

THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

PEOPLE AND IDEAS FOR SUMMER 2019

arcades

A SPECIAL ISSUE ABOUT ALUMNI  
WHO STRIVE TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD

# IMPACT

SARA RAMEY '05

INSIDE: A mission to grow organic food in India • An archivist's quest for media equity



Nikolas Bernhardt '19, a business major and quarterback for the Logger football team, was one of Puget Sound's nearly 550 undergraduate students who received a bachelor's degree at Commencement on May 19. Photographed by Alex Everett '22.

DEPARTMENTS

2 **dispatches**

Goings-on around campus.

5 **president's book club**

*Things Are Better Than We Think*

President Isiaah Crawford shares his thoughts on *Factfulness* by Hans Rosling.

6 **the impact issue**

*Living a Life of Service*

An introduction from the editor.

8 **explorations**

*The Long Game*

How Jim Mullinax '90 is building the framework for a better world in China.

10 **connections**

*Little City*

The expansive reach of beloved high school principal Bernadette Ray '99, M.A.T.'01.

12 **q&a**

*The Human Connection*

Prof. Andrew Gardner's work in Qatar.

14 **sketchbook**

*Brain Amulet*

Maria Jost '05 merges brain science and art.

FEATURES

16 **The Room Where the Stories Emerge**

Sara Ramey '05 is the driving force behind the Migrant Center for Human Rights, which helps asylum-seekers build their cases.

24 **Rooted to the World**

Ravi Mantha '94 brings new meaning to grassroots change with his organic farm-to-table café in Hyderabad, India.

28 **Archivist with a Cause**

Musician, archivist, and media equity advocate Megan Mitchell '12 directs attention to the obscure and undersung.

CLASSMATES

34 Sarah Webb '12 on using business expertise

to impact women's health policy; Ben Reuler '99 on building a community of volunteers; Meg Garvin '91 on victims' rights law.



**Sara Ramey '05 is an immigration lawyer making an impact at the U.S.-Mexico border, one refugee at a time. Story on p.16.**

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## Leading with curiosity

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### Welcome, Laura

In May, after an extensive national search, Puget Sound named Laura L. Behling provost. Her tenure began on July 15. Laura comes to Puget Sound from Knox College in Illinois, where she was an English professor and had previously served as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college. In her new role, she succeeds Kristine Bartanen, a long-serving provost and the first woman to hold the position.

COURTESY OF LAURA L. BEHLING

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### Ready for launch

On June 21, more than 130 first-year and transfer students and their families came to campus to participate in the second annual Sound Launch, a special daylong program that prepares incoming students to start their journeys at Puget Sound. They learned about academic planning, residence life, health and wellness, and the upcoming Orientation program, and participated in community-building activities, including a spirited game of tug-of-war on Todd Field.



# LOGGERS



## Going out with a bang

Jess Shimoda '19 was one of two seniors on the Puget Sound softball team to hit a double in the team's last game of the 2019 season. She and Mckenna Johnson '19 both brought their teammates home during the team's game against rival Pacific Lutheran University on April 20.



## Goodbye, Geoff

During Summer Reunion Weekend in June, Theatre Arts Professor Geoff Proehl P'02 concluded his 25-year career at the university with a retirement celebration at the Norton Clapp Theatre. The send-off drew alumni who appreciated Geoff's passion for dramaturgy, the intellectual rigor of his classes, and his commitment to the liberal arts. Theatre Arts faculty members Sara Freeman, Kurt Walls, and Jess K Smith wrote in a statement: "We are sad to see him go, deeply thankful for the ways in which he has elevated the department over the last two and a half decades, and excited about the ways in which his contributions will serve us long into the future."

## dispatches

### A closer look

As one of 85 students embarking on projects in the sciences and humanities through summer research grants this summer, biochemistry student Joe Ewers '21 spent more than two months in a Thompson Hall lab dissecting and studying cow eyeballs. Under the guidance of assistant professor of chemistry Megan Gessel, his research offers insight about the link between the protein aquaporin-0, oxidation, and degenerative diseases. Elsewhere, Erin Budrow '20 studied how the Captain America comic book series documents U.S. history; Alex Barnes '20 gathered samples and data about life in Mount St. Helens' Spirit Lake; and Amanda Foster '20 spent one week in the lakes of Central Washington studying beavers and how they are affected by wildfires. For more about these students' summer research projects, visit [pugetsound.edu/stories](http://pugetsound.edu/stories).



### Embracing potential

Megan Sanders '19, an international political economy and politics and government major who was highly involved on campus, was this year's student commencement speaker. Her address, "Curiosity and Humanity: Embracing Our 'Boundless Potential,'" considered the significance and impact of asking difficult questions. "At Puget Sound, we are taught to be intellectuals, to question everything about the world and the way it could be," she said. "But before we ask these difficult questions, we ask questions to meet each other in our humanity. We ask: Who are you, not just as I see you or as the world makes you out to be, but as you want to, and need to, be seen?"



## PRESIDENT'S BOOK CLUB

# Things Are Better Than We Think

By Stacey Cook

President Isiaah Crawford is a big fan of the book *Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World—and Why Things Are Better Than You Think*, by the late Hans Rosling, a professor of international health who was known globally for his TED talks. The book debunks common misperceptions about the state of the world, identifies 10 instincts that distort our perspective, and encourages a worldview based on facts rather than inherent biases.

**SC: What do you love about this book?**

**IC:** I love the hopefulness and optimism. So much of what we encounter in current affairs is negative, and we lose sight of the progress that we are making across the globe. Here's a book that helps you remember that. Also, it emphasizes the importance of data as opposed to anecdotal information.

**SC: It's almost radical in its hopefulness.**

**IC:** Yes. But rather than getting complacent, Rosling also challenges us to continue making positive change, and to approach the world with humility and curiosity. I appreciated that as well.

**SC: I found it interesting to learn that most of us are going around with an outdated idea of the world in our heads, based**

**on a Cold War-era map. Rather than a huge gap between rich and poor countries, 75% of people in the world are actually in the middle. It breaks down some stereotypes.**

**IC:** Oh, absolutely. There's an artificial divide between what we refer to as first and third world, or developed and developing countries. That worldview is increasingly apparent in the nationalistic, xenophobic rhetoric that is rising across the world. The more we can begin to resist the idea of "us versus them" and build a greater sense of "us," the better.

**SC: How can a worldview based on facts help our students with the work they go on to do?**

**IC:** It facilitates critical thinking, lifelong learning, and pursuit of the common good. Rosling brings awareness to the factors and influences that lead to misperception that can derail and demoralize us. And I think the inherent hopefulness in the narrative of the book would be helpful for our students, that the world is not as bad as you're being told that it is, and it's important for you to be able to look at it with a different or clearer lens and be inspired by it.

**SC: What do you think about the role of social media in establishing a fact-based worldview?**



**IC:** There are many benefits to social media, but I believe there are far too many interactions on those platforms that dehumanize the participants. Rosling speaks about the importance of direct human interaction; the more that we can help our students look up from their devices to have that kind of personal interaction, the better. Discourse is essential, but I think an important part of that is challenging points of view that are factually and ethically wrong, and doing so in a manner that respects the dignity of everyone involved in the discussion.

**IMPACT**



# Living a Life of Service

We all make an impact on the people in our lives and the world around us. Small gestures of kindness and a willingness to approach the unfamiliar with empathy, humility, and curiosity can have far-reaching effects. But then there are the people who dedicate their lives to humanity. They have a vision for a more just and equitable world, and the courage and determination to implement real and lasting change.

In this special issue of *Arches*, we continue to explore the meaning of success by telling the stories of alumni who have achieved it on their own terms, with a focus on those who strive to make an impact. From a small Texas border town to cities in China, India, and the Pacific Northwest, operating as individuals or within nonprofits and government agencies, these alumni are working to make a difference in the lives of others.

Follow us on social media for more inspiring #PSsuccess stories, and stay tuned for “Innovate,” the final special issue in this series.

**IMPACT #LikeALogger**



## The Long Game

*Building the framework for a better world through the Foreign Service*

By Sarah Stall

It's about 8:30 a.m. in Chengdu, China, and Consul General Jim Mullinax '90 is at work in his home office, chatting with an interviewer via Skype. After two years in this post, he has made his home in the laid-back capital city that serves as the nerve center and travel hub of the region.

Under the authority of the United States Embassy in Beijing, Jim is the highest-ranking American Foreign Service officer in Southwest China, which includes the Sichuan Province, Guizhou, Yunnan, Chongqing, and Tibet—about a quarter of the country's total area—and more than 200 million people.

"My role here is to represent America and American values in China," he says. "We're trying to tell a story about what America is, how we want people to understand America, and what we're doing out here."

Jim oversees the operations of a full-service consulate, providing assistance to Americans visiting the region and Chinese citizens heading to the U.S., in addition to security and public affairs offices, political and economic analysts, cultural and educational exchange programs, and the activities of agencies such as the Commerce Department, Peace Corps, and Agriculture Department.

He first visited Chengdu as one of about 30 Puget Sound students in the 1990–91 PacRim cohort. Amid a year of study and travel throughout Asia, he and his classmates met with U.S. diplomats at numerous embassies, including then-Ambassador to China James Lilley, just a year after the Tiananmen Square protests—and Jim got a glimpse of his future.

"Our group spent about a month in Chengdu, studying at Sichuan Normal University," he says. "We had a class in Chinese art, so we would go to museums and galleries. We'd learn about pottery and ceramics and bronzes and Chinese paintings, and we had a chance to meet with the people from the

American consulate at that time. I never imagined that I would be back, but here I am, 30 years later—and now I'm the consul general."

Jim may not have known that this would become his professional life when he stepped onto campus as an 18-year-old, but at least one person saw his potential for statesmanship. His advisor, political science professor Maria Chang, planted the seed early on that he consider joining the Foreign Service.

"At its core, the Foreign Service is about



building relationships and promoting mutual understanding. That was really appealing," Jim says. "I wanted to do something that I felt was meaningful, that was about something a lot bigger than just my own self. I felt like working for the United States government, working to promote U.S. values and U.S. interests abroad ... it's something I feel good about."

Jim took the Foreign Service exam while on that PacRim trip—in the consulate in Osaka, Japan—but he wasn't welcomed into the diplomatic fold just yet. "I was very fortunate to pass the written part," he says. "When I came back to the U.S., I went for

the oral exams, and I failed miserably. Totally crashed and burned." But the people who proctored the exam were encouraging. "They said, 'Look. You're 22. Go out and get some work experience, go to grad school. Come back in a few years.' So, that's what I did."

He worked in elections administration in Olympia, Wash., for about a year, then headed to Ohio University, where he earned a master's degree in comparative politics with a focus on Southeast Asia. He took the Foreign Service exam again, passing both the written and oral exams, and was offered a job at the State Department as one of about 50 in an entry-level cohort of new diplomats. After just a few months of orientation and training, he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines as a consular officer. "I started in March," he says, "and my first day on the job in Manila was August 1, 1994, which happened to be my birthday."

After two years in Manila, Jim was assigned to Jakarta, Indonesia, where he served as an economic counselor during the Asian financial crisis. "I was struck by just how closely tied the economic and political issues were," he says. "Suharto, who had been in power for over 30 years, and his family, it seemed like it would be impossible for them to be overthrown. But because of the economic crisis, everything just fell apart. People were out on the streets. He was forced to step down. There was a transition to democracy. It was amazing, what happened there. I was so grateful to have the chance to see it from the ground, as it was happening."

That experience inspired Jim to become more involved in economic policy issues. He returned to the State Department, spent a year in economic training programs, and went to work in the Office of Monetary Affairs, dealing with debt relief and International Monetary Fund programs.



“Everything that you’re doing is laying bricks to build something,” Jim says of diplomatic work. Here, meeting with Muslim leaders in Kunming, Yunnan.

THAO ANH TRAN

“A lot of the countries in Africa during the 1980s and ’90s were taking on incredible amounts of debt relative to the size of their economies,” Jim says. “There was no way they were ever going to be able to pay it back. Attempting to pay it back was basically depriving the government of any opportunity to provide services to the people. Being involved in that program was an opportunity to help some of these countries to get a little bit of a fresh start. More importantly, one of the requirements for participating in the debt relief program was these countries had to create plans in consultation with local civil-society groups on how they were going to spend the savings from the debt relief programs. In a lot of these countries, there was no tradition of consultation with civil society, and in some cases, there wasn’t even a civil society. So, in order to actually participate in these programs and get the benefits, the governments involved had to find ways to engage with the people. To me, that’s a core U.S. value. Power to govern comes from the consent of the governed.”

This is where U.S. and Foreign Service officers can shine: as facilitators, role models, and champions. “We helped to create

mechanisms that encourage the development of civil society,” says Jim. “Would it have happened without us? I don’t know, but certainly we helped to make it happen. We helped to give these organizations, these people, a voice.”

But diplomacy is a long game. Seeds planted today may take years or generations to grow. “You never really get to the finish line,” Jim says. “Everything that you’re doing is laying bricks to build something. So, if you are waiting for success to be big—world peace—we’re probably not going to get there in my lifetime. It’s important to focus on the small steps. That’s how we make a better world.”

For Jim, small steps include traveling to Tibetan areas of Sichuan to talk with local business owners about economic conditions and security issues; meeting with local officials and business leaders to discuss U.S. trade policy; hosting U.S. authors, poets, and musicians in the region to share their work; facilitating academic exchanges to research renewable energy; accompanying the mayor of Sacramento and a delegation including staff members of the Sacramento Kings basketball team to Chongqing to promote trade

and educational exchanges between the two cities; and myriad other tasks.

Though part of the job, experiences like these are also perks of life in the Foreign Service, and Jim and his family are making the most of them. In each new post, Jim looks for a local choir or music group to join, inspired by some of his favorite memories as an Adelpian. The last several years, he and his wife, Tzu-I Chuang Mullinax, a well-known food writer and cook, have explored China’s eclectic and delicious food scene, prompting a new hobby: running marathons. Raising his sons Theo and Oliver keeps Jim running, too, and helps put things in perspective.

“Our relationship with China is crucially important,” he says. “In a lot of ways, I feel like the things I’m doing on a daily basis are contributing to building better understanding between our people, to creating ways to resolve our differences that don’t involve fighting. The steps may be tiny, but we’re building the relationships, we’re building the framework to allow good things to happen. I’m proud to be a part of that.”

**IMPACT**

## Little City

*The expansive reach of a beloved high school principal*

By Stacey Cook



Everybody in Tacoma wants a piece of Bernadette Ray '99, M.A.T.'01. She can't go to the grocery store without folks stopping to talk, so she tends to do her shopping at night. As the new principal of Wilson High School, Bernadette loves everyone in her community—current students, former students, parents, teachers—and being at the center of it all. But after teaching and coaching at Lincoln and Wilson high schools for nearly two decades, heading up the board of The Grand Cinema for eight years, being “peripherally involved” in Puget Sound’s Black Alumni Union, and sitting on an advisory council for youth oncology at MultiCare, she’s learning about balance. Sometimes that means going incognito in the cereal aisle.

Bernadette was born in Panama, where her father was stationed in the military during the volatile Noriega years, but the family moved to Tacoma when she was 2 years old. Her parents had requested a transfer to Washington, D.C., because their families were on the East Coast, but they ended up at Fort Lewis—a very different Washington. “My dad thinks that the Army intentionally sent them here because it was 1978, and they were an interracial couple,” Bernadette says. “My mom thinks that my dad filled out the paperwork incorrectly. We don’t know what actually happened, but they got off the plane and they saw the mountains and the water, and they have not left.”

The Ray family lived in Central Tacoma on South 10th at Alder Street. Their house

was within sight of the rental house at South 8th at Alder where Puget Sound students have lived for years. “I was always fascinated by the big kids across the street,” Bernadette says. “I wondered who they were, where they came from, what they did. That curiosity is part of how I got to Puget Sound.”

Bernadette had been a swimmer at Stadium High School, and during college, she went back to coach. She started the water polo program there at age 21. She had been a sociology major, but realized that she liked coaching so much that she’d make a good teacher. She changed her major to English, earned her Master of Arts in Teaching, and immediately got an opportunity to fill a long-term substitute teaching position in the English department at Lincoln High School.

She continued to teach there for the next 10 years. During the last two, she was also the athletic director.

Everything was swimming along the way things did in Bernadette's world, until bam—cancer. She was 34 years old and diagnosed with uterine cancer, which at her age doctors called an “anomaly.” She had three surgeries, 18 weeks of chemo, and six weeks of radiation. It's the thing most everyone fears, but Bernadette, characteristically, saw the silver lining.

“People think I'm crazy when I say this, but the year that I was going through treatment was one of the best years of my life,” she says. “It was very clear to me who loved me, who was my support, who was my community. I just felt this outpouring of love from friends, family, community members—I had people helping with meals and knitting me hats and ex-boyfriends coming over and baking me bread. People just showing so much kindness. I never questioned that I would be OK, ever.” And she was. Today, she says she's “clean as a whistle,” with no sign of cancer.

In 2011, after the crisis was over, Bernadette left Lincoln to work at the Tacoma Public Schools main office as the assistant director of student life, which encompassed athletics activities, as well as harassment, intimidation, and bullying cases and training. She also enrolled at UW Tacoma to get her administrative credentials. “I did that for two years, and really enjoyed it, but the district has 57 schools, and I missed being a part of one smaller community,” she says.

When an assistant principal job at Wilson opened up in 2012, she jumped at the chance. Six years later, Principal Dan Besett retired, and she was tapped for the job. Bernadette was as ready as ready could be to fill that role, and she had to be. The 2018–19 school year began with a teacher strike, and classes started seven days late. In February, a massive snowstorm closed school for nearly a week. “It has not been boring,” Bernadette says.

And then there are the ordinary, day-to-day challenges. “Being the principal is like running a little city,” she says, explaining that a school is a microcosm of society. “We have students who are very focused and interested

in taking every step toward their success. Then we have students who we really have to pull along the way. I feel like that's absolutely true in society.”

It's true in her own family, too. Her mother, Marion Ray, says that Bernadette was always a “self-directed, independent go-getter” who loved education, but that she was disturbed by the injustices her two younger brothers faced.

“My brothers both identify as black men,” Bernadette says. “Once they were in about seventh or eighth grade and they weren't cute anymore, they were treated very, very differently.” The youngest, Jeff, took every opportunity he could get. He was a student-athlete and in the International Baccalaureate Program at Foss High School; now he's an electrician. Matt, the middle child, had a harder time. “The interesting thing is that we hold very similar values—they just manifested so differently,” Bernadette says. “We were both hustlers. I just hustled the grades, and he hustled on the street.”

What Bernadette learned from her brother was that all students have strengths that should be nurtured. “Matt can take a hammer to anything and fix it,” she says. “He's really good with cars. That wasn't valued in the schools that we attended.” At Wilson, she makes sure it is.

In recent years, Wilson has won seven consecutive School of Distinction Awards, which makes it a desirable—and diverse—public high school, because students from all over the city, not just the neighborhood catchment area, want to attend. “We've got kids who want to go to Harvard, and we've got kids who want to be underwater welders,” Bernadette says. “We attempt to provide a diverse array of options.”

Those include technical education programs and an advanced cooking class, where teachers team up with local restaurants. Wilson is also the only high school in Tacoma with its own hot shop for glass blowing.

Of course, there are challenges that go far beyond academics. “We've got so many kids with ADHD and developmental issues,” Bernadette says. Drugs are an ever-present problem, and so is bullying on social media. One student she can't forget is a girl who was a sex worker at age 16. She was in the foster

care system and would often run away, and that's how she took care of herself.

“She taught me not to judge,” Bernadette says. “She taught me to think differently about how people have to survive.” The former student now has a job and life goals, and she comes back every few months to check in, a sign of how much Bernadette's willingness to listen affected her.

“Taking that moment to really figure out what's going on with students is my way to make the biggest impact,” Bernadette says. “I think it's important that I am my authentic self. What I mean by that is taking a moment to recognize a student for something I've noticed that maybe no one else noticed. Those little things are what I think matter the most to my students. You know, 10 years later, that's the letter you get in the mail.”

Patrick Erwin, the principal of Lincoln High School, says Bernadette was “beloved” by the students there. “She really honored and respected them, and at the same time expected a lot from them,” he says, adding that he was happy to see her move up at Wilson, where she has a wider reach. “She's taking what she did in the classroom to the whole school.”

Above all, it's her kindness that Patrick and others admire. “It's built into her to try to make things better for other people,” he says.

“That's how she's always been,” says her mother, Marion. “She is a strong advocate for all of the children. She just has a feel for trying to make education a level playing field.”

Being present for everyone is Bernadette's strong suit, even if it takes everything she has to give. “You've got to show up to the baseball game. You've got to show up to the choir concert,” she says. “You have to address all the needs of your little city of 1,300, plus their parents and families.”

Luckily for all who love her, she has no plans to leave. “Sometimes I feel compelled to go and live somewhere else and be forced to make new friends or just have a change of scenery,” she says. “Then I think, no, I love Tacoma. I have traveled. I'll continue to travel, but I don't need to uproot to do that. I'm definitely a Tacoma girl.”

**IMPACT**

## Andrew Gardner: The Human Condition

By Stacey Cook

On his first trip to the Saudi Arabian desert as a graduate student 20 years ago, anthropology professor Andrew Gardner was struck by the beauty of the landscape, and also by how many South Asians were at work there. His casual observation was backed by data—the Gulf States are the third primary destination for migrant workers—and at the time, no one was studying it. He returned to the Gulf States many times, and is now regarded as a leading expert on transnational migration.

Andrew sees anthropology as a study of the human condition, and the anthropologist's mission as solving real-world problems through that lens. Rather than simply studying a rising trend, he wants to understand the experience of the people caught up in the system, and improve it, if he can. To that end, six years ago, he went to Qatar to run the first-ever quantitative, large-scale survey of migrants in the region. He and his team used an ethnographic methodology to understand the kinds of challenges that migrants have with the Qatari justice system, then provided recommendations to the Ministry of the Interior. The project was emblematic of Andrew's approach; he says the research question driving the work was "How can the justice system do better?" I spoke to him about his ongoing work in the Gulf region at his office in McIntyre Hall.

**As you conducted your research, did you believe that the Qatari government was genuinely interested in improving the justice system?**

Oh, yeah. Definitely. I do think that the government was interested in refining its justice system to better serve the vast migrant population present there. And I have found that collaboration with my Qatari colleagues, sometimes funded by the state itself, has been the best way for me to actually implement and instigate change in Qatar. So while I know that there are many colleagues of mine at other universities who would shy away from that kind of collaborative work with the state, I found it provided me with a platform that allows my work to do more than exist on the sidelines.

**Are you aware of what kind of long-term impact the study has made?**

We have seen the laws begin to change for the better, and the implementation of those laws shifting before our eyes. Those are the kinds of changes that, broadly speaking, are resulting in better experiences for the vast populations of migrants there. I don't have a way to trace these big, significant changes in

policy to my specific study, but rather recognize that I'm part of a collaborative team of researchers, including some Qatari researchers, who have been seeking to impel these kinds of policy changes.

**When you say you've seen laws change, what's one example?**

Domestic workers were traditionally not subject to the same labor laws as the rest of the migrant population in Qatar. That led to all kinds of abuses and problems. Lately, that's changed, and most importantly, I've been hearing stories about state representatives beginning to fine employers for keeping their domestic worker's passport, which used to be very common. That's the kind of change that we've been pushing for, for a long time.

**Aside from changing the justice system, is it also a question of changing a cultural mindset?**

Absolutely. But those kinds of things change slowly. We can change the policies, and oftentimes the attitudes will follow those changes. I taught at Qatar University for two years, and really getting in touch with the students there, I can say that it's not

just changing circumstances that are leading to this shifting idea of what the norms are around labor practices, but it's also a generational shift. The young Gulf Arabs are bringing a variety of new and different attitudes and perspectives to the way that they think about and relate to the outsiders who work in their presence.

**As you conducted interviews, what was your impression about the migrants' experiences overall?**

There are plenty of travesties, and plenty of exploitations as we find in any other part of the world. I've encountered a wide range of experiences—some good, some bad—and I've found that this variability is hardwired into the Gulf migration system. I often draw this analogy for my students: Just like they left their parents' households a few years ago for college and ventured out into the world in this American rite of passage, for tens of millions of South Asian young men and women, migration to the Gulf States represents something similar. It's their pathway into the world. I think it's important to keep in mind the lives that are lived through this era of mobility.



**You recently took a group of students to Qatar as the field school component of the new course Migration and the Global City, which you co-teach with Professor Robin Jacobson. What was that like?**

I just loved it. It's always a strange juncture for an anthropologist to bring anyone with her or him into the field. We're professional strangers, and solitary ones at that. But I've been going back and forth to Qatar for more than 10 years now, and it's my home away from home. I have lots of friends there, both workers in the labor camps and academics at the universities. To bring students with me into the field and to see it through their eyes was really energizing to me. I think it really helped that I had such an amazing and lovely group of students. All 17 of them were just wonderful ambassadors, both for our university and for America, as well. They helped me see Qatar with fresh eyes.

**What kinds of reactions did you get from the students?**

What the students conveyed to me was that it really jogged their perceptions of the world to be in this very modern and cosmopolitan place that's not North American or European, but rather an altogether different space. I think the students were really energized by that. One of the enduring results that I was hoping to produce there was to really rework the way that young Americans think about the Middle East, because we hear so many difficult stories about the problems there. But I think to see the kind of urban modernity in Qatar really gave them a different foundation from which to build their perceptions of the Middle East. **IMPACT**

## Brain Amulet: Maria Jost '05

By Stacey Cook

Last fall, artist and high school neuropsychology instructor Maria Jost '05 was engaged in an interactive art project that involved walking around the Tacoma Mall neighborhood distributing mini art prints with brain care exercises printed on the backs. The goal of her *Brain Amulet* project is to address “the shortage of brain health resources available to the public and the existing stigma toward seeking mental health support,” Maria says.

The illustration itself explores the relationship of interconnected components in an ecosystem: substrate, primary producers (flowers), consumers (hummingbirds), and decomposers (mushrooms). The mushrooms are printed on paper and physically collaged onto the piece, as are the flower stamens and hummingbird feathers, using layered mushroom collage pieces.

What do mushrooms have to do with the brain? Maria was inspired by the way the branching hyphae of a mushroom's mycelium resemble the connected branches of a neuron network, visually and scientifically. Neurons explain a lot about mental health. “All thoughts, feelings and behaviors are generated by the brain through the activity and arrangement of neurons,” Maria says. “As we grow older, our brains prioritize efficient and survival-oriented pathways over those that encourage wonder, empathy, and self-awareness. The result can lead to rumination, anxiety, and other self-harming brain patterns.”

But there's good news. “Current neuroscience research suggests that our brain circuitry is malleable, and certain activities can help to rewire the way our neurons connect and change the way we interact with the world,” Maria says. That's what propelled her to create and hand out *Brain Amulets*. She hopes that practicing the simple exercises on the back can change a person's brain function and promote positive mental health outcomes. If nothing else, the project gives recipients something beautiful to look at when they're feeling stressed. **IMPACT**







**A *Brain Amulet* is a 3" x 3" mini art print with a neurophysiology-inspired watercolor-and-ink illustration on the front, and printed brain care exercises on the back. Learn more and try the brain exercises at [brainamulet.com](http://brainamulet.com).**

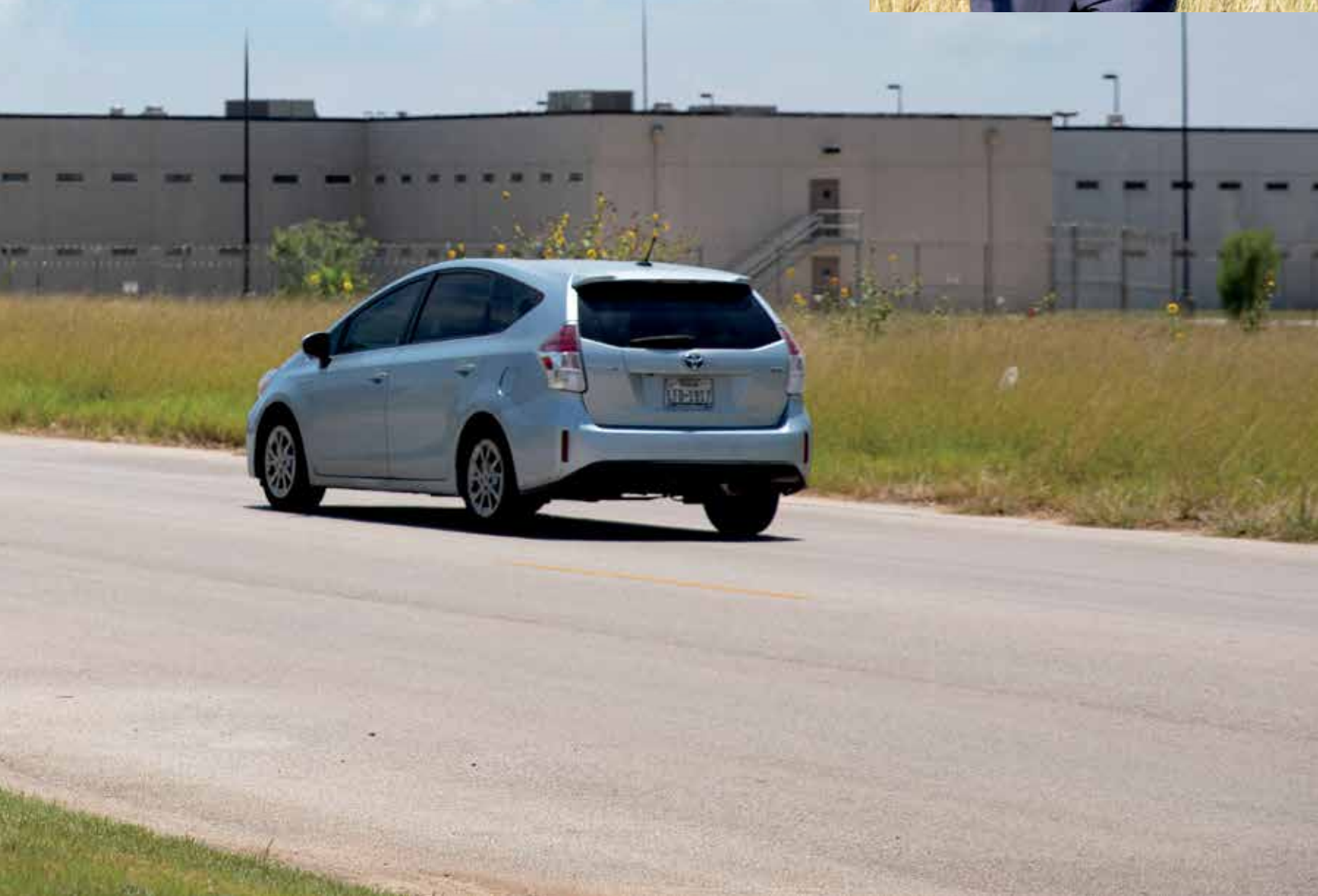
IMAGE COURTESY OF MARIA JOST

# THE ROOM WHERE The Stories Emerge

BY MIRANDA WEISS

Sara Ramey '05, executive director and founder of the Migrant Center for Human Rights, is a regular visitor to the South Texas Detention Complex, in Pearsall, Texas, where she meets with refugees seeking asylum. She is, in many ways, the lifeline these migrants have to the outside world, and she serves as their guide to a complex legal system in the United States.

The South Texas Detention Complex is a little over an hour from the Migrant Center for Human Rights office in San Antonio, where Sara Ramey '05 is executive director. She makes the drive once, sometimes twice weekly, crossing the gridded sprawl of the state's second-largest city to spare rural development, where the four-lane interstate elbows around the small, mostly Hispanic, farming community of Pearsall. The sky is so big here, the land so flat, the sun so relentless. Eighteen-wheelers going to and coming from Mexico pass in both directions. It's about 100 miles from Pearsall to the border. Once, Sara saw a group of riders on horseback traveling along the edge of the highway to the San Antonio Rodeo. Some days, she listens to recorded court proceedings during the drive. Some days, she tunes to 104.5 Latino Hits or a standard top-40 station. Some days, with a buzz of thoughts about the work ahead, she just needs the quiet.



Sara founded the Migrant Center for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization, in 2017 to provide free and low-cost legal services to detained migrants, particularly those seeking asylum in the United States. She isn't just the founder and executive director, she's the organization's sole permanent, full-time staff person. Working with about 50 migrants simultaneously from all over the globe, Sara's organization has put her at the heart of the complex world of immigration and border politics.

Under federal and international law, any individual has the right to seek asylum in another country. In order to qualify for asylum, an applicant must prove that they fear persecution at home, and that this persecution is based on the applicant's race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or social group.

The majority of people detained at the South Texas Detention Complex, Sara explains, want to apply for asylum or are already in the process. Some are undocumented immigrants who had been living in the United States before being picked up by authorities. Most of the Migrant Center's clients are people who voluntarily presented themselves at the border and asked for protection or were otherwise apprehended at the border. All of them are facing deportation.

It's typically early afternoon when Sara arrives at the South Texas facility. She pulls into the visitor parking area and, after showing identification and an appointment list to a uniformed guard, she settles into a chair and waits until she's called by a guard and led into a small, concrete block visitation room.

Sprawled out over six flat, sunbaked acres, the detention center holds up to 1,900 people and is run by the Geo Group—the nation's largest private prison company. Sara will be here for hours meeting with clients; the dinner shift comes and goes at the center. Her consultations last 15 to 30 minutes, unless she's working with someone on an asylum declaration, preparing them for an interview or court appearance, or writing up an appeal. In that case, the meeting might last up to three hours. She is, in many ways,

the lifeline these migrants have to the outside world, and she serves as their guide to a complex legal system in the United States.

Sara sees critical problems in this system, namely that the international laws that govern asylum, which were formed in the wake of World War II and haven't been updated in more than half a century, are out of date. "They're not responsive to the kinds of protection people are seeking today," she says. Many of her clients are fleeing violence—including gang and domestic violence—that present credible threats but don't fit neatly into the law's categories.



Sara grew up in Northern California, born into a family of entrepreneurs and self-starters. Her grandparents owned their own business. Her father was an independently published author. Her family developed—and sold—a board game. In the summers, when Sara was staying with her grandparents at Lake Tahoe, she'd sell fruit along the lake's beaches. On the Fourth of July, she'd sell glow sticks. "My family always supported developing ideas, trying them out, and taking risks," she says.

During high school, Sara helped her mother make and sell stuffed bears with rice kernels inside; when microwaved, the bears became heating pads to warm up kids' beds. Sara says that being trusted to co-manage the business and make decisions was empowering, and she also learned how to develop a

creative idea and bring it to fruition.

And ideas were always popping up. Sara was ravenous to learn, explore, and understand. She set a goal to be bilingual before graduating from high school. To reach it, she spent the summer in Mexico, living with a host family in Guadalajara and enrolling in a Spanish language and culture program. When she first arrived, overwhelmed by being far from home, she cried on the phone to her mother. But by the end of her stay, when her host brother dropped her at the airport, she cried because she didn't want to leave.

Sara chose the University of Puget Sound because of the International Political Economy Program. With her background in small businesses, she felt that economic opportunity was the key to unlocking the potential of low-income people and communities.

But the classroom held her for only so long. "I wanted to learn more about the world and how the world works," she says. She traveled widely during college, spending two semesters abroad and traveling during the summers—to Spain, Chile, France, and Costa Rica. Already fluent in Spanish, she studied French at Puget Sound, and has since studied Portuguese, Arabic, and Italian.

After graduation, Sara bought an around-the-world plane ticket and hatched a plan to travel for 11 months while figuring out what was next. Starting in Portugal, she spent time in Australia, Belgium, Chile, Morocco, Spain, Greece, Holland, New Zealand, and Argentina. Everywhere she went, she asked herself: What is important to this place? And she sought to learn about it. In Sydney, she volunteered for Amnesty International, working on immigration issues. In Belgium, she got an internship with a member of the European Parliament. Back in San Francisco, she worked at the Foundation for Sustainable Development doing translation work and producing materials for the organization's Peace Corps-like programs.

She was eager to learn and gregarious with strangers, and all her traveling proved to be formative. "There are definitely cultural



Sara's work with the Migrant Center for Human Rights has put her at the heart of the complex world of immigration and border politics. At any one time, she might be representing 50 migrants from all over the globe. Each individual case typically involves five separate visits to the detention center.



Because the Migrant Center is largely a one-woman operation, Sara hires interns and partners with other entities to expand her reach. Since its founding in 2017, the organization has assisted about 350 migrants.

differences, but there's also a common humanity," she says. "My eyes were opened to a wider complexity in the world. Our geopolitical borders are really artificial."

Upon her return to the U.S., Sara knew graduate school was on her horizon. Experience at the European Parliament and Amnesty International had shown her how powerful legal tools could be in supporting justice. "I wanted to be able to have a say in shaping policy," she explains. She enrolled in law school at American University in Washington, D.C., and soon after graduating, began a career in human rights. Her first job out of law school was as a legal fellow at the Center for Justice and International Law, an organization that promotes human rights throughout the Americas. Then she worked for the American Friends Service Committee, helping the Quaker organization improve their human rights high school curriculum.

She could have taken a comfortable position in Washington, D.C. Instead, she headed to the U.S.-Mexico border, where she spent two years at ProBAR, the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, working with migrants by providing education about their legal rights and direct representation.

Later, she joined the staff of RAICES, the largest immigration legal services provider in Texas. In addition to her responsibilities as a staff attorney, Sara was in charge of responding to correspondence from people detained at the South Texas Detention Complex. Time and again, she explains, she'd have to reply to their letters by saying that the organization didn't have the resources to help them. She still read every letter. "I was reminded of how hard it was for people in detention," she says.

Not being able to help was hard for Sara. At the same time, she was looking to grow in her career and challenge herself. She knew her skills were needed at the border, and she wanted to continue working directly with migrants, especially asylum-seekers.

In 2017, she put her entrepreneurial skills to work to recruit a board of directors comprised of three immigration lawyers and two

religious leaders who work with migrants. Together, they formed the Migrant Center for Human Rights. Sara was anxious about starting the organization, about putting her name and reputation on the line and being responsible for not just the work with clients but most of the administration and nearly all of the fundraising as well.

Since the organization's founding, she has worked with clients from 36 different countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guatemala, Mexico, Rwanda, Sudan, and Yemen. Their first languages include everything from Spanish, French, and Arabic to Amharic, Tigrinya, Somali, Bengali, Hausa, Quiché,

She's learned how to help refugees talk about their past when memory is fickle, people are scared, and language barriers are difficult to navigate. "You have to listen really well," she says. "You have to be nonjudgmental."

and Mixteco. Before coming to the United States, Sara's clients had been persecuted for hanging political posters, practicing religions not officially authorized by their home states, and participating in protest. They had been beaten, imprisoned, kidnapped, tortured, and raped. They had witnessed murders and genocides. And some had been separated from their children at the border.

Sara explains that her role is twofold—first to educate migrants about their rights and then to assist them in preparing paperwork for their asylum applications, including compiling information about the conditions in their home countries and clearly detailing the kinds of persecution they've faced. "We're linguistic, legal, and cultural interpreters," she says. "We're educators." Asylum applications are a dozen or more pages long—and they must be completed in English.

Working with each individual typically

involves five separate visits to the detention center. Because the Migrant Center is largely a one-woman operation, Sara hires interns and partners with other entities to expand her reach. "We're trying to amplify our efforts by working with community groups, private attorneys, or whoever we can," she says.

"There's this narrative out there that asylum-seekers are 'fraudsters,'" Sara says. The misconception is that people are using the asylum process to gain entry into the United States for jobs and to make money, not to avoid persecution. But Sara says that at least 90% of asylum-seekers she's talked to have credible, harrowing stories, and are genuinely afraid of going back home. She determines the veracity of these accounts by conducting detailed interviews, using techniques employed by government prosecutors, before deciding to take someone on as a client.

Through her work with the Migrant Center, Sara has learned about clan dynamics, witchcraft, political oppression, religious persecution, and the effects of trauma on memory by listening to her clients' stories and by researching the conditions in their home countries. She's learned how to help refugees talk about their past when memory is fickle, people are scared, and language barriers are difficult to navigate. "You have to listen really well," she says. "You have to be nonjudgmental." And she's developed a nuanced understanding of the law to know what questions to ask her clients so that judges will understand their situations.

Aside from assisting individual migrants, Sara is committed to helping reform the asylum system. She regularly contributes opinion articles to *The Hill*, which covers politics in and around Washington, D.C. And she recently participated in the American Immigration Lawyers Association National Day of Action, during which, along with some 500 other immigration attorneys from across the country, she met with members of Congress to raise awareness about the challenges faced by refugees in detention. She's ambitious and creative in her approach, engaging law students, organizing public film screenings and discussions, and leveraging social media



Street art outside the San Antonio Mennonite Church, which houses the Migrant Center for Human Rights reads “Heal San Antonio.”

to amplify the voices of detained refugees and increase understanding of the reality on the ground.

The Migrant Center is a shoestring-budget kind of operation, a labor of love. “We’re living donation to donation. It’s a day-by-day thing,” Sara says. Last year, more than 200 individual donors contributed to the organization, and it has received small grants from private funders, including a local Rotary club, a Quaker church, and a community interfaith organization. That funding has allowed Sara to help an estimated 350 clients since starting the organization. It’s not nearly enough, but it means everything to the individuals who finally get their stories heard.

“It’s so very hard to be locked up and feel that no one cares for you,” Sara says. “People feel really abandoned and desperate.”

**A**t the South Texas Detention Complex, afternoon passes into evening as Sara meets with potential clients. The sun drops to the western horizon, its light sliding up the gray exterior walls of the complex until it is gone. When she is listening to migrants’ stories, Sara is in the moment, not thinking

about the minutes ticking by. “You can lose several hours really easily,” she says.

Visiting hours end at 9 p.m., which, with prep and driving time, makes for a 10- to 12-hour day. Only about a third of the migrants detained in Pearsall have found legal representation, so she stays to help as many people as she can. She packs up her files and heads back through three sets of doors and out the main entrance. The huge Texas sky is dark by the time she gets in her car and turns back onto the interstate to make her way home.

“There’s an intense amount of pressure,” Sara says about her work. “I think a lot of people leave this profession because it can be very traumatizing.” From years of listening to stories from her clients’ lives, she’s experienced symptoms of secondary PTSD.

“I’d like to say I go to yoga,” Sara says about how she decompresses. More often, she tends her vegetable garden, where she grows tomatoes, peppers, beets, radishes, and greens, which gets her out of her head. “My house has become my sanctuary,” she says.

But it’s not all dismal. There are success stories, like the time when an Ethiopian man who had been arrested and tortured by the

Ethiopian government was granted asylum after a four-year legal battle. Being able to help him was “an inexpressible feeling,” Sara says. Those are the moments that keep her going.

Former clients who gained asylum have contacted her to announce their marriage or the birth of a first child. Some report that they’ve become permanent residents or gained full citizenship. Some give back by doing interpretive work for new cases. And they express their appreciation of her help. “After this meeting,” an asylum-seeker from Sudan told Sara, “I feel that I will be able to sleep tonight.” “Thank you so much for your kindness,” an asylum-seeker from Guinea wrote to Sara. “May God richly bless you.”

It’s around 11 p.m. when Sara pulls up to her house in San Antonio, where tall pecan and oak trees rise up from her yard toward the dark sky. She unwinds with a book or some television, her clients’ stories eventually fading into the background and giving her space to sleep. In a few days, she’ll be back at the detention center, meeting with more migrants, helping bring a sense of justice to their lives. **IMPACT**





**The Migrant Center is a shoestring-budget kind of operation, a labor of love. "There's an intense amount of pressure," Sara says of her work. But the success stories keep her going.**

# ROOTED TO THE WORLD



The adventures of  
Ravi Mantha '94  
in five acts

BY MAGGIE MERTENS



## ACT ONE: RISING PRODIGY

**R**avi Mantha '94 was working his first job after college, at the very bottom of Russell Investments, binding financial reports for clients, when he noticed something strange. "There were 25 people in [the room next door] punching in data all day from reports that came in on a fax machine and putting them into a computer," he says. "I thought there must be a way to have this machine talk to that machine [instead]." When a woman in the data-entry group went on maternity leave, he seized the opportunity to solve what he saw as an inefficient process, and volunteered to cover her work as well as his own.

It was the mid-90s, the very beginning of the PC era. Ravi started to read the IBM software code book, and within about a month, he had written a program that enabled the machines to talk to each other. What he saw as "this awesome advancement" didn't endear him to the data-entry supervisor. "She was livid," says Ravi. But a different supervisor recognized Ravi's talent and scooped him up for his own group. It was the end of binding financial reports in the production room. Two years later, Ravi was promoted again, and found himself working in Frank Russell's London office as a research analyst reporting on money managers. Later, he landed a job as portfolio manager with Fidelity Investments in Boston.

By age 28, Ravi was second-in-command of a fund worth about \$1 billion. Ten years later, the fund was worth \$34 billion. He was the face of his fund, traveling about 70% of the time to meet big-name clients. "It was a heady job, meeting people like Steve Ballmer and Rupert Murdoch, going to conferences and field visits all around the world and running one of the larger institutional funds in the world," he says.

But when a mentor cautioned him about

working too long in a field just for the money when he didn't actually *need* any more money, he started to consider his next move. "I knew I could just hang in there and milk it, play golf twice a week, but I also knew that I really didn't have to work for somebody else ever again, so in 2011 I pulled the plug." He was 38.

## ACT TWO: ORGANIC FARMER



Ravi is hands-on at Baby Elephant Farm.

COURTESY OF RAVI MANTHA

Ravi could have taken his family anywhere, but something was pulling him home. He and his wife, Kavitha, both grew up in India, but their two children were born in Boston. Ravi hadn't lived in India since he left Hyderabad to attend college at Puget Sound. "I missed home terribly," he says. And he wanted his children to understand their parents' home country. "We made a decision that we wanted [our kids] to have that very visceral experience of life," he says.

Kavitha says that, actually, Ravi had been talking about moving home since the day they met, 20 years ago. "He told me he

wanted to move back to India, become a farmer and be part of the political landscape there," she says. "I've always been amazed at Ravi's ability to set long-term goals and stay steadfast to achieve [them]."

Ravi's success in the finance industry gave him the freedom to finally make that move, but it was his family that propelled him forward. "When you have children, it roots you to the world like nothing else," he says. "You think about things like the safety of the food supply, cleanliness of the water, and what kind of world you are leaving behind for them."

In Hyderabad, these environmental concerns aren't theoretical—they're present every day. The picturesque, ancient city situated along the banks of the Musi River in the southeast of the country is fast becoming one of India's tech hubs—Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, and Facebook all have offices there—but 1.7 million of the city's residents live in slums. The Musi River, which flows through the city, is extremely polluted, with hundreds of millions of liters of sewage released into the river daily.

Many of the vegetables grown in Hyderabad are farmed in the bed of that river. Fruits and vegetables from these farms have shown high levels of contaminants that have been linked to health problems in the surrounding community. To protect his family's health, Ravi purchased land just outside Hyderabad where he could build an organic farm. "It was mostly a selfish reason that started it," he says. "I didn't trust the food supply ... So I figured we'd grow some vegetables so my kids could eat a decent meal."

Soon, though, friends started coming to Ravi to ask how to grow or find organic vegetables like his, and word of the farm started to spread. He recognized the business opportunity and established Sage Organics as a small grocery store. Ravi was quickly gaining a reputation as a leader in health and nutrition in Hyderabad, but he wasn't finished.



From left: Ravi tending to his organic farm just outside Hyderabad; mangoes ripening on the trees; Kavitha researching recipes for the Sage Farm Café menu; a bird's-eye view of the farm; Ravi showing off the café's homemade, organic kombucha. (Photos courtesy of Ravi and Kavitha.)

### ACT THREE: HEALTH GURU

Back in Boston, Ravi had become fascinated with bacteria. He wondered why there was a whole culture of antibacterial cleaners and disinfectants, and bacteria was portrayed as “little green monsters in Lysol ads.” He wondered why bacteria, a seemingly natural thing, was always considered bad, especially when found in the human body. “If you go swimming in a coral reef, you see it’s teeming with bacteria, life,” he says. “You have to be completely blind to think that this world teeming with life is bad. This is the natural ecosystem.”

He threw himself into researching the role of good bacteria in the body and started to write up his findings. “Now probiotics are big business, but at the time [in 2011], the idea of bacteria being helpful was not what people wanted to hear,” he says.

In 2012, Ravi’s book *All About Bacteria*, detailing how bacteria relate to our overall health, was published by HarperCollins. Ravi began working with clients who wanted advice on health, diet, exercise, and pain management, and continued his research in the field, which dovetailed with the work he was doing on his farm and in his grocery store. In 2015 he wrote *The Baby Elephant Diet*, on the importance of basic, biodiverse, natural fiber-laden foods, or probiotics, for preventive health.

Meanwhile, Sage Organics was thriving. Hyderabad resident Ruchika Goel, one of Sage Organic’s most devoted customers, says ordering her groceries from Sage has changed the way she and her family eat, adding vegetables to their meals that she had never seen in her life. “I started relishing those vegetables after I started buying them from Sage,” she says. “My entire family has benefited. We all feel healthier.”

As the business grew, so did the farm, which Ravi made sure to locate west of the city in Shankarpalli, away from the Musi riverbed. He and the 40 day workers grow fruits and vegetables and raise chickens and buffaloes using no chemical fertilizers or pesticides. Instead, they focus on permaculture and natural fertilizer from the animals, and making sure the soil where the food is grown is full of healthy nutrients.

“More and more people have started realizing the value of the quality and the consistency [of Sage] products,” says Ruchika. “They have seen the health benefits and have become loyalists, too.”

### ACT FOUR: CAFÉ OWNER

In 2016, Ravi and Kavitha expanded their business to include a farm-to-table organic restaurant called Sage Farm Café. It’s located in the same building as their grocery store, Sage Organics, in the Jubilee Hills

neighborhood of Hyderabad. Light pours in from huge floor-to-ceiling windows over a small room filled with clean, minimal dark-wood tables and chairs. From the dining area you can see Kavitha in the kitchen. After earning an MBA from Cambridge and building up many years of experience in the tech industry, she has started her own second career in Hyderabad—as a chef. “I’ve been fond of cooking and food for ages, but something about having access to a limited set of ingredients just lit a spark that got the café going,” she says.

Kavitha and her team of 12 create everything in the café from scratch, including ingredients such as cheese and vinegar. She relishes the challenge of creating a menu around only ingredients that are sustainable and in season. “I love elevating basic, humble ingredients,” she says. “As much as I personally love my exotic mushrooms, broccoli, and avocados ... to take simple gourds and local greens and turn them into something special gives me real joy.”

Sage Farm Café serves a seasonal assortment of salads, pizzas, soups, and desserts, all made with ingredients harvested from the farm that day. Depending on the season, diners might get to taste a green lentil dosa salad, served with greens, beets, and peanut powder, or a feta-spice pizza with house-made feta, onions, edible flowers, and a sweet glaze. These can be served with a lassi made from



the farm's own buffalo milk or house-made beetroot kombucha.

Ravi has been impressed by how Kavitha is taking their shared idea of safe, healthy, sustainable food to the tables of Hyderabad. "It's like being Alice Waters in Berkeley in 1982," he says. "The idea of farm-to-table is so new, and in this big city that's becoming a big home to tech companies and expats, we're finding a lot of people who appreciate our food."

Kavitha says the café, farm, and grocery were never intended to be a commercial success, but thanks to Ravi's books, his influence in the health and wellness world, and the support of their community in Hyderabad, the food culture is shifting, and Sage continues to grow. "Eating out has always been part of Hyderabad culture, but with food contamination at its worst, people are looking for safe alternatives," Kavitha says. "Increasingly more and more restaurant owners are also opting for naturally grown and organic produce to encourage the trend. We are delighted to be a part of it."

Ravi is more certain than ever that moving back to India was the right call. "I could have settled into a comfortable, conventional life," he says. "But the world lies elsewhere. I can't close my eyes and think of just myself and my family and think the world will take care of itself—it won't."

## ACT FIVE: SOCIAL INVESTOR

Today, in addition to his work in health and wellness, Ravi sets his sights on the rest of the world's troubles, too. He has investments in 25 active startups, from education to tech companies.

One of his favorite projects is acting as financial advisor to and cofounder of Bollant, a recycled-plate and -packaging company that runs a zero-waste facility and will soon be fully solar powered. Bollant addresses the dire need for more sustainable, eco-friendly options for packaging aside from plastic and Styrofoam, which litter the banks of waterways throughout India. They are doing this by turning agricultural waste into biodegradable and compostable plates and bowls. At the same time, Bollant takes on another worthy cause: employment for disabled people.

Srikanth Bolla, the company's CEO and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been visually impaired since birth, and he wanted to create a company that gave opportunities to the many disabled, unemployed people in India. Half of Bollant's employees are differently abled.

"Srikanth is an amazing entrepreneur and a true source of inspiration to me," Ravi says. "I am confident that his mission of building a world-class company in recycling and sustainability will come true within a decade."

Ravi is also working to introduce a policy framework that would bring liberal arts

education, which he credits for making him such a multidisciplinary thinker, to India. (He feels that the country focuses too much on technical education.)

Beyond the formal education he received at Puget Sound, his time there prepared him for his varied work experience in another way. When he first arrived on campus, he had no choice but to take on every job he could find. The Trustee Scholarship he received funded tuition, but he needed to pay for room and board. He worked in the library, in food service, and as a campus tour guide. He was also the class senator of both his first- and second-year classes and a student member of the Puget Sound board of trustees, and was a student in the Honors Program and Business Leadership Program. "I was everywhere," he says. "If you didn't see me in the student center doing political stuff, I was probably down in food service making burgers. But I loved it—all of it."

Being everywhere and doing everything helped Ravi hone a motto—"Make yourself useful"—which continues to drive the way he works today. He knows that he and his family are in a fortunate position, but he doesn't want his usefulness to end with just the life he can provide for his own children. "Accumulation of wealth isn't useful," he says. "But putting that money into innovative startups and spreading it out and making a social impact with it, is." **IMPACT**



From recording noise for music tracks to diversifying library archives, Megan Mitchell works to expand the range of the sounds we hear and the data we see.

# ARCHIVIST WITH A CAUSE

By Sara Marcus

**W**alking down an alley in Seattle's International District, Megan Mitchell '12 heard something that made her stop in her tracks.

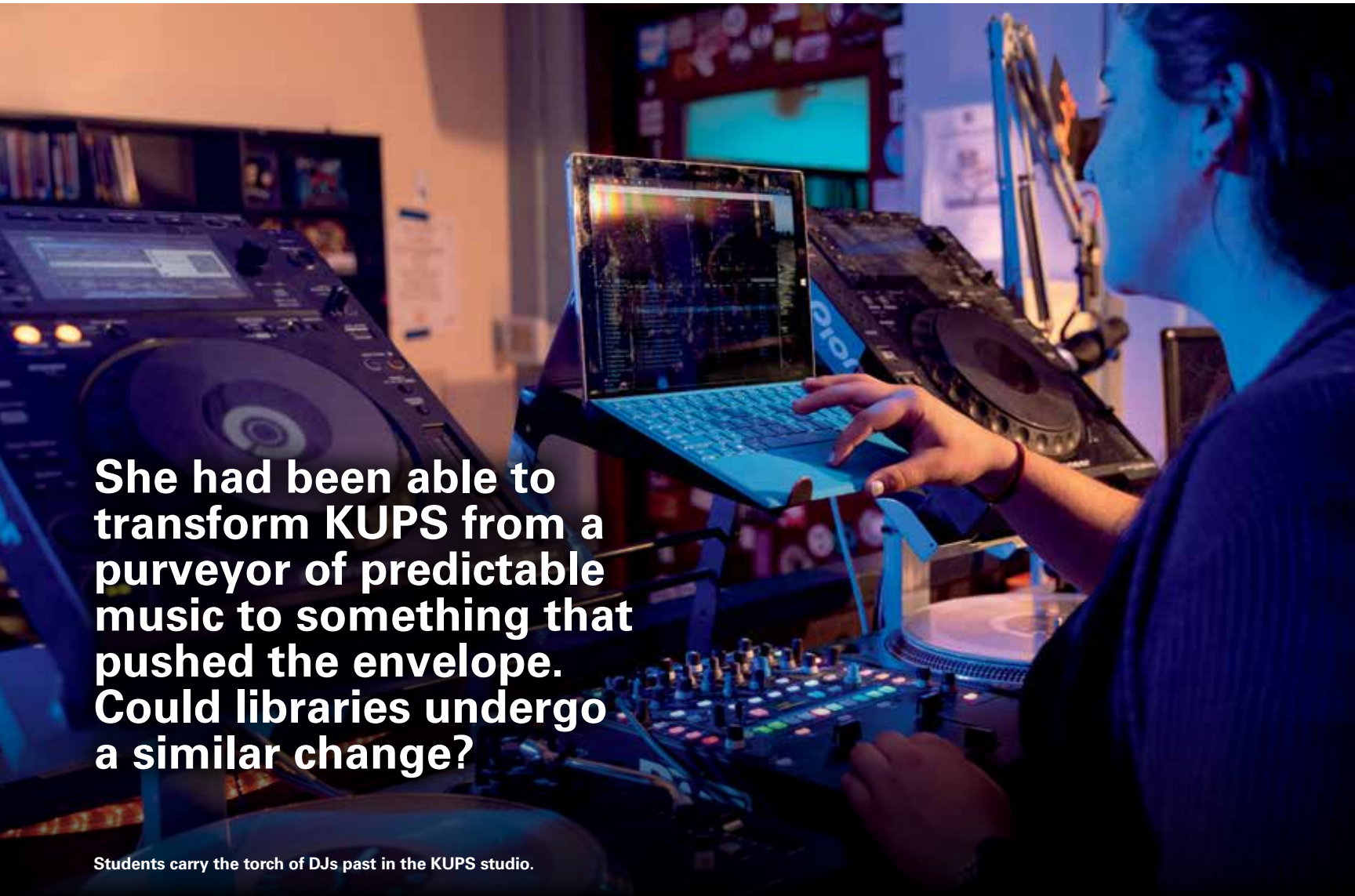
It was an air conditioner. Scratch that: *several* air conditioners. Megan had been strolling through the neighborhood, searching for unusual noises to record and eventually incorporate into the DJ sets she'd been doing at underground parties around Seattle. When she heard the air-conditioning units—each of them whirring and droning at its own frequency, the machinery chorus bouncing off the walls around her—she knew she had found something worthy of preservation. She aimed the mic and hit Record.

Ever since her days at KUPS, the campus radio station at Puget Sound, Megan has been directing attention to the obscure and undersung. As a musician recording under the name Cruel Diagonals, she recently released a critically acclaimed album, *Disambiguation*, that synthesizes the intimacy of her clarion voice with a haunting sense of space, incorporating sounds gathered from abandoned and overlooked sites throughout the Pacific Northwest. As an archivist trained in information science, she spearheads a sprawling online directory, Many Many Women, which compiles information on women and nonbinary people who make electronic, avant-garde, and experimental music—genres in which the rosters of festivals and record labels are overwhelmingly male, even though the field of practitioners is considerably more diverse. And as a media equity advocate, she challenges librarians to think expansively about how to bring an inclusive ethic to the way they collect, classify, and disseminate information. In her day job as a digital asset curator at the academic publisher SAGE, too, she is exploring ways of using metadata to keep better track of how diverse a database's or library's collections really are.

In other words, Megan has built three groundbreaking careers in less than a decade. In all of her endeavors, she channels her passion for paying close attention to what other people overlook, and she works to expand the range of the sounds we hear and the data we see. The spring of 2018 found her touring her latest album and presenting lectures on inclusive archival practices at the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle. All this while still settling into her first steady postgrad job, at SAGE, in Los Angeles, and learning what possibilities that position presents her for living out her ideal role of archivist as activist for inclusion.

The road to this point for Megan hasn't been a direct one. She first arrived at Puget Sound in 2008 with solid plans: She would major in music, perform in musicals and operas on campus, and train for a life on the classical circuit or theatrical stage. But as soon as she got to campus, she started rethinking her path.

"I had kind of gotten pushed in that direction" of being a professional singer, she says, "by my voice teacher and from the community I was in. And then I got to school and was like, 'I kind of hate this.'" She tried to stay the course, but some part of her had other ideas. "I recall auditioning for, and being accepted into, a musical production of *Anything Goes*, and just not showing up to the first rehearsal. I realized then that I was forcing something that didn't make sense to me any longer."



**She had been able to transform KUPS from a purveyor of predictable music to something that pushed the envelope. Could libraries undergo a similar change?**

Students carry the torch of DJs past in the KUPS studio.

It wasn't just musical theater that felt wrong. She had long been dogged by a sense that she didn't fit in anywhere, and that feeling persisted at Puget Sound. "It was definitely a very wholesome, Pacific Northwest, nature, mountain-y, exploration kind of vibe," she recalls.

Megan wasn't opposed to the nature vibe, but she wasn't that type herself. "I'm definitely a city girl. I remember there was a fashion blogger around campus who was always trying to take my picture because I was always dressed to the nines for some

reason. I was wearing lipstick; I would wear heels and stuff. He was like, 'Nobody else dresses like you here.' I always had a different thing going on."

It was when she got involved with KUPS that she finally found her home: a place where being different meant she had something unique to offer. She had toured the studio—which was tucked away in the basement of the student center—on a campus visit the previous year, and she'd been impressed with what struck her then as its professionalism. "But of course," she jokes, "once I was

involved with the station, I realized all college radio is just a scrappy punk endeavor."

The KUPS studio was a ramshackle love song to music in all its guises. In the booth where DJs held court, the walls were lined with CDs organized by genre and roughly alphabetized. "There were semifunctioning turntables," she recalls, plus "CD players, a somewhat reliable mixing board, a couple of microphones, and the automation computer we lovingly called Zarvox—named, I think, after the software."

Starting out as DJ and assistant music



director, Megan quickly ascended to music director, a post she held for three years, revamping the station's community and inspiring a whole new generation of college radio DJs to engage in deep listening. "KUPS was really the anchor for me," she says.

That first year, her own radio show aired in the wee hours of the morning, a typical slot for a college DJ just starting out. She loved doing her show, but the station's programming as a whole created that old, familiar feeling of being out of step with her peers. The overall musical identity was "really safe, really bland indie rock, like plaid white-dude guitar." She was certain KUPS could do a better job of offering something different to Tacoma listeners while also being a vehicle for Puget Sound students to get exposed to new and unfamiliar music.

She started doing this with her own show, focusing on a different genre or group of genres every semester: "One semester was very heavily focused on post-punk, coldwave, minimal wave, and no wave," she remembers, "whereas another was almost entirely focused on Krautrock and psych rock." When she became the station's music director as a sophomore, she had the chance to implement some of her ideas more broadly. She thought to herself, "I'm going to start choosing material that's more edgy and experimental and that pushes the envelope a little bit more."

While making the station's rotation list more diverse, Megan also focused on exposing DJs to a broader array of music. She introduced an educational music series called "Know Your Roots," about the roots of alternative rock, and she required all the DJs to participate. She hosted listening parties where DJs would listen to the new music that was coming into the station and talk about it together, rather than every DJ just coming in for their one show and rarely seeing their station compatriots. "I was trying to foster this community," she recalls—in addition to providing a musical education.

She had finally found a place on campus where she not only wasn't beyond the pale

but was actually respected, and where she could use what set her apart to change an institution and affect other people's lives. "I had a lot of younger students look up to me as a mentor," she says proudly. "I ended up bringing up a new generation, and fostering this different music culture."

When she graduated in 2012, Megan moved to Seattle and spent a few years organizing and DJing at immersive multimedia underground parties. She got herself a portable digital sound recorder and began to make field recordings in and around Seattle. She worked these into her DJ sets sometimes, though she still wasn't producing or performing her own material.

Her post-college years followed "kind of a confusing trajectory," she says, "putting together a lot of puzzle pieces," but the more she collected sound, the more the pieces were starting to fit together. She loved thinking about vast quantities of information, figuring out how to organize it, analyzing how different organizational schemas could shape and bias the way information is seen and stored and valued. That was what she had done at KUPS, like when she'd changed the way rotation tracks were chosen in order to make room for a greater variety of music. Realizing that information science would be a way for her to advance inclusion on a larger scale, she enrolled at the University of Washington to get a master's degree in library and information science.

While in graduate school, Megan decided it was time for her to start making music of her own again. Appropriately enough, she began with a library. In this case, it was the library of sounds she had been gathering. On her early collecting excursions, she'd recorded the droning of those air conditioners in the International District, along with some insect noises in a quarry by an abandoned concrete crusher factory in Concrete, Wash., up near Mount Baker.

"The initial impetus for me to collect field recordings," she says, "was [that] it just allows you to generate a sound library that's

different from anybody else's."

Shortly after starting grad school, Megan began to put some things from this library together, and ended up with a handful of experimental tracks that she uploaded to the music-sharing site SoundCloud.

The response was immediate and positive. She received notes of encouragement and praise from local musicians whose performances she attended and whose tracks she played in her DJ sets: underground luminaries such as Norm Chambers (aka Panabrite) and Steve Peters, and DJs such as CCL and Sharlese Metcalf. "These were people who were staples of the Seattle experimental music community, many of whom have been at their craft for a decade or longer," Megan says. "Having this sense of validation from people who had been making music and putting out records on respectable labels was definitely an ego boost."

In July 2018, Megan released her full-length album *Disambiguation*, which was well received. *Pitchfork* gave it a respectable rating of 7.4, writing approvingly that on the album, "all the sonic obscurity becomes a tool with which to express emotion and build ambience, instead of a cloak to hide behind. Rather than pushing you away, her subtle music beckons you to come closer. Naturally, there is some loneliness and even desolation emanating from her restrained approach, but there's also a lot of empathy. The feeling of solitude she creates is honest in a way that can make you feel less alone."

*Vice's* music section, "Noisey," was even more laudatory, calling *Disambiguation* a "captivatingly eerie wash of experimental electronic music" and noting that Megan "has a crystalline voice that wouldn't sound out of place at a midnight mass."

Yet she couldn't take the victory lap she deserved right when the album came out, because that very same summer, after living with her parents in Oakland and applying for "no joke, 150 jobs" while working on short-term archiving projects with medical libraries and art collectors, she finally got the

call she'd been waiting for, from the academic publisher SAGE. She had two weeks to move to Los Angeles; there was no time to tour a new album.

Instead of traveling to play shows, Megan found ways to connect with listeners through social media. Most strikingly, a 38-second video she posted on Twitter last September was viewed over 100,000 times. In the video, she's shown smashing rocks with a sledgehammer in a graffiti-covered concrete tunnel in the Angeles National Forest north of L.A. Again and again, she hauls the heavy hammer over her head and brings it down with purpose. Each rock makes a slightly different sound when the hammer collides with it, and the echoing resonance, with its shifting overtones, is intense.

Meanwhile, Megan found a way to combine her archival and creative practice with her long-standing feminist commitments. Steve Peters, who had become a mentor for Megan in the experimental music scene, was running an online index called Many Many Women that listed women who make electronic, avant-garde, and experimental music. "He started asking people for submissions via Facebook," Megan recalls, "and I kind of popped up and started showing immediate enthusiasm, submitting a ton of entries. I'd already been interested in the intersections of feminism and experimental music, so I was becoming aware of a number of artists myself."

When Steve asked Megan if she'd like to take over Many Many Women, she leapt at the chance. In her graduate studies, she was becoming interested in the way seemingly neutral things, like ways of organizing information, could reinforce gender and racial biases—or, alternatively, challenge them. This wasn't just a theoretical issue for her: She'd often go to a performance or a festival with an all-male lineup, only to hear that the promoters simply didn't know any women to book and didn't know how to find them. She saw Many Many Women as an opportunity

to change that. While keeping the index's original name, she expanded its purview to include musicians from many points along the gender spectrum. The goal was to collect information about people who'd been underrepresented in a musical milieu—transgender and nonbinary artists as well as women—and to make that information available to festival promoters, record labels, and interested listeners.

This recasting of the project's scope, while in some ways subtle, epitomizes Megan's detail-oriented attention to classification, representation, and the ways language can shape reality. And her travels in the field of library science have shown her that these activities can reinforce existing patterns of bias and exclusion—or change them for the better. At a conference of music librarians, for instance, she saw somebody present an analysis of the most popularly performed pieces of contemporary and classical music at festivals in Southern California. The presenter proposed that libraries should acquire more materials connected to these composers who were already being performed most frequently.

"The issue with this rationale," Megan explained in a presentation of her own that she gave this spring, "was that this list of composers was almost exclusively white and male"—and that libraries would only be reinforcing this imbalance if they let their collections decisions be guided by people's existing preferences. "This got me fired up, and I voiced this concern to my colleagues. It was met with a general air of discomfort and dismissiveness."

Megan started wondering: What if libraries—and similar institutions, such as databases and publishers—could actually play a role in bringing more diverse materials to people's attention? She had been able to transform KUPS in just a few years from a purveyor of predictable music to something that pushed the envelope and made lesser-known materials available. Could libraries undergo a similar change?

It had been easy enough to become music director at KUPS and change what got played on the air, but Megan is a long way from setting collection development policy at even a single academic library. So she has begun to give talks and push her colleagues to rethink their roles and responsibilities. In a talk in Seattle last year, she encouraged people in library and information sciences to recognize their role "as curators, storytellers, and shapers of what is admitted to the historical canon as 'fact,'" and thus "to actively seek marginalized and underrepresented artists for inclusion in curated music collections" and to "explicitly outline means of achieving a more equitable balance of voices."

In order to achieve this, she says, libraries and databases can do a better job of including materials generated outside the peer-reviewed academic system—materials from social justice organizations, citizen media, oral histories, and popular and online cultures, which often incorporate diverse viewpoints. In her position at SAGE, where she's responsible for organizing and making accessible a vast collection of digital videos, she's working on embedding demographic information into the metadata for her materials, so that, for instance, it would be simple for a library to gauge the diversity of its holdings.

Megan is still trying to figure out how to make all the pieces fit. But one thing she's realized is that she doesn't have to have everything figured out in order to make an impact. She just has to be herself. "My sense of isolation, of paving the way in the in-between space, is a common denominator in the music and the art that I work in," she says. It shapes the echoing clarity, the meditative spaciousness, that people have found so moving in Megan's music. It also fuels the ethical commitment of her archival advocacy.

"Sometimes it's very lonely, and it's a very vulnerable place to be," she admits. "But it's something that I attempt to channel and use for good."

**IMPACT**



**“My sense of isolation, of paving the way in the in-between space, is a common denominator in the music and the art that I work in,” she says. It shapes the echoing clarity, the meditative spaciousness, that people have found so moving in Megan’s music.**

**Megan, who records music under the name Cruel Diagonals, playing a set at MUTEK San Francisco last spring.**

BRUNO DESTOMBES FOR MUTEK SF

**classmates**



# A Change of Heart: Sarah Webb '12

By Anneli Fogt

## **SARAH WEBB '12 STILL VIVIDLY**

remembers her visit to a hospital in Namibia's Caprivi Strip as a student eight years ago, where she met HIV-positive mothers with newborn babies who were also infected. Namibia has one of the world's highest rates of HIV prevalence, and while work is being done to treat the nation's HIV-positive population, the disease is still the country's leading cause of death. "It's really painful to see, in person, the severity of illness in an area that just doesn't have access to care," she says.

The visit was part of a field school led by Rachel DeMotts, a professor in the Environmental Policy and Decision Making Program, as an extension of her People, Politics, and Parks class. In Namibia, Sarah and three other students examined the connections between local residents, parks, and tourism, and the ways that natural resource management policies affect health care, specifically by isolating communities. Traveling to the rural hospital to deliver donated supplies and speaking with the patients there changed the course of Sarah's life. Her focus shifted from Washington, D.C., politics to international health care.

"That experience, combined with talking with people in the community about lack of access to health care in remote settings, really


made me interested in that as an ongoing focus," she says.

Nine months after returning from Namibia, Sarah earned her bachelor's degree in politics and government and moved to rural India to teach elementary school for a year. Afterward, she held positions at numerous international nonprofit organizations dedicated to education and women's health. Most recently, she was the program director for Asia and Latin America for Days for Girls International, a nonprofit that aims to empower women through sustainable menstrual care and health education.

While working at these nonprofits and effecting change at a local, grassroots level, Sarah noticed problems both in the management of stateside offices and the long-term implementation of programs abroad. She decided she could do more by impacting policy. She enrolled at Johns Hopkins University to earn her Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Health, and expects to receive her degrees next spring.

"If you had told me five years ago that I would end up in an M.B.A. program, I probably would've laughed and looked at you like you were crazy," she says. "But after seeing these really great organizations that have really passionate and talented leaders but no

business experience, I wanted to make sure I have that business expertise and those management skills in order to continue that social impact work and maybe make it a little bit more sustainable."

Sarah plans to continue working in the field of international women's health, with a focus on advocacy and implementation of long-term, systemic change. "I'm really interested in how we can get better government buy-in and health systems buy-in in addressing women's health issues," she explains. "At the end of the day, if you implement one or two successful programs, that's great, but until the government actually begins creating policy and advocacy change, it's not going to scale up effectively." 



## Making Connections: Ben Reuler '99

By Anneli Fogt

**ONE YEAR AFTER GRADUATING FROM** Puget Sound, Ben Reuler '99 walked into a rundown pay-by-the-week motel just outside Portland, Ore., where he would jump-start his career. As a home visitor for behavioral health nonprofit LifeWorks NW, his mission was to secure safe and affordable housing, work, and food for families who were holed up there, fleeing domestic violence or struggling with addiction and poverty.

It was a heavy job for a new college grad, and Ben found that while the organizations he worked with were well intentioned, navigating the resources they offered—from emergency dental services to housing and domestic violence funds—was frustrating. Resource guides were outdated, phone directories were absurd, and the systems put in place to assess need were convoluted. “There

was too much red tape,” he says, recalling a time he worked with the Portland Police Department to secure school supplies for some children he was working with. “It was like 10 steps to figure out who to talk to, and how to get approved, and schedule it. The access barriers seemed crazy.” After five years, it was time to move on, but Ben vowed that he would find better ways for families to access the programs they needed to make progress—addiction treatment, housing, education, employment, and financial literacy education.

In the summer of 2005, Ben got married and moved to Chicago, where he enrolled in the University of Chicago’s School of Social Service Administration and worked at a for-profit company while pursuing his master’s degree. The job wasn’t a good fit—“My soul

was dead,” he says—but it underscored how helping others was, for him, at the core of a meaningful life.

Ben had always been wired this way. His parents often volunteered with local organizations in Portland, Ore., where he grew up, and they ingrained him with a sense of responsibility to make the world better. At Puget Sound, Ben knew he wanted to be in “the helping profession,” as he calls it, and pursued comparative sociology as his major. After graduating from the University of Chicago, he became a licensed social worker and immediately started a job as the executive director of anti-poverty organization LIFT-Chicago.

After he’d spent six years at LIFT, Ben and his wife, Aisha, who had just finished medical school and her residency, decided to move back home to the Pacific Northwest to raise a family. In 2015, Ben took a job as executive director of Seattle Works, a nonprofit organization working to build an engaged and committed community of volunteers in Seattle. From working on habitat restoration projects and neighborhood cleanup days to helping out at local nonprofit thrift stores and food banks, the volunteers connected through Seattle Works address the small challenges the city faces daily, while developing a greater sense of belonging and accountability among residents.

As for bigger challenges such as the affordable housing shortage and inadequate public transportation, Ben urges residents to “do something”—volunteer, lead, vote, influence, or invest—and be part of the solution. And he takes his own advice. Within the organization, Ben has been focusing on anti-racism measures and more diverse representation in nonprofit leadership roles.

At Seattle Works, Ben has finally come home. His role allows him to connect directly with the support systems aimed at helping the local population. It’s what he has wanted to do from the start. “There’s a lot of work to do to channel resources in an equitable way, and I’m proud to be a part of that,” he says.

**IMPACT**

## Giving Voice to Victims: Meg Garvin '91

By Julianne Bell '13

### WHEN MEG GARVIN '91 SAW A JOB

listing seeking a victims' rights lawyer for the National Crime Victim Law Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School, she'd never heard of victims' rights.

It was 2002, and the NCVLI had just received federal funding in order to test the theory of whether crime victims having lawyers could give them more voice in the criminal justice system. Meg, who had been the victim of a crime herself when she was held up at gunpoint in law school, was instantly intrigued. She quit her job at a law firm in Minnesota and moved across the country to work for the institute in Portland, Ore.

Today, Meg is the executive director of the NCVLI and a clinical professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School. As a leading victims' rights expert, she has testified before Congress, state legislatures, and the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military.

After specializing in this field for more than 15 years, Meg believes that helping victims of crime navigate the legal system is critical to protect them from suffering further hardship. "There's tons of research that says the trauma that survivors feel from going through the criminal justice system is as bad as their original victimization," she says. "They can actually experience PTSD from criminal justice. It's just fundamentally flawed."

The modern victims' rights movement was formed in the 1970s as a response to

these failings of the criminal justice system. According to Meg, the objective is not to control the result, but rather to restore a voice and dignity to those most directly affected by the crime. "Law is all about who gets to speak and who doesn't," she says. "Victims' rights are about making sure that we let victims speak."

Before she discovered an interest in practicing law, Meg majored in communication studies with a minor in politics and government at Puget Sound, then went on to receive a master's degree in communications with a focus in rhetorical theory at the University of Iowa. Wanting to do something "more applied" rather than theoretical, she ended up studying law at the University of Minnesota. She was drawn to the field because of the way it combined her twin passions of language and politics, which she'd discovered an affinity for during her time at Puget Sound. "Law is like a tool of social construction. You can create the world you want if you leverage the law right," she says.

And she's doing that, one case at a time. In addition to providing education and training to spread awareness about victims' rights, doing public policy work, and fundraising, Meg's work as the executive director of the NCVLI includes leading strategic litigation, which means she's directly involved in every case. Often, the institute must fight to uphold victims' right to privacy, which can include securing pseudonyms and blocking subpoenas for access to the victim's

counseling records, social media accounts, private messages, diaries, or phone records. Other times, the NCVLI works for restitution to cover the costs of lost future income and counseling. In 2011, the institute worked with the military to set up the Special Victim Counsel Program, which provides lawyers for every victim of sexual assault in the military.

Meg says the most rewarding part of her work is hearing feedback from survivors who have felt heard and represented in the legal process. She recounts a particularly contentious case in which a teenage girl in New Mexico wanted to be present at the trial of her assaulter, a high school classmate, and the prosecutor, defense, and court opposed her attending. NCVLI arranged for a pro bono lawyer to fight for her constitutional right to attend the trial, and they won. The case was taken all the way to the New Mexico Supreme Court over a period of two years, and although the defendant was ultimately acquitted, the girl thanked Meg and the legal team for helping to secure a place for her in the courtroom. It meant a lot to her that she was able to be a part of the process in order to hear what people said and understand why the decision was made.

"When a survivor feels listened to, honestly, that's the best part," Meg says. "To bear witness to human resilience is amazing. It helps me have a much richer life." **IMPACT**



COURTESY OF MEG GARVIN

## alumni news and correspondence

**1969** **Donald Doman** wrote a review of Tacoma Little Theatre's production of *A Little Night Music* for *The Suburban Times* in March. The Tony Award-winning musical, written by Stephen Sondheim, takes place in Sweden and centers on three main characters—an actress, a married virgin, and a student—who become tangled in a web of love affairs. According to Donald, the local theater's production was fantastic. "An outstanding production with a striking set," Donald wrote. Donald is a local businessman who owns multiple online marketing companies and local business directory websites. He attended Puget Sound.

After graduating from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in geology, **Byron Ristvet** earned a Ph.D. in geology from Northwestern University and joined the U.S. Air Force. He retired from the Air Force Reserve in 1997 as a lieutenant colonel after more than 40 years of service. The job took him to all seven continents, allowed him to participate in underground nuclear tests, and saw him helping to remediate former nuclear test sites at Enewetak, Bikini, and Johnston atolls; Maralinga, Australia; the Nevada Test Site; and Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan. He is now a consultant to the intelligence community, the Department of Energy's national laboratories, and the Department of Defense, and lives in Albuquerque, N.M., and Philadelphia, Penn.

**1972** Fresh from his second combat tour of duty in Vietnam as a soldier in the U.S. Army, **Andrew Hudson** came to Puget Sound while still on active duty as a major. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration. In the nearly 50 years since, he has written a weekly satire column published in 24 Army newspapers, created a blog called *War Stories of an Armed Savage* that features 200 war stories and 350 images, and published four books under the pen name Tank Gunner. He has nearly 100 book signing-events scheduled for this year.

**1974** **Dean Stout '74, P'03** retired from the Superior Court of California after 21 years on the bench and 41 years in the legal profession. He served four years on the Judicial Council of California, co-chaired the Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, and served on the Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care. Dean still works part time as a judge, mostly in Sacramento, under assignment from the chief justice. Dean and his wife, **Vicka Malone Stout '74, P'03**, split their time between Bishop and Folsom, Calif., visiting their daughters and grandchildren.

Not so retired after a 42-year career as a licensed family therapist, **Vicka Malone Stout '74, P'03** was appointed by the governor of California in August to serve on the state's Board of Behavioral Sciences, the licensing and disciplinary board for psychotherapists in California. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband and participating in the lives of their daughters, grandchildren, and foster grandchildren. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Puget Sound and her master's degree in the same subject from Loyola Marymount University.

**1975** **REUNION YEAR** Actor, radio broadcaster, and producer **James Trenton** starred in *Fish Hook*, an award-winning short film about a fisherman who finds a magic hook that allows him to catch anything his heart desires. James plays the part of the fisherman, whose character pays tribute to Portuguese culture. The film was shown at the Port Orchard Film Festival and screened on campus in May. James earned his bachelor's degree in political science from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the tennis team and Kappa Sigma fraternity.

**1976** **Michael Purdy '76, M.B.A.'79** had a new book published in June. *101 Presidential Insults: What They Really Thought About Each Other – and*

## CLASS OF 1970



### — SAVE THE DATE! —

**Calling all Loggers from the Class of 1970.** Save the date for our 50th Reunion, June 5–7, 2020. Interested in connecting with classmates or organizing events during the weekend? Please contact class president Regina Glenn '70, M.B.A.'71 at [rglenn@pccus.com](mailto:rglenn@pccus.com) to get involved.

*What It Means to Us*, explores how U.S. presidents have historically insulted one another, and what this lack of civility means to us in our current political environment. The "quick and fun read," according to Michael, is "shocking at times, sobering, and thought provoking." The book is available on Amazon and at Barnes & Noble. Michael is a presidential historian and author. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Puget Sound.

**1978** Former Portland Trail Blazers player **Tim Evans** will be inducted into the Blaine High School Athletic Booster Club Hall of Fame in September, a March article in *The Northern Light* indicated. Tim was an all-state basketball player at the high school before becoming a four-year starter for the Loggers. He was drafted by the Trail Blazers in 1978, after graduating from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in communication studies and

theatre arts.

**Sarah George** was named the new chief advancement officer at The University of Utah in April. She had been working as the executive director of the Natural History Museum of Utah and said in an April 11 *News-wise* article that she would remain in the position until her replacement was found. She has worked at the museum since 1992, and teaches at the university as an adjunct biology professor. She received her bachelor's degree in biology from Puget Sound, her Master of Science degree from Fort Hays State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico-Albuquerque.

**1979** **Sandra Brown Luetgen**, an English teacher at Cascade Middle School in Auburn, Wash., was named one of three Auburn School District 2019 Teachers of the Year in April. She has been teaching in the Auburn School District for her entire 29-year



career, and has been at Cascade for 24 years. In addition to her teaching responsibilities in the classroom, she is an instructional director for the district's fifth grade Camp Auburn, which allows children to experience nature and the outdoors. She was recognized at a ceremony on May 13. Sandra earned her bachelor's degree in religion from Puget Sound and her master's degree in teaching from City University.

## 1983 Yolanda Scott Machado '83,

**M.A. '91** has been employed by South Puget Sound Community College for more than 20 years as a faculty member and counselor, and was hired as the assistant to the president on indigenous affairs/longhouse director for Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Wash., this spring. Peninsula is the only community college in the country that has a longhouse—a traditional Northwest coast tribal dwelling that serves as a gathering place on campus where students, staff members, and community members can come together to share and exchange cultural and educational experiences and heritages. Yolanda is a member of the Makah Tribe and will serve as the central ambassador for Peninsula College in expanding and stewarding relationships with the six tribal nations located on the Olympic Peninsula.

**1984** With three decades of financial leadership experience, **Charles Ferer** became chief financial officer of AC Global Risk in March. The company develops technology-based risk assessment tools intended to reduce the impact of internal and external human-based risk. Before joining AC Global, Charles was interim CFO at RetailNext and CFO at PagerDuty, and held positions at Kraft, Pepsi, and The Gap.

## 1990 REUNION YEAR Anne Barnard Melgaard

, a third grade teacher at Washington's North Bend Elementary School, was named a 2019 Elementary Educator of the Year by

the Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation in March. She was one of four school district employees surprised with flowers, balloons, and cupcakes in honor of the award. Anne earned a bachelor's degree in comparative sociology from Puget Sound.

After 20 years as a Washington state social worker, **Janice Langbehn** went back to school and earned her Doctor of Law degree from Seattle University School of Law. She passed the Bar in September and is now an associate attorney practicing family law at Tacoma's Lutz & Associates. She says she loves being back in Tacoma after 30 years and is enjoying living at Point Ruston. Janice graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in psychology and earned a master's degree in public administration from The Evergreen State College and a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington.

**1991** In April, Arapahoe Community College Vice President for Student Affairs

**Lisa Matye Edwards** was selected to join the 2019–20 cohort of the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence. According to a press release from Arapahoe Community College, the yearlong fellowship aims to develop "exceptional leaders who can transform community colleges to achieve higher levels of student success while maintaining broad access." Lisa earned her bachelor's degree in politics and government from Puget Sound, her master's degree in education from Western Washington University, and her doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado.

**1992** **Natasha Hollins Egan**, executive director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago, organized an exhibit about global migration, immigration, and refugees. According to the museum's website, "Stateless: Views of Global Migration" sought to humanize the 68.5 million people displaced in 2018—25.4 million of whom were



The Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation honored the Snoqualmie Valley School District's 2019 Educators of the Year at its annual luncheon in May. From left: schools foundation board member Sheri Absher; schools foundation president Lorraine Thurston; Mount Si High School AVID students Elena Lopez and Richard Anderson, who accepted the 2019 Educator of the Year award on behalf of their teacher Marcella Murphy; Snoqualmie Valley School District superintendent Rob Manahan (back); Anne Barnard Melgaard '90; Twin Falls Middle School science teacher and 2019 Middle School Educator of the Year Dawn Frearson; and elementary school custodian and Classified Educator of the Year Robert Lacher.

designated as refugees, 10 million left stateless, and fewer than 105,000 resettled. The exhibit used the work from eight contemporary artists to "lay bare the contradictions inherent to the crisis, finding beauty and strength in the face of collective trauma." Natasha graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in Asian studies and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Columbia College.

**1993** The Skagit Valley Chorale, conducted by **Adam Burdick**, was featured in a *May Forks Forum* article about its May 18 performance at the Rainforest Arts Center. Based in Mount Vernon, Wash., the community choir is composed of 120 members, and the May performance was one stop on the chorale's American Journeys Tour of the Olympic Peninsula. Adam has headed the choir since 2014. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound, a master's degree in choral conducting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservato-

ry of Music, and a doctorate in choral conducting from the University of Washington.

**1994** **Melissa Moffett**, a humanities teacher at Tacoma Public Schools' Industrial Design, Engineering, and Art (IDEA) School, was named World Educator for 2018–19 by the World Affairs Council in May. She spoke at the Seattle-based organization's World Citizen Essay Contest and World Educator Awards Ceremony on May 15. Melissa, who holds a bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound, has taught around the world. After graduating, she served as a master trainer and English resource teacher with the Peace Corps in Nepal. She then taught English in China before coming back to Tacoma and working at Jason Lee Middle School, the Tacoma School of the Arts, and IDEA, where she is a human rights advocate who focuses on providing her students with a global education, using her personal experiences to spread awareness of international

## alumni news and correspondence

issues, and supporting students in becoming actively engaged citizens.

**1997 Matthew Brown**, who has served as deputy chief of police in Poulsbo, Wash., since 2017, was named Port Orchard's new police chief in early May. Matthew has worked in law enforcement for 19 years and has held roles with police departments throughout the state of Washington. He earned a bachelor's degree in comparative sociology from Puget Sound.

**Penny Rowe**, a research scientist at Washington's Northwest Research Associates, is one of three alumni co-authors who contributed to a paper published in *Nature Scientific Reports* in March. Puget Sound chemistry professor Steven Neshyba led the study on black carbon and light-absorbing impurities in snow in the Chilean Andes and how the impurities contribute to rapid snowmelt. Other Logger co-authors were **Emily Stewart '18** and **Alec Pankow '16**. Penny and Emily earned bachelor's degrees in chemistry from Puget Sound. Alec holds a bachelor's degree in biochemistry.

**1999** An associate professor of psychology and director of experimental training at Idaho State University, **Tera Harding Letzring** was one of five of the university's professors awarded a 2019 Outstanding Researcher Award in March. Her research focuses on the accuracy of judgments of personality, and in particular on the factors that make accuracy more or less likely. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Puget Sound and her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of California, Riverside.

**Diana White '99, M.Ed.'00** has been working for the National Guard Bureau helping soldiers fund their pursuit of higher education. She was recently transferred from Madison, Wis., to Sacramento, Calif., and is the federal tuition assistance program manager. She counsels National Guard soldiers on college selec-



**Lyn Nakagawa '00**, an athletic trainer at the University of Hawai'i, was profiled in a National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) piece as part of a series about women in the field of athletic training.

tion and leveraging state and local education benefits with federal and veterans' benefits, minimizing their need for student loans. Diana holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education from Puget Sound.

**2000 REUNION YEAR** In March, **Lyn Nakagawa** was profiled in a National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) piece as part of a series about women in the field of athletic training. Lyn is an athletic trainer at the University of Hawai'i and serves on the NATA board of directors as director of District 8.

**2001** Theatre arts alumna **Laura Heywood** launched a new radio show in New York City in March. Known as Broadway's most influential fan, according to CBS' *This Morning*, Laura is best known for her long-form interviews with more than 150 Broadway stars on AOL's Build Series, CBS, Sirius XM, and her own social media channels. But she is also an accomplished sports talk personality, radio DJ, commercial actor, model, and voice over actor, as well as an activist focused particularly on arts education in elementary schools. *Laura Heywood Interviews* is a twice-weekly, hourlong live show that features



In March, Camouflaj, a gaming studio founded by Ryan Payton '03, revealed its *Iron Man VR* game, a top-secret project it has been working on for years with Sony and PS4. The game is receiving rave reviews and is expected to be released later this year.

celebrity newsmakers, tastemakers, and changemakers from both inside and beyond the world of theater.

**2003 Ryan Payton** founded Bellevue gaming studio Camouflaj in 2011 with his investor and partner, Puget Sound Business & Leadership Professor Jeffrey Matthews. In March, *Geekwire* reported that the company revealed the top-secret project it had been working on for years. *Iron Man VR* is an exclusive virtual reality game for the PlayStation 4 that places the player directly into the role of Tony Stark. There is no official release date, but the game is expected to debut late this year.

**2008 Ryan Gustafson** was named president of Seattle's new XFL franchise, part of an eight-team league that will offer fast-paced games with fewer play stoppages and simpler rules than the NFL. According to a March *Seattle Times* article, games are expected to begin in February 2020. Ryan previously worked as the vice president of business strategy and development for the Seattle Sounders and for the San Diego Padres. He holds a bachelor's degree in business and economics from Puget Sound and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard Business

School. He also played baseball as a Logger.

**Steven Sparks**, who majored in politics and government at Puget Sound, received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May. Specializing in American politics, his dissertation investigated the electoral consequences of the top-two primary reform, which was recently implemented by Washington and California. This summer, he began a postdoctoral research position at the University of Oklahoma.

**2010 REUNION YEAR Amber Arndt** was one of the co-creators of Puget Sound's Native American Student Association and now works for her own tribe, the Nisqually Indian Tribe, as a health planner and program analyst. Her sister, **Tahni Arndt '13**, a fellow Puget Sound alumna, works for the Snoqualmie Tribe. "Working in Indian country is extremely important to both of us," Amber says. "I would love to bring some attention to the potential job market that a lot of people, Indian and non-Indian alike, don't realize is there. I'd love to be able to spark some discussion in hopes of fostering more connection between Logger students, alumni, and the greater Tribal community."

Amber earned her bachelor's degree in exercise science from Puget Sound before earning a master's degree in public health from Missouri's A.T. Still University.

**2013** Performance music major **Sam Faustine** was cast in the role of Sky Rymand in San Jose Stage Company's production of *Mamma Mia*. Recognized as the leading professional theater company in California's South Bay Area, San Jose Stage Company

capped its 36th season with the smash hit ABBA musical about a young woman's search for her birth father in a sunny Greek island paradise. The show ran from May 29 to July 7. Sam's character (Sky) is the boyfriend of leading character Sophie.

**2014** **Alisa Logsdon** was quoted in a March *Oregon Wine Press* article about the use of artificial yeast in the wine industry. After earning a bachelor's degree in busi-

ness from Puget Sound, she joined Wyeast Laboratories, a company founded by her mother that specializes in the production of liquid yeast. Alisa is the product manager for the company's processing facility expansion. She and her two other sisters—the three are triplets—manage different aspects of the business. **Tamara Logsdon '11** is also a Puget Sound alumna.

**2016** The *Walla Walla Union-Bulletin* reported on

March 31 that **Michellie Hess** was one of three authors of the Ford Foundation's recent white paper: "Road Map for Inclusion: Changing the Face of Disability in Media." The report "details how few disabled people are seen in movies and on TV and calls for proportional representation going forward. That means there should be one in four people 'both in front of and behind the camera' with disabilities, which would match the one in four adults in the

U.S. who live with a disability," the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told HuffPost.

## Summer Reunion Weekend

From June 7-9, hundreds of alumni returned to campus to reunite with friends and professors, celebrate the retirement of theatre arts professor Geoff Proehl P'02, and mark the 75th anniversary of Puget Sound's School of Occupational Therapy. Below are a few photos captured during the weekend's festivities.



## in memoriam

### FACULTY

After more than 30 years of teaching geology and oceanography in Los Angeles, **Altus Simpson** and his wife, Lu Lawrence, retired early and settled on Bainbridge Island, Wash. He and his wife joined Puget Sound as adjunct professors and taught for 10 years between giving lectures on cruise ships to Alaska and gardening around their Bainbridge Island home. They both eventually retired “for good,” sailing on every ocean and visiting more than 100 countries, on every continent. Altus was always a traveler. Born in a small town in central Oklahoma, he moved to San Diego after graduating high school and immediately joined the U.S. Navy. He was assigned to duty on a destroyer and island-hopped as troops moved into Japan during World War II. After completing his service, he earned degrees in geology and oceanography from the University of Southern California and was employed by a major petroleum service company before taking up teaching. Altus died in Seattle on March 30 at the age of 95.

### ALUMNI

**James Petrich '39**, a designer, naval architect, engineer, artist, accomplished historian, U.S. Navy veteran, student of the universe, and devout Catholic, died on Sept. 19. He was

91. A Tacoma native, James attended high schools in San Diego, Calif., and Tacoma before becoming a Logger. He attended Puget Sound and began working with his father at Puget Sound Boatbuilding. He served in the Pacific during World War II, started his own business in 1954, traveled, and enjoyed spending time with his family.

**Marion Clendenen Davis '45** passed away in Montana on Aug. 3, 2018. She was 94. Born in Bellingham, Wash., she graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in education. Soon after, she married Leonard Davis after his return from World War II. They settled in Seattle and raised their two children before retiring to 60 acres in Montana.

**Catherine Luzzi Gallacher '46, P'87** passed away on March 27 at the age of 96. Born and raised in Tacoma, she graduated from Stadium High School and attended Puget Sound, where she met John Gallacher '45, P'87, the man who would become her husband of 70 years. The couple moved throughout North America and had three children before settling in Texas, where they lived for 40 years. After John's death in 2015, Catherine moved to Gig Harbor, Wash.

**Jean Marshall Milton '50** passed

away on Feb. 24 from Alzheimer's disease. She was 90. Born and raised in Tacoma, she graduated from Lincoln High School and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound, where she joined the Alpha Phi sorority and met her future husband, Richard Milton '51. The couple had three daughters, and Jean went on to work as a teacher for nine years and as a nursery school coordinator for 24.

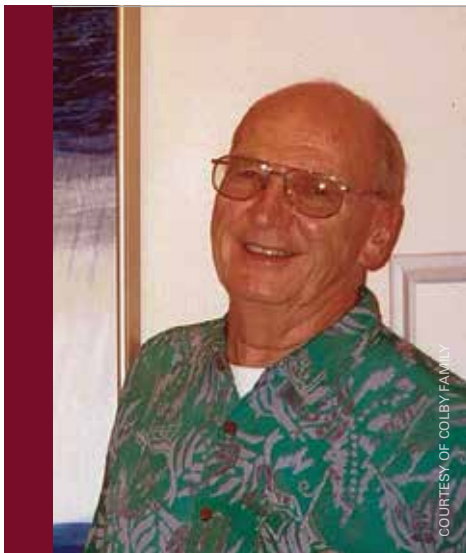
**Roy Jacobson '51**, a Tacoma native who attended Puget Sound, died on March 15. He was 91. While a student at Lincoln High School, he played baseball and worked at the Port of Tacoma shipyards to contribute to the war effort during World War II. After graduating, he joined the wartime U.S. Merchant Marine and served on ammunition ships in the Pacific and Atlantic for two years. After one year at Puget Sound, he went to work for Safeway Grocery for more than 40 years.

**Pauline Griffith Lien '51** died on Dec. 13 at the age of 91. Born in Portland, Ore., she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority. She also held an Associate of Arts degree from Colorado Women's College and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Washington State University. She taught

first grade in the Olympia School District for 27 years.

**Gerry Grebbell Gould '52**, a native of Seattle, Wash., who attended Puget Sound, died on March 13. She was 88. While a student at Puget Sound, she met and married Charles Gould. A soldier, he was deployed to Korea while Gerry was pregnant with their first child. When Charles was injured and brought to a hospital in Denver, Colo., she packed up and moved, finding a job, apartment, and day care arrangements in 24 hours. The family moved back to Seattle once he had recovered. She earned a bachelor's degree from Seattle Pacific University and taught in Seattle until retiring in 1983.

**June Schaffer Alexander '52** passed away on April 20, five weeks after her 89th birthday. Born and raised in Tacoma, she graduated from Stadium High School and attended Puget Sound before taking a job as a receptionist for a dental office at Fort Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord). She met and married a Navy man, John Alexander, and the couple moved around the country with their three children. Once her children were grown, she took a job with the Drug Enforcement Agency and worked for 40 years before retiring at the age of 88.



**Bill Colby**, a prolific painter and printmaker, as well as an admired teacher and professor emeritus of art, taught printmaking and art history at Puget Sound for more than 30 years. During his tenure, he created and exhibited art inspired by nature. His work “captured the expressive moods and nuance of the natural world,” according to ArtsWA. “Many of his prints feature variations of repeated imagery, capturing the sense of changing light and season.” Born in Kansas to a family of 11 siblings, Bill showed an early interest in and talent for drawing. After high school, he served in Germany during World War II and returned home with a passion for art. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Denver and a master's degree from the University of Illinois. He taught at multiple public schools in Portland, Ore., from

1950 until 1955, when he married Trudi Bednorz and accepted a professorship at Puget Sound. There, he chaired the art department, served as director of Kittredge Gallery, led several study abroad programs, and contributed to the Asian Studies Program. He and his wife had four daughters, who, family say, influenced Bill's “creative flow.” They traveled regularly as a family to study art history in Europe. Colby's paintings and woodblock prints can be found in embassies overseas; collections in Washington, D.C.; schools; art museums; corporations; libraries; and private homes. Washington's State Art Collection features more than 20 of his prints and paintings. He died suddenly on April 19 at the age of 92. A memorial service was held on campus on May 5.



The countless swimmers coached by **Don Duncan** during his nearly four decades as head coach were more than Hall of Fame athletes; they were his family. So much so that he became known as D.A.D. and “the beloved grandfather of UPS Swimming.” Born in Hoquiam, Wash., Don graduated from Washington State University and joined the U.S. Air Force, serving as a first lieutenant for six years. Then, in 1956, he was hired as a pool manager and swimming instructor at Puget Sound—a position he called his “dream job,” according to his obituary in *The Daily World*. After one year, he became head swim coach. In the 38 years that followed, he poured his heart and soul into his career. He saw the university compete in two different conferences—the NCAA D-II and NAIA—and coached 23 individual national champions and 84 All-Americans. He was the NAIA National Coach of the Year in 1988 and 1993, and was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in 1991. As an NCAA D-II coach during Puget Sound’s green-and-gold era, he led the Logger men to

top-10 national rankings 13 times. Twelve of his former swimmers are in the Puget Sound Athletics Hall of Fame, and he was inducted in 1996, two years after retiring. And while the talent he drew from his swimmers was impressive, Richard Ulrich, Puget Sound’s director of athletics from 1983 to 2003, remembers him most fondly for his gentle and caring nature. “Don was one of those unique individuals who you never heard a negative thing about him, and in turn, he never spoke of others in a demeaning manner,” Richard said in a Puget Sound Athletics statement. “I can honestly say he is one of the finest men I have had the privilege to know.” His influence is still felt in the Logger swimming program today, current head swim coach Chris Myhre said. “I will be forever indebted to Don for his personal and professional support,” he said. “I am grateful for his mentoring and friendship, and for being such an amazing human being.” Don died on May 31 at the age of 89. A memorial was held in Tacoma on June 14.

**Janet Erickson Whitcomb ‘53** passed away in Shoreline, Wash., on Feb. 7. She was 87. A native of Western Washington, Janet graduated from high school in Kent and earned a bachelor’s degree in comparative sociology from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority and met Paul Whitcomb ‘51. The two married in 1953. They eventually settled in Spokane, Wash., where Janet committed her life to raising their daughters.

**Janet Johnston Butorovich ‘54, ‘55** died on July 4, 2018, in an auto accident in Montana. She was 86. Born and raised in Wisconsin, she earned a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Chi Omega sorority and was elected ASUPS vice president. She worked as an occupational therapist at the Montana State Hospital and Billings Clinic Psychiatric Center.

**Eileen McArthur Fawcett ‘54**, a graduate of Tacoma’s Lincoln High School, died on April 27. She was 87. Born in Griggs, Wash., she moved with her family to Tacoma as a middle-schooler. She attended Puget

Sound, where she joined the Pi Beta Phi sorority and met Ben Fawcett ‘52. The two married and raised three children before she began a career as a bookkeeper. She is preceded in death by Ben.

**John Ramsey ‘55** died in Tucson, Ariz., on April 19. He held a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Puget Sound and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from Oregon State University.

**Gary Johnson ‘56**, a native of Wenatchee, Wash., passed away on April 20. He was 85. Gary moved with his family to Tacoma at a young age and went on to graduate from Stadium High School before attending Puget Sound. He left the university to join the U.S. Army, and married Sally Charleson, who preceded him in death. The couple had three daughters, and Gary worked at Smyth Moving and Storage for more than 30 years before retiring.

**Jess Sexson ‘56** died on March 23 after a sudden illness. He was 84. Born in Oroville, Wash., he grew up in the outdoors and was an Eagle Scout. After graduating from Oroville High School, he attended Puget

Sound before transferring to Washington State University. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and worked for Boeing and GTE (Verizon). He retired in 1993 and settled in Spokane, Wash.

**Ronald Mears ‘58** passed away on March 24, six weeks before his 90th birthday. Born and raised in Oklahoma, he moved to Washington after graduating from high school and joined the military. He served in the Korean War and, once returning stateside, earned a bachelor’s degree in geology from Puget Sound. He married Judith Ann Swanson and worked as a manager for Sears and Roebuck for 20 years. In 1973, he left Sears and purchased his first rental equipment firm. He retired from the equipment rental business in 1998.

**Roy Stenger ‘58, M.F.A. ‘64, P’78** died on Dec. 10 in Tacoma, just miles from where he was born. He was 87. Born and raised in Tacoma, he graduated from Lincoln High School and served in the U.S. Navy. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in art from Puget Sound and taught art in the Tacoma school district for more than 20 years. An accom-

plished artist, he excelled at metal sculpture and displayed his work throughout the country.

**Sally Strobel Underwood ‘59**, a graduate of Puget Sound’s sociology program, died on May 3, two and a half weeks before her 82nd birthday. She worked as a social worker in California before moving back to Tacoma. Both of Sally’s parents, as well as five of her six sisters, are Puget Sound alumni.

**Donald Eyres ‘60**, a lifelong Tacoma resident, died on Dec. 10 at the age of 84. Donald graduated from Lincoln High School and served in the U.S. Navy for four years before earning a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He began his career in the general contracting business and was the co-owner of Demara Inc. He also worked in sales over the course of his career, particularly enjoying his years with City Sign.

**James Murphy ‘60** passed away on March 1 at the age of 80. He attended Puget Sound.

**Jerry Thacker ‘61, M.Ed. ‘70**, a native of Ohio, died on Feb. 15 at the

## in memoriam



The son of two teachers, Idaho native **J. Timothy Hansen** felt called to academics after a year at California's Pasadena City College. He moved north and earned a bachelor's degree in English from Whitman College, where he met and married Sharon McGee. He went on to earn a master's degree in the same subject from the University of Washington and a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. After receiving his doctorate in 1965, he moved with his wife and young son to Minnesota, where he landed his first teaching job and welcomed another son. In 1968, he joined Puget Sound as an associate professor of English and ethnic studies. He was a Fulbright Hays Se-

nior Lecturer at National University, Tehran, Iran, in 1976-77, and a Fulbright Lecturer at Madras and Visva-Bharati universities in India in 1991. He was also a dedicated member of the faculty, and served on several university task forces and on the Faculty Senate. Provost Kristine Bartanen says J. Timothy was "a colleague who strived to be involved in projects where he could be most useful. His focus was on his students, and he was an enthusiastic presence in and out of the classroom." Current faculty members say he was crucial in transforming the curriculum of the department and the university. The professor emeritus died in the spring.

age of 81. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Puget Sound, where he played on the basketball and football teams.

**David Allen '62** died on April 6 in Nampa, Idaho. He was 79. A native of Idaho, he grew up on his family's farm and graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in art and design. While at the university, he met Sara Johnston '61, and the two married. He moved back to Idaho with her and became a fourth-generation farmer. He and his brother, Glenn, started their own farm in 1964.

**Darrel Adams '63**, a native of Colville, Wash., passed away on May 1. He was 77. After graduating from Washington's Clarkston High School, he attended Puget Sound, but graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in architecture.

**Michael Flannery '63** passed away on Feb. 25 in Bellingham, Wash., one month before his 80th birthday. Born in Minnesota, Michael moved with his family to Seattle when he was 11 years old. He spent his teenage years working on the family farm in Auburn, Wash., and attended Puget Sound on a football scholarship. He held a variety of jobs throughout his life, including underwater salvaging, gold mining in Alaska, working the Alaska pipeline, commercial fishing in the Puget Sound, owning a car

dealership, selling real estate, and building many homes and apartment complexes in the Bellingham area.

**Mary Brown Crago '64** died in Yakima, Wash., on Feb. 24. She was 77. Mary earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Puget Sound and was a member of the Chi Omega sorority.

**Paul Griffin '64**, a longtime resident of Fox Island, Wash., died on Feb. 18. He was 79. A native of Tacoma, he graduated from Stadium High School and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He was a commercial fisherman, owned a construction company, and worked in banking.

**Zelda Mae Lay Scheyer '65** passed away on Jan. 20 at the age of 91. Born and raised in Montana, she was a musician who practiced piano and organ. After graduating from Helena High School, she received a music scholarship from Puget Sound and attended for three years before leaving to help with her father's political campaign. She married William Scheyer '50 and had three children. For two years, beginning in 1963, Zelda commuted from Port Townsend to Puget Sound to complete her degree. She taught second grade and then became an administrator and the founding Head Start director in

Port Townsend. In the 1970s, she became an entrepreneur and founded two businesses: a plant store and a chocolate shop.

**Susan Harvey Manger '66** died on March 7 after a fight against pneumonia. She was 75. Born in Oregon, she earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Puget Sound, where she joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and met David Manger '65, the man who would become her husband. She taught at Tacoma's Annie Wright Schools.

**Judith Mason Carlson '66, M.Ed.'87** passed away in Bellevue, Wash., on March 2. She was 75. Born in Oregon, she earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and master's degree in education from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She worked as a school librarian and administrator, finishing her career at Curtis Senior High School in University Place, Wash.

**James Ismay '66** passed away in California on Jan. 5 at the age of 79. Born in Yelm, Wash., he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science from Puget Sound, where he was also a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He had a long career in insurance brokering and automobile service writing.

**Gerald Churchill '67** died in Browns

Point, Wash., on April 24 after a short battle with cancer. He was 75. Born in Browns Point, he survived polio and became committed to living a physically active life. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the university's U.S. Air Force ROTC program. He joined the Air Force after graduating and served for 27 years. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1995. He began a second career, opening his own septic business, and worked for 25 years until becoming ill.

**Lowell Daun '68**, a Puget Sound trustee emeritus, passed away May 1 when the Cessna airplane in which he was a passenger crashed in Tehama County, Calif. He was 72. Lowell graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in biology and earned his Doctor of Dentistry degree from the University of the Pacific. He worked as a dentist for Delta Dental of California for 31 years before retiring. In addition to his trusteeship at Puget Sound, he was a member of the Chico Country Day School board of directors for more than 10 years.

**Claudia Johnson Brooke '69** died on April 7, three weeks before her 82nd birthday. She attended Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

**Glynn Price '71** passed away on

March 11 in Bremerton, Wash. He was 72. Born in Tacoma and raised in Bremerton, Glynn graduated from East High School before attending the University of Washington. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and, after completing his service, earned a bachelor's degree in history from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. He went on to open a fish market, commercial wood-cutting company, and commercial shellfish company.

**Arlene Stanfill '71** passed away on Feb. 1, her 70th birthday, after living with breast cancer for 10 years. She grew up in Tacoma and graduated from Stadium High School before earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Puget Sound. She settled in Dallas, Texas, and worked as a social worker.

**Kristin Kenney Lichau '73** died in California on April 24 at the age of 67. Born and raised in Santa Rosa, Calif., she graduated from Piner High School and earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Puget Sound. She went on to earn her doctorate in podiatric medicine.

**Richard Williams '74, '76, J.D.'81**, a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and former Boeing mechanic, died on March 12. He was 73. Born in Tennessee in 1945, he attended segregated schools and graduated from Webb High School before joining the Air Force during the Vietnam War. He served as an aircraft mechanic at Phan Rang Air Base and returned stateside, where he was stationed at McChord Air Force Base (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord). After completing his service, he became a mechanic and then a Tacoma police officer—the sixth African American officer to be hired by the department. While there, he earned bachelor's degrees in political science and sociology from Puget Sound. He retired from the Tacoma Police Department in 1998, after 27 years on the force, and became an attorney.

**Paul Dremousis M.P.A.'75** died on Feb. 19 at the age of 85. Paul was

born in Greece, where his mother died during World War II while his father fought in the Greek resistance, leaving him to provide for his two younger brothers. To escape poverty, he emigrated to Yakima, Wash., when he was 18 and graduated from Moxie High School. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and stationed in Germany, where he earned top honors as a marksman. He returned to the U.S., became a citizen, and earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington. He married, had two children, and began his career as a parole officer with the Department of Corrections. He earned a master's degree in public administration from Puget Sound and worked in the King County Prosecutor's Office for three decades before retiring in 1994.

**John Reynolds '76**, a Washington native Vietnam War veteran, passed away on April 2. He was 72. Born in Shelton, Wash., and raised in Lakewood, Wash., he graduated from Lakes High School before joining the U.S. Army. He earned a bachelor's degree in public administration from Puget Sound and went on to work in state government, including as the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs and chief executive officer for Western State Hospital.

**Tommy Spittler '80** died on Jan. 4 in Utah. He was 65. Born in California and raised in California and Utah, he graduated from Box Elder High School and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Puget Sound. He joined the U.S. Army as a medic and was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. He went on to work in vocational rehabilitation for the state of Utah.

**Effie Hutcheson-Blackburn '81**, an Idaho native, passed away on April 30 in Maryland. She was 60. Effie earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound and worked for the U.S. Postal Service in Delaware.

**Carl Solid '84** passed away on Feb. 17 while riding his bike across Seattle's Highway 520 bridge. He was 58. Born in Bellevue, Wash., he

was active throughout his life as a skier, football player, and singer. As a Logger, he played lacrosse and majored in business administration. He worked as a loan officer for a short time before entering the real estate business. His true passion was the outdoors, and he hiked, biked long distance, and summited Mount Rainier and Mount Baker.

**Anne Gruger M.Ed.'86**, a resident of Renton, Wash., died on Feb. 15 at the age of 89. Born in New York City, she grew up in Connecticut and met her husband, Jaime Gruger, at Connecticut College. They married in 1950, had four children, and settled in Boise, Idaho. Anne returned to school at the College of Idaho and earned her degree in English and secondary education before becoming a teacher. The family moved to Washington in 1979, and Anne earned her master's degree in counseling from Puget Sound. She was preceded in death by Jaime, who died in 1999.

**Nancy Zega '87**, a graduate of Puget Sound's biology program, died on Jan. 12 in Utah. She was 74. Born and raised in Illinois, Nancy always dreamed of working in the medical field and completed her pre-med studies at Puget Sound. She graduated from Des Moines University's College of Osteopathic Medicine with her medical degree and completed her residency at the age of 50. She practiced at Ogden Regional Hospital in Utah before serving as medical director there until a traumatic fall in 2011 ended her career.

**Dorey Brown Weiss '88** died in Tracy, Calif., on Jan. 16. She was 52. Dorey earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Puget Sound and was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

**Karen McDonald '88**, a graduate of Puget Sound's computer science and mathematics program, passed away on April 1 after a long illness. She was 66. A native of California, she attended community college in Los Angeles and Olympia, Wash., before graduating from Puget Sound. Her

family said she was a "talented female pioneer" who worked as a computer programmer and an information technology manager for the Olympia School District, Puget Sound Systems Group, and Washington's recreation and conservation agency.

**Stanley Williams M.A.T.'91**, a longtime attorney and enthusiastic sports fan, died on Jan. 7. He was 72. Born in Maryland, Stanley was raised in Washington and graduated from West Bremerton High School before earning his bachelor's and law degrees at the University of Washington. He later earned a master's degree in education from Puget Sound and taught at Olympic College and Bremerton High School.

**Tracy Pope '92** died on Feb. 14, three weeks after his 59th birthday. He graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in psychology and played basketball as a Logger. Tracy went on to work for the Department of Homeland Security, and retired in 2016.

**Brenda Scott '94** died in Washington on March 23. She was a graduate of Mount Tahoma High School and earned a bachelor's degree in comparative sociology from Puget Sound.

**Caira Nakasone '06** passed away in Hawai'i on April 2 after a battle against cancer. She was 34. Remembered by her family as "the most selfless, kindest, and loving soul" and as always inquisitive, Caira earned a bachelor's degree in politics and government from Puget Sound, a bachelor's degree in sociology from Oregon State University, and a master's degree in criminal justice administration from Chaminade University.

## scrapbook



▲ Vacating together in January, five Loggers and Tri Delta alumni shared a beautiful day hike at Smith Rock in Terrebonne, Ore. Front row, from left: **Jill Kotchik Anderson '77** and **Lynne Unger Yackzan '76**. Back row, from left: **Jeffrey Anderson '78**, Randy Yackzan, **Danny Besett '78**, and **Elaine Kittinger Besett '76**.



▲ Clockwise from left: Loggers **Garrett Koehn '93**, **Nabil Ayers '93**, **Sasha Laman '94**, and **James Haven '91** recently met for drinks overlooking the London skyline. Sasha and James are both London residents, while Garrett and Nabil were visiting on business from San Francisco and New York, respectively.



▲ A group of eight Loggers and President Emeritus Ron Thomas met up in California's Palm Desert in March. From left: **Jason Heino '07**, **Jason Bensch '07**, **Ben Hitch '07**, **Alex Patterson '07**, **W. Locke McKenzie '07**, Ron Thomas, **Travis McNamara '07**, **Chris Pohlad '07**, and **Ryan Dumm '07**.



▲ Last June, **Harold Neace '68, P'98, P'02** attended his 50th reunion during Puget Sound's annual Summer Reunion Weekend 2018. His daughter, **Sally Neace Drescher '98**, also was attending, for her 20th reunion.





▲ While at Summer Reunion Weekend 2018, **Harold Neace '68, P'98, P'02** reunited with his Sigma Chi fraternity brothers, many whom he had not seen in 50 years. From left: **Stephen Doolittle '68, P'94**; **Jerry Bassett '68**; **Paul Kristensen '68, P'04**; Harold; **Don Layfield '68**; **Gary Teichroew '68**; and **Don Carter '71, P'06**.




▲ **Andrew Miller '04, M.A.T.'05** had a chance meeting in Beijing with **Jeri Hurd '83** while he was teaching a workshop on project-based learning at the Western Academy of Beijing, where Jeri is a librarian. Andrew is an educator and consultant who instructs at the Shanghai American School; runs his own consulting firm, Miller Educational Consulting; and is a member of the faculty of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Buck Institute for Education.





▲ **Robert Ratcliff '88, P'19** and **Maria Campbell Ratcliff '86, P'19** watched their daughter, **Julia Ratcliff '19**, row at the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships at Lake Natoma in Rancho Cordova, Calif., in April. Julia graduated in May with a double major in economics, and science, technology, and society.


## We'd love to hear from you.

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**Class notes** We publish Classmates information both in the print edition of *Arches* and on the web in the online version. It is our policy not to publish pregnancy or engagement announcements, or candidacies for political office. However, we are happy to print news of births, marriages, and elections to office. Classmates submissions are edited for style, clarity, and length. We put a lot of effort into making sure entries are accurate, but sometimes we slip up. Please let us know if you see incorrect information published in Classmates.

**Scrapbook** High-resolution digital photos or prints preferred. Kindly identify alumni in the snapshot. Also, please, for baby pictures, include alumni parents in the photo.

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▲ Members of the Class of 1969 gathered in Kilworth Memorial Chapel on June 8—during Summer Reunion Weekend 2019—for a photo to document their 50th reunion. Front row, from left: **Deb Repp Flaherty '69; Donna Coats Lindsay '69, P'96; Brenda Mc Indoe Hunt '68, '69; Gary Spees '69; James Reuter '69; Bruce Hartley '69; Jo Ann Del Vecchio '69; Nilmah Gray Mills '69, M.Ed.'72; Joan Gilbert '69; Karen Partenheimer Sherrill '69; and Charlotte Anderson Lingo '69.** Second row, from left: **Robert Lavery '69; Nancy Parker Magee '69, P'97, P'00, P'05; Marilyn Minnitti O'Malley Hicks '69; Sandra McGilchrist Huggins '69; Virginia Bartram Boughal '69; A. Colleen Smith '69; John Barline '69; Bryan Ross '69; Gary Carlington '69; Constance Davis '69; Carolyn Hill Peterson '69, P'06; Richard Peterson '69, P'06; and Diane Phillips Perkins '69.** Third row, from left: **Ann Pollock Johnson '69; Theodore Johnson '69; Jerry Hines '69; Gregory Magee '69, P'97, P'00, P'05; Bill Rhodes '69; Evert P. Slijper '69, MBA '71, P'97; Peter Stanley '69; Andrew Boughal '69; Michael Flynn '69; Roger Hampton '69, P'98, P'02; Leonard Bird '69; Tom Hulst '69; Susan Knudsen Nelson '69; Sharon Wells Selden '71; and Kathleen Johnson Martin '69, '72, P'99.**

**UNIVERSITY of PUGET SOUND** | **Homecoming and Family Weekend**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**October 4–5, 2019**

Cheer on our student-athletes, attend classes, celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Center for Writing, Learning, and Teaching, and check out the sixth annual Southeast Asia Symposium, showcasing student and faculty research from Puget Sound's field school in Thailand.

[pugetsound.edu/homecoming](http://pugetsound.edu/homecoming)

# ps



On June 7, during Summer Reunion Weekend, Puget Sound Theatre Arts alumni gathered in the Norton Clapp Theatre for a casual open house. The event served as a time to share stories and kick off the weekend-long celebration. Longtime theatre arts professor Geoff Proehl P'02, whose retirement was celebrated the next day, also spoke.

# arches

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CARLY DRYDEN '19



SUNIL KUKREJA

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KEVIN LE '19



JESS K SMITH '05



**THANK YOU!** Your gifts to the Puget Sound Fund this year make a direct, meaningful, and immediate impact on campus. You provide crucial financial aid for students like Kevin Le '19. You invest in dynamic faculty members, including Jess K Smith '05 and Sunil Kukreja. And you empower the next generation of visionary leaders like Carly Dryden '19.

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