Gender? I barely know her!

Kate Bornstein comes to Puget Sound by Kylie Gurewitz

“Do you have a gender? Where is it? (I’m curious because I’ve been looking for mine for 65 years, and I can’t find my gender anywhere!) Is it that you have a gender or is it more that you are a gender? Or perhaps you do a gender? Have you? Are you? Do you? These are some of the questions that trans author and artist Kate Bornstein asked the campus community to think about. On March 31, they gave a talk in Kilworth Chapel titled, “A Queer and Pleasant Danger.” These are some of the questions that trans author and artist Kate Bornstein asked the campus community to think about. On March 31, they gave a talk in Kilworth Chapel titled, “A Queer and Pleasant Danger.”

Professor Andrew Gomez of the History department was recently awarded the Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship for his project on race in Tacoma. The project is titled “Race in the City of Destiny: Tacoma, Displacement, and Reconciliation,” and he will be working on it with help from collaborators and students throughout the next year. Professor Andrew Gomez of the History department was recently awarded the Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship for his project on race in Tacoma. The project is titled “Race in the City of Destiny: Tacoma, Displacement, and Reconciliation,” and he will be working on it with help from collaborators and students throughout the next year.

“The project ... is a digital oral history project that looks to cover three case studies in Tacoma’s history: the construction of the Chinese Reconciliation Park, the history of the Hilltop neighborhood and the more recent history of the Northwest Detention Center. The broad idea of the project is to show the varied role that race has played in the development of Tacoma. In each of these case studies, displacement is a key feature,” Gomez said. “Whether talking about the expulsion of Chinese-American workers in 1885, the history of redlining in Tacoma or the more recent detention of undocumented immigrants, this form of rupture has been a persistent theme in Tacoma’s history,” Gomez said. Redlining is when certain neighborhoods of cities are denied services because they are of a lower financial status. “However, just as importantly, there have been real attempts at combating these efforts via community organizing, public commemorations and other forms of activism. The goal of the series is to collect these types of narratives from long-term community members, activists, legal professionals, politicians and others that are essential to these stories,” Gomez continued. Gomez went on to say that the students and other collaborators will be helping him to collect and record these oral histories, which will be available online. “In addition to these efforts, there will also be a few public events throughout the 2019–20 academic year that will revolve around the issues explored in the oral history series,” Gomez said. Professor Gomez has been interested in Tacoma’s history since he started working here at Puget Sound in 2015. “One of my first interests was in the Tacoma Method of 1885 when local Tacomaans expelled the city’s Chinese population. I started doing archival work on the project during my first year and ultimately taught a Digital History class in 2017 where students under my direction built a website on the event and its legacy (TacomaMethod.com),” Gomez said. “I’ve also had students conduct oral histories on the Northwest Detention Center before and had them look at the way that the facility reflects many facets of national immigration policy. So, in some ways, the project is a fully realized extension of this work,” Gomez continued. Professor Gomez has two main goals on this project. The first is to make sure that certain parts of Tacoma’s history that might usually be forgotten are documented. “Part of the power of oral history is the ability to capture voices that would typically fall on the margins of traditional archives and more popular sources. I’m interested in trying to show how everyday people have shaped the city’s trajectory in powerful ways while also pointing to the overarching role that race has played in the city’s development,” Gomez said. His second goal is to make sure that the Tacoma community is aware of and can access the information that he finds. The Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship can help him achieve this goal. “A critical feature of the Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship is to connect scholarship to a broader public. The public-facing nature of the project and the public events tied to it are being made in an attempt to spur a bigger discussion about the role of race in the history of Tacoma,” Gomez said. According to Professor Gomez, this work of collecting local histories has been going on for a long time. Professor Gomez’s work and the assistance of the fellowship will help both his work and the work of others reach a broader audience.

“Be clear, others have been doing different aspects of this work for a while. Our own Race & Pedagogy Institute has been doing this in powerful ways for years and people like Mike Honey at UW-Tacoma (who is a collaborator on this project) has been working with students to conduct oral histories relating to Tacoma for decades. The project is simply another attempt at trying to create public-facing scholarship that includes and speaks to our broader community,” Gomez said. Professor Gomez made sure to highlight that those who collaborate with him in this work are a key part of its success. He also has a series of community partners that will be involved throughout the year—the Chinese Reconciliation Project Foundation, Advocates for Detained Voices and the Hilltop Action Coalition will all provide important guidance. There are also a broader set of collaborators that will advise on the project—this includes Teresa Barnett from UCLA and Mike Honey and Charles Williams at UW-Tacoma,” Gomez said. “Students will also be essential. I’ll be hiring a graduating senior, Rose Pytte, to help me begin to collect oral histories this summer. In addition, students in two of my classes next year will also work on projects collecting oral histories,” Gomez concluded.

Those interested should register for Tacoma Public History, HIST 379, which takes place this upcoming fall, in order to get involved in this important work.

(Continued on Page 2...)
Kate Bornstein comes to Puget Sound

(Continued from Page 1...)

Using an analogy to quantum physics, Bornstein discussed the idea of isolating gender. To study parts of an atom, scientists often must isolate specific parts: “No, it’s not going to behave how it would naturally.” Bornstein said. “But it is going to behave how it is going to be isolated.”

That’s what I would like to do with gender: tonight isolate it. Because gender does not exist in the absence of race … gender does not exist in the absence of age or religion … but gender has form and function that is undeniable.”

They then discussed their own theory of looking at gender in four different ways. When a person is identified as female, gender is understood through the body, the mind, the spaces one occupies and through time. They encouraged the audience to think of space as a fourth concept, as it is understood through quantum mechanics.

Bornstein understands the body through one’s biological sex, defined as the sex assigned at the birth; then through any modifications that one chooses to make. Through the mind, one can understand their gender through their agreement or disagreement with their biological sex. In combination, imagination. Space can refer to the places one inhabits and the cultural understanding of gender in those places. One’s understanding of gender is also influenced by time or their age. Many students had critiques of some of Bornstein’s ideas and gender theory. Specifically, the idea that gender could be isolated from other factors like race is understood by some as not embodying ideas of intersectionality. But despite student critiques, Bornstein brought a unique understanding of gender to a campus where more understanding is always needed.

By Sofia Vazquez

active, and tracking steps is an easy way to do just that. Overall, the campus goal is to get over four million steps - the number of steps it would take to walk to St. Louis - the number of steps it would take to walk to St. Louis - the number of steps it would take to walk to St. Louis. The Wellness Challenge is focusing on improving the staff and faculty’s health with a little competitive twist. Staff and faculty can sign up online with a team of four. If a person doesn’t have a team but still wishes to participate, they can be paired up with others that don’t have a team as well, according to the instructions found on the Puget Sound website.

“Points are recorded and tracked on a website, where each participant has their own profile, and there are groups, blog posts, articles, etc. At the end of the Challenge, the winning teams will be recognized at the Annual Staff Recognition Event and the Fall Faculty Dinner,” Kenney wrote.

Points are awarded to teams by counting their steps, helping others and attending the multiple events selected for the Wellness Challenge.

“There are a handful of events, and we are hoping to continue to add more. We are very excited to have partnered with staff and student groups on campus; the CEWS staff is holding a brown bag lunch session with them at the beginning of the semester, and we are planning a few others as well!” Kenney wrote.

Competitions are great ways of bringing the community together. Even though the Wellness Challenge will have and recognize a winning team, everyone could be considered a winner. Just by attempting to take part in this event, a person can focus on cultivating healthier habits that can improve their daily lives.

To learn more about the challenge or see current standings, visit pugetsound.mywellnesschallenge.org.
**Destination Puget Sound welcomes admitted students to campus**

By Christina Conry

Puget Sound season is officially upon us. Beginning March 30 and occurring each subsequent weekend in April, the university admissions department is hosting Destination Puget Sound (DPS) days welcoming admitted students and their families to campus.

“The events are designed to connect admitted students and their families to our community and answer their final questions before making decisions about their enrollment plans for next year,” Mike Rottersman, the associate director of admission, said. “Our hope is to confirm for them that Puget Sound is their college of choice.”

Some DPS days offer an overnight option, where the student can spend the night in a dorm on campus. Both students who work for the Campus Visit Program (CVP) and students who volunteer host prospective students.

Students who choose to participate in the overnight option receive a catered dinner in Upper Marshall and various evening activities depending on the weekend.

One popular evening activity has been Opp After Dark, an event featuring a hot cocoa bar and Rice Krispie treats in Oppenheimer Café. A recent Opp After Dark combined forces with Open Mic Night put on by ASUPS Programmer and Puget Sound senior Anand Landon.

Main DPS activities occur the following day, beginning with a catered breakfast for students and their families and an opening keynote address from President Crawford.

“The rest of the day includes a campus tour for students and families, the opportunity for the student to sit in on a class with current students, student panels, a campus resource fair and an open house hosted by the Social Justice Center.”

With all that goes into preparing for and putting on these events, is it really worth it? Turns out, yes.

“Last year, we saw about 50 percent of all students attending a Destination Puget Sound event enroll at Puget Sound. That was up from about 45 percent in previous years,” Rottersman explained.

The famous Logger hospitality is what solidifies many prospective students’ decisions to attend Puget Sound.

“I consistently hear from campus visitors and current students that what sold them on Puget Sound was the people. A friendly smile and ‘hello’ in the course of your normal day can go a long way in helping these guests feel welcomed and wanted while on our campus. It’s something that our community does so naturally, and it’s amazing how far a simple gesture can go in helping these prospective students feel like this place is home,” Rottersman said.

MacLeod expanded on this idea and discussed what makes Puget Sound stand out among other universities: “I think that we do a really good job of giving people insight into what students do outside of the classroom and how we use the resources around us to make college the most enjoyable experience possible.”

With more DPS days to come, there are still ways for current students to get involved, such as volunteering with the Campus Visit Program to serve as an overnight host or even just by lending your help to visitors who look lost.

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**Violets? Sweethearts?? Goddesses??**

**Greek Houses shed light on a long-standing tradition**

By Julia Shiff

This spring, Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE) had elections for their next Violet, calling attention to a lesser known aspect of Greek life. The Violet is a representative of the fraternity, someone who SAE believes embodies their values. Other houses on campus also participate in this tradition. They choose honorary members yearly, allowing parents to enjoy their time, as well knowing their student is safe.

Amend, the Violet is a fairly recent position, a step in a new direction for the fraternity. Earlier in SAE’s history, they had the Little Sisters of Minerva as, a similar phenomena, though with a larger group of women. This tradition ended on Puget Sound’s campus years ago.

The Violet functions as a sort of bridge between Greek life and the rest of campus, according to Amend. “Being in Greek life it’s easy to come across stereotypes and stigmas,” Amend said. “We realize that the Greek community has not always been in favorable eyes amongst the student body, and we’re trying to improve that,” he added. The Violet is meant to bridge communities, encourage connections between a perceived disconnect.

“Violet positions is what I choose to make of it,” said Tomicia Blunt, the recently elected Violet. She understands the role as a symbol of friendship and comradery. She also sees the Violet as someone who provides resources and new connections. “The responsibility is to extend the fraternity’s reach on campus,” Blunt said. She spoke about her work as a writing advisor for the Center for Writing Learning and Teaching and how she can provide academic resources to the fraternity.

Blunt emphasized that she is the Violet because of shared values. “I was attracted to SAE’s core values because I saw the members doing things that align with my personal values,” she said. “I think I just mesh well with the fraternity,” she said, calling it “a perfect fit.”

The Violet is a fairly recent position, there have only been three Violets so far. Caroline Harris, Maggie Berrens, and Tomicia Blunt.

Recently, both men and women have run for the Violet position. The Violet embodies a sort of informal advocate for the fraternity. Though they have no formal responsibilities, they are chosen because they represent connections between communities.

While Sigma Alpha Epsilon has reformed this long standing tradition, other fraternities and sororities are maintaining this custom as they always have. Sigma Chi has continued with its tradition of the Sweetheart. Lilli Patton, a Junior at Puget Sound is one of the current Sweethearts.

According to Patton, the Sweetheart is “just somebody who the members of the house feel portray and live out the values of the house.” Patton’s father was a Sigma Chi, so she feels strongly connected to the fraternity. “I really feel like one of the brothers, one of the guys,” Patton said.

When prompted about the responsibilities of the Sweetheart, Patton said that the position doesn’t have any formal duties and that she is simply “welcome to be a part of rush and welcomed into the house whenever,” she said. “Sometimes I’ll bring them treats like cookies or pizza,” she added.

There are disparities among the Greek houses on campus as they choose—or don’t choose—to continue on with the tradition of having someone represent the house. With the change that has occurred in recent years, it will be of interest to watch whether these customs will see more reform or continue with the same values as before.
Lil Nas X & country music gate-keeping

By Isaac Sima-Poster

There’s not much that can be said about American music without acknowledging the contributions of black people. Folk, jazz, rock, blues and country are all genres of music that many consider inherently African American. Many of them have roots in African and Latin American rhythm and harmony that followed slaves and free blacks across the border. Many white people are never taught this, and proof of that lies in the controversy surrounding “Old Town Road,” a chart-hopping single sweeping the nation by storm.

Up-and-coming rapper Lil Nas X dropped the song in December 2018, and since then it has sparked national debates about race, identity and American culture. The song is very popular, having gained traction on the social media site TikTok as something of a meme, but has crossed into the mainstream as, in my opinion, quite a good country-trap song.

Utilizing lyrics with country imagery and true-to-country twang over a hitting trap rhythm and harmony that followed slaves and free blacks across the border. Many white people are never taught this, and proof of that lies in the controversy surrounding “Old Town Road,” a chart-hopping single sweeping the nation by storm.

The song was so popular that in the month following its release, it topped Billboard’s Hot 100, Hot Country and Hot R&B/Hip-Hop songs at the same time. Controversy arose, however, when Billboard suddenly removed the song from the Country chart.

An anonymous Billboard representative offered a statement to Rolling Stone about the decision in the article, “Lil Nas X’s ‘Old Town Road’ Was a Country Hit. Then Country Changed Its Mind.” The Billboard employee said, “While ‘Old Town Road’ incorporates references to country and cowboy imagery, it does not embrace enough elements of today’s country music to chart in its current version.”

The decision faced much public backlash and cries of discrimination from fans and critics across the nation. This decision points to a larger debate about race, identity and culture that America is yet to resolve.

The fact of the matter is, black people practically invented all “American” genres of music. We, as with so much else physical and cultural in this nation, provided the foundation from which white America built upwards — and attempted to take the credit.

Based on that fact alone, it’s not up to Billboard or Nashville to decide what is country and what isn’t. I’d be interested to see what “elements of today’s country” Billboard would like to see more of. Perhaps Sam Hunt, a country star known for his hip-hop influences, could answer.

The removal of “Old Town Road” is based not only on race and racial gate-keeping (in a genre white people didn’t even create), but also on the interests of the country music industry. Many critics of Billboard suggest that Nashville, the producers and peddlers of country music, can’t stand anything on the country chart that hasn’t been run by them first.

Artists like Kacey Musgraves and The Dixie Chicks, as well as other controversial figures in modern country music, have frequently noted the intense censorship imposed by Nashville on the genre in interviews. The fact is, the white, straight, patriotic men who control country music want to stay white, straight, patriotic and male.

Despite the racism involved in Billboard’s decision, “Old Town Road” remains immensely popular. On April 5, Lil Nas X released a remix of “Old Town Road” featuring rapper Billy Ray Cyrus, who was one of many artists taking a stand for Lil Nas X.

While the stagnant nature of old music industry executives — a world that encourages this controversy further proves that genres, and art, are not only subject to change, but should be changed by new voices and actors.

Country, like every other genre, is growing with the times. “Old Town Road” is one of many steps towards a more inclusive, creative and euphoric future.
How misgendering persists, and how cis people can prevent it

By Ellen Finn

For people who are transgender, nonbinary, and/or gender nonconforming, coming into an authentic gender is a life-affirming and even life-saving step. Especially if you are in a group setting, do not make a big deal out of it or go into a monologue about your support for trans people as you, god forbid, explain why you really should care for that person. Especially until transness is normalized. It is especially important for the leader of the group (for example, the professor of a class or the president of a club) to say pronouns before any sort of group meeting, especially until transness is normalized. It is extremely easy to show someone that you respect their gender instead of someone who hurts and judges them. "That's pretty important because it might be the only 10 seconds of a cis person's day, but that creates an entire space for a trans person to be able to stop worrying about how people perceive them 24/7," Aquiningoc said.

Both Aquiningoc and an anonymous trans student at Puget Sound agree that it can be difficult to correct people when they are speaking the wrong thing, especially in a class by a professor based on the public nature of the situation as well as the power dynamic. Because of this, it is important to check in and say pronouns before any sort of group meeting, especially until transness is normalized. It is especially important for the leader of the group (for example, the professor of a class or the president of a club) to initiate pronoun sharing so that trans students know that those in power won't respect them less for being trans.

The cisnormative binary is a relatively modern concept but it's still so heavily ingrained that taking the space to ask people's pronouns assures trans folks that it's safe and okay for them to exist," Aquiningoc said. "Using the correct pronouns are just an easy way to say you respect me and care about the wellbeing of trans people everywhere. It's also an easy way to say you respect me and care about the wellbeing of trans people everywhere. It's also just necessary step in the process of making trans, sexuality and gender questions to mmclean@pugetsound.edu. Respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.
By Eli Harris

Last Friday, a near-capacity audience in Rausch Auditorium attended the opening of The Disco Dazzle Drag Show, hosted by the DRAG club. The show was briefly introduced by club president Josh Weintraub (performing under the name Maiden Ursan), who asked for continued respect from the audience, detailed the bravery it takes to perform in such a setting, and framed the show as a way to have a good time and challenge gender norms.

The show commenced with no shortage of disco lighting, glitter and on-theme costumes, positively received throughout by an incredibly energetic audience.

The majority of pieces were solo dance performances, where performers strutted and danced around stage, mounting lyrics to well-known disco songs. However, the show also provided variety with an audience participation lip-synching competition, a raunchily taught sex education class and an act of drag performance for entertaining the term in two facets.

In response to the events that occurred in Christchurch, New Zealand, Spiritual Life organizers hosted an event for DRAG club in fall 2018 and has operated as president ever since.

“We wanted the club to be centered around gender expression, include conversations about gender identity and expression and how they function in today’s society, and apply that to drag, as a culture, phenomena and performance art,” Weintraub said.

The club meets every Thursday and aims to be as accessible as possible by not requiring any club dues. They have been preparing for the Disco Dazzle show since the first week of this semester.

Ash Berkes, a sophomore studying English with a Creative Writing emphasis, has been preparing meetings since last fall. “Drag has always been an avenue for me to learn about and express my queer identity and I am so excited to perform in my first drag show!” Berkes said.

For Berkes, preparation has meant hours of the elliptical, unprecedented creative freedom and a lot of fun. Berkes cites the documentary “Paris is Burning,” RuPaul’s Drag Race and experimenting with makeup and fashion as important influences for deepening her interest in drag and ball culture.

“I want DRAG club to be a safe and fun club for queer people to exist and celebrate our beautiful selves and our history,” Berkes said.

In addition to Weintraub, who runs meetings and spearheads show preparation, the club leadership also includes a vice president, secretary and community outreach chair, treasurer and advertising chairs.

First-year Psychology major Iris Nosek has operated as club Vice President all year.

“It took a lot of work to get people to actually be interested at first, but once we had the show last semester everybody was like, ‘Whoa, that was cool, so now everybody’s doing it this semester,’” Nosek said.

But most notable the club has benefited recently from better organization and attendance. Now, a dozen or so members attend weekly meetings to discuss the practice of drag or hand-craft, sew and bedazzle costumes and props. 

“One thing that’s really kind of unique about the Nook Book, an online feminist lifestyle magazine, the art of drag has been around since the first time women were allowed to perform on stage long before it evolved to become a significant aspect of entertainment in the LGBTQ+ community and is also closely associated with the United States’ gay liberation movement and the Stonewall Riots. The definition of drag is still debated by contemporary performers, it is at once an art form, entertainment and an act of self-expression.

Nosek, who identifies as non-binary, recognizes drag queens and kings as a crucial and under-recognized part of the queer revolution and LGBTQ+ history more generally. DRAG club has allowed Nosek access to the community and was extremely important to the LGBTQ+ community.”

“T’ve always been interested in dressing differently than my friends and always identified with my gender presentation,” Nosek said.

Weintraub recalled encountering drag on YouTube, was drawn to the photo project about gender expression and the strict rules that apply to men being able to express femininity. Discovering people who were also queer and wanted to play with gender expressions in both entertainment and challenging ways came as existing during a particularly lonely time in high school.

In addition to their roles as club leaders, Weintraub and Nosek are involved in the Tacoma LGBTQ+ community and are working on ensuring that the queer community is being served by DRAG club.

This mission entangles with other LGBTQ+ organizations in Tacoma, putting on Drag shows which proceed benefit these organizations, and raising funds and awareness for overlapping causes.

“We can give back and create connections with the Tacoma community, because that’s something that UPS should be doing anyway,” Weintraub said.

Guest lecture critiques term ‘Islamophobia’

By Juliano Estrada Donatelli

In response to the events that occurred in Christchurch, New Zealand, Spiritual Life and Interfaith Coordinators hosted an event on April 4 about the term ‘Islamophobia’ and its problematic implications. The talk featured University of Washington, Tacoma Professor Turan Kayoglu.

Kayoglu, a Turkish-born Muslim, shared his experience coming to the United States as an international student in 1997, and how public perception of him changed after 9/11.

“I came here as a Turk; 9/11 happened and then I became a Muslim,” Kayoglu said.

Kayoglu felt that the public has redefined the concept of Islam and the popular media has charged Muslims with terrorism.

"Muslims come in all different colors, shapes and sizes," Kayoglu said. "Does it make any sense? The most people in the United States getting most islamophobic attacks are not even Muslim, they are Sikhs."

The chat then moved toward understanding the reasons for such hateful acts and the demonization of Muslims. Kayoglu discussed the demonization of minority groups, weaving Muslims into a narrative of marginalization who have been historically ostracized both in the United States and globally.

"Sometimes in order to define our identity, we first create an ‘other,’ we project negative attributes to that ‘other,’” Kayoglu said. "And ‘other’ kind of require each other. The United States… is always looking for… the ‘other,’" Kayoglu said.

Kayoglu also considered the controversial term Islamophobia.

"Sometimes it’s useful to talk about the subject and others consider the ‘epistemic anxieties’ caused by the Muslim Ottoman Empire competing with the Roman Catholic Empire. Next, Kayoglu cited the European and American imperialism and racial theory prevalent within the 19th century, and finished by addressing American stances on various rapists on the Roman Catholic Empire. Next, Kayoglu cited the European and American imperialism and racial theory prevalent within the 19th century, and finished by discussing American stances on military intervention and American stances on linking military intervention and the Islamic world, emphasizing the impact of hate speech.

Students went on to discuss military intervention and American stances on the Iran Revolution and the Iran-Iraq war. The discussion moved to freedom of speech versus freedom of religion, and the Supreme court’s support of one in favour of the other. Students specifically honed in on the violence against Muslims.

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By Brynn Svenningsen

Dr. LaToya Brackett of the African American Studies (AFAM) department always knew she wanted to take students to Ghana in her second year of professorship at the University of Puget Sound, having announced her new class, AFAM 310: The Africa Diaspora Experience. The fall semester course will prepare students for a study tour through Ghana from December 27, 2019 to January 17, 2020.

AFAM 310 offers students a unique opportunity to travel abroad while earning academic and experiential learning. Additionally, the class allows students to have a study abroad experience without missing a whole semester or year of school.

To apply for one of the 22 spots in AFAM 310, students must have taken AFAM 101. Brackett encourages students to plan ahead in case they are not accepted. As AFAM 310 will satisfy both the humanistic approaches and Knowledge, Power and Identity requirements, the class is likely to fill up.

During the class, students will engage with various literature and articles on Ghana, with the present. Brackett explained that novels by West African writers, such as “Homegoing” by Yaa Gyasi, will be part of the course.

At an informational meeting on April 3 in the Murray Boardroom, students in attendance were closely excited. AFAM 310 marks the first time that Puget Sound will offer a study tour to Ghana.

The study tour will include visits to Accra, the capital city of Ghana; Kumasi, the second-largest city in the country; Cape Coast, a city known for its role in the slave trade; and Cape Coast Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Brackett’s newest class boasts an amazing opportunity for students to continue their education outside of the classroom while learning about the culture and traditions of Ghana. Students enrolled in the class will work with the Ghanaian government, local communities, and various organizations to gain real-world experience and build meaningful connections.

Brackett said, “I want us to have as many opportunities as we can to connect with locals,” Brackett said.

In Accra and Kumasi, students will be visiting the city of Kumasi, Ghana’s second-largest city. In Kumasi, the students and faculty will learn about how to weave Kente cloth, a fabric made of interwoven silk and cotton strips, traditionally symbolizing Kente cloth’s name, which translates to “gold” in Akan. Brackett explained that in Ghana, public toilets cost money. The revenue generated from these toilets helps maintain the organization and its other programs.

Brackett’s newest class boasts an amazing opportunity for students to continue their education outside of the classroom while learning about the culture and traditions of Ghana. Students enrolled in the class will work with the Ghanaian government, local communities, and various organizations to gain real-world experience and build meaningful connections.
The spring season thus far has consisted of highs and lows for Puget Sound Crew. Despite some unforgiving weather and a thin roster — especially for the men — the Loggers have put in some top performances and are optimistic for upcoming competitions.

The spring season commenced in early March with the Pacific Lutheran Invitational. The Loggers started strong with several victories, including those earned by the women’s second-varsity eight (W2V8) and the men’s novice four (M4N).

In a head-to-head race against Western Washington, the W2V8 came out on top, finishing in 7:51.7, according to Logger Athletics. The Puget Sound MN4 also beat Western Washington, clocking in at 7:49.4.

After that, Puget Sound Crew hosted the Logger Invitational on American Lake on March 16. This event was an even greater success than the previous one.

The men’s varsity eight bested Lewis & Clark and Pacific Lutheran with a time of 6:47.5, according to Logger Athletics. The victory was a very close one, as Puget Sound finished 17 seconds in front of the Lutes and less than three seconds ahead of the Pioneers.

The women’s varsity eight, on the other hand, blew their competition out of the water. Their first victory came against Pacific University when they finished in 7:14.5, over a minute ahead of the Boxers. Next, the W8 beat Lewis & Clark by 45 seconds, and improved their time by one second — a marginal but critical improvement when every second matters.

The novice rowers also showed their quality during the Logger Invitational. The women’s novice four beat Lewis & Clark with a time of 9:06.6, according to Logger Athletics. The men’s novice four defeated Pacific Lutheran and Lewis & Clark, finishing with a time of 7:25.5.

This achievement for the novice rowers was not unusual. Clearcut’s coach Spencer Sheridan agrees. “We’ve also done well competing with a fairly young team. Our top boat right now has a junior, four sophomores, three freshmen and a freshman coxswain. Despite this, we’ve been able to go fast.”

Unpredictable weather has proven to be this, we’ve been able to go fast.

reflecting on a DIII Midwestern Invite

The men’s varsity eight and the men’s varsity four both bested boats from PLU to claim the Meyer Cup, a momentous achievement.

When asked about his expectations for the season, Benson had quite the response. “Expectations” is a dangerous word. We seek aspirations instead. We’ll find out if we’ve met them when we answer the season.”

Looking forward, Crew has three more events on its schedule: The Northwest Challenge Tournament (April 27-28), and the Windermere Cup in Seattle (May 4).

Puget Sound rowers hold their own against nationals approach

Puget Sound’s ultimate teams are not what you would expect from a club sport. No, this is the big leagues, where every practice matters, every minute spent drafting plans and team members are as serious as any varsity athlete on campus.

In the past, both Puget Sound’s men’s team (the Postmen) and women’s team (Clearcut) have made it to nationals, and flying cross-country for a weekend game was not unusual. This season has been particularly good for both teams, with the Postmen winning 13 out of the last 19 games and Clearcut winning 14 out of the last 19 games.

Now everyone is focused on the conference championships at the end of April, which will determine if they qualify for the national competition.

Clearcut captain Abigail Bidegain is proud of how far her team has come in the last year. “I think our proudest team accomplishment this semester actually was last weekend at Northwest Challenge in Burlington, WA when we won seven out of the eight games we played and finished second in the tournament. I was personally really proud of how we were able to work so hard as a team and grind out a long day of five consecutive wins,” she said.

Now Bidegain is looking forward to refining the team skills before the big games at the end of the month, and Clearcut’s coach Spencer Sheridan agrees. “My proudest team accomplishment has been the emphasis that the team has put on their training this year. Seeing the growth that everyone makes over the course of the season is one of my favorite parts of coaching. Everyone has worked really hard in the gym, at practice and on their throws, and it shows,” he said.

Ramsey Rossman, captain of the Postmen, has similar things to say about his team, noting that his team’s camaraderie and good spirits have made him particularly proud this season.

Reflecting on a DIII Midwestern Invite in Fair Oaks, IN, he said: “Despite 30-mile-per-hour winds, rain, near-freezing temperatures and travel delays, we had a successful weekend (finishing third), and, more importantly, we had fun and came away from it closer as a team. Somehow, after enduring just about the worst conditions for ultimate, the team seemed even more excited to get back on the field. As a leader, it’s hard to ask for anything more.”

The team is laser-focused on what’s ahead. “Our team goal is to qualify for the DIII National tournament. We’ve got two weeks until the conference championship, and that’s where all our focus is,” Rossman said. “We played two of the three other top teams in our conference last weekend; now we get to make some adjustments in preparation to beat them when it matters.”

Both teams have been making the University proud for years and are looking forward to continuing that legacy. “Clearcut has consistently been one of the best teams in DIII in the country. We plan on proving that again this year,” Coach Sheridan said.

“If we’ve got a little extra time and school spirit, both teams would love support in the upcoming games on April 20-21 at Heritage Park in Puyallup.
Increased attention to college athletes raises questions about payment

By Sam Watters

College sports have always been popular at top first-division schools, especially in the United States. Some people even prefer to watch and follow sports at the collegiate level over the professionals. And with so many annual tournaments, like March Madness, schools with the best athletic programs get to show their skills and compete at the highest level for colleges to participate in.

But the question has to be asked: with all the money schools make from selling out arenas, fan gear and social media presence, why don’t the athletes themselves get any of the cash? After all, they’re the ones the fans come to see.

Director of Athletics Communications Gregor Walz has been working here at the University for five years.

“I started working in college athletics eight or nine years ago, and once I got my foot in the door I loved it, just the dynamics of working with multiple sports,” Walz said.

Because he has the personal connection to each team at the school, Walz gets to watch and analyze each teams season, on and off the field.

“When I have time, I like to mess around with Photoshop, make promo videos and just keep track of the website, make sure the statistics are up to date,” Walz said.

We can draw the line. Do schools’ athletic programs decide independently on if they’ll pay their athletes or not? Should it be a broad decision that stretches to each and every university, college or school?

According to Walz, “There’s never going to be a right answer.”

Zion Williamson, a forward for Duke’s Division I basketball team, is certainly an example of a top college athlete, and was at the front of all discussions months back when his historic season started taking flight. Williamson was awarded both the National Association of Basketball Coaches player of year and the Associated Press player of the year for his high statistics in most games.

Shows like SportsCenter and College Gameday have been talking about this matter recently. Based on the general opinion, people want to see these gifted athletes receive money, but they’re not quite sure how to solve the problem while keeping equity the top priority.

The problem, Walz said, is that when most people dive into the question surrounding paying college athletes, lots of fans and followers don’t look at the big picture. If one athletic program decides to pay their athletes, then that school’s other programs would have to figure out how to pay their athletes.

“When the topic is discussed, a lot of people cast a wide umbrella over the possibilities,” Walz said.

What makes this topic of discussion go even deeper is the difference between private and public schools.

“There’s private schools and state schools. So paying an athlete who plays for a public university, you’re spending tax dollars on them,” Walz said.

Where do we draw the line? Do schools’ athletic programs decide independently on if they’ll pay their athletes or not? Should it be a broad decision that stretches to each and every university, college or school?

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Logger football team prepares to follow successful 2018 season

By Tayla MacPherson

Like most varsity sports, the Puget Sound football team has a busy schedule during their off-season. The team recently started spring ball the week after spring break (March 11-15) and has been completing an advanced conditioning class since the start of the semester.

Although the team is not competing in games, they are staying busy with 6 a.m. lifts four times a week and practices several times a week.

Rising senior Michael Zabran described the morale surrounding off-season: “The off-season has gone great so far. Morning lifts have been very productive. The underclassmen have really bought into our culture and we’ve become a lot closer as a team.”

The off-season routine for the Loggers includes arriving at the gym four days a week at 5:30 a.m. to get warmed up and ready to begin lifting at 5:55 a.m. Senior Collin Heimbach described the daily differences: “Monday squatting, Tuesday bench, Wednesday hang clean and Thursday incline bench.”

After lifting is complete, the team has a positional meeting where they must have their notebook and a post-workout meal in hand. In the classrooms, players must be on the field 15 minutes prior to the start of practice Monday-Thursday.

With a busy off-season schedule, the Loggers have two main goals in mind: “To get our strength numbers up, we have the skill this year, we just need to physically

When asked why college student athletes receive no pay, Walz said he’ll never be quite sure which answer is best.

“I think I’ll forever be on the fence with this issue. I feel like when it’s talked about, a lot of people talk about the Zion Williams,” Walz said.

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Student saves money by studying abroad in mind palace

By Bean McQueen

This semester, University of Puget Sound senior (and entrepreneurial spirit) Barno Labone found a creative way to save money. Labone spent the spring semester studying abroad, but not through an expensive program in a foreign country. Labone spent the semester studying abroad in their own mind palace.

"It has been such, such an incredible, incredible experience. Everyone should do this," Labone said. "Wow. Just wow. I have been opened up to so many new perspectives."

For those who don’t know, a mind palace is a place that you construct within your own imagination to store mnemonic images. Mind palaces take advantage of spatial memory skills to recall information like phone numbers, faces or facts.

"I experienced a lot of culture shock in my mind palace," Labone said. "At first it was hard to be in such an unfamiliar environment. I didn't know anybody, I didn’t speak the language and my host mom never had time for me."

"Mind palaces are not typically inhabited by imaginary figures," Goggle said. "My best friend in the mind palace was named Stoop Grimes and he was a riot," Labone said. "I sent him a letter my first day back here. Can't wait to see his hilarious response."

"When asked to relate the best and worst parts of their time studying abroad in their mind palace, Labone did not hesitate."

"Best thing: the fashion. Tasteful but … extremely evocative. Worst thing: the food," Labone said. "Here, Labone shuddered and turned a bit green. “The food freaking sucks there.” I asked Tanya Goggle if it was typical for a mind palace to have unpleasant cuisine, and she said no."

"A mind palace is a mnemonic device," Goggle said. "If you want a certain food, you should imagine it."

When asked why they didn’t simply imagine better food, Labone became visibly sad.

"I became very sick. Some virus we don’t immunize for here. I guess Stoop Grimes, Mimsey Gnotts and the rest of the boys all have immunity. I was stuck in my mind bedroom, laid out flat in my mind bed, for weeks and weeks. I was feverish and nauseous. I grew weak. I almost became delusional," Labone said, gripping the edge of their chair with sweating palms.

When asked if they were doing anything to cope with the transition, Labone said they were focusing on what their mind palace and the Puget Sound campus have in common.

"It’s nice to focus on the familiar little things," Labone said. "My mind palace was rife with decorative kale. There were crows everywhere. And I was always having to call security to unlock certain doors."

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Students wishing to study abroad in their own mind palaces can do so by thinking about it, at any time, in any place.

Turns out the sun really does change things

By Grizz’s Toe

Last week, the sun was out at the University of Puget Sound and (someone has to say it) things were different. People were (someone has to say it) happy. There was statistically, objectively, an air of lightness, effervescence and jubilation around campus.

"Maybe it’s just me, but there’s something about the sun that really makes me feel different," sophomore Amy Jenkins said while basking in the sun outside the SLUB. "I don’t realize that I miss the sun until it’s out, and I feel so energized."

Recent campus polling shows that students like the sun! Most Puget Sound students actually prefer the sun over the rain.

"You know, I’m from SoCal and there it’s so sunny," junior Lana Del Rey said. "And when I lived in SoCal, I always liked the rain because it was rare. In SoCal, the rain meant struggling and watching movies. But when I left SoCal and got here, I was like, ‘WHOA’ — it freaking rains all the time. Sue me — I miss the sun now. I’m a SoCal gal!"

Other poll ALSO show that students really enjoy a sunny day. They really, really enjoy it. They absolutely, wholeheartedly love it. In fact, every single poll shows that students truly appreciate rays of light hitting their sweet, sweet bodies.

"I know this is super cheesy and sappy and mushy — god I’m embarrassed now — but I especially love the flowers on a sunny day. When I walk outside and I see the light on the flowers, ugh, my heart just melts. I’m such a romantic," Jenkins said.

"I promise, people really DO love the sun. When it’s sunny people who haven’t been seen in literal months go outside. Students literally come out of the woodwork to bask in the rays of that fiery ball positioned merely 93 million miles away. Students absolutely love the sun.

"Ugh, I feel so dumb but there’s just something about the sun," Jenkins said. "I never realize that I’m missing Vitamin D until I have it. You don’t know what you have until it’s gone. People say, ‘If you love something, set it free,’ but I can’t do that with the sun. I need it. I really, really need it."

To conclude, it turns out that the sun is really, truly pretty great. People do like it. They like it a lot. Dare I say — people are in love with the sun.
When Reverend Barbara Brown Taylor first started teaching world religions classes, she expected to learn a lot about other faiths. What she found along the way was not only an appreciation for others but also a deeper understanding of her own Christianity.

Taylor and Pastor Dave Brown gave a conversation style interview about Taylor's newest book, "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others," in Kilworth Chapel on Tuesday, April 2. Taylor is a renowned author, theologian and Christian preacher, and Brown is a member of Pacific Northwest Interfaith Amigos, a trio of a Muslim Imam, Jewish Rabbi and Christian pastor that works to promote a more light-hearted and effective interfaith dialogue in the Pacific Northwest.

In their conversation, Taylor and Brown seamlessly wove together sentiments from Taylor’s book as well as teaching traditions she was teaching when they were actually written while Taylor taught a world religions class in a classroom. Teaching traditions and Islam directly from their followers through services. Her students experienced religions like Buddhism, Judaism, own identification with Christianity.

“no religious traditions teach us what it means to be truly human because the best traditions always make room for the stranger, the outsider,” Taylor said at the talk.

Taylor found that her students learned the most about the traditions she was teaching when they were actually exposed to them. So, instead of learning in the classroom, her students experienced religions like Buddhism, Judaism and Islam directly from their followers through services.

“It only took about 12 minutes in the classroom to realize you can’t teach Christianity in a classroom. Teaching traditions like that from a book was like trying to learn to cook by eating a menu … so I made the decision really quickly not to try to teach them to leave the classroom because it occurred to me in my own life, being a stranger in a place put me in a place of greater humility,” Taylor said.

The book title, “Holy Envy,” could be considered controversial or at least odd coming from a Christian preacher since envy is one of the seven deadly sins. However, Taylor found that what could be considered envy can in fact be appreciation. This form of envy or appreciation came from teaching and learning about other religious traditions.

“What tradition has called sin often has another side being truly human because the best traditions always make room for the stranger, the outsider,” Pastor Brown said of Taylor’s book. This appreciation was found in realizing that strangers and members of other faiths have as much or even more inclusivity and acceptance as Christianity. What Taylor and Brown both agree on is that what religion, if any, Taylor’s book can teach us about the understand the text. She explained that the Bible was written while sipping on Japanese-inspired drinks.

Taylor and Brown’s thoughtful and self-examining conversation opened up a positive dialogue about religion that is needed in times of division and growing diversity.

“It’s good to invite us to engage in our city with these important ideas and wrestle with what it means to live our faith in a city and a nation that is increasingly diverse, with people coming from so many different places,” Pastor Brown said.

By creating a conversation open to all faiths, Taylor and Brown encouraged others to learn and try to better understand those of different backgrounds. No matter what religion, if any, Taylor’s book can teach us about the importance of openness and learning from each others’ strengths and weaknesses.

University hosts a week-long community celebration of Japanese culture

The cherry blossoms on campus were in full bloom just in time for this year’s Japan Week festivities. This year’s celebration featured six events that included calligraphy, kimono, tea, taiko drumming and a photoshoot.

The first event was held on Friday, March 29 in Wyatt Hall, where University of Puget Sound students were provided a space to practice their calligraphy skills while sipping on Japanese-inspired drinks.

On Monday, April 1, also in Wyatt, University of Puget Sound senior Hannah Kayama and her mother Mariko Kayama assisted in organizing a kimono demonstration. Mariko Kayama owns and runs her own kimono shop in Kirkland, Washington, though many of the kimonos came from her mother’s company in Japan.

The demonstration featured a variety of male kimonos as well as coming of age and wedding kimonos. Afterwards, a photoshoot was held for any students who wished to try on a kimono, which on average costs upwards of $3,000.

On Tuesday, April 2, Mikiko Ludden, a University of Puget Sound Asian Languages and Cultures professor and the main organizer of Japan Week, hosted a tasting event in Wyatt. Ludden provided cups and tea pots for students to try five different kinds of tea. She also offered various Japanese sweets in order to offset the bitterness of the tea.

“It’s a great event because Mikiko is a Japan native so we’re lucky to have her explain all of this,” Jan Leuchtenberger, the director of the University of Puget Sound Asian Studies program, said. The tasting involved a classic green tea, a black soybean tea that helps with digestion, a tea only made in Tokushima, Japan, a roasted green tea and a pricey tea that usually goes for around $80 per 100 grams.

The festivities of the week ramped up on Wednesday with a performance featuring the tsugaru-shamisen and taiko drums in Kilworth Chapel. To start the night, Patrick Oiye, a Seattle native now living in Tacoma, played four songs on the tsugaru-shamisen, a Japanese instrument with three strings that strongly resembles a banjo.

Before playing his pieces, Oiye introduced the tsugaru-shamisen and told the audience a little bit about the three types of tsugaru-shamisens, the different tunings and the signature ‘twang’ that the instrument makes when played.

Following Oiye, the University of Puget Sound’s Taiko Club, led by University of Puget Sound senior Nicholas Navin, performed two songs.

“The first song that we played is called ‘Mutsuki,’ which means ‘festival,’” he said. “The version that we played was modified by our president who graduated last year,” he explained.

The second song performed was called “Liist,” which they pronounce as “Listo” though it is based off of Hungarian composer Franz Liszt.

“Apparently it has to do with Franz Liszt liking very complicated rhythms, something to do with complicatedness,” Navin said.

On Thursday, the Japan House, located at 1128 N. Lawrence St., hosted a cookie decorating session.

The Japan Week festivities ended on Friday, April 5 in Wyatt with a mochi-making session, where traditional mochi pounding was demonstrated.

Japan Week is an annual event, and activities are open to the public, so be on the lookout next year for event listings on the University of Puget Sound Events Calendar. If you’d like to be more involved in Japan Week, taiko club is open to students with no experience necessary, so contact Nicholas Navin to join.
Concert Review: Jazz Orchestra featuring Danilo Pérez

By Evan Welsh

When you attend a concert, you always hope to see something more than just a concert; you have one unique hope, to experience it, to be in the room for an event that’s singular. On April 5 in Schneebeck Hall, the Jazz Orchestra welcomed pianist Danilo Pérez and offered one of those unique experiences. “If we allow [Pérez’s music] in, it speaks far, far louder than words.”

What Danilo does is something very different than anything we’ve presented at this school before,” Ian Crocker ’19, a member of the Jazz Orchestra, said. Before Crocker gave his introduction, the orchestra opened the show with a performance of a Dizzy Gillespie piece, which felt like it fit within the group’s modus operandi. On a typical concert evening, the orchestra will perform a collection of mostly high-energy, swinging big-band jazz tunes. The compositions performed with Danilo Pérez on April 5 were certainly outside the Jazz Orchestra’s typical fare, and in my opinion, some of the most interesting pieces they’ve ever tackled.

“This is 21st-century big-band music,” Jazz Orchestra Director Tracy Knoop said. The Latin grooves, subtle instrumental layering and some of the most sophisticated improvisations made for an introspective set that did, indeed, feel much more modern than the standard collection of Ellington and Strayhorn songs.

Perhaps it was that subtlety and focus on individual improvisation in composition that made this particular Jazz Orchestra performance feel unique. Many of the songs felt like they were constructed with a smaller ensemble in mind, even with the full orchestra performing. Danilo Pérez is an accomplished jazz pianist, earning Grammy nominations for his solo material as well as working alongside some of jazz’s biggest names. Throughout the night, Pérez showed himself to be not only a virtuosic pianist but a compelling tinkerer; he is always listening for additional layers of complexity to add to the performance.

During the introduction to his first song, “Native Soul,” Pérez used one hand to strike the keys while the other was inside the piano, plucking at the strings to give a metallic ring to each note. He then added some hums to bring some warmth and balance to the soundscape of the solo. He returned to this tactic later on in the performance during another solo.

Some highlights from the evening’s performance included a section of dueling pianos between Gabe Grabovac ’19 and Pérez, and some fantastic solos from saxophonist Ian Crocker ’20, trumpeter Kate Hart ’19 and Pérez throughout.

“When we rehearse, whatever we plan to do, it gets all changed by the magic of the spirit of the audience, ‘cause that’s what Jazz is — the power of music is now,” Pérez said, mentioning how the performance didn’t necessarily follow the exact roadmap set forth in the rehearsals and soundcheck.

It was apparent in some of the performances that audibles were called, and the orchestra had to adjust in the moment to some extended improvisational movements, but all in all, the performances from everyone on stage were top notch.

After what was an already great show, Pérez left the stage for a moment and returned to perform one last song. He said that the band had no more charts left to play, so this final number would feature only Pérez, or so the audience thought.

The encore performance quickly shifted from solo piano performance into something unlike anything I’ve ever seen before. Before Pérez began to urge the crowd to sing, to find a powerful note representative of unity. After some typical reluctance from the crowd to participate, Schneebeck Hall began to fill with different melodies from each section of seats. Pérez then began, by playing the crowd’s naturally selected melodies. This eventually led to a singular, enthusiastic member of the audience singing improvised melodies, fairly well, by herself with Pérez riffing off of her energy and sound.

I’ve attended many Jazz Orchestra concerts during my years at Puget Sound, and their performance with Danilo Pérez will surely stand out as one of the most adventurous, singular concerts I have ever seen.