By Marcelle Rutherfurd

On Aug. 24, 2017, President Isiaah Crawford sent an email to the campus community announcing that “the university will embark this year on a process to create a strategic plan that will advance our mission and establish our vision for the next decade.” In the first email, President Crawford invited students and faculty to participate in this project, a strategic planning initiative that is undertaken by the University every decade.

“I realize this forthcoming statement is a bit of a cliché, but I believe we have an excellent opportunity to make our very good university a great one, and I look forward to working with the members of our community to achieve that goal,” President Crawford said in an interview last Friday.

Since the initial announcement, the University website has created a public page with a description of the initiative. The page also contains a list of names of the people on the steering committee in charge and a timeline of how the process will unfold throughout the year.

“The strategic planning initiative is a process that the campus community goes through every 10 years in which we chart our visions, goals, and initiatives for the next decade,” senior Nick Mitchell said.

Mitchell is a serving member of the steering committee in charge of the project. He is one of three current students directly involved with this process.

“This initiative is important to me because it shapes the future of the University and provides everyone in the campus community—faculty and students alike—the opportunity to be a part of the conversation and to provide input,” Mitchell said.

The new plan will be one of the first long-term projects for Crawford, who was inaugurated last spring.

“I am very excited about the campus-wide strategic planning process we launched two weeks ago. Collaboratively across the Board of Trustees, faculty, students, staff, alumni and members of our broader community in Tacoma/Pierce County this work will help us determine the future path of the University as it endeavors to further realize its ambitions and next level of achievement,” Crawford said.

“I look for us to bring our best and most creative/thoughtful strategies forward to determine the three to five primary initiatives we will pursue over the next number of years to firmly position Puget Sound among the most celebrated, distinctive and rigorous liberal arts colleges in the country,” Crawford continued.

According to the University website, the steering committee had its first meeting on Sept. 5. In this meeting the committee discussed Puget Sound’s strengths. The committee then proceeded to question these strengths and discuss whether or not they exemplified the missions and values of the University. A Community Conversation was held several days later where members of the campus community were encouraged to participate and discuss the various strengths and weaknesses of the University.

In our initial impression that the university is perceived as a place of great opportunity, high academic quality, and that the university’s location, in Tacoma and the Pacific Northwest, is perceived as an attractive and high-potential educational asset,” the University webpage reads.

“We asked those attending the Community Conversation to consider the alignment among the way the University presents itself, the expectations students have and what the students actually experience. Some expressed that the alignment could be stronger,” the webpage continues.

This statement suggests that members

of the larger campus community think that Puget Sound has some work to do in terms of how the University holds up to its reputation. The members of the steering committee are very openly sharing the details of the process with the campus community via the website and email in order to encourage students and faculty to help change the campus for the better.

The initiatives we decide to pursue will be undergirded in our unwavering commitment to make a Puget Sound education and student experience more accessible and affordable, welcoming, and fully inclusive,” President Crawford said.

Above all, the steering committee and the school administration encourage student, faculty and staff participation in this process. This strategic planning initiative is an important one, as the University adapts and changes to accommodate our ever-shifting student body. The announcement of this initiative comes on the heels of multiple emails from the office of the President stating the University’s position as an open and inclusive safe space for everyone.

“This is important for members of the campus community to know that there are a variety of opportunities for members of the campus community to contribute however they might be, to play a role in shaping the future of the university for the next 10 years. I know the next Community Conversation is on Oct. 26, and will provide the campus community to learn more about the process and share their thoughts,” Miller said.

The full timeline of the strategic planning initiative extends into the spring. Meetings, community conversations and other related events will be held throughout the 2017-18 school year in order to fully flesh out the goals and values of the University.

Students and faculty who wish to be involved can read more about the initiative at pugetsound.edu/strategic-planning. The next Community Conversation will be held on Oct. 26.
University Students affected by Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma

By Emily Schuelein

Hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 hurricane on August 25, made landfall on the Texas coast. Parts of Texas and Louisiana suffered from widespread catastrophic flooding. At least 10,000 rescue missions were conducted. On August 30, Tropical Storm Harvey became a major hurricane and continued to flood parts of Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the hurricane occurs when a low-pressure area forms when a low-pressure area. At the time I was able to call my cousin, the rising water levels. In the first two days, there were without food and water, and they had to rely on their supplies. There seems to have been a greater sense of community, many people are sending me text messages and stuff. I don't think they lost power. Emotionally, the hurricane was during the first week of school, sophomore Cameron Fisher said. "They had a few days' warning. It wasn't easy for them to drop everything and leave their jobs. It's been kinda difficult. People are coming to the campus and asking to really get out of the house..." Brockato said. "It's been a bother. There was enough North of downtown and sort of were that the affected the most. We got a lot to clean and it all of time. I don't have any questions or concerns about campus safety. We are here to serve you."
“Madrid Summers is the program that enrolls the most students to any Hispanic country,” Harry Vélez-Quiñones, professor of Hispanic studies and director and creator of Madrid Summers, said. “Spring term of 2013 or 2012 I went on a trip to Spain, invited by the Spanish government,” he said. “They send groups of [American professors] to basically see providers of study abroad programs in Spain.”

With the help of a friend who started a company that oversees abroad programs in Spain, Vélez-Quiñones decided to offer internships to the University of Puget Sound students. “So we started from scratch,” Vélez-Quiñones said. “First year it was four or five Puget Sound students.”

Madrid Summers is a 10-week study abroad experience that takes place over the summer where the student can either participate in an internship or further their education in Spanish Studies or Spanish at the Universidad Antonio de Nebrija, according to the Madrid Summers handbook. The internships range from business to humanities to science. “This is a commitment to students coming out of Tacoma public schools that seeks to provide a funding source back to them to make their time at Puget Sound more affordable.”

Another notable feature about this year’s freshman class is its size. At 597 students, it is roughly a hundred students shy of last year’s freshman class of 2017 unique in institution’s history.

“Demographically, this is the most diverse class we’ve ever had,” Associate Vice President of Admission Shannon Carr said. Carr went on to say that this class is also very diverse in terms of ideology and geography. This includes a substantially higher number of local Tacoma residents. This increase in local students is due to the new University program that works with the Tacoma Public Schools, Carr said. This program provides scholarships to high-achieving Tacoma Public High School graduates. “This is a commitment to students coming out of Tacoma public schools that seeks to provide a funding source back to them to make their time at Puget Sound more affordable.”

There is also talk, Carr says, of supporting scholarship programs for students as way to offset any potential tuition increases. Carr does emphasize that there is no current plan to increase tuition prices for the students.

Admissions department is looking to broaden the pool of people looking at the school. This means increasing visibility of the University to prospective students on the national stage, as most of the enrollment comes from the Western half of the United States. Increasing enrollment from the East Coast and the South is becoming a priority, as well as attracting more transfer students.

“We’re thinking a lot about our international student populations and how we might be able to attract and retain international students,” Carr said. This increases both diversity and enrollment numbers. The student side of admissions is also a factor that may help in boosting enrollment for the coming year. Students at the University work as tour guides, overnight hosts, and another questions in one-on-one chats with prospective students and parents.

Carr says there are about 70 students that work with admissions. This makes Puget Sound’s student arm of enrollment fairly robust when compared to other colleges, as this number is nearly double the number that worked for Oregon State’s admission department when Carr was there last year. “I think we do a really good job of making sure our prospective students and families get to actually get to interact with students here,” Carr said.
What does free speech look like when turned violent? Hate speech. Protecting one form over the other requires the protection of all, and after acknowledging this, the ironic dichotomy between hate speech and free speech emerges.

Hate speech and free speech express their frustrations through acts of social injustice. It’s from our political systems that their tension seeks release, and in consideration of increasingly polarized parties, their dynamic is especially tainted.

The University of California, Berkeley intended to host a series of right-wing political speakers this month, inciting student protests. Part of a “Free Speech Week” event on campus, UC Berkeley planned visits from figures such as former White House chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon and right-wing political commentator Milo Yiannopoulos. “Free Speech Week” was cancelled by the student group that originally organized it, but speakers like Yiannopoulos say the ban is coming on speaking anyway. Student body response suggests urgency in unpacking the relationship between hate speech and free speech.

Hate speech originated from free speech, placing the two in a disrespectful relationship. It’s near impossible for both to exist in equal measure, leaving our communicative climates toxic. Does it not matter who would harm us, our compromise to imply that a party is losing, that if free speech remains unconditionally tolerant of hate speech’s oppression, hate speech will exhaust free speech’s ability to remain tolerable and vice versa.

Although free speech created hate speech, hate speech controls their dynamic in political and social differences. Free speech is a right derived from a history of oppression to oppressive authoritative figures, figures abusing their position with the desire of power. Those whose beliefs were contrary to their own.

When posed through these terms, these realities become quite different. This division between free speech and hate speech is a testament to denying free speech and dismissing hate speech. Fundamental argument is that to be free speech is more with speech. I say I entirely agree with her stance — I feel it downplays the power disparity between speech and hate speech — but I stand within the belief, instead, about averaging advocating for (at this point) all forms of political dialogue.

Hate speech is especially tainted. The objective language of hate speech is based in communication, a large majority of its existence is defined by personal interpretation. There are different intent behind different messages and acts of communication. With their expression sound within every political system, the characteristics of different language intentions inherently align with specific parties. Understanding this, right-wing violence and left-wing violence are mutually exclusive.

Although free speech created hate speech, hate speech controls their dynamic in political and social differences.

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Fasting for the Faithless: A Non-Believer’s Guide to Yom Kippur. Today marks the 25th hour of Yom Kippur, the holiest day of my year, and God has nothing to do with it. I grew up going to an orthodox Jewish preschool, but my family has always practiced (very) reform Judaism. Being Jewish is the most important part of my identity, even though I have known for a long time that I do not believe in God. Holiness without God seems like a glaring contradiction, especially considering that the very definition of the word “holy” according to dictionary.com is to be “dedicated or devoted to the service of God.” I embrace this contradiction every year on Yom Kippur, the “Day of Atonement” that follows Rosh Hashanah.

Rosh Hashanah marks the official new year. Its beginning is only the first of 10 Days of Awe or Repentance. Yom Kippur is the 10th and final day to ask for forgiveness from loved ones and from God, hoping to earn the gift of another year of life. Fasting is the ultimate way in which we do our atoning. Unbeknownst to many people who are not Jewish, one’s fate for the year that Rosh Hashanah began is not actually sealed until the end of Yom Kippur.

Rabbi Debra Rappaport of Shir Tikvah synagogue in Minneapolis, Minnesota said in her Dec. 31 sermon, “Believing in God is understanding of God is essential in some religions. For example, belief in Jesus is what makes one a Christian. What makes someone Muslim. The same is true of Jewish religious identity. In Judaism, the three-legged stool, held up by three distinct but connected ways to be Jewish: belonging, behaving, and believing.” The belonging that Rabbi Rappaport refers to is the inclusion of community that comes with being culturally Jewish. Unlike other religions, Judaism is its own ethnicity, with shared history that is more than just religious. Basically, once a Jew, always a Jew.

What makes someone Jewish is the Jewish behaviors that Rabbis and Rabbis Rappaport cites as central to living Jewishly. One can choose to find faith-based inspiration or behavior, but there is nothing about them that is inherently religious.

Finally, we come to the more challenging part of Rabbi Rappaport’s Jewish definition: believing. “Belief is part isn’t just about God, and it’s certainly not about believing a literal reading of the Torah,” Rappaport explains. “It’s about Rabbis Rappaport calls “behavior,” worth and meaning to what we’re doing here together, believing that Jewish life matters.” So belief and investment in Judaism, even if not in the spiritual part, is still belief. If I feel deeply connected to my culture and to holidays like Yom Kippur, it should not matter whether or not that connection is a religious one. Just as there is no one way to participate in Yom Kippur. The sacredness of Yom Kippur for me is in the emotional processing. It is on several distractions that we become unaware of in daily life. It is also one of the easiest, most detached forms of gratification and fulfillment.

For me, food is a solution to nearly every emotion. I am tired, so I eat; I am nervous, so I eat; I am devastated, ecstatic, confused, so I eat. Fasting is the most important and most detached forms of emotional processing.

Fasting leaves me alone with the fears and questions that on every other day of the year I swallow and banish to the pit of my stomach. That is a terrifying, yet holy experience. Some feel closer to God after fasting — I feel closer to myself.

Yom Kippur encourages apology for the sake of forgiveness, not only for appearance or out of obligation. Some feel that the most important forgiveness to ask for is: “Believing” that belief, but have found in my own experience that praying to God for forgiveness is far less meaningful than asking forgiveness from God for my life. This is because it feels like a greater personal risk and sacrifice to apologize to a god than a spirit to whose face you never see, and whose answer you need not wait for. Praying to God always feels very low-stakes, because my admiration is silent and it is not as if God could really deny my apology. My sister, my mother, my best friend: these people accept me, so I ask for forgiveness. The courage to ask them is hard to find, but deeply rewarding when successful.

MJ Gilbert, a member of Rabbi Rappaport’s congregation, gave a sermon last Yom Kippur that is quite similar to my argument in this piece. “I am a deeply, resonantly, passionately, spiritual Jew who doesn’t believe in God, and I see this as not only non-contradictory, but utterly uncontroversial,” she said. “The Mishnah (the book that contextualizes Torah) supports the idea that our main task today is not to talk to God, but to each other for the real sins, the important ones, the ways I have failed and wronged, and not shown up, and hurt you, my friends, my family, my loved ones.” I wholeheartedly agree.

Repairing my relationship with myself and with others are important parts of Yom Kippur, but they involve looking backwards into the year that is ending. The most important part of this day for me is focusing on the year that Yom Kippur sets in motion. Which parts of myself do I want to nurture more this year? What kind of risks do I want to take more of? Where do I want to be, geographically and emotionally, next Yom Kippur? I let these questions guide me today and the days following Yom Kippur. I let these questions guide me into the present moment and into the future. I can still feel connected to this holy day. Find liberation in self-reflection, forgiveness in self-love, and if you wish, find your purpose, find your final, end purpose in ending one year and looking to a new one. With or without God, every person can make this Yom Kippur their own kind of holy.
When spit just isn't enough: **Natural lube safety tips**

By Meghan Rogers

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Even though everyone knows that toxic chemicals are bad for your body, there is often an ignorance-is-bliss mentality when it comes to sex products. People who would rather avoid the risks often turn to products such as coconut oil, largely because they are inexpensive and have a reputation of being healthier than packaged or store-bought lubricant. However, slathering something on or in your genitalia that you wouldn’t normally eat is the best thing for your body? There are many ingredients in store-bought lubricants that have negative effects on the vagina in particular. Most store-bought lubricants contain parabens. Parabens are used in cosmetics to prevent bacteria growth within the product. Because the vagina is full of good and healthy bacteria called vaginal flora, having parabens in lubricant can prevent this bacteria from growing and can lead to yeast infections. According to the American Cancer Society, parabens are also endocrine disruptors, meaning they have similar effects to the body as estrogen does, but they are interfering with the natural hormonal process. Exposure to parabens has been linked to infertility and cancer. Other chemicals in non-natural lubes, such as sugar (often called glycerine in ingredient lists) can alter the very delicate pH balance of the vagina as well. Make sure to check the label of whatever you use to make sure there are no ingredients that can make you uncomfortable. And, very importantly, make sure you or your partner(s) aren’t allergic to any products in the lube (homemade or store-bought) before introducing it into your routine. If you want to test a product out before partner sex, swatch it somewhere sensitive and visible, or try it out during masturbation.

An article from celebrity lifestyle blog "Goop" on toxic lubricants suggests a strong rule of thumb on this front: if it is safe to eat and is organic, it is generally safe to try out. That being said, it is crucial to remember that if the lubricant is oil-based, it will break down latex, so it cannot be used with a condom. If condoms are being used with lubricant, make sure it is water or silicone-based. However, be aware that just because natural lubes may seem more wholesome, it does not mean that they are 100 percent great for everyone.

Coconut oil has gained widespread popularity on this front: if it is safe to eat and is organic, it is generally safe to try out. That being said, many people are able to use it regularly. Coconut oil is better than lube because it doesn’t feel like there’s a foreign substance being introduced into your sex life," Fiona (’19) said. “It makes you feel closer to your partner: Plus, it’s become common enough that you might be able to swipe some from your medicine cabinet or pantry, instead of having to go all the way to the grocery store. There are many other natural lubes to be tried besides coconut oil. Gwyneth Paltrow swears by pure aloe vera gel and olive oil as lubricants on her blog, Marijuana-infused lube, almond oil, flaxseed oil and essential oils (a personal favorite of motherhood bloggers on "The Healthy Homies," but if the thought of peppermint in your lube makes your cheeks flush, it may not be for you) can also be used, unless you are also using a condom, as the oil will destroy the latex. There are many online blogs that feature different ways to make your own natural lube, and most of them consist of some combination of what has been listed above. In the Netflix television show "Grace and Frankie," Frankie is shown making a yam-based lube. "You’re not so sure about the benefits of that one, but take notes from Frankie: it can be fun to get creative and make your own (but make sure to do some research first). Essentially, if you experience any type of negative reaction to using any type of lube, stop immediately. Simultaneously, just because a lubricant doesn’t mean it will work for everyone. Everybody’s bodies are different and will have reactions to different lubes, regardless of a product’s natural makeup. But if it doesn’t bother you or your sweet, sensitive bod, then you have some good, clean (or not-so-clean) lube-y fun!

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Lena Waithe wins Emmy for “Master of None”

By Emma Holmes

At the 69th Emmy Award Show on Sep. 17, 2017, history was made. Lena Waithe graciously accepted the award for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series, becoming the first black woman ever to do so. Ms. Waithe stood beside her co-writer and co-star, Aziz Ansari, as they were rewarded for their work on the “Thanksgiving” episode of the Netflix original series “Master of None.”

Waithe was born in Chicago in 1984, and grew up in a blue-collar household. She is not necessarily an actor. She wrote for the Fox television show “Bone,” and later worked as a producer on the 2014 film “Dear White People.” In the “Thanksgiving” episode, Waithe drew on her personal experience as a black lesbian. As both a writer and an actor in the episode, her character explores compounding aspects of her identity as she experienced them through the years at Thanksgiving.

This storyline is just one in a series that poignantly addresses both diversity and commonality of personal experience. “Master of None” also follows Dev’s (Ansari) experience as a first-generation American with immigrant parents, reconciling their religious and cultural perspective with his own. Another episode explores the under-representation and stereotyping of Indian men on television, as Dev struggles as an up-and-coming actor.

According to an interview with Vogue, Waithe’s character Denise was originally written as a white, straight woman who had the potential to be a love interest for Dev. However, once Waithe was cast, the show’s creators decided to base the character more on Waithe herself. Denise is depicted as a smooth, confidently sexual woman with a complex and honest backstory. Although her experiences help Dev (and audiences) see unique perspectives on issues like street harassment and homophobia, Waithe’s character isn’t merely a token woke friend; she also has some killer jokes and, now and again, winning storylines.

Waithe was not only the first black woman to win the Emmy for comedy writing, but the second woman of color to be nominated, ever. In 2010, Mindy Kaling and co-writer Greg Daniels were nominated in the category for the “Niagara” episode of “The Office” (the one in which Jim and Pam get married), but lost to “Modern Family.” It’s refreshing to see Kaling and Waithe, both accomplished and hilarious writers and actors, playing roles that definitively stand out in the world of natural lube. Many people are able to use this as lubricant with positive effects — it feels, smells, and tastes good — but it is also an antibacterial and antifungal. This means that it can easily prevent vaginal flora from growing and disturb the pH levels of the vagina as well as invite yeast infections. Just because something is safe for your mouth doesn’t mean it’s necessarily safe for your genitals. That being said, many people are able to use it regularly.

“Coconut oil is better than lube because it doesn’t feel like there’s a foreign substance being introduced into your sex life,” Fiona (’19) said. “It makes you feel closer to your partner: Plus, it’s become common enough that you might be able to swipe some from your medicine cabinet or pantry, instead of having to go all the way to the grocery store. There are many other natural lubes to be tried besides coconut oil. Gwyneth Paltrow swears by pure aloe vera gel and olive oil as lubricants on her blog, Marijuana-infused lube, almond oil, flaxseed oil and essential oils (a personal favorite of motherhood bloggers on “The Healthy Homies,” but if the thought of peppermint in your lube makes your cheeks flush, it may not be for you) can also be used, unless you are also using a condom, as the oil will destroy the latex. There are many online blogs that feature different ways to make your own natural lube, and most of them consist of some combination of what has been listed above. In the Netflix television show “Grace and Frankie,” Frankie is shown making a yam-based lube. "You’re not so sure about the benefits of that one, but take notes from Frankie: it can be fun to get creative and make your own (but make sure to do some research first). Essentially, if you experience any type of negative reaction to using any type of lube, stop immediately. Simultaneously, just because a lubricant doesn’t mean it will work for everyone. Everybody’s bodies are different and will have reactions to different lubes, regardless of a product’s natural makeup. But if it doesn’t bother you or your sweet, sensitive bod, then you have some good, clean (or not-so-clean) lube-y fun!"
In the times of Genghis Khan, Mongols worshipped the Eternal Blue Sky. Today, the sky of the nation’s capital Ulaan Baatar is more smoggy than it is blue, ranking in as one of the most polluted cities in the world. This became apparent after a few days of living here. You can smell the grayness outside — in the afternoon, the smog often gets so dense that the nearby mountains disappear from view. Our hostel is located near a ger district, a community of unplanned, tent-like homes. Mongolian lifestyle has been forced to adapt to the changing environment, a problem resulting from both local and global pollution.

In the winter, the air becomes dangerous when -40-degree temperatures leave many families with no option but to burn anything for heat, including trash, tires or other toxic material. Though the local pollution from Ulaan Baatar is not visible from the countryside, global pollution has taken its toll on the nomadic herding lifestyle on the steppe in the form of climate change. The climate in Mongolia has always been quite turbulent regardless of global warming; winters get as low as -40 degrees and summers are upwards of 100. This range has been growing along with the increase in carbon levels. Recently, more livestock are dying from the extreme temperatures.

"Climate change is responsible for some portions of the loss [of livestock] — but not all of it," Dr. Batjargal Zamba said in an interview with The Guardian. Zamba is an adviser at Mongolia’s environment ministry. "It’s a combination of change to climate, and also a change to Mongolian economic activity and lifestyle."

In Khara Khorum, the nation’s ancient capital, we saw this migration from rural to urban is starkly visible in the sprawling ger districts surrounding the capital. The portability and practicality of gers have always served for the nomadic lifestyle on the steppe in the form of climate change. The climate in Mongolia has always been quite turbulent regardless of global warming; winters get as low as -40 degrees and summers are upwards of 100. This range has been growing along with the increase in carbon levels. Recently, more livestock are dying from the extreme temperatures.

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"The effects of climate change strike so close to the Mongolian home that it has forced many to physically relocate their herds. Mongolians are witnessing the effects of rising carbon levels in a way many Americans have never experienced. The beauty of this country needs to be preserved, and as Americans, we have to think both locally and globally to protect this natural beauty that is often out of sight."

PHOTO CREDITS TO: OLIVIA LANGEN

"Taking in the Mongolian steppe is like looking at Kansas on steroids — a joyous Wagnerian symphony of blue sky, open spaces and gravity curves stretching out to everywhere."

-Tavel writer Rolf Potts

Experiential Learning expands horizons for Puget Sound students

By Haley Suzuki

This summer, through Experiential Learning, 30 students participated in the University of Puget Sound’s 10-week-long internship programs with 22 different organizations. 109 students took part in the summer research program. Through the internships, the University connects students with various organizations within the Tacoma community. "This program allows students to have a career in nonprofit or government, which they wouldn’t otherwise be able to [financially]," Renee Houston, the Associate Dean for Experiential Learning and a professor of communications at Puget Sound, said. "Through the University, interns are paid for their work during the summer. After interning this summer, five students were offered continuous employment through the organization they worked with. Interns are also connected with various Puget Sound alumni. For one hour a week, alumni visit students to talk about their career and networking.

According to Rebecca Pettitt, students have a wide range of organizations to intern with, such as "well-known music production companies, large financial companies such as Russell and nonprofit organizations such as Emergency Food Network here in Tacoma."

Experiential Learning is also trying to make more programs and summer research available abroad. "Students have pursued internships through study abroad program Madrid Summers or accredited programs like IES Abroad," said Pettitt. IES Abroad, or International Education of Students, is a nonprofit organization that administers study abroad programs to U.S. college students. Another option for students is to work with a Puget Sound faculty member on a research topic in their proposed field through summer research, including the arts, humanities or sciences. Students do not have to choose an object that is within their major or minor.

Summer Research allocations allow for students to conduct their study abroad if they wish. Jae Bates, a senior at Puget Sound, pursued an independent oral history research project in South Korea on Korean adoptees. "I was able to research with English speakers," Bates said. "I connected through a Facebook group and made interviews with participants, who were all adoptees." According to Bates, the funding was sufficient enough to live independently and pay for necessities such as food and transportation.

To apply for the funding from the University to research abroad, students must propose a research topic, a thorough annotated bibliography related to their subject of choice and a list of classes taken to show their qualifications of conducting research independently in another country. Despite starting up at the University only two years ago, Experiential Learning has already given undergraduates opportunities to independently research or be involved in the Tacoma community, encouraging critical thinking skills. "The common thread across all Experiential Learning programs is reflection," Houston said.

Interested students can apply for these summer programs now through Career and Employment Services.
If you walk past the Student Diversity Center (SDC) Thursday nights, chances are you'll hear roars of laughter coming from the Black Student Union (BSU) meeting. The group meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. to get together and celebrate black culture. This year, BSU has record attendance at their meetings — last year the BSU exec estimates that on average, meetings had four members. This year, they usually bring 18-20.

Sophomore Blake Bouiligny, treasurer and Social Media Representative of the BSU, describes the atmosphere of the club as a "family," and though they've only been meeting for a month, they've become a close-knit group. Bouiligny believes it's important to have a place where you can be surrounded by "people that look like you and can relate to me and I can relate to them.

First-year Isaac Sims-Foster calls BSU a safe and fun space to "embrace black culture." Julian Cuyjet, another first-year, reflects on how it can be "overwhelming in class and don't see any black people." Sophomore Erica Greening noticed the same thing with a campus that doesn't have a large population of black students, saying, "It's hard to be a person of color when there isn't a lot of people like you in your classes and your residence hall.

First-year Alex Coutreau joined the club this year when his roommate Deandre Smith asked him if he wanted to come. As the only white-identifying student in the group, Alex appreciates how welcoming the club is to his presence and states they already "feel like family" to him. He finds the meetings to be a "stress-reliever" where he can kick back with his friends and learn more about their culture. He believes it's "important that people of color have a space where they can make friends and know they'll get along with everyone.

During last Thursday's meeting, the members were split into groups where they had to write a rap with one rule: "be creative." Bouiligny and President Nia Henderson, a sophomore, judged. The raps were about anything from "roasting" members of the group to the struggles of being black in today's world.

The love and camaraderie this group has for each other is evident the second you walk into the SDC. BSU has something for everyone. Later this semester members of the BSU will be attending the student-led, student-attended Students of Color Conference on October 28. The conference, which will be held at Whitman, is open to the entire campus if they want to go. If you are interested, contact bsu@pugetsound.edu by Oct. 1.

For more information about the Black Student Union check out their Instagram: @ups.bsu.

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On-campus study aims to raise students' awareness and sustainability

By Angela Cookston

In an ongoing study, students and faculty researchers look into on-campus energy consumption and sustainability awareness using student’s self-reported shower times and temperatures.

The Trail sat down with Amy Fisher of the Science, Technology, and Society program on Sept. 20 to discuss the study. "The overarching goal [of the research] is really to think about how we can use our energy more efficiently and potentially make changes at a grassroot level that could help mitigate things like climate change," Fisher said. She broke that goal into its many parts. "The goal of the research is twofold. One is to make students aware of the fact that hot water use is a significant source of energy consumption and to get them to reflect on how much energy they're actually using, and then also to hopefully make them more aware that just small changes in everyday behaviors can produce that amount of energy.

Involved students include Shelly Kantner, Mathew Gulick, Bjorn Hoffman and Maya Bittman. Lynnette Claire in the Business and Leadership department, David Latimer in the Physics department and Dan Sherman in the Politics and Government department are also involved in the project. The project began summer 2017.

If you take one minute shorter shower or you reduce the temperature just by a couple of degrees it can make huge energy savings," Fisher said. Students often use more energy by taking hot, long showers or washing clothes in hot water. Most students don't know what temperature their shower is being used at. "One of the things we're trying to do actually is to have thermometers installed in some of the dormitories," Fisher said.

In addition to thermometers, stopwatches will be installed in some of the dormitory showers so students can see the temperature of their shower as well as how long they shower.

The study will rely on students' voluntary and anonymous self-reporting. They can choose to report the temperature and time information on a log used by the researchers.

"We're just hoping people will be honest. So that we'll get to see ... what is the norm, right, for a Puget Sound student in residence," Fisher explained. The researchers are also planning on putting up educational posters, which will tell students how much energy they're actually using on average, how that affects the environment, and how that affects their health.

Fisher said that the researchers ran a test-run of the study over the summer in the summer research housing in two Greek houses. "That worked out really well. We got some really interesting results.

In October, which is National Energy Awareness Month, the researchers will run the project in six residence halls on campus with the goal of seeing how self-reporting impacts students' hot water use.

Fisher explained that many college campuses have energy awareness competitions, which will reward students for reaching goals by the end of a time period. "But the problem is that the savings don't stay. So after that month-long competition ends, things generally tend to go back to normal.

The researchers hope that the act of reflecting on their own energy usage will cause students to make long-term sustainable changes in behavior.

“We hope it will have some positive benefits, but even if it doesn’t then we’ll still learn something from it,” Fisher said. "If this strategy doesn’t work, there are other things that we could potentially try.”
The Trail previews the NFL season

By Kevin White

The New England Patriots, defending Super Bowl champions, came into this season with a ton of hype. As in, “16-0, greatest team ever” hype. Luckily, the Kansas City Chiefs stopped that storyline before it started. The Chiefs are one of the best defenses in the league, with great pass rushers that could give Super Bowl for the Patriots.

Kansas City Chiefs: Why they’ll win: Let’s start with the team that already beat New England this year. They won quite handily, with a great game from Kareem Hunt. Hunt and wide receiver Tyreek Hill are dynamic talents that will be hard for any team to stop. The Chiefs have one of the best defenses in the league, with great pass rushers that could give Patriots quarterback Tom Brady some trouble.

Why they won’t: The Chiefs managed to control Rob Gronkowski in their win, mostly due to the excellent play of Eric Berry. Berry has been ruled out for the season now, and if Gronkowski returns from a groin injury, he could be tough to stop. Furthermore, Tom Brady played terribly against the Chiefs, but has been on fire in weeks two and three, throwing for eight touchdowns and over 800 yards. If Brady remains at this level, he will be hard to stop. Finally, the Chiefs’ winning would require Alex Smith to outperform Tom Brady again. Smith has played well this season, but is not a dynamic playmaker (QB). The Chiefs drafting QB Patrick Mahomes in the first round should signal to everybody that Smith might not be reliable.

Denver Broncos: Why they’ll win: The Broncos have a fantastic defense that shut down a great Dallas offense in week two. The Broncos have been the only team to give the Patriots trouble in recent years, beating the Patriots in both the 2013-14 and 2015-16 seasons.

Why they won’t: The defense for Denver has gotten slightly worse since those victories, and I trust Trevor Siemian less than Alex Smith. Siemian may have already regressed, with a mediocre showing against the Buffalo Bills. Denver is in a tough division, and may not even make the playoffs.

Oakland Raiders: Why they’ll win: The Raiders have been one of the best teams in the league since last year. Khalil Mack is a difference maker that can win a team a game, and the grouping of Amari Cooper, Michael Crabtree and Marshawn Lynch is one of the best skill positions groups in the league.

Why they won’t: The quarterback, Derek Carr, is a great young player in the league. However, he lacks any playoff experience and is coming off his best season last year. Oakland is also in the same division as Kansas City and Denver. All three teams will need to beat each other before facing the Patriots.

Pittsburgh Steelers: Why they’ll win: The Steelers have an even better group of skill players than the Raiders, with both top-three outside linebackers and impressive running back Le’Veon Bell. Roethlisberger has playoff experience, and the biggest defensive threat is the perpetually-injured Ravens. The Steelers have the second best defense to win the AFC South (7 to 1) for a reason.

Why they won’t: I don’t have the exact date anywhere but I think the last time the Steelers beat the Patriots was 2001. It’s unlikely that my editor has told me this is wrong, and in fact the last time the Steelers beat the Patriots was Oct. 30, 2011, which is nine centuries in football time. This is the solution to why the Steelers have had against the Patriots since 2004. They have eight losses over the same period.

Anybody from the AFC South: I don’t understand this division. The Titans looked overmatched against the Raiders, but handled the Seahawks well. The Texans looked terrible against both the Jaguirs and Bengals, but then nearly beat the Patriots. The Jaguars may have two 2016 wins and a 21-point loss. Choosing anybody from this division to win the AFC is a take so bad I’m unwilling to make it.

Anybody from the AFC East: The Dolphins were a playoff team last year, but lost to the Jets in week three. The Jets are very bad, and are trying to lose. The idea of a Jay Cutler-led Dolphins team beating the Patriots is laughable. So laughable, that imagining Trent Dilfer giving that take is now my go-to happy place thought.

Seattle Seahawks: Why they’ll win: The Seahawks have played the Patriots very close over the past few years, and have revamped the defense. Adding a healthy Earl Thomas and Sheldon Richardson through a trade makes the Seahawks very scary. Why they won’t: Through two weeks, the Seahawks have scored 18 points against the Packers and 49ers (neither of which are especially great defenses). While the offense awoke against the Tennessee Titans, the Seahawks still lost, and have yet to solve the offensive line issues. The Rams may be a threat to dethrone the Seahawks as NFC West champs.

Dallas Cowboys: Why they’ll win: ugh, I don’t want to think about having to cheer for the Cowboys against the Patriots. Yuck.

Why they won’t: they made Trevor Siemian look elite. What happens when they have to go up against Rodgers or Ryan in the NFC playoff? Or even Brady in a hypothetical Super Bowl.

Atlanta Falcons: Why they’ll win: they beat down the Patriots for three quarters in the Super Bowl, and they won handily against Green Bay in week two. Nick Kubiak (Senior, Santa Rosa, California), host of the Puget Sound Sports Radio Hour on KUPS, thinks Atlanta has the best chance to knock the Patriots off, predicting “the offense should be as good as last year’s, even without Kyle Shanahan, and the defense will have grown together another year.”

Why they won’t: I’m still haunted by 28-3, they have to be.

Green Bay Packers: Why they’ll win: If there is any quarterback in the league I think could outduel Tom Brady, it would be Aaron Rodgers. Rodgers has a weapon that has regularly foiled the Patriots in the past: a great pass rush and ridiculous clutch performances. Aaron Rodgers can easily recreate Eli Manning-like comebacks.

Why they won’t: The defense isn’t great, and the Packers still seem to be a step behind the Falcons, losing handily in week two. However, if they do make it to the Super Bowl, I’d give them the best shot at beating the Patriots.


What will happen now that I’ve picked against the Patriots: Patriots 27-Packers 21.

Hansen breathes new life into tennis program

By Tayla MacPherson

The University of Puget Sound welcomed a new men’s and women’s head tennis coach this fall in Mark Hansen. Hansen has lived much of his life in the Pacific Northwest. Previously, Hansen coached at Seattle University, University of Washington and Green River Community College. Additionally, Hansen has experiences as a student athlete, having played college tennis at Green River Community College. This wide range of experience and presence around the west coast may assist the Loggers in the future with recruitment.

Recently, the university’s tennis teams have started fall ball, which consists of morning practices during their off-season. Hansen speaks about his excitement for this. There is a saying, “Fall ball has been a big learning curve with understanding the facilities and all the new players. So far both teams have shown positive energy, and two things you will see is a coach good attitudes and strong energy,” Hansen said.

Additionally, Hansen hopes to change the overall tennis atmosphere of the University and in the Tacoma Community. “I want to build a tennis culture here at this school,” Hansen said. Expanding the tennis presence on campus can help increase the overall excitement of the program.

Senior Joe McRoberts (Kirkland, Washington), member of the men’s tennis team, is excited for his senior season with Coach Hansen. “I was 13 or so, and I always had a lot of respect for him. The experience that he brings to the table teaching high-performance program I played in when I was 13 or so, and I always had a lot of respect for him. The experience that he brings to the table teaching high-level tennis will be crucial in making sure our players are competitive in our league,” McRoberts said.

Hansen has a three-year plan for the program to compete in the national tournament. He hopes to better understand the level of play of both teams and build on the skill the teams already possess. However, one of Hansen’s main goals in his three-year plan is to “make the program more visible. We applied to compete in international tournaments through the school and run international junior tennis events in Puget Sound’s tennis pavilion,” Hansen said.

Junior Nicki Bouche (Mountlake Terrace, Washington) discusses her enthusiasm about fall ball. “It’s only the second week of fall ball and it has been really good. All the girls are super motivated. Plus, our team is a bigger this year, which will increase competitiveness and options for the coaching staff. Coach Hansen’s wife is a professional tennis player and having a woman with that high of skill is going to be great for the level of play and energy on the court,” Bouche said.

In the season, the women’s tennis team won five matches and lost eight in the Northwest Conference, placing fifth in the conference. The men’s team did not win a game last season, but are hoping to change that this season.

Bouche describes her thoughts for this upcoming spring season: “The top four teams in our conference are really solid. And the top two are highly ranked so it’s going to be challenging to beat them, yet we are all improving a lot and have the potential to move up within the conference.”

Hansen sees this year as a year to build and grow through patience with his players, understanding the conference and improving overall skill within both men’s and women’s programs.

The women’s tennis team will be competing in the ITA Regional Championships in Walla Walla, Washington the weekend of Sept. 23, 2017.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGGER ATHLETICS
Sports Recaps
By Kevin White

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
On Sept. 23-24, the women's volleyball team competed in the Red River Invitational. Overall, the Loggers cruised against George Fox, winning in straight sets. Senior Rita Dexter (Anchor- age, Alaska) led the way with 13 kills while the women grabbed fourth out of five.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
In fact, the Loggers had more points throughout the game than the Lutes, with the Loggers narrowly losing all three sets.

GOLD
Both golf teams had strong performances over the past week. With the fall semester in full swing, the Puget Sound men’s and women's soccer teams have gotten off to strong starts. The men's team has posted a 5-2 record, including a pair of wins in last weekend’s matches with Whitman College (Walla Walla, Washing- ton) and Whitworth University (Spokane, Washington). The women's team has come out of the gates with a 4-3-1 record, and are currently 2-2-1 in conference.

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Rivalry still strong for Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran

In 1949, when Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran were both colleges, the teams had not showed the rivalry like they do now. In 1949, Puget Sound was a small, private college with a total student body of about 200. Pacific Lutheran was a larger, coed institution with a total enrollment of around 700. However, our primary focus is on ourselves as a coach is something to admire from afar. Built over the last 40 years with Westering (Senior, Claremont California) who led the way with eight shots in total, only one of which was on target. The Loggers headed on to Whitworth 4-1. Benjamin Whitman (Vincent Von Luehrte (Los Gatos, Califor- nia)) and Rachael Metzler (La- Village Colorado) and Rachael Metzler (La- Fayette California), both of whom broke into the Loggers top 25 at 13 and 16, respectively. This allowed the team to climb to the Cross Country regional rankings at seven.

CROSS COUNTRY
The cross country teams had their second tournament of the year at Sundodger in Se- attle on Sept. 16. The women's team finished eighth out of 20 schools, while the men's team finished 18th. The women's team was paced by junior Olivia Barrett (Rochester Village Colorado) and Rachael Metzler (La- Fayette California), both of whom broke into the Loggers top 25 at 13 and 16, respectively. This allowed the team to climb to the Cross Country regional rankings at seven.

MEN'S SOCCER
The men's soccer team got two wins on Sept. 23-24, ridding it of their match against George Fox and ended the weekend at home. Against Whitman, the lone goal of the game came on a penalty kick from senior Yusef Youssef (Stevens Point, Wiscon- sin). The defense was stifling, holding Whit- man to eight shots in total, only one of which was on target. The Loggers headed on to Whitworth 4-1. Benjamin Whitman (Vincent Von Luehrte (Los Gatos, Califor- nia)) and Rachael Metzler (La- Village Colorado) and Rachael Metzler (La- Fayette California), both of whom broke into the Loggers top 25 at 13 and 16, respectively. This allowed the team to climb to the Cross Country regional rankings at seven.

Seniors in soccer look for a big year
By Will Keyse

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Alack! Freshman LogJamm’d!

By Lee L. Benbow

Last month, the University of Puget Sound hosted its annual school year kickoff event, Log Jam. The all-campus event introduces students to clubs and groups they can join this academic year.

After only the first few weeks, Isaiah missed 12 club meetings and had to kiss his dreams of being rugby team captain and president of geology club goodbye. “It was super hard to get over the idea of not reaching my full potential. Like, I might have never played rugby, but now I don’t know if I’ll ever get the chance. I’m working through it slowly,” Shawford said. He seemed genuinely bummed about missing the interest meetings, even for clubs he admitted to having no interest in. After the second week, Shawford reflected on his talents and bid farewell to crew and the three accapella groups he signed up for. “I just know in my soul that waking up at 5 a.m. isn’t what I’m made to do, and I really don’t know what I was thinking with the a capella; I’ve seen two, three tops, episodes of Glee,” Shawford said.

“Now that I’m down to the final 10 clubs I really feel like I’m figuring out where I fit in at college,” Shawford said with a glaim in his eyes. When The Flask asked which lucky clubs made the cut, Shawford’s eyes darted to the east. “I have no idea.”

Shawford being okay with hundreds of new emails a day, the Puget Sound internet servers are not. “The system has crashed three times in the past week, and Mr. Shawford has been using more than 50 percent of our bandwidth to check his email alone,” a tech expert who wished to remain anonymous said.

As University of Puget Sound students are finishing their first full month of classes, most have fallen into a routine. Yet again, Shawford is not most students. Armed with a planner and sticky notes, he rushes to meetings after spending two and a half hours perusing the tables, signing his Puget Sound email, and chatting club founders, he had joined a grand total of 26 clubs.

Most students join one, maybe two, new clubs and steal stickers from the rest, but first-year Isaiah Shawford is not most students. After spending two and a half hours perusing tables, he had joined a grand total of 26 clubs.
"It". Why the success?

By Matthew Gallic

The latest Stephen King movie adaptation, "It," broke records and inspired memes to become one of the biggest phenomena in horror movies in history. Moreover, it is a story that has been made into multiple adaptations over the years. "It" tells the story of a boy and his friends who encounter the lair of a clown who uses his levitating clown shoes to traumatically terrify clowns due to witnessing what happens when one holds the highest office in the land? Spoilers ahead.

"It" became one of the biggest hits of 2017, making $608 million in North America and $572 million internationally. It is the highest-grossing Stephen King adaptation, besting the 1990 version of "IT" starring Tim Curry, which made $256 million. "It" is a story about fear, how the world divides us, and the human tendency to repress past traumatic fears. In his essay "Why We Crave Horror Movies," King claims that "the most horrific horror movie, like the sick joke, has a dirty trick: it works without anyone noticing. Its effect is so subtle that it is obvious to no one."

Despite some shortcomings and absurd moments (one notable meme-fest shot of Pennywise dancing comes to mind) "It" is well worth viewing, even for those of us who have the misfortune to experience its effects. A good horror movie should chill, and "It" is a good horror movie, but it would be more accurate to say "it" is a good movie based around the story of a clown and child killer, not that the movie itself is perfect. Despite the lack of jump scare, "It" appeals to audiences well beyond the typical blockbuster horror movie.

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Not only does the monster embody one's deepest fear, it preys on children, the most vulnerable segment of society. Some of this is due to the original book's nature (it is a story about fear, how the world divides us, and the human tendency to repress past traumatic fears), while the movie does address themes of sexual assault it ultimately keeps them secondary. It is a story about fear and the way it affects us, not the implications of such violent events.

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It’s time to forget about typical delicate glass vessels, vases, and jewelry when we think of glass art. Recently, the Tacoma Museum of Glass (MOG) opened up a new exhibition, which showcases the innovative work of artist Albert Paley. In this exhibition, “Complementary Contrast: The Glass and Steel Sculptures of Albert Paley,” there are large sculptural works that use glass and steel in combination.

Paley has been an influential force in metal work for years, and is well known specifically for his metal sculpture work. One exhibition of his, “Paley for Park Avenue,” exhibited large metal sculptures along Park Avenue in New York City. The exhibition was part of the Fund for Park Avenue Project, which works to put public art onto the malls (grass portions) of Park Avenue. Paley's background in jewelry-making and interest in glass work gave him the perfect set of skills needed to create this exhibition.

This is a very exciting exhibition for the museum as museum curator, Katie Buckingham, described. “We have an integral relationship with Albert Paley which has enabled us to support him as he continues to develop this body of work. This exhibition was seven years in the making and several of the pieces were begun during two residencies with Paley at Museum of Glass in 2010 and 2011. It’s with excitement that we bring the artistic process full circle, and see how the metal in each sculpture evolved to complement the glass created in MOG's Hot Shop,” she said.

In an interview with the Tacoma Museum of Glass, Paley explains his interest in the combination between these two very different materials. The “dialogue of opposites” that Paley talks about is striking. It appears in every sculpture and, as patrons of the museum viewed Paley’s work, there seemed to be a common interest in the complexity of it. People would often find a place to sit and observe a single sculpture, or those curated together, and decipher the relationship between the wispy sculpted glass and the sturdy pieces of metal. Paley captured the unique relationship of these two materials and the attention of museum guests.

In addition to “Complementary Contrast,” there are other exhibitions currently on display at the museum. These exhibitions also showcase glass art work with a twist. One of them is “Ispirazione: James Mongrain in the George R. Stroemple Collection.” The exhibition began to take form in 2012 as Stroemple, an art collector, has a large collection of 19th-century Venetian glass. Stroemple asked Mongrain to create new vessels that drew inspiration from the ones in his collection. The result is a large collection of colorful and intricate glass vessels with 19th-century inspiration. The variety and detail of the glass art in “Ispirazione” draws viewers in. Within “Ispirazione,” there are four collections, each focusing on a different inspiration that Mongrain pulled from the Stroemple collection. The Adriatico series is one which draws specifically from certain Venetian glass pieces. The series includes 12 gem-colored glass vessels with replicas of renaissance and baroque creatures sitting on top.

The Museum of Glass has a packed schedule of exhibitions for the fall season, starting with the three current artists, and continuing to delve into other exhibitions with variations of glass art. The connection of the museum to the culture of glass art in the Pacific Northwest is very strong, and even extends to the University of Puget Sound. We are fortunate enough to have a Chihuly piece hanging in the Susan Resneck Pierce Atrium of Wyatt Hall.

“Pacific Northwest has become the epicenter of the contemporary glass community and Museum of Glass is home of the largest and most active museum glass studio (Hot Shop) on the west coast. In its first 15 years, the Museum has grown into an institution serving local, national, and international audiences, and has welcomed more than two million visitors,” Buckingham said.

The Museum of Glass has wonderful current exhibitions that can introduce you to glass art, or continue your interest in it. The museum also holds glass blowing demonstrations for its patrons. Additionally on the third Thursday of every month there is free admission from 5 to 8 p.m. Whether you are visiting the museum for the first time, checking out Paley’s sculptures, or perusing Mongrain or MacNeil’s work, the Museum of Glass is a great place to visit this fall.

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The Museum of Glass has a packed schedule of exhibitions for the fall season, starting with the three current artists, and continuing to delve into other exhibitions with variations of glass art. The connection of the museum to the culture of glass art in the Pacific Northwest is very strong, and even extends to the University of Puget Sound. We are fortunate enough to have a Chihuly piece hanging in the Susan Resneck Pierce Atrium of Wyatt Hall.

“Pacific Northwest has become the epicenter of the contemporary glass community and Museum of Glass is home of the largest and most active museum glass studio (Hot Shop) on the west coast. In its first 15 years, the Museum has grown into an institution serving local, national, and international audiences, and has welcomed more than two million visitors,” Buckingham said.

The Museum of Glass has wonderful current exhibitions that can introduce you to glass art, or continue your interest in it. The museum also holds glass blowing demonstrations for its patrons. Additionally on the third Thursday of every month there is free admission from 5 to 8 p.m. Whether you are visiting the museum for the first time, checking out Paley’s sculptures, or perusing Mongrain or MacNeil’s work, the Museum of Glass is a great place to visit this fall.