah, at 73.

K. Ann A. Crisman ’83 died Sept. 26, 2021, in Port Orchard, Wash., where she was an education major at Puget Sound.

Scott L. Fikins ’83 of Yaki-

ma, Wash., died March 10, 2023. He was 62. At Puget Sound he was a member of Sigma Chi and met his future wife, Margaret Scac- brough ’88. He worked for JCPenny in Washington and Oregon.

Jane Keckemet ’87 of Ten- nessee had a terrifying SS raid and was a member of Pi

Frankenberger (Frank) Daneš lived through World War II in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, witnessing a terrifying SS raid and later joining the resistance.

“I began putting buttons in my shoes and walking on them all day,” he later recalled, “so I get used to bearing pain so as not to give anything away during the torture I expected.” In 1930, two years after the Communist Party took over Czechoslovakia, Danes and his wife fled, crossing the border on bicycles and spending two years in a refugee camp in Germany before an American couple helped them emigrate to the United States. Daneš worked for Gulf Oil and Boeing, then joined the Puget Sound faculty in 1962, taught physics at the university until his retirement in 1984.

His research focused on gravity, the interplanetary magnetic field, and the composition of the Earth, Moon, and planets, among other areas. In 1963, Daneš published a paper in the Journal of Geophysical Research suggesting that an active fault cuts across Elliot Bay and south Seattle. “Most geophysicists and geologists said, ‘No, what?’” Danes said 70 years later. “But real estate agents were quite upset when I told people they were sitting on a fault.” Geologists now consider the Seattle fault zone a significant hazard.

Daneš died March 10, 2023, in Prague. He was 102 years old. —Tina Hay
Anne Shirey ’17 and Ian Conery ’19 married on May 28, 2022, at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, Wash. Logger friends and swimming teammates in attendance to celebrate their special day included (from left): Connor Barfield ’19, Rachel Duke ’19, Connor King ’19, Aaron Zevenbergen ’19, Caleb Van Boven ’19, the groom, the bride, retired Puget Sound swim coach Chris Myhre, Aza Verhoeven ’19, Dylan Reimers ’19, Kai Haven ’20, Stuart Brown ’16, Sam Anders ’16, and Katharine Etsell ’17.

First-year roommates Brandt Rataezyk ’12 and Charlie Bogart ’12 celebrated their 10-year reunion with their partners—and fellow Loggers—Allison Schoening Rataezyk ’12, MAT’13 and Bella Vaynberg Bogart ’12, plus future Loggers, Class of 2043 Tristan and Bennett.

Our photo of a dog wearing a Puget Sound sweatshirt in the Winter 2023 issue (“Oh Snap!, p. 4) prompted two other people to send us photos of their pups in Logger gear. Stuart Allison ’81 who sent the top photo wrote, “You like dogs wearing University of Puget Sound sweatshirts? How about a dog wearing a vintage 1979 crew team sweatshirt? Angus is in the hoodie, Mabel just wants to be in the photo.” And Andrea Seibt ’28 sent a photo of “our sweet dog, Bo,” younger brother of current student Mary Seibt ’26.

On Oct. 1, 2022, Tracy Anunan ’12 proved that outdoor weddings on Puget Sound in October can work, when she married Adam Linden at the Shoreline, Wash., home where she grew up. Logger friends in attendance included (from left): Joanna Chapman ’13, Mara Felmam ’13, Chelsea Juenger ’13, Mary Koenig Green ’12, Pat Anunan ’73, P’12, the groom and bride; Fallon Boyle ’12, Adam Leuin ’12, Polly Membrino ’12, Larry Eckert ’72, MBA’84, and Kathy Murchy Eckert ’76.


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On Oct. 28, 2022, Elizabeth Fei ’09 married her longtime partner, Curtis Peterson, in Chicago. They were joined by Loggers and Logger partners from across the globe. From left: Stéphane Mead and Clay Thompson ’09 (coming from Amsterdam), Lucinda Stroud ’09 (from Seattle), the bride and groom, Ben Wilson, and Peter Ott ’09 (from Boston).

Sharing a round of golf, lunch, and watching the Mariners make the playoffs after 21 years were Logger roommates Carol Fujimoto Fleming ’77, P’11; Julia Pascoe ’15; Noah Granow ’15, Hannah Findling ’15, Julia Pascoe ’15; Isaac Thrupp ’15, Alex Lunt ’15, Molly Bean Nelson ’15, Adam Bean ’15, Andrew Nordstrom ’15, Jake Peterson ’15; a groomsman, Deron Coffie ’14; Meghan Ellis ’15, Maclyn Curley ’17, Melanie Walk Young ’15, Logan Day ’15, Liz Blonden ’15, Frank Schmidt ’15, Margaret Simonson-Kowitz ’15, Lauren Rothrock Hamilton ’15, Paige Plattman Dahlberg ’15, Roman Vern ’15, Zoe Frankel ’15, Andrew Kramaler ’15; not pictured: Gabi Flores-Rabinovitch ’15.

Karen Pryor ’10 married Adam Gluskin at Frank Lloyd Wright’s Emil Bach House in Chicago on Sept. 4, 2022. She was joined by four of her Kappa Alpha Theta sisters: from left, Maren Stockhoff ’10, Abbey Prast ’10, Devon Wohl ’10, and Tiffany Wynn ’09, and two of her Anderson/Langdon Hall mates from their first year, Marissa Jenson ’10 and Katie Shyu ’10.


On October, former housemates and Kappa Alpha Theta sisters Alyssa Jorgenson Muhlendorff ’99; Nicole Ditrich-Eaton ’99; Aubrey Robinson Stevens ’99; Katie Coefield ’99; Mandy Singer Jensen ’99; MOT ’92; and Jessica Cozems ’93 got together for a reunion weekend at the beach. They shared laughs, celebrated 27 years of friendship, and made new memories.

Hilary Jacobson ’10 and Noah Brod ’10 welcomed their son, Julian, on Dec. 13, 2022.

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The Birth of a Campus

May 22, 1923, was a "momentous day" for the College of Puget Sound, writes historian John Finney ’63, P’94. “The entire faculty and student body processed from the campus at Sixth and Sprague streets to a vacant field at North 15th and Warner streets. There Mrs. Franke Jones pledged $180,000 toward construction of the new campus. The trustees accepted the pledge, and Jones Hall groundbreaking took place immediately.”

Jones Hall is named for Franke Jones’ husband, lumberman and Civil War veteran Charles Hebard Jones (1845–1922). To see more historical photos of campus, go to digitalcollections.pugetsound.edu.

ALWAYS A LOGGER | SCRAPBOOK

Proud to be a Logger!

Five groups took prizes in the Logger Day Challenge Spirit Competition in March, winning swag bags for showing their Logger pride. Photos from top left: first place, Kevin Cuda ’26 (fifth from left) of Pleasanton, Calif., and friends, including mom Tara Fairchild ’26 to his left. Second place, the Student Involvement and Programs team (Daniel Larma-Hil, Holly Dysserlins, Kevin Buchanan, Skylar Bihi ’08, Gabby Holock, Semin Solidarios, and head SIP cheerleader Moe Stephens). Third place, the Seattle Regional Club (Tessa Broth ’15, Katie Bruce ’15, Katie Pyne ’15, Gabi Marrese ’15, and McKenzie Ross ’06). Fourth place, the Tacoma Regional Club (McKenzie Ross ’06; Brittney Henderson ’03; Gena Barkhouse ’06; Allison Kennedy-Smith, Puget Sound associate vice president for constituent relations; Amy VanZandt ’04, MEd’11). Fifth place, Grizz with two staffers from the Diner.

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Tell Us Your PacRim Story

We’re looking for your memories of studying in Asia as part of the Pacific Rim Study Abroad Program. PacRim will mark its 50th year in 2023–24, and as part of the celebration, we want to showcase your stories in Arches. We’d love to hear where you went, what you did, and what stands out most for you today. Maybe there was one especially memorable activity or encounter. Maybe PacRim changed your outlook, your career, or your life.

Send your story (no more than 200 words, please) to arches@pugetsound.edu or the address on the inside front cover. Photos welcome too!

We’ll print a selection of tales in a future issue of Arches.