14 faculty members confirmed to retire by June 2023

By Emma Loenicker

The University of Puget Sound’s review committee tasked with considering the renaming of the Slater Natural History Museum met for the first time on January 25 to begin their process. Guided by the University’s renaming policy put into effect February 25, 2022, the committee’s meeting comes three and a half years after Grace Eberhardt ’20 and a few faculty members petitioned President John Hanson to have the museum’s name changed to no longer honor James Slater, a former Puget Sound professor who taught courses in eugenics at the University.

The committee is composed of eleven students, faculty members, and community leaders, and will “evaluate the request to remove the Slater name from the museum, with the intent to hear from many voices and perspectives to fully understand the history of the name and its impact before submitting a final recommendation to the Office of the President in April 2023” according to a message from the President last December.

Professor Stacey Weiss and Albert Chang-Yoo ’25, both council members, emphasized the importance of confidentiality in the council’s process.

“The replacement name proposed by Grace Eberhardt in her article was ‘The Puget Sound Museum of Natural History’” Chang-Yoo said. He added that Wednesday’s meeting was introductory and an overview of procedures.

Professor Weiss said the council “will be following established guidelines carefully as we serve in our role as the first review committee on campus.” The guidelines, which can be found on the University’s website, state “A University Building or University Space name shall be removed only upon the presentation and/or disclosure of strong and noteworthy evidence that compellingly demonstrates retaining the name is harmful to its mission and inclusiveness and/or inconsistent with the university’s integrity.” In the case of the Slater Museum, this evidence may include the documented history of James Slater’s eugenics teaching, which included courses called “Eugenics,” which was required for all Biology majors and minors in the late 1930s.

Documents compiled for a symposium on “The History of Eugenics at Puget Sound and Beyond” now constitute a website detailing what is known of James Slater’s teaching context. They include terms and exam questions that illustrate ideologies that the renaming committee may determine “no longer align with our values as an institution.”

Eugenics was taught in universities across the United States in the early twentieth century and was considered an important part of a cutting-edge Biology curriculum at most undergraduate colleges.

According to the symposium exhibit, “eugenics inevitably entailed people making value judgments about individuals and groups.” The renaming committee’s role in the following months is to consider what modern policies will be adopted to contend with its role in the University of Puget Sound’s past.

The museum poses a question that the committee will have to answer: “Should we continue to commemorate someone who taught a subject now known to have been pervaded with classist, ableist and racist ideas that are in conflict with Puget Sound’s values?”

A “Sound Future” left few possibilities unexplored in the proposal to recover from the University’s multi-million dollar budget deficit, which has been the source of campus-wide tension for months now. While strategizing to construct a sustainable and profitable financial plan for the University, the question of professors and programs has loomed large. The prospect of losing beloved professors and programs is overwhelmingly unpopular. This was apparent in the concerns and frustrations voiced during the last campus-wide town hall, on November 16 and during a staff luncheon, faculty...
New Washington laws in the New Year

By Hannah Lee

As of January 1st, 2023, multiple new laws have taken effect in Washington state. The Washington state minimum wage increased. The minimum wage was $14.49 per hour in 2022 but has now increased to $15.75. Seattle has its own minimum wage, which has increased to $18.69 per hour.

Starting January 1st, salary information is required on job postings. Hourly wages or annual salaries are required to be mentioned in job listings for businesses that employ 15 or more people, and negotiations about higher salaries are possible. Another new wage law supports Uber drivers. Uber drivers are now required to be compensated $1.17 to $1.38 per mile and a minimum of $3 to $5.17 per trip.

The Cap and Invest program now sets a limit on carbon emissions for the state, which means that carbon emissions for businesses will now be limited. Businesses will have to obtain allowances through auctions hosted by the Department of Ecology or through a secondary market that equal their greenhouse emissions. The amount of ‘allowance’ a business can get will be lowered every year. This limit will eventually be reduced to help reduce emissions with the goal of 0% emissions by 2050.

The Clean Fuel Standard, which requires fuel suppliers to gradually reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuel to 20% less than 2017 levels by 2034, has also come into effect. Cleaner fuel will generate credits which can be sold to producers of high-carbon fuels. High-carbon fuel producers will be required to purchase credits to meet the year’s intensity reduction requirement if they do not meet guidelines.

In the legal part of town, a new law will relieve a criminal offender of having to pay full or partial restitution accrued in interest to an insurer or state agency except for what is owed to the Department of Labor & Industry under the crime victim compensation program. This would occur if the court finds that the offender does not have the current or future ability to pay restitution. Restitution means restoring something to the rightful owner, and if found guilty courts may order a defendant to restore to the claimant what they lost, usually through money.

There will now be a new program that will help homeless people get IDs. Identification will help people experiencing homelessness gain access to employment, housing, education, medical services, and other services.

3 mass shootings within 44 hours in California

By Hannah Lee

During the Lunar New Year on January 21, eleven people were shot and killed at Star Dance Studio in Monterey Park, California. Nine others were injured in the shooting. All of the victims were between 50 and 70 years old and of Asian-Pacific Islander descent. The suspected gunman is Hau Tran Can.

The gunman also attempted to attack another dance studio in Alhambra but was disarmed by a bystander before causing any harm. Tran was then found dead in Torrance after an hours-long search and standoff with police. The gunman’s motive is still being determined, but according to Tran’s ex-wife who spoke with CNN, Tran was a regular at the Monterey Park dance studio where he offered informal lessons, but was quick to anger.

The victims were Mymy Nhan, 65; Lilian Li, 63; Xijun Yu, 57; Hongying Jian, 62; Mau Dai Ung, 67; Valentino Marcos Alveros, 68; Yu-Lun Kao, 72; Ching Yau, 76; Wen-Tai Yu, 64; Ming Wei Ma, 72, and Diana Tom, 70.

On January 23, 380 miles away from the massacre in Monterey Park, seven more people were killed in workplace mass shootings at two farms in Half Moon Bay. The victims were all farmworkers of Asian or Hispanic descent. Chunli Zhao has been taken into custody after being accused of the murder of his fellow workers.

Allegedly, Zhao killed four people and wounded another at a mushroom farm where he worked, before shooting and killing three others at another farm where he was previously employed.

The San Mateo County Sheriff reported that they believed that this shooting was ‘workplace violence and that motive is known but has not been made public at this time.’ Zhao’s court date has been set for February 16. He has been charged with seven counts of murder and one count of attempted murder. He previously had a restraining order filed against him in 2013 after he attempted to strangle a former co-worker from a prior job when he worked in a restaurant.

The victims have been identified as Marcialino Martinez Jimenez, 50; Jose Romero Perez, age unknown; Aixiang Zhang, 74; Zhichen Liu, 73; Qihong Cheng, 66; Jingzhi Lu, 64; and Yetao Bing, 43. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been 40 mass shootings this year, which marks 2023 as having more mass shootings at this point of the year than any other on record.

Sports scores and Schedule

Scores

Women’s Basketball (16-3)
- Dec 16: Loggers 76 - University of Redlands 59
- Dec 17: Loggers 94 - United States Coast Guard Academy 74
- Dec 20: Loggers 59 - University of Mary Hardin-Baylor 58
- Dec 21: Loggers 69 - Trinity University (Texas) 78
- Jan 6: Loggers 72 - George Fox University 43
- Jan 7: Loggers 81 - Willamette University 75
- Jan 13: Loggers 63 - Pacific University 51
- Jan 14: Loggers 76 - Linfield University 44
- Jan 17: Loggers 68 - Pacific Lutheran University 38
- Jan 20: Loggers 101 - Lewis & Clark College 56
- Jan 27: Loggers 50 - Whitman College 61
- Jan 28: Loggers 80 - Whitworth University 52

Men’s Basketball (13-6)
- Dec 17: Loggers 81 - Millsaps College 67
- Dec 28: Loggers 77 - Gustavus Adolphus College 76
- Jan 2: Loggers 98 - Portland Bible College 64
- Jan 6: Loggers 107 - George Fox University 99
- Jan 7: Loggers 99 - Willamette University 79
- Jan 13: Loggers 78 - Pacific University 83
- Jan 14: Loggers 76 - Linfield University 71
- Jan 17: Loggers 80 - Pacific Lutheran University 81
- Jan 20: Loggers 100 - Lewis & Clark College 86
- Jan 27: Loggers 83 - Whitman College 79
- Jan 28: Loggers 75 - Whitworth University 77

Upcoming Games

Women’s Basketball
- Feb 3 vs Willamette University
- Feb 4 vs George Fox University
- Feb 10 vs Linfield University
- Feb 14 at Pacific Lutheran University
- Feb 18 at Lewis & Clark College

Men’s Basketball
- Feb 3 vs Willamette University
- Feb 4 vs George Fox University
- Feb 10 vs Linfield University
- Feb 14 at Pacific Lutheran University
- Feb 18 at Lewis & Clark College

Baseball
- Feb 3 at Whitmier College
- Feb 4 at Willamette College (Double Header)
- Feb 5 at Whitworth College (Double Header)
- Feb 11 at Caltech (Double Header)
- Feb 12 at University of Redlands

Softball
- Feb 16 at California Lutheran University (Double Header)
- Feb 17 at University of La Verne (Double Header)
The Buffalo Bills represent one of the premier franchises in the NFL. The American Football Conference (AFC) and the National Football League (NFL) are the two most popular and recognizable professional football leagues in the United States. The AFC is divided into the American Football Conference East, the American Football Conference North, the American Football Conference South, and the American Football Conference West. The AFC South is comprised of the Buffalo Bills, the Cincinnati Bengals, the Houston Texans, and the Tennessee Titans. These teams compete in the AFC South division within the AFC Conference. The AFC South is considered one of the toughest divisions in the NFL, with each team having a strong defense and offense. The AFC South is known for its high-scoring games and close contests, with the Buffalo Bills being one of the most competitive teams in the division.
Across

4. On average, how many dollars does someone spend on Valentine's day?
5. How much do condom sales rise in February?
9. What day was voted the best day of the year to propose on?
10. How many states have a city named Valentine?
11. What did sweetheart candy start out as?
14. Where was the first valentine sent from?
15. Who are the most popular recipients of Valentine's day cards?

Down

1. What candy is only available during v-day?
2. When was the first valentine sent?
3. How many roses are grown each year for valentines day?
6. What was patented on Valentine's Day
7. What do women celebrate if they aren't boo'd up?
8. What stands for hugs and kisses
12. How long before v-day should you make a reservation?
13. What's the baby's name who is the mascot of v-day?
February 3rd, 2023
gstensland@pugetsound.edu

The Happy Trail is The Trail’s sex column that seeks to inform the community on issues related to sexuality and gender by addressing these topics in an education-based way. Our mission is to make the campus a safer place by normalizing and demystifying topics like safe sex practices, sexualities, kinks and polyamory, while shedding light on topics like trans rights, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail articles are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to vagray@pugetsound.edu. Readers can respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.

The year started with reports from the CDC shedding light on topics like trans rights, sexual and domestic violence, gender inequalities and intersectionality. Happy Trail correspondents are not medical professionals; if you have a medical concern contact CHWS or a local clinic. Otherwise, direct your sexuality and gender questions to vagray@pugetsound.edu. Readers can respond to Happy Trail articles in the form of a letter to the editor sent to trail@pugetsound.edu.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
Have your safe sex practices changed since the reversal of Roe v. Wade?
By Andrew Benoit, Sam Gerrish

Lucas De Dora (he/him) ’26
“No.”

Emma Grace (she/her) ’26
“I’m not sexually active at all, so it has not changed.”

Jojo (he/him) ’26
“I have definitely been more mindful about using condoms when doing sexual activity with a girl and I definitely respect all women’s choices. If something were to happen and she decided she wanted to keep the kid, it’s her choice.”

Ela Escobar (they/them) ’24
“Last month I got the Nexplanon arm implant specifically because I was so concerned about the efficacy of condoms, even if they are one of the best forms of protection, I still fear that they can break or be misused really easily and I don’t want a child ever. Especially not in university.”

Kara Morris (she/they) ’25
“I got an IUD. I now have condoms stored in my room. I don’t expect other people to get them now, so just in case I have them now.”

2022 Sexual Health — What the F*** Happened?
By Amelia Pooser

As we begin 2023, it is impossible not to look back on the impactful year of 2022. From the reversal of Roe v. Wade to MPV, the year has definitely been memorable in the sphere of sexual health. While not all of the year’s notable moments are positive it is still important to look back on them as they enter the never-ending recording of human history. Additionally, by looking back we can hopefully make the change necessary to make 2023 the best year yet.

The year started with reports from the CDC shedding light on the increasing number of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the United States. They reported that new data suggests that cases of gonorrhea and syphilis have increased significantly in the past few years, maybe in relation to the isolation and quarantine of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Then June hit and the year took a turn. MPV began to appear in the US, sparking concern and travel methods which led to heavy discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. Around the same time that MPV began to come to a head, Roe v. Wade was overturned in the Supreme Court as many state bans include medical abortions with heavy discrimination against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, much of the misinformation regarding the disease related to its infection and travel methods which led to heavy discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. The Ruhr University Bochum in Germany reported that COVID-19 vaccines are also helping protect HIV patients. The American University in Washington DC stated, “The only alternative to abortion in childbirth, which has a 14 times higher risk of death than that abortion.”

In October of 2022, the University of Michigan Medicine reported that sexual assault-related ER visits had increased more than tenfold over the past few years. A new statistic from the FBI estimated that every 68 seconds in the US, a new sexual assault occurs. However, hospital data indicates that in the same period of time, sexual assault ER admissions have decreased by around 8%.

These are worrying statistics as more sexual assault victims choose not to seek out medical care or law enforcement. This is increasingly troublesome combined with new abortion bans, like in Idaho, where the exception for cases of rape or incest no longer applies when the incident is reported to the police.

Finishing off in December of 2022, scientific studies reported that COVID-19 vaccines are also helping protect HIV patients. The Ruhr University Bochum in Germany reported that their study with around 90 participants found that HIV patients who were administered the COVID-19 vaccine were able to produce working and healthy antibodies. It was noted that completely healthy patients did not produce more antibodies overall, but the study is a good sign for those with HIV who have become more and more vulnerable to emerging diseases in the world.

Overall, last year was not the kindest to us in the realm of sexual health, but it is important to note that while these events have hurt many people, they have also brought them together as they fought for abortion rights and LGBTQ+ destigmatization. With a hopeful outlook for 2023, we hope to see some great things in the realms of STDs, forms of birth control, and much more!
The following art, poems, and stories are gathered from Black Ice. This zine publication ran from 2012-2016 through the Black Student Union. The Trail wanted to use this space to share just a few of the powerful renderings from Puget Sound Alumni. All five Black Ice issues can be viewed using the QR code.

**Gentle Giant**
Isaac S. Lewin

**Spanish Blues**
Isaac S. Lewin

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**The Black Student Union Zine**
Art, Essays, Fashion, Humor, Poetry, Photography, Stories, Rants, and Much More

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**Jensen Handwork**

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**The Anthracite Road of a Spelling Bee Pro**
By Sunny Wyczynski

The evening began like any other Tuesday evening had since they signed up for the Spelling Bee. All of the students were seated, fidgeting, around a table in a third floor room of Murray at the University of Puget Sound campus. They were tired and restless because they had been memorizing and spelling words out loud for weeks now. With the Bee's Excellent Links Spelling Bee a few months away, they were given the words to study at home. Tuesday evening practice rounds with Access Program tutors ensued. And now, it was crunch time. The young team of six was an campus practicing words with Abigail and the Access tutors up to three days a week.

The team even got together on a Saturday to spend the morning at St. Leo's Food Bank volunteering and again on a weekday to attend a practice round. At the practice round they found out that, composed entirely of 8th, 7th and 6th graders, they were the youngest team in the running. But, nothing could get them down. The community service, long hours of practice and the occasional giggling breakdown over someone’s word spelling methods all brought the team closer together. As one cohesive unit they showed up to Ferris State College on that hateful St. Patrick’s Day and took a solid 2nd place.

It’s much like this who are academically engaged, the ones who have the support of their parents and programs like Access, who aredefining the achievement gap. According to the Achievement Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee, a committee created by the Washington State Legislature to address the achievement gap, a troubling trend is growing in this already vast state. Students of color and students of a lower socioeconomic status are coming up to 35 percentage points lower on math and reading tests. Lack of resources, initiative, and support are certainly to be blamed for this troubling statistic. Students like these spelling bee pros are key. Students oriented their potential by attending Access Program’s weekly tutoring sessions, taking part in the mentorship program, and volunteering for extracurricular academic competitions like the Links Spelling Bee. Their 2nd place among all the olds just goes to show, equalize opportunity and the rest will follow.
As students were recovering from the first day of spring semester classes, Kilworth Memorial Chapel hosted the University’s 37th Annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration, featuring keynote speaker Christian Paige. Paige’s website describes him as an “Emmy nominated spoken word poet, a professional speaker and educator who speaks at schools, conferences, and events across the United States,” as well as “an Act Six Scholar…passionate about community, anti-racism, equity, and empowerment.”

In honor of Dr. King, Paige’s keynote lecture was titled “Do You Remember Our Future?” The speech was preceded by welcome addresses from the University Chaplain, Reverend Dave Wright, president of the Black Student Union, Kellen Hagans, and University President, Isiaah Crawford.

I settled into my seat prepared to take notes on the event, but I quickly realized that no notes would accurately capture the feeling inside the sanctuary. After the playing of the Black National Anthem, a song I had never heard honored in its entirety, I realized that this would be a very special event. My impression was confirmed as soon as Paige stepped to the podium.

Paige had a presence and cadence of speaking that immediately pulled the entire room into his speech. He asked the audience to “not leave him alone in the room,” and encouraged us to respond to what he was saying. For the rest of the lecture, there were intermittent cheers of approval and encouragement, taking me back to my days in the Southern Baptist Church. With each cry of, “tell ‘em, Paige!” or “there we go!” the energy in the room increased.

In his speech, Paige discussed the legacy of Dr. King, his own work in equity, and his hope for the future interspersed with readings of his poetry. He called on all of us to remember the undying legacy of Dr. King and fulfill it in everything we do. He specifically called on young people to lead the way — in his words, we are “not just the future, we are the now.” Paige received a standing ovation following his speech.

Afterward, the “Keep Living the Dream” award, an honor presented to a person who embodies the life of service and activism that Dr. King led, was presented to Tacoma local Kwabi Amoah-Forson, who serves unhoused people in the local community on his bright blue “Peace Bus.”

At the reception, I was able to speak to Paige for just a moment, telling him that I used to participate in slam poetry in high school. He looked at me, smiled, and said, “pick it back up!” That short interaction encompasses the energy of the event and of the man whom it honored: kindness, encouragement, and a call to action. Here are the final lines from Paige’s Emmy-nominated poem, “Trees.”

“So don’t call us anything that starts with a deficit
Call us scholars
Call of us leaders
Call us Change
Call us trees
And discover what happens when you decide to water a seed.”
All my life, I have loved stories. When I fell in love with Batman's compassionate crusade against evil and pain at seven-years-old, I realized that I wanted to be a writer. I filled notebooks with doodles and scribbles of stories. Telling a story allows me to express myself in ways I can’t verbalize otherwise.

Storytelling is how I showcase my love of fiction. I simply love creating. I love writing stories about heroes going on adventures or silly people eating food together which makes me laugh so much. And the best part is that it doesn’t have to be grounded or realistic. No word is law in the worlds I create except for mine. I feel the most free in the sense of making whatever story I choose.

I write stories at school, at home, wherever I can. I’m constantly thinking of what I create when I’m out and about. The storytelling process is quite hard yet fun. First things first is the plot. After that there’s the setting, tone, characters, and goals that characters drive the story forward to. But there’s creativity next. Again, here in my writing craft, anything goes.

The stories that I’ve written have also helped me in more personal ways. One instance of them helping me is with compassion. I often worry about others and fear not knowing what to do when I want to help them. Inspired by Batman, my characters often try to reach others driven to evil by sad pasts. This is through talking with these antagonists, finding common ground, or fighting them to save these people from themselves. If they can use their tragedies as motivation to get through to others, then so can I. I can empathize with people through our shared pains and do what I can to help them solve their problems.

However, just because it’s helped me help others doesn’t mean that it’s never helped me personally. It’s gotten me through so much tribulation in my life. When I was sad, I imagined myself as my Alta Honors characters. I imagined I was one of them fighting bad guys, going on adventures, and finding joy in the little things. This is why I learned another great lesson. I’m not alone. I’m never alone when I’m surrounded by many who are struggling and that I can always find a way to manage those struggles the best I can.

As a writer, I’m proud of how productive I am when I am creating these stories. I’m also proud of what I can give myself and what I can give to others. It’s almost like making beautiful paintings. Of course, they’re never perfect, but they’re mine. And I just can’t wait to see what I can create next.
Calendar of on and off-campus events now through February 16

**Aries:** Getting into this new semester may be hard, but you have so many things going your way right now. As long as you keep spending 8 hours a day in the library and having virtually no social life you’ll do great!

**Taurus:** Keep going with the chaos of the last month. Things are picking up and you have all the time in the world to be a put together person so let yourself be messy right now!

**Gemini:** Have a movie night this week. You deserve to sit down and relax after a long third week of classes. Maybe try something you or go back to an old favorite and relive childhood sleepovers.

**Cancer:** This might be the week to switch up your style. Sometimes you can get really out there but make sure not to add too many platform shoes to your wardrobe as they may clash with your casual demeanor.

**Leo:** Something good is on your horizon. Maybe it’s a test back from your crush, or a 100% on an assignment you worked really hard on or maybe it’s just a good day in your future. Best of luck!

**Virgo:** Be careful what you wish for in the coming weeks. While you’ve had good luck getting the things you want it’s time to be careful with your wishes because the less realistic you get the more disappointed you will be.

**Libra:** Time to get out there and dance. While it may be at RDQ or a quirky night at a western bar you’ve got some fast and fun dance moves that you need to get out there! Don’t worry what anyone thinks and have all the fun you can.

**Scorpio:** Don’t put it off! You’ve been playing the part of a rational human being for too long and now it’s time to take a midnight walk. Time to take your shoes off and get your toes in the sand, you deserve it!

**Sagittarius:** You may think that now’s the time to have a makeover on par with the princess diaries, but now’s just not the time. Take it slow and steady the glow up is coming you just have to wait and see how it manifests.

**Capricorn:** Time to stop being so materialistic. There’s a reason your entire TikTok is covered in de-influencing videos and you can’t just ignore them for too long and now it’s time to take a careful look at the worksite.

**Aquarius:** Bowling may just be a fun pastime to you, but it could become a real passion and you always need something to brighten up your day. So put on your bowling shoes and get out to the lanes. It’s never too late to start!

**Pisces:** You have a goal this week! First you need to take a walk. Then find a solid 5-7 cats to pet throughout the neighborhood. Then return every day and become the leader of all those neighborhood cats you love. Goal complete!
Leaping Into the Lunar New Year

By Kaya Heimowitz

Members and friends of the University’s Chinese program gathered in the Tahoma room on January 29 to usher in the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit, the Vietnamese Year of the Cat and the arrival of spring. The Lunar New Year is called the “Spring Festival” in Chinese because it celebrates the arrival of spring.

The event occurred about the same time many families in Asia gathered to eat a New Year’s Eve dinner. Professor Lotus Perry, head of the Chinese department, mentioned how the event strives to recreate a similar family atmosphere at school. “Traditional New Year’s Eve in Chinese is spent with family, so I guess the whole goal is to create this sort of community family group,” she said.

Members of the community attending the event ate traditional Chinese foods, watched a calligraphy demonstration and played a competitive game of Kahoott.

The menu included potstickers from a local Thai-Vietnamese fusion restaurant, The Fusion Cafe, spring rolls, edamame falafels, chicken skewers, and tang yuán (rice balls with sesame paste, red bean, or taro root in the center). The result was a delicious sampling of symbolic lucky foods. The shape of a potsticker or jiaozi is called “yuan bao” the Chinese word for gold ingot. According to Professor Perry, dumplings represent fortune. The yuán in tang yuán (rice balls) means round, but it also means reunion and symbolizes reuniting with family. Many students thought edamame falafels, a non-traditional food, was an interesting vegetarian option, but beans (like edamame) are considered prosperous.

Following the meal, Professor Zaixin Hong, who teaches in the Art and Art History Department, performed a Chinese calligraphy demonstration. As Professor Perry explained, Hong is “not only a calligrapher, but a composer” who crafts messages about spring as he’s writing. Professor Hong composed various messages, including one where the Jade Rabbit — a famous figure from a Chinese myth about the moon goddess — announces the arrival of spring.

Afterward, Professor Hong wrote characters for students per their requests. Words like “spring” and “success” were popular choices.

The last activity was a competitive round of Kahoott, created by Oliver Hsieh, the Fulbright TA from Taiwan, quizzing students on facts about the Lunar New Year. Alumni Allie Highsmith scored the most points and took the win!

If you missed the event, Professor Lotus announced that you can visit the second floor of Wyatt to “try to find the dragon kite and walk under it for good luck. Hopefully, the future holds many more Lunar New Year celebrations for students, faculty, and their families, who can come together to create a “community family group.”

By Raka Custer

Professor Katherine Crocker, Kawa Nation of Oklahoma, is a recent hire to the Biology department, applying only last January and teaching their first classes this fall. They earned two BAs from Cornell and a Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology at the University of Michigan.

Crocker hasn’t always been interested in biology, though. “I actually hated biology in college. It was my least favorite subject. In fact, I really, really, really didn’t like it. And I partly really didn’t like it because I nearly failed in Intro Bio when I took it,” they said.

Professor Crocker recalled that being packed into lectures with 350 students taught by a seemingly-spatial professor did not bolster their interest in the class. They continued to study English Literature, their focus being on Chaucer and Shakespeare. However, after participating in field ecology summer research, Professor Crocker came to consider Biology to be something they genuinely enjoyed, and could see themselves following as a career path. Eventually, they realized that biology was a perfect fit. “It was one of the things that would let me do the most of the things I like, like, wear jeans to work and interact with a community and have meaningful intellectual interactions, get to solve puzzles and get to go outside a lot,” they said.

Today Crocker’s research focuses on how hormones can affect species’ phenotypes over the course of generations. To study this, they examine the hormone distribution from crickets to their offspring. “I measure the hormones that cricket moms put into their eggs under different environmental conditions to try to understand what it is like to be a cricket and how environments affect not just one generation of crickets, but multiple generations of crickets,” they said. Professor Crocker is currently looking for students to assist in their summer research, which centers on whether or not certain hormone-induced effects will skip multiple generations of crickets if they produce more than one generation per year.

Crocker also described how they strive to make their experiments “as pleasant as possible” for the crickets. All of their experiments are non-lethal, and euthanization is carried out as necessary. Even when the crickets are no longer needed for research, Crocker tries to give them a comfortable life. “At the end of experiments, I retire them. I put them in a big bin and try to get them lots of food and lots of hiding places and let them self-actualize to the extent that I’m able to facilitate. Because I feel like it would be a bad way to exist otherwise,” Crocker said.

In their work as a researcher studying living organisms, Professor Crocker rejects the mindset of the unfeeling and utilitarian scientist, instead calling out its potential perpetrator: “I would hypothesize that it’s part of toxic masculinity in our culture, this idea that the intellectual ideal is somebody who doesn’t care about the pain they inflict, and it’s deceptive because of course we very much care. We suffer, and it makes us feel good to claim that we don’t care about anything. But that’s still serving an emotional logic. So, I don’t subscribe to it and I don’t believe that it’s cohesive.”

Although Professor Crocker has not been at the University of Puget Sound for long, moving to a smaller, academic setting has been positive for them, and they are particularly fond of the interdisciplinary nature of the University’s academics. “One of the things I’m glad to be part of about this institution is the encouragement of people to think among many disciplines at once,” they said. With their experience in both Humanities and STEM and their commitment to ethical experimentation, Professor Crocker’s presence at this institution seems to indicate how interdisciplinary study can better our understanding of the natural world, and reaffirm our responsibility to hold it in kindness.

Profiles In Puget Sound: Crickets and Prof. Crocker

Professor Katherine Crocker, Kawa Nation of Oklahoma, is a recent hire to the Biology department, applying only last January and teaching their first classes this fall. They earned two BAs from Cornell University in Chemistry & Chemical Biology as well as in English Literature, before getting their Master’s and Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology at the University of Puget Sound. Crocker’s presence at this institution seems to indicate how interdisciplinary study can better our understanding of the natural world, and reaffirm our responsibility to hold it in kindness.

By Raka Custer

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Purpose and Passion: How the Liberal Arts Forge Individuality for Good
By Emma Pellegrini

For many professors and students, choosing to attend or teach at a university like the University of Puget Sound is about finding a community where scores, man- uscripts, GPAs and awards are only a part of the puzzle. Instead, the students and faculty, nestled in this vibrant community with its many quirks and comforts, chose Puget Sound for its distinct liberal arts approach: rigorous academics combined with the commitment to creating well-rounded, passionate, unique student bodies. At the University of Puget Sound, success does not always lie in the number of As, nor the GPAs, but rather in the passion that students find in their four years. At a school like the University of Puget Sound, the liberal arts flourish, distinctly focusing on something deeper and far more valuable than diplomas or degrees; transforming and preparing students for a meaningful purpose, in an uncertain future.

Professor of English and Honors, Alison Tracy Hale often feels accomplished when she helps students find personal pride not in an A, but in the pride of improvement and academic excitement. Professor Hale focuses on taking the importance off of grades and focusing more on experiential and creative learning, as a way to further engage students in their academic pursuits. “I think it’s essential to provide a variety of different ways for students to demonstrate their learning so that they can foreground their strengths while they develop other skills,” Hale said. Professor Hale also discussed her dislike for letter grades because they tend to reduce a student to a number. She believes grading systems that only focus on As, Bs, and Cs create a false standard that can make students feel like they have to live up to those standards in order to be deemed academically successful or superior. Instead, she feels it is more important to allow students the autonomy to experiment in their academic careers. “I haven’t gotten all the way to eliminating grades yet, but I’m incorporating more opportunities for students to identify their own goals for an assignment and convey to me how successfully they have addressed those goals so that they feel more ownership of the work,” Hale remarked.

Professor Hale is not alone in her sentiments. Professors at the University of Puget Sound find enjoyment in watching their students become passionate and excited by the material. Diane Kelley, professor of French and Francophone studies, believes the liberal arts shapes students into well-rounded, unique, hard-working individuals, all qualities being something of a necessity in today’s rapidly changing world. “A liberal arts education engages the whole student, broadly and deeply, to think about problems critically from different perspectives,” Kelley says.

However, in the past few years, many liberal arts colleges nationwide have faced difficulties in funding and enrollment. A recent Forbes article reports a decline in students majoring in and studying the liberal arts, estimating a 9% decline between 2019 and 2021. Forbes describes the effect the ongoing pandemic has had as a major factor in these difficulties, but the trends began before the pandemic. The University of Puget Sound is not immune to these difficulties, as evidenced by the current turmoil surrounding the budget. Despite the dilemmas facing these institutions, many students still find meaning and value in them, meaning and value that drives them to attend such institutions.

Many students choose Puget Sound to spend their four years, because of its equally holistic and rigorous approach. Elliot Bogue, a first-year, chose Puget Sound because of its commitment to liberal arts values, and the advantages those values would bring him. “I chose Puget Sound really because it gave me like a variety of academic questions because I didn’t really know what I wanted to do coming in here and still don’t,” Bogue said. Much of Bogue’s enjoyment comes from feeling that the liberal arts education they are receiving at Puget Sound obliterates the negative experiences of high school. “I feel like I’ve gotten really lucky with professors and class environments so far,” said Bogue.

At the world constantly evolves and adapts, a liberal arts education becomes increasingly essential in navigating such change. Many students leave college or liberal arts colleges armed with skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, problem-solving, well-rounded academics, and interests. While the future looms with complicated problems for liberal arts universities, the education they provide offers a toolkit that creates a positive impact on the world. For many, a liberal arts education, like the University of Puget Sound’s, is just the start of something new, something bigger and better. Puget Sound has the potential to be the model for the next example of the future of higher education exempt from the pressure and loneliness of grading systems and is a tool for creating a better future. Instead, the well-rounded liberal arts approach serves as a rigor that both tests and comforts students with an important lesson, to believe in themselves as well as their fellow peers, in and out of the classroom.
**Review: Season 2022 of “The Terran Diaries”**

By Grizz’s Toe

Since its premiere over 2000 Terran revolutions ago, there have been two ways to appreciate “The Terran Diaries.” Either as the complex, intricate story of a species caught between their noblest ambitions and basic instincts while grappling with the implications of self-awareness and their place in a vast, uncaring universe, or as a trashy reality show. In the latest season of “The Terran Diaries,” the first interpretation has been rendered obsolete as the Terrans have been so amusingly horrible to one another this season that even those who claim that the show is a satire of Blorgilax interspecies relations — the customay Blorgilax greeting is to attempt to disembowel the other individual — have fallen silent. Truly, “The Terran Diaries” has joined the ranks of such spectacularly tawdry TV shows as “Keeping Up with the Karkavarx,” “Proxima B’s Next Top Hivemother,” and “The Real Housegladiators of Romathon Three.”

This is not to say that the show is any less compelling. Rather, the show may even be more engaging with its new focus on revealing humanity’s worst instincts. The season’s steady stream of lurid revelations began right from the first episode, “January,” when the Prime Minister of the U.K., — the first of three this season — admitted to holding “bring your own booze” parties in flagrant violation of the country’s COVID-19 restrictions. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the outish fan favorite, found the only conclusion possible for his character arc: getting prime-ministerially plastered in his office. His replacement, Liz Truss, had an even shorter tenure — merely an episode and a half — but a similarly explosive character arc. Her proposed tax cuts, sweeping and unfunded, sparked fears nationwide after very nearly causing financial collapse. But the most significant event on the European continent this season has been the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia’s toxic, abusive behaviors — including bombing the cities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipro and Kharkiv — fully manifested, making Russia the evident villain of this season.

The theocratic regime in Iran emerged as the secondary antagonist of the season for their active and violent suppression of women’s rights. However, the regime drew the ire of fans who felt that a regime that subjugated half of their population was unrealistic, even by reality show standards. On the subject of subjugation, any review of “The Terran Diaries” would be incomplete without mentioning the secondary antagonist: the United States regime.

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At least, that would be the dignified way to end this reality show. The showrunners, however, seem loathe to abandon the series until it has been fully drained of its drama, evident by the rather contrived — bordering on deus ex machina — conclusion to the season: the Democrats beating the odds to seize major victories in the 2022 midterm elections. At best, this is a poorly disguised attempt to set up another season. “The Terran Diaries” have clearly jumped the shark.

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**Logger Chatz**

I keep spending all my dad’s money and can’t stop being a material girl, but now he’s threatening to cut me off. I need to keep up my lifestyle but how can I do that when I don’t have his money coming in? Easy, just trade your dad in for a daddy. If you’re going to be a dependent, it might as well be because somebody finds you sexually appealing not because they have a biological imperative to provide for you.

I feel like I’m having my mother’s midlife crisis at 20. What do I do? Become a chain smoker to speed up menopause and turn the thermalmostat up really high to stimulate heat flashes. After a week, quit smoking — now that you are thoroughly pissed off, call the friend that treats you like your mother and start unloading years worth of trauma and blame them for every bad feeling you’ve ever had.

I think that god is punishing me. Not sure what I can do about it, but just thought I’d see if you have any answers. Go hang out with some Catholics, they will convince you that God is punishing you, but they will also make you think that’s a good thing.

None of my friends think I belong at this school. What should I do? You probably don’t but just let that feed your “not like other girls” complex.

Send us your quirky inquiries!