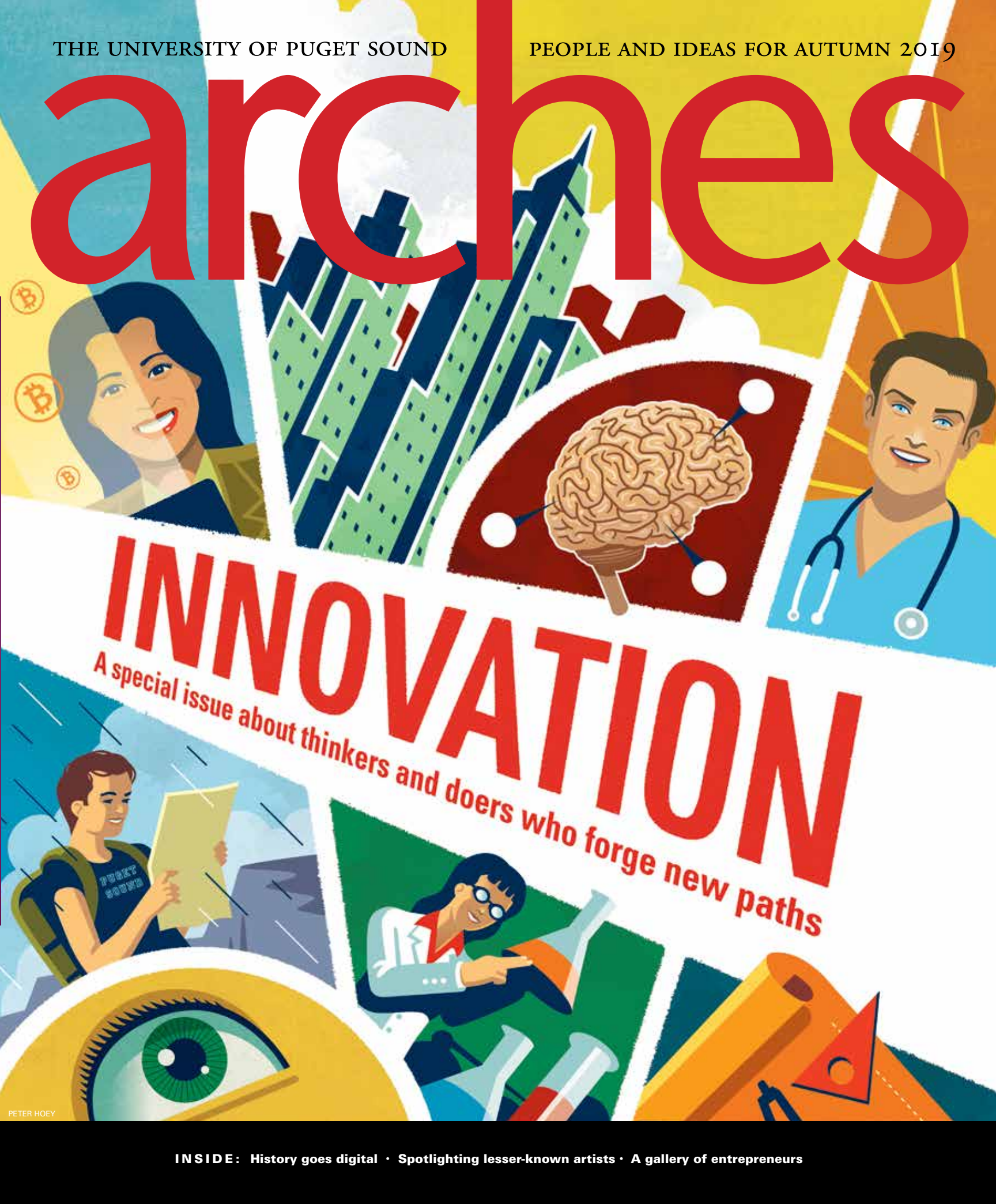


# arches



# INNOVATION

*A special issue about thinkers and doers who forge new paths*





Ismael Gutierrez '23 climbs to the heights in the We Did Rock area of the Cascades, as part of the Indoor and Outdoor Climbing immersive experience during Orientation. Our photographer, Sy Bean, reached new heights of his own, rock climbing for the first time to capture the image.



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**Tina Hay**, Interim Editor  
**Anneli Haralson**, Managing Editor  
**Julie Reynolds**, Creative Director  
**Sy Bean**, Photographer, unless credited otherwise  
**Charis Hensley**, Graphic Designer/Production Artist, Classmates  
**Sarah Stall**, Copy Editor

**Alumni Council Executive Committee**  
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**Contacting arches**  
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*Editorial Office*  
 Voice: 253.879.2762; Email: [arches@pugetsound.edu](mailto:arches@pugetsound.edu); Post: Arches, Office of Communications, University of Puget Sound, 1500 N. Warner St. #1041, Tacoma, WA 98416-1041.

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## The start of a new year

### Top Teacher

At the first faculty meeting of the semester, Professor Greta Austin was honored with the 2019 President's Excellence in Teaching Award. Described as "energetic, passionate, and intellectually challenging," Greta teaches courses on the history of Christianity, including classes in magic and religion, violence and religion, and religious theory, as well as classes on gender, queer, and feminist studies. In 2012, she also received the Thomas A. Davis Teaching Excellence Award.



### New Arrival

Yige Dong joined the Puget Sound faculty this fall as the university's first Suzanne Wilson Barnett Chair in Contemporary China Studies and an assistant professor of international political economy. She completed her Ph.D. in sociology at Johns Hopkins University, and specializes in the political economy of gender in China. She feels at home in the liberal arts and believes Puget Sound is "an ideal place for me to make the best of my multidisciplinary and multicultural training to cultivate young minds in critical and innovative ways."

### CHANGE OF COURSE

Course proposals are submitted and reviewed each year, resulting in an ever-evolving selection of new classes. Some of the new options this fall include:

*Just Asking Questions:  
The Power, Psychology,  
and Politics of Fake News  
and Conspiracy Theories*

*Corporate Social  
Responsibility and Law*

*Elementary Hindi*

*Anime Bodies:  
Metamorphoses and Identity*



# LOGGERS

## Next Logger Up

President Crawford stopped by a late-August practice to chat with the Logger football team, and looked ready to compete for QB1. #LoggerUP



## OH, SNAP

A few recent favorites from Instagram:



### **Proud Pooch**

Our four-legged friends, like @knoxwellkensingtontha3rd, are Logger fans, too! Knoxwell's owner found his spirit gear at the Logger Store. @lindseykells\_



### **Tacoma Reigns Supreme**

Soccer fans (and fans of general badassery) got a kick recently when Megan Rapinoe and other members of the Tacoma Reign FC stopped by campus. @PSLoggers



### **Accio, Harry Potter Fans**

Whomping Willow or one of the trees outside Jones Hall? Loggers aren't the only ones who think campus is magical. @expectotacoma





## AUTUMN COLOR

Autumn at Puget Sound is filled with rich yellows, reds, and oranges, as the maple and sweetgum trees turn bright amidst the evergreens, and the ivy climbing walls across campus adopts a shade more like the bricks it scales than the green of the vines. Why? Senescence, or the process of aging, says Assistant Professor Carrie Woods, who studies the ecosystems and plants that inhabit forest canopies. "Chlorophyll is the main pigment in leaves and is responsible for leaves being green. Chlorophyll degrades during leaf senescence, which reveals the other pigments in the leaf. Those other pigments have different wavelength spectrums and are seen as orange and yellow (carotenoids), and red (anthocyanins). So, the other pigments are always in the leaf, but are not visible until the chlorophyll is broken down."

## Seen and Heard

*Puget Sound in the spotlight*

**The Princeton Review** recently named Puget Sound one of the 20 most beautiful campuses in the country. (Obviously.) Kudos to our amazing facilities and grounds crew members, who keep our campus looking stunning!

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**President Crawford** was the featured guest for Episode 74 of the Nerd Farmer Podcast, hosted by 2016 Washington State Teacher of the Year Nate Bowling. Listen at [nerdfarmpod.com](http://nerdfarmpod.com).

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**KUPS 90.1 FM The Sound** was named one of the 15 Best College Radio Stations by The Princeton Review. Listen anywhere at [onlineradiobox.com/us/kups](http://onlineradiobox.com/us/kups).

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**Logger entrepreneurs** need look no further than the City of Destiny when starting their businesses. Tacoma was ranked one of the top 10 college towns in the country for startups, according to a study by telecommunications provider TollFreeForwarding.com.

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**Puget Sound** was named a leading college for women who go on to pursue doctoral degrees in STEM subjects, according to research conducted by the Council of Independent Colleges and NORC at The University of Chicago.



## Getting To Know You

In the span between move-in day and the start of classes, Orientation offers first-year Loggers many opportunities to get acquainted with their new home in the City of Destiny. Perhaps no activity does this better than the more than 30 small-group immersive experiences facilitated by Orientation leaders that encourage students to step out of their comfort zones and into the great Pacific Northwest.

### ***Eating Our Way Through Tacoma: A Historic and Ethnic Look at the Neighborhoods of Tacoma***

Using delicious local cuisine as the point of departure, students learn about and explore Tacoma's diverse neighborhoods and tumultuous past while visiting ethnic grocery stores, learning native foodways at Fort Nisqually Living History Museum, and trying their hands at making dumplings and other local delicacies with the help of EASt Kitchen and the Eastside Community Center.

### ***Day Hiking and Canoeing or Sea Kayaking***

For those wanting to escape the city and breathe in the fresh air of the mountains, a day hike in the Olympics and canoeing



or kayaking on Hood Canal are great ways to start the year. Accommodations may be rustic—tents and cabins—though they do include showers and running water.

### ***Northwest Urbanism: City, Space, Community, Nature***

Students explore the history of regional urbanization, public spaces and community, maritime commerce, and more over three days touring Tacoma neighborhoods, historic port towns on the Olympic Peninsula, and various locations around Seattle, including the Seattle International District.



**Using fresh dough wrappers and filling—cabbage and pork, plus savory vegetables—first-year students immerse themselves in dumpling making during a workshop with EASt Kitchen at the Eastside Community Center.**

## Fast Facts: Class of 2023

# 6

Number of countries in which members of the Class of 2023 attended high school (Canada, China, the Czech Republic, France, Kenya, United States)

# 17

Number of languages spoken by members of the Class of 2023

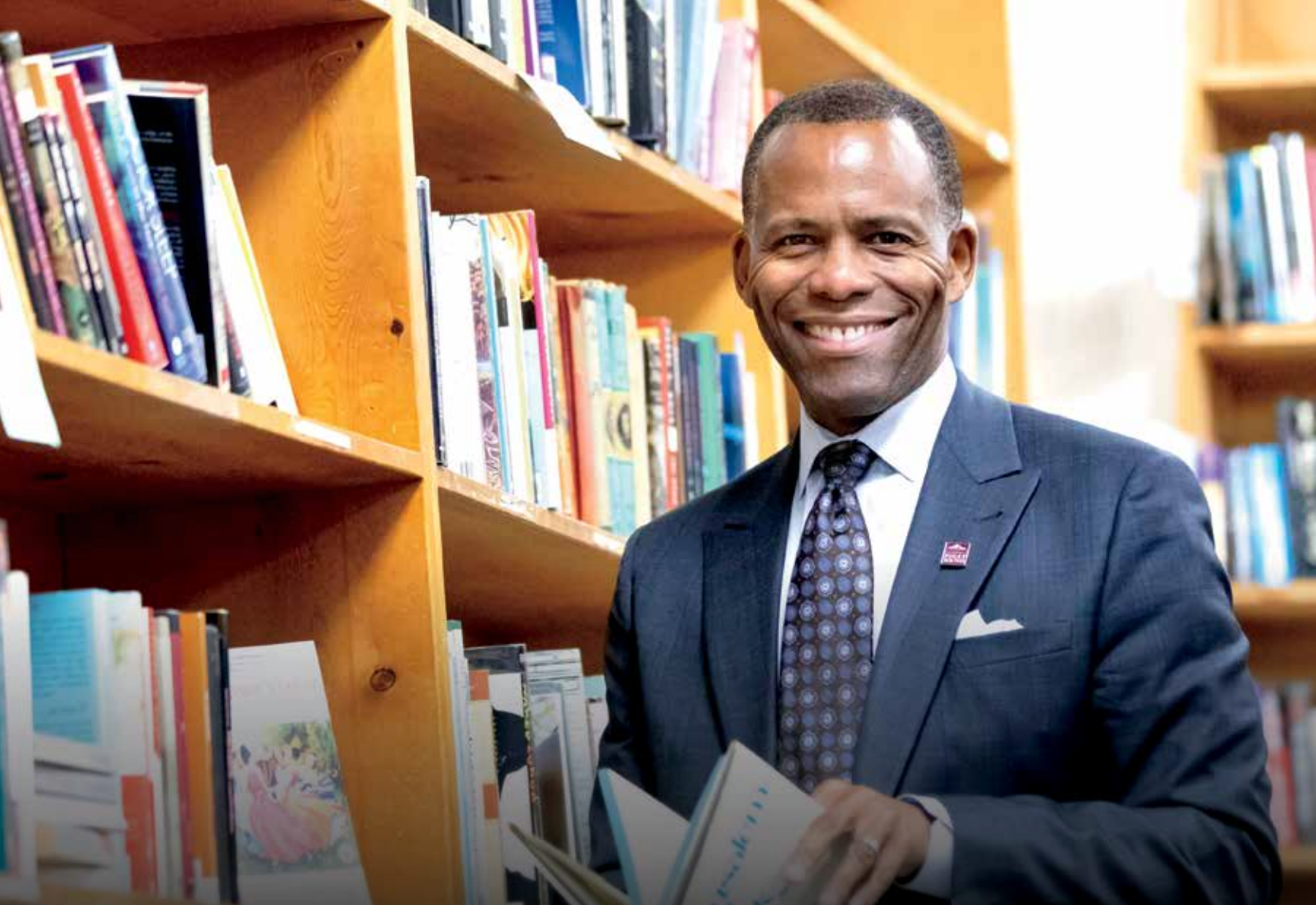
# 27

Number of students who took a gap year before arriving at Puget Sound

# 9%

Percentage of the class with a family member who attended Puget Sound



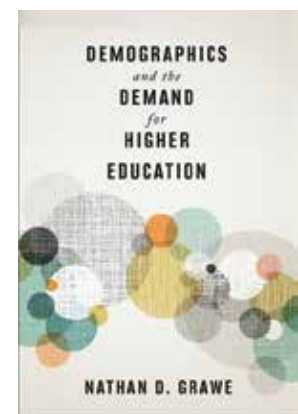


#### PRESIDENT'S BOOK CLUB

## Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education

Sounds scintillating, right? A real page-turner. But bear with us a minute. Lately we've been seeing a lot of grim headlines about the declining birth rate in the U.S. and what it means for all kinds of things, like the American economy, and how members of the House of Representatives are apportioned, and whether Social Security can remain solvent when there are fewer young workers paying into the system—and what will happen in higher education, where colleges have spent more than five decades expanding to accommodate the baby boom and its echo but now are beginning to find themselves with more classroom seats than students to sit in them.

In this little book, Nathan Grawe, a professor of social sciences at Carleton College, disentangles the demographic data, breaking them down regionally and considering factors such as ethnicity, migration, immigration, and parents' education levels. He uses these data to develop the Higher Education Demand Index, which suggests that for some types of colleges at least—colleges like Puget Sound—if they think optimistically and strategically, the coming “birth dearth” does not necessarily have to be scary.





Here, President Crawford talks about why *Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education* was high on his reading list and what the college is doing to prepare for coming shifts in the U.S. population.

—Chuck Luce

Now this is a book that I can get excited about. For a social scientist like me, it's intellectually thrilling, even though it's not exactly flying off bookstore shelves. It is, of course, the case that the U.S. population is trending downward: Birth rates plummeted after the Great Recession of 2008—by nearly 13%—and by 2026 the number of native-born children reaching college age will begin a rapid decline. But Professor Grawe argues that while *number* is important, so is *who*. From him we learn the importance of developing reasoned, data-informed perspectives. If we are aware, nimble, creative, and willing to take advantage of the opportunities presented to us, Puget Sound can not only just survive but actually thrive, as competition for traditional-age high school students intensifies. And intensify it will. Every institution will be trying to adapt to contracting enrollments. Not just peer colleges—also master's, comprehensive, and regional schools, as well as the flagship state colleges and universities—*everybody* will be trying to take our lunch.

So then how do we stand out? Why would we be the school of choice for prospective students and their parents? Those are questions our new strategic plan is designed to answer. We developed it recognizing that there are all sorts of challenges out there, many of them associated with demographic issues, but also with the idea that we can be the arbiters of our own future if we are willing to take good, calculated risks. We're exploring ways in which we can further refine our educational model to make sure our students are able to lean into

whatever comes before them. And while we are certainly going to send out from Tacoma students who are job-ready and prepared for advanced study, we also want them to know how to adjust, to adapt, to be entrepreneurial, to have a sense of self and a sense of agency, and, as always has been true of a Puget Sound education, to be lifelong learners.

More specifically, our plan—we call it *Leadership for a Changing World*—has an enhanced focus on making certain our students have high-impact learning experi-

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**“We can be the arbiters of our own future if we are willing to take good, calculated risks.”**

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ences: more experiential learning opportunities, strong mentorship, and community engagement. That's going to be very key: internships, field placements, research, project-based learning, and study abroad. We want to make sure our students know how to apply what they've learned and can see connections, that they're able to work effectively with others and have a global perspective. We want to make sure that *all* of our students get the best of what we offer. That *every* student gets the best, most comprehensive Puget Sound experience.

And so we're looking attentively at the educational programs we offer. We want to remain connected to and committed to our liberal arts focus, particularly around interdisciplinary programs, but we're looking, too, at creating new academic programs that have emerging demand and interest among current students, as well as prospective

students. These might include data science; data analytics, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels; museum studies; expanding programming at the graduate level in the health sciences; and perhaps also in sports management or health care management. Other options that we're looking into are enlarging our current and highly regarded graduate programs in education, physical therapy, and occupational therapy (which had record enrollment this year).

The college must make investments to carry forth this vision. We want to have strong appeal to the best and brightest and most-resourced students, *and* the best and brightest least-resourced students, and we will launch a comprehensive fundraising campaign that will have student financial aid as its primary component. In addition, the plan calls for us to identify efficiencies and entrepreneurial opportunities consistent with our mission and values that will allow us to diversify our revenue streams to promote the accessibility, affordability, and value of a Puget Sound education.

Carefully considered and applied policies such as these will help Puget Sound confront looming challenges, but Professor Grawe reminds us that the demographic patterns and consequences he identifies are based on existing data, and population is dynamic. “The [Higher Education Demand Index] is a forecast model, not a seer,” he says. The *Leadership for a Changing World* strategic plan has a 10-year horizon, which is long by today's standards. But we feel like we need to build with a vista, at the same time recognizing that we're not on a fixed track, moving forward irrespective of what happens. Every few years we'll step back and do an environmental scan to determine if we need to make corrections. Stay tuned.

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*Chuck Luce is former editor of Arches.*





**INNOVATE!**

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND



# DOERS, THINKERS, AND LEADERS

Loggers make their way through the world with a confidence born of a clear sense of purpose and a call to lead. Unsatisfied with the status quo, they nurture a fundamental desire to build upon what is and embrace what could be. They are impatient for things to be better. For society to be better. For people to be better. For gluten-free brownies to be better. And when problems arise—injustices, inefficiencies, inadequacies—they're the first in line with solutions, unafraid to ask “Why?” before asking “What if?” and “Why not?”

In this issue, our third in a series exploring the meaning of success, we pick the brains of the innovators, those whose focus on the future is unwavering—and whose vision of it is changing the way we interact with the world.

**Follow us on social media for more inspiring #PSsuccess stories.**

**INNOVATE #LikeALogger.**





## A Wild Ride

*Franny Gilman '10 has taken her biology degree in some unexpected directions.*

By Anneli Haralson

Frances “Franny” Gilman ’10 had always wanted to be a veterinarian. But a trip to Belize as a Puget Sound pre-vet student changed her mind. There, she was given the chance to work in a local animal clinic and assist with minor surgeries, such as spay and neuter procedures. “I discovered I did not like blood or cutting up animals,” she recalls. “So, I realized, ‘All right, this might not work out for me.’ That was a good thing to learn.”

What she did enjoy was the small-group setting and mentorship she had gotten from professors in Puget Sound’s labs. She especially found inspiration in the labs of Mark Martin, an associate professor of biology, and Stacey Weiss, a professor of biology, who were studying the bacteria present in the cloaca (the external opening of the digestive and reproductive tracts) of lizards. It was 2009, and the field of microbial ecology was gaining steam. “There were really cool methods coming out that used more molecular and genetic sequencing techniques,” Franny says. “It was the potential of those methods that got me excited.”

After graduation, she enrolled in a Ph.D. program in microbiology at the University of Montana, where her research focused on how warmer temperatures induced by climate change are affecting the bacteria that live in permafrost. She traveled regularly from Montana to labs in Denmark and Greenland to conduct her work and, in the summer of 2015, had just returned from one of those trips when she realized she was running out of money. She was five months away from earning her degree and needed something more than her grad-student stipend or a teaching assistantship to make ends meet.

Browsing the local job listings, she found an opening for a microbiologist at a small biotech company called Blue Marble Biomaterials. She couldn’t believe her luck: “Missoula is not a huge town and not known for biotech companies,” she recalls. “I was still in school, so I wasn’t sure if they’d even be interested in me, but I figured I’d just reach out.”

With the help of her Ph.D. advisor, who knew Blue Marble’s CEO, Franny began consulting as a microbiologist part time for the young company. Blue Marble was work-



ing with companies in the food, flavor, and fragrance industries, aiming to find more natural ingredients for them to use in their products. Those ingredients most commonly came through extracting chemicals from plants, fermenting natural materials, or using “green chemistry”—creating chemicals free from hazardous substances. The work suited Franny: “I just loved the fast pace of that sort of startup environment, and I loved the variety of projects I got to work on,” she says.

After finishing her Ph.D., she signed on full time with Blue Marble and quickly

learned that she enjoyed being a leader, teacher, and connector within the company. She eventually became senior vice president, in charge of Blue Marble’s research and development, and played a key role in shifting the company’s focus toward the hemp and hemp-oil industry. Under her leadership, the Blue Marble team took on a hemp extraction project, which led to an acquisition: Blue Marble was bought last May by Socati, a company specializing in the production of hemp extract. The extract contains cannabidiols (CBD)—chemical compounds that may help treat conditions like pain, insomnia, and anxiety—which makes it an in-demand ingredient in lotions and supplements.

Franny enjoyed leading the company to a new opportunity, but even so, she was restless to get back to her microbiology roots. In September, she took a job as director of R&D at a Minneapolis-based agricultural company called TerraMax, which makes soil inoculants—microbial additives that can improve crop health and crop yield. “They’re essentially like probiotics for the soil,” she explains. Inoculants can enhance the work of pesticides and fertilizers, and, in some cases, replace them altogether. Franny’s job at TerraMax is to lead a team of scientists in developing new inoculants and making the current ones better.

“It’s been a wild ride,” Franny says of her journey from a grad student researching permafrost to the field of green chemistry, then hemp products, and now agricultural innovation. At TerraMax, she says, “I’m excited to combine my leadership, business development, and microbiology skills all in one place.”



# SUMMER SCHOOL

## LAST SPRING, 80 STUDENTS WERE SELECTED TO RECEIVE SUMMER RESEARCH GRANTS

to support 10 weeks of independent research in the sciences or humanities under the guidance of a faculty advisor. Projects covered a wide range of topics, such as wastewater opioid analysis, the influence of hip flexibility on running gait, LGBTQ and person of color representation in young adult fiction, environmental racism, and more, including:



### Learning From Destruction

Spirit Lake, a once pristine body of water decimated by the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens, was turned into a toxic pond after ash and debris rained down from the violent blast and volcanic gases seeped up from the lakebed. But the lake is recovering, and Alex Barnes '20 spent the summer gathering bacteria from the water to learn how.



### The Science of Being Lazy

Not all genes are equal. Most plants have a “lazy” gene, one that causes irregular growth due to gravity. Maya Sealander '20 studied the lazy gene in tomatoes—and how it interacts with phytochromes—to learn how plants sense both light and gravity, and to explore how the lazy gene expresses itself.



### Team Beaver

By studying how the introduction of beavers changes remote farmland and wilderness streams previously uninhabited by the creatures, Hayley Rettig '21, Amanda Foster '20, and Erin Stewart '20 contributed to ongoing research into how the rodents may help speed the recovery of trees after wildfires and fight the effects of climate change.



### Seeing Science

Joe Ewers '21 spent much of his summer surgically removing the lenses from cow eye specimens. His goal: to extract the protein aquaporin 0 and learn how it oxidizes and breaks down, adding to research about the link between the protein and degenerative neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease.

### Hero History

Can a comic book offer insight into American society? Erin Budrow '20 pored over stacks of Marvel comics to find out. Tracing the action and evolution of Captain America through the decades, she found links between the superhero and our social history, and discovered how the captain has reflected the values and mores of the nation.

Learn more about these projects at [pugetsound.edu/stories](https://pugetsound.edu/stories).



## The VP of People

*Associate Professor of Psychology  
Jill Nealey-Moore applies her  
know-how to a tech startup.*

By Anneli Haralson



**A**s a child, Jill Nealey-Moore didn't quite understand the appeal of psychology. The daughter of two psychologists—one a professor at Oklahoma State University—she thought her mother's grad students looked miserable and wondered why anyone would want to get a Ph.D. She took a different route in college herself, initially pursuing medicine. But psychology was in her blood, and soon she found herself more interested in how people felt about their illnesses than in healing them.

It turns out she was onto something. Science was just beginning to embrace a new way of thinking about how the mind affects one's health—a field now known as psychoneuroimmunology. Inspired, Jill earned her bachelor's degree in biopsychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and spent the '90s in San Francisco, embedded in HIV research. After grad school at the University of Utah, she and her husband, David Moore, joined the faculty at Puget Sound.

Now an associate professor of psychology, she's pursuing another new frontier, as co-founder and chief operating officer of advertising startup Humming Inc. I spoke to her in Humming's 12th-floor offices in downtown Tacoma about her passion for reimagining herself—and how she's applying what she's learned to a more entrepreneurial world.

**You're a classically trained clinical psychologist helping lead an advertising startup.**

**How did that happen?**

I like being useful. I like solving problems. I'm also a runner, and when my kids were in middle school, their school was starting a cross country program, so I volunteered to help. The head coach was this guy named Bill Herling, a young tech entrepreneur. We worked well together with the kids; he'd come up with an idea, and I'd work to make it happen. At the end of that year—it would've been 2017—he said, "I have this tech company, and you're a people person. I think you should be my VP of people." At that point, he just had some developers meeting in coffee shops in Seattle, building an app that allowed people to make their own ads. I was just going to help with hiring and cultivating a healthy culture, but he promised that if we built a company, I could help *keep* it healthy. One thing led to another, and between wanting to be helpful and having a chance to apply what I know about people and how to help them thrive, I ended up just diving in.

I approach business and tech from a different lens, and that allows me to ask questions that maybe others don't. Some of my approach has been informed by what I've been doing at Puget Sound: figuring out how we interact and how we structure policies that could really make people happy and

productive. I was given this opportunity to take what I know and apply it to a business, so I did.

**Much of your work is in the intersection of the mind-body connection. You teach about it, and have a private practice where you specialize in it. How does that work translate to the business world?**

I've always tried to take insights from one area and apply them to another, seemingly nonrelevant, area. I teach Connections 320, Health and Medicine, which has as a big overlay understanding stress and its impact on our body. That class made me focus more on stress that comes from occupational settings, which has a huge impact on our health. That laid a foundation for entering the business world. Fundamentally, we have to be healthy as people and as a system to do our best work. Coming to Humming meant taking all of the health-related information that I had around stressful environments—the interpersonal-related information, my experience as a therapist, and my experience in HR-related areas—and transforming that to help a whole company function.

**What does the company actually do?**

We harness artificial intelligence to transform how businesses make ads. We've built a platform that simplifies advertising and makes it easier for small businesses, in particular, but

really any business to make an ad and get it out to where they need to on the web. We can use AI to generate an ad for people based on their website, as a way to get them started. The goal is to reduce barriers for people and put the power to advertise back in the control of customers themselves, pushing back a little against a system that makes it tough. As the COO, I do a lot of figuring out what people want and need—both customers and team members. But in a startup, you wear a lot of hats. I fundraise, do a bit of sales, gather feedback on the product, and, ultimately, figure out how to make this company operational within the CEO's vision.

**What have you learned from this job?**

If you had asked me a year and a half ago if I ever thought I would be the co-founder of an advertising tech company, I would've laughed. I don't know anything about business, I'm not interested in it—and I don't even like advertising. All of us here are like, "We hate advertising!" At least as it exists today. But that's what entrepreneurs and innovators do: They see something that's broken, and they say, "We can do this better." It feels good to be able to take what I know about health and psychology and apply it so differently, both helping build a company and helping solve a really common problem for people.



# Cloud Pleaser

*An executive without an office? That, and her love for Mustangs, tells you a lot about the energy of Margaret Dawson '86.*

As told to Renée Olson

**M**argaret Dawson '86 used to have an office at Red Hat, the open-source software giant where she's vice president of product marketing. It was at the company's product and technology headquarters in Westford, Mass. She also had an apartment in Westford, but she spent most of her time in the air, traveling to the company's Raleigh, N.C., corporate headquarters, or to customers around the globe. The time spent in the clouds is fitting: She's been in cloud computing almost from the start of the technology, and is considered one of the top women in the industry. Today, she's still on the road and still meeting face-to-face with her colleagues—but she's also at home, which her Twitter handle, @seattledawson, makes clear.

Energy runs hot in Dawson's DNA, which seems a great match for Red Hat. With more than 13,000 employees, the 26-year-old company has landed in the top quarter of *Forbes'* 100 Most Innovative Companies list for six of the last seven years. And in July, IBM purchased Red Hat for \$34 billion—the largest software acquisition in history.

Here, in Dawson's own words, are some insights into this gutsy woman, her philosophies, and a personal project she's keen on.

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*Renée Olson is a freelance writer based in New Jersey.*





**Dressed to the nines?** I just realized I'm wearing a retro UPS shirt—the colors were green and gold when I went there. My goddaughter just graduated. Her mom is my best friend from college, and we went to the bookstore, where I bought this long, thick T-shirt. I was like, “Oh, I like the green and gold.” It was catchy.

**I got a job walking into Acer** I taught English in Taiwan for a week in 1990, and hated it. So I walked into the lobby of Acer, the biggest PC manufacturer in Taiwan, and said to the women at the reception desk, “Hey, do you need any marketing help?” Within days, I worked there.

**Taipei lasted nine years** I later pitched *BusinessWeek* to have a full-time correspondent in Taiwan. At the time, the magazine was ahead of the curve in starting to do tech business really seriously. I got the job and started interviewing CEOs from companies like Taiwan Semiconductor and MiTAC. After every interview, I would think, I want to do that. I did not think, Oh, well, I can't because I don't have an electrical engineering degree.

**A versatile degree** My Puget Sound degree was in communication. That has not stopped me from taking increasingly technical and executive-level positions in the tech industry.

**Hello, women?** I started a personal project about five years ago about women in tech. It's now become SnortOutLoud.com. I could see our numbers were going down despite all these programs to get more girls and women in STEM. I did a lot of research and thinking, and I came up with the same answer again and again.

**The answer** So many girls and women are not able to be true to who they really are. They often “hide their light”—their true self—to fit in, to get ahead, or to not stand out.





**Snorting is freedom** I snort when I laugh. For years, people would make fun of me and freak out. “Oh, my God, stop doing that.” I never understood why it matters to them. What is it doing that’s so horrible? It’s turned into this concept of letting your true light shine: If we can only empower more women and girls to just let their true light shine, our numbers in tech would change.

**There will be a book** I’m building out a platform at SnortOutLoud.com and writing a book about this. I realized it wasn’t just a “women in tech” issue, it wasn’t just a “woman” issue. It was a foundational, fundamental human phenomenon. As a people, we lose that raw sense of that light we are born with. Some people find it again—I had that moment of rediscovery. That’s what I’ve been trying to think about: How do I invite people into this?

**The importance of being nimble** We are always on the cutting edge because we are focused on open-source technology. Open-source communities historically have been able to innovate and address things faster than almost any private company—you cannot create a project, a community, an innovative progression at the same pace or with as many different perspectives. And that diversity of thought and experience adds a lot of value.

**Customers don’t just want your products** Most technology and software companies are really good at selling product, right? If we have storage as a product, we go out and we sell storage. But customers aren’t buying only products. Customers are looking for solutions to solve problems.

**Quandary** We are a product company.

**The workaround** About four years ago, I said, “What if we flipped it and asked, ‘What is it customers are trying to do?’ Say they’re trying to solve a big-data issue. What is the customer talking about? How are they phrasing that?” We now start with the customer. We call it the sales conversation framework. It’s a really simplistic idea, but it fundamentally changed the way we went to market.

**Muscle cars, fondness for** I love Mustangs. I grew up in the automotive industry, and I’ve always wanted a classic Mustang. At Ford, my dad ran the West Coast Mustang clubs; Mustangs became almost cultish immediately.

**Wishing my SUV would die** I couldn’t afford a ’66 Mustang and its own garage to keep it in, plus a car for transporting the kids and all their stuff around, so I custom-ordered the car I wanted: a new convertible Mustang, which is completely impractical in Seattle, by the way. A deep-blue convertible with a black top, saddle leather seats, and six-speed manual. I love fast cars. If I’m having a bad day, I get into my car and think, OK, I’m just going to drive fast on the freeway, and I’m going to be fine.





# Digital Historian

Rob Nelson '95 uses modern-day technology to make sense of the past.

BY MATTHEW DEWALD





Puget Sound Assistant Professor Andrew Gomez arrived at an Orientation session for first-year students this August with a tough assignment. The students had signed up for what was billed as “an immersive experience,” an opportunity to spend time learning about the food cultures of Tacoma. A historian, Andrew had the task of introducing students, most of whom are not from Tacoma, to the complex historical forces that shaped the city’s neighborhoods. To do so, he had an ace in his back pocket, or maybe a better description is a link up his sleeve.

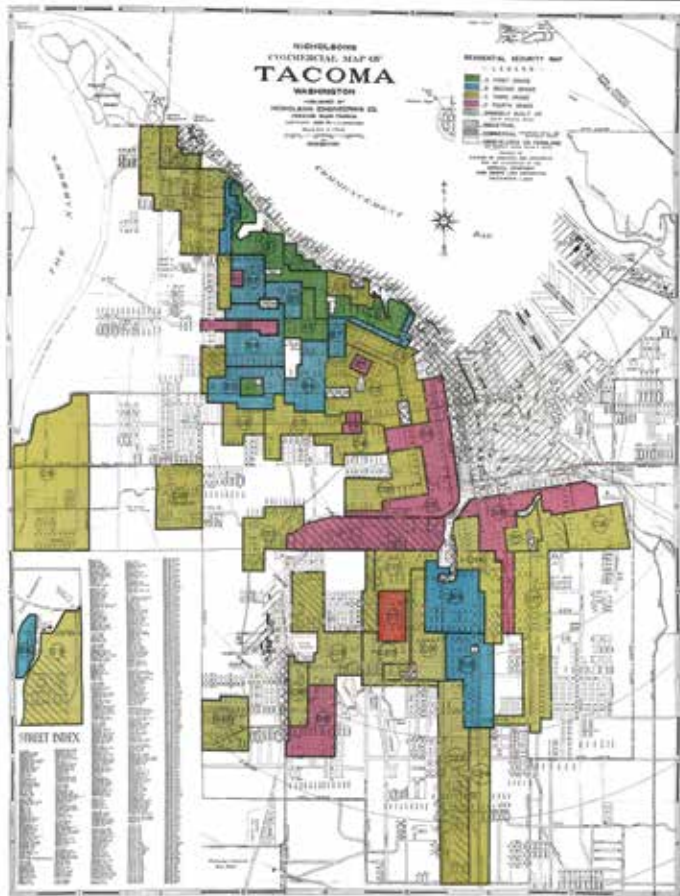
It was a digital history project, led by fellow historian Rob Nelson ’95, capable of laying bare right before students’ eyes the prejudices and discriminatory practices that have shaped not only Tacoma’s fortunes but the trajectories of cities like it across the country. At the project’s core is a series of federal government-produced maps and paperwork from the 1930s and ’40s that Rob and his team have digitized.

Andrew began with a neighborhood labeled tract A2 on a map of Tacoma produced in December 1937 by the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation, or HOLC, a New Deal-era corporation set up in 1933 to stem the tide of home foreclosures during the Great Depression. As part of its work, the HOLC produced maps to rate the credit worthiness of neighborhoods in cities across the country.

The digitally created poster at left, while bright and colorful, conveys a darker truth: It shows how the Home Owners’ Loan Corporation graded cities from 1935 to 1940 based on residents’ credit worthiness—part of a controversial practice known as redlining. The HOLC ranked cities from most “hazardous” (No. 1, St. Joseph, Mo.) to “best” (No. 132, Darien/New Canaan/Stamford, Conn.).



In this 1937 HOLC map of Tacoma, green denotes areas that were deemed minimal risks for mortgage lenders; red areas were considered “hazardous.” A sample HOLC comment on a red area: “This might be classed as a ‘Low Yellow’ area were it not for the presence of the number of Negroes and low class Foreign families who reside in the area.”



Tract A2, which borders the northern edge of campus, is colored green, indicating it has the highest grade, “A.” A companion form to the map explains the reasons for the rating. It details, for example, rising home prices and residents’ income levels. On a line following the prompt “Trend of desirability next 10–15 yrs,” someone has typed “upward.” A section called “Clarifying remarks” at the bottom includes this line: “The location of the College of Puget Sound has definitely added to the attractiveness of the area.” Only 5% of Tacoma’s neighborhoods earned the coveted A grade.

Andrew likes beginning with this tract because he wants his students to understand that at the university, they are situated in a place of privilege. It was the most desirable location in the city when the map was produced, he says.

“And one of the points of desirability is the College of Puget Sound,” he says. “So you get to see the long arc of how our university and our neighborhood, the North End, has

been situated. And then you compare that to other neighborhoods in the South End and on the East Side that have been historically marginalized.”

One of these other neighborhoods was the go-to tract for Rob Nelson when, in 2018, he came to Puget Sound to talk to history majors about his work as director of the Digital Scholarship Lab at the University of Richmond, in Virginia. Digital, in that its projects are produced and consumed via computer. Scholarship, because its projects generate new knowledge. And Lab, because it experiments to find the best way to share what it’s generating. In his talk, he zoomed in on D1, a neighborhood that lies about a 10-minute bike ride northwest of campus.

D1 was not green, but rather a tiny rectangle of red pulled out from the blue of the surrounding Proctor District, labeled B2. In the logic of the HOLC, if a neighborhood didn’t merit a green A rating, the next best option was blue, or grade B, which meant “still desirable.” Yellow, or grade C, was bad

news; it stood for “definitely declining,” a rating given to 63% of Tacoma’s graded neighborhoods. The worst grade was D, which meant “hazardous” for future investment. Sixteen percent of Tacoma earned this rating. Areas graded D were marked red.

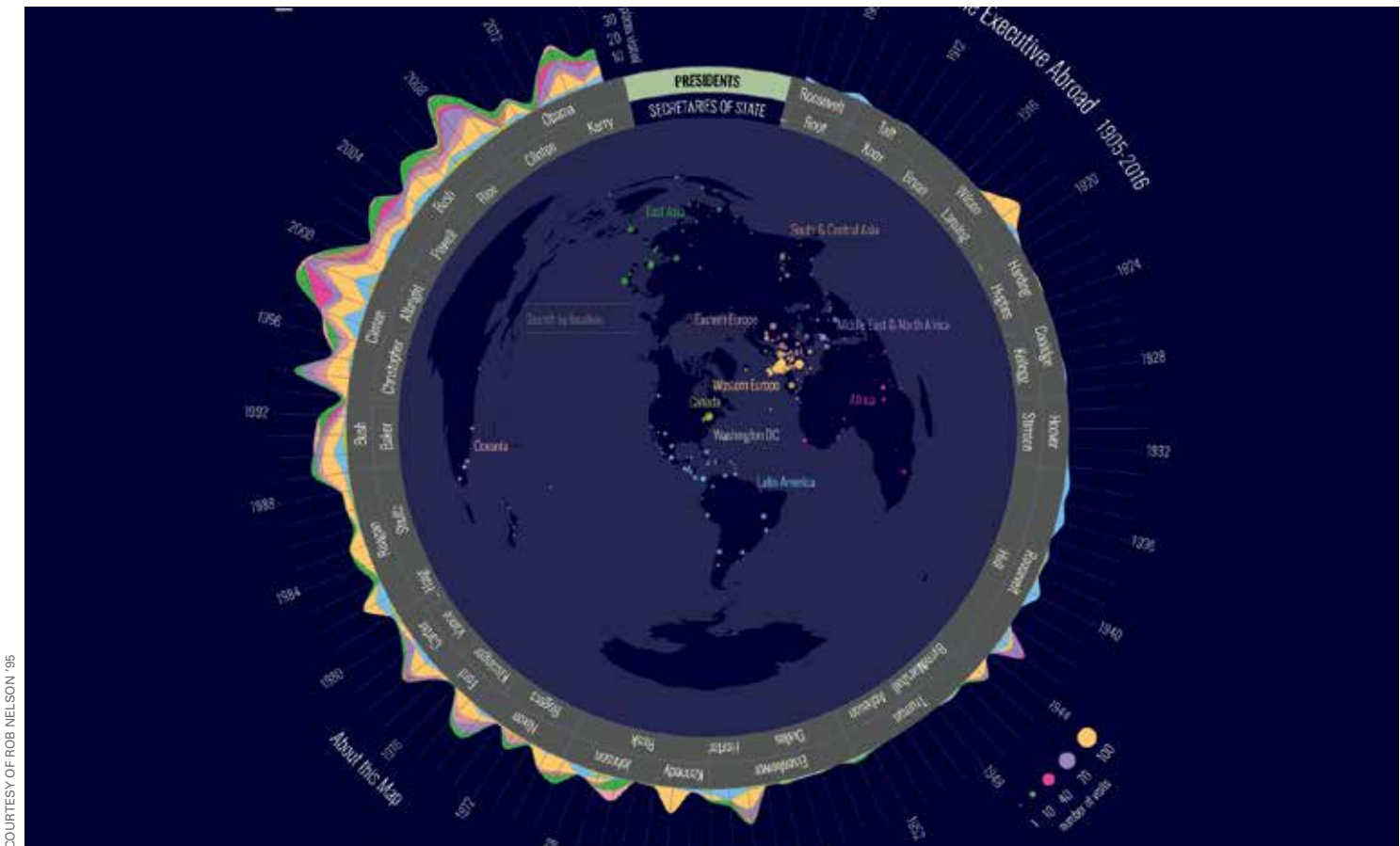
The accompanying comments for the tract labeled D1 note the oddness of singling out in red these few blocks of the otherwise blue Proctor District. “Except as noted in ‘Clarifying Remarks’ below, this area is identical in all respects with Area B2,” reads part of the form.

The “clarifying remarks” do, indeed, clarify. “Three highly respected Negro families own homes and live in the middle block of this area facing Verde Street,” someone typed. “While very much above the average of their race, it is quite generally recognized by Realtors that their presence seriously detracts from the desirability of their immediate neighborhood.”

There, in plain red and blue tints painted over the Proctor District, is the discriminatory practice that came to be known as redlining. It resulted in widespread denials of mortgages, insurance, and other financial services to minority and immigrant neighborhoods across the country by stigmatizing them as unsafe for investment by banks and other lenders. Over the long term, redlining reinforced racial segregation in housing and exacerbated its attendant ills, such as unequal access to good public schools, grocery stores, and other services.

“That is the HOLC logic in a nutshell, right?” Rob says. “When they say, ‘very much above the average of their race,’ they just mean they’re black, middle-class families living in a middle-class neighborhood in the 1930s in a city where just under 1% of the population was African American.

“Three middle-class African American families live in this neighborhood, and that means it’s redlined. That is a real way of demonstrating the logic of this. Then you have to talk about the impact.” And the impact is striking: Based on census data, the zones marked red on the 1937 HOLC map



COURTESY OF ROB NELSON '95

When Theodore Roosevelt traveled to Panama in 1906 to see the construction of the Panama Canal, he was the first sitting U.S. president to venture out of the country. “The Executive Abroad” charts the increase in presidential travel during the 20th century, corresponding with advances in technology and the nation’s growth as a global power. The map allows viewers to click on the name of a president or a region to see more detail.

are the same parts of Tacoma that are the most impoverished today.

Sitting in his family room in a leafy neighborhood adjacent to Richmond’s suburban campus, Rob describes himself as “a programmer more than anything. I mean, I’m a weird historian, in that I spend most of my time writing code.”

Old maps decorate the walls around him as he talks, many displayed in wood frames he has made by hand. A 1910 map he found in a shop in nearby Charlottesville shows the town in Ethiopia where his daughter was born. In another room, a French map from the 1680s shows the same area labeled with its name at the time, Abyssinia.

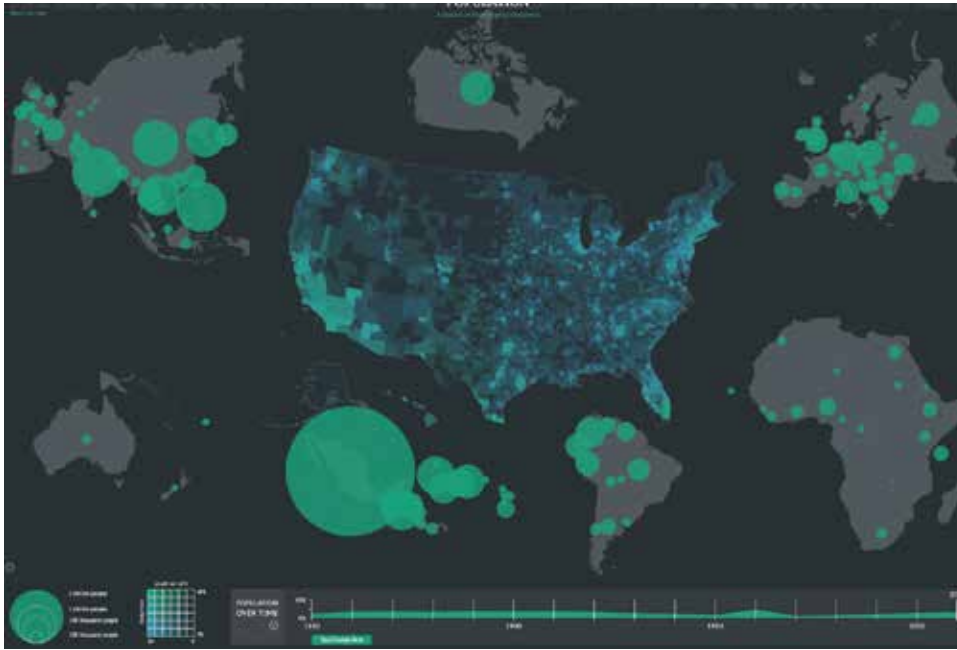
The maps that his Digital Scholarship Lab, or DSL, produces put information together in ways that allow for new interpretations of the past. “Foreign-Born Population: 1850–2010,” for example, uses census data to depict the migration of immigrants in communities across the country. “The

Executive Abroad: 1905–2016,” shows foreign travels by sitting U.S. presidents and secretaries of state, including Teddy Roosevelt’s 1906 trip to inspect the Panama Canal under construction, the first time a U.S. president went abroad while in office. “Visualizing Emancipation” maps the collapse of slavery in the Confederacy during the Civil War, showing thousands of “emancipation events”—say, enslaved men and women making the risky choice to flee for Union territory or aiding the Union army as informants or soldiers.

Several of these projects fall under a larger collection called *American Panorama*, which the DSL bills as a “historical atlas of the United States for the 21st century ... designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in American history or a love of maps.” The redlining maps come from the latest *American Panorama* project, “Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America,” a collaboration among teams at Richmond, Virginia Tech, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Maryland.

The Digital Scholarship Lab garnered more than a million page views in the past year from scholars, teachers, and historically curious average readers. Often, they use its research in ways Rob never saw coming.





“Foreign-Born Population, 1850-2010” depicts the countries where U.S. residents were born across time. “The culture and politics of the U.S. have always been profoundly shaped by the material and emotional ties many of its residents have had to the places where they were born,” according to the lab’s website. The interactive map “offers a way to explore those connections.”

“History is not the list of names and dates that people in airports always tell me that they hate. It’s big patterns and big connections. We’re trying to make things that are not merely for an academic audience, but that speak to everybody.”

*American Panorama* has earned a lot of attention, including from the American Historical Association, which honored it with its 2019 Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Innovation in Digital History. In 2016, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* named *American Panorama* to its list of “Tech Innovators.”

“History is not the list of names and dates that people in airports always tell me that they hate,” says the DSL’s senior research fellow Edward Ayers, who established the lab and recruited Rob to become its director. Ed is now president emeritus at Richmond.

“It’s big patterns and big connections,” Ed says. “We’re trying to make things that are not merely for today and not merely for an academic audience, but that speak to everybody.”

The field of history is in a far different place today than it was when Rob enrolled in a 300-level Japanese history course as a first-year student at Puget Sound. That class, he says, “was a kind of throwing me into the deep end” of what it meant to study history. “It took me, I don’t know, half a semester to figure out, ‘Oh, I’m supposed to be thinking about this, not memorizing.’”

From there, the Spokane native went east to earn his doctorate in American studies

at the College of William & Mary. There, he also was introduced to an early effort in digital scholarship when he became involved with the Walt Whitman Archive, an ambitious effort to make a hypertext edition of the poet’s complicated, oft-revised body of work.

At the DSL, Rob often has to do something similar to what the Whitman Archive attempted, inventing new forms as analog information gets migrated to a digital format. Often, there is no guide. The format for “The Executive Abroad”—a circular map that shifts and spins as users click to highlight and sort information through space and time—is the design he says he is most pleased with aesthetically. “That one came to me in the middle of the night,” he says.

Other subjects await their epiphanic moment. Several years ago, the DSL digitized the seminal 1932 *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States* by Charles O. Paullin. Back-to-back pages in that atlas have maps showing an increase in tractors and a decrease in mules on farms across the U.S. from 1920 to 1925.

“That’s one map that I’d love to do—I haven’t cracked how to do it, but it would be the industrialization of agriculture and the effect of factory-farming and large-scale farming ecologically and on rural communities in the 21st century,” Rob says.

Problems like that make Rob half historian, half programmer. He, his staff—a visualization and web designer and a geographic information system analyst—and dozens of undergraduate researchers have produced more than 4 million images.

“Rob is inventing with each map a strategy that is custom made to the particular questions we’re trying to answer,” Ed says.

The rewards come for Rob in what he sees others doing with his maps. The DSL’s site, [dsl.richmond.edu](http://dsl.richmond.edu), earned more than a million page views in the past year alone from researchers, teachers, and historically curious average readers. Publications as diverse as *National Geographic*, the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, and *The Architect’s Newspaper* have used the DSL’s project on displacement during urban renewal in the 1950s and ’60s to explain the mechanisms of systematic discrimination.

Often, visitors use the site’s research in ways Rob never saw coming. In a 2014 essay

for *Perspective on History*, an American Historical Association publication, he mused over an early review of the digitized Paullin atlas that called it a “particularly impressive example of online map porn.” The phrase “map porn” bugged Rob.

“Instead of grappling with the historical content of the maps, were visitors to the site only gawking at them as pleasurable aesthetic objects while playing around with the site’s interactive features?” he asked in the essay. He worried that public interest in the maps was shallow and that the maps’ historical lessons were being overlooked. “What I found instead was that my sense of history was too narrow, too disciplinary, too professional, so much so that I almost missed appreciating many of the diverse ways people made use and sense of the past,” he concluded.

A similar dynamic has been in play with the redlining maps of “Mapping Inequality.” People with a wide range of interests have applied the maps, and the data set underlying them, to a host of other purposes. Not long after “Mapping Inequality” was released, K-12 teachers began tweeting about using the maps in their classrooms. Researchers at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago used the maps and other data to examine the lasting effects of the HOLC maps, concluding that they “had an economically meaningful and lasting effect on the development of urban neighborhoods through reduced credit access and subsequent disinvestment.” A researcher at the Science Museum of Virginia sent people out on bicycles with thermometers to create heat maps of Richmond and found that the city’s heat islands overlaid shockingly well with the DSL’s redlining maps from eight decades earlier. He overlaid that data, in turn, with data from area hospitals about which neighborhoods were frequent destinations for ambulances responding to cases of heat stroke. Needless to say, the uneven impacts of climate change and heat distribution within cities were not on Rob’s mind when he and his team posted “Mapping Inequality.”

“One of the things I’ve really loved about ‘Mapping Inequality’—and it speaks to my background in American studies—is it gets used in ways I just would never have imagined,” he says. “What we find interesting, hopefully other people will find interesting,

but they will find other things interesting or important or impactful in these materials that we just didn’t imagine.”

For Andrew Gomez, teaching history at Puget Sound, the redlining maps help him convey issues of discrimination and inequality as he talks about Tacoma’s changing neighborhoods, whether in his courses or at Orientation. When talking about, for example, the Hilltop—tract D5 on the map—he shows incoming students how, even in 1937, the neighborhood was being described as “the melting pot district of Tacoma” experiencing an “infiltration of lower classes, slowly”—largely immigrants from Asia and southern Europe—which earned it a D grade by the HOLC. Using these maps, Andrew can help students begin to understand and unpack the lasting legacy of deliberate policy choices that have shaped the Hilltop and other Tacoma neighborhoods. They offer historical context for the neighborhoods’ present dynamics and challenges, which suddenly feel far less inevitable.

“I had been using those maps before I knew who Rob was or that there was a Puget Sound connection at all,” says Andrew. I keep going back to the maps—because they just work.”

Rob Nelson is glad to see the DSL’s projects getting people of all kinds engaged with history, whoever they are and however they come at the information. The type of history he practices requires a kind of letting go. He can present a point of view with a title like “Mapping Inequality” and a manner of organizing information—or, as he puts it, “slightly stacking the deck”—but the user is ultimately in charge of the experience of consuming the information. They’re put in a position to experience history in the way that Rob figured out he needed to do back in that 300-level Japanese history course, making their own connections and constructing meaning, even if it sometimes happens in a map-porny kind of way.

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*Matthew Dewald is a writer based in Richmond, Va.*

## AMERICAN PANORAMA

“**Mapping Inequality**” is the eighth map in the *American Panorama* series at the University of Richmond’s Digital Scholarship Lab, headed by Rob Nelson ’95. The collection was named the 2019 winner of the American Historical Association’s Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Innovation in Digital History. Here’s a look at the other seven maps in the series. All are available at [dsl.richmond.edu](http://dsl.richmond.edu).

“**The Forced Migration of Enslaved People in the United States, 1810–1860**” shows the massive and harrowing displacement of nearly a million enslaved men, women, and children in the decades between the banning of the international slave trade and the outbreak of the Civil War.

“**The Overland Trails, 1840–1860**” traces westward expansion over three trails, as reconstructed through more than 2,000 individual entries in the diaries of more than two dozen travelers.

“**Canals, 1820–1890**” combines maps of America’s canal system as it evolved throughout the 19th century, with economic data about trade volume and the commodities that moved along these vital arteries.

“**Foreign-Born Population, 1850–2010**” uses census data to depict the density, origin countries, and destination counties of immigrants to the United States.

“**The Executive Abroad, 1905–2016**” maps the international travels of U.S. presidents and secretaries of state and the frequency of visits to geopolitical regions over time.

“**Renewing Inequality: Urban Renewal, Family Displacements, and Race, 1955–1966**” conveys the impact of federally funded urban renewal projects on Americans who lost their homes and were often separated from their communities.

“**Electing the House of Representatives**” shows the changing strength of political parties by mapping House of Representatives election data from before the Civil War through 2016. —MD





COURTESY OF KAREN JENKINS-JOHNSON '82

# EYE OPENER

Art gallery owner Karen Jenkins-Johnson '82  
wants the world to see a broader palette.

When people walk into the Jenkins Johnson Gallery, a few steps from the bustle of San Francisco's Union Square, they enter an eclectic space. There is sculpture, mixed media, playful photo-realism, and the breathtaking photography of the late Gordon Parks. Some of the works are political, confronting the viewer with unexpected juxtapositions, like a Muslim woman wearing an Hermès scarf as a veil. Others reflect the joy and sensuality of summer. They all come together seamlessly through the discerning eye of Karen Jenkins-Johnson '82.

For 25 years, Karen has built an international reputation as a gallerist committed to elevating artists of color—artists who had long been shut out of the art world. In a realm that she finds is often dominated by white male gatekeepers, she has gotten the work of diverse artists into museums, private collections, and other places where it had never been seen before.

"In one way, gallery work is advocacy," she says. "I see the pathway to feature artists on a bigger scale, beyond the limitations that others have put on them. One of the things my parents taught me is that only I can allow others to put limitations on me. I don't allow that, and I don't allow others to put limitations on my artists."

The youngest of William K. and Fannie Mae Jenkins' five children, Karen grew up in Portland, and was the first of her siblings to go to college. Her father, who served in the Korean War and was the first black officer to lead Marine troops in combat, was a tough and practical man who taught his children a

strong sense of self-sufficiency. Karen chose Puget Sound for its academic reputation and its relative closeness to home, among other factors. She chose a business major and joined the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority, where she was only the second African American member of the campus chapter.

It was Puget Sound's core curriculum that had the greatest impact on Karen's career path. In art history she studied five centuries of paintings, from the Renaissance to the early 1900s. "I learned how art came to be, the history of those times, the influence of the church and wealthy benefactors," she says. "It gave me an intellectual basis for how to view the world." The next summer, staying with family in Washington, D.C., while working a summer job, she spent her free hours exploring museums. The National Gallery had an exhibit of post-Impressionists: Manet, Monet, and others she had studied. Seeing the paintings in person made Karen's spirit take flight. Still, even though her heart told her to study art history, "I didn't see any clear, solid path there to being able to pay my rent." She stuck to her business major.

After graduating, she worked for Price Waterhouse in Seattle for four years, then was accepted into the M.B.A. program at UC Berkeley on a full scholarship. She left Price Waterhouse in February 1986, well before school was scheduled to start in the fall, so she could take a long vacation in Hawai'i before plunging into the M.B.A. program.

Shortly before she left for Maui, friends of her family, Rev. John W. Garlington and his wife, Yvonne, were killed in a car accident. John was just 48 years old; his wife, 46. They were prominent figures in Portland's

black community, lived just down the street from the Jenkinsees, and—like the Jenkins family—had five children. Karen remembers thinking, "The Garlingtons are gone. Their lives were cut short." The gravity of that realization was a wake-up call she didn't know she needed. "It made me realize I needed to do something I really loved."

The months in Hawai'i turned into a year and a half. She realized she was exhausted. The focus and discipline that had propelled her through school, through four years of long hours at a "Big Eight" accounting firm, were spent.

"I got to know myself a little bit more. I had been this type-A person doing exactly what I was supposed to be doing when I was supposed to be doing it, and really didn't listen to what Karen wanted. What fits well with Karen? What makes Karen happy?" She deferred the start of grad school—and lost her scholarship. "I thought my father would have a heart attack," she says. "He thought I had lost my mind in Hawai'i."

During her time in Hawai'i, Karen started to explore how she could bring her business acumen to her love of art. She visited galleries and nurtured her artistic side, the part of her that loved dance and had been a good ice skater. She started to envision a gallery that would reflect her point of view, which was just beginning to come into focus. She imagined something big, a gallery that operated on an international scale and featured artists she wasn't seeing in other galleries and museums.

When she did start classes at Berkeley, she focused on marketing, which she loved almost as much as art. She also met her



husband, Kevin Johnson, who was studying for his M.B.A. at Stanford. They married soon after graduation in 1989 and started their family right away, with a son, Rindon, and daughter, Kamille.

With the economy in recession, Karen knew it wasn't the right time to launch a new art venture. Instead she learned by doing, getting jobs at three different San Francisco galleries, waiting for the moment to be right. She cherishes this six-year apprenticeship, during which she learned the business from the bottom up. She got hands-on experience in how to mount a show, how to handle the needs of artists, and how to steer collectors to works they will love, as well as the business side of making a gallery a success. "I really learned the nuts and bolts, the front end, the back end, the pieces of the puzzle and how to make it work."

By 1996, market conditions had improved, and Karen felt ready to take the risk of opening her own gallery. She found a space with windows fronting on Sutter Street; there, she mounted her first exhibition. "I used everything I learned and then some," she says. She tapped her skills in business, accounting, marketing, and management, as well as her time working with artists in those three galleries.

The art history class she took at Puget Sound had focused on European work. "There was not one black American artist," she says. "Not one African artist, not one artist of color." Later, as a professional, she saw something similar. "White males run the art world, the magazines, the newspapers. And at that time, they gave presence to white artists only. So if you were black, you would not be written in the history, not included in any of that. I had one artist who took his portfolio to an institution, and the person at the front desk turned him away without looking at it. 'We only take artists of European descent,' meaning, 'Get out of here. Your art is not welcome here.'

"That's what I'm trying to rectify."

Today her two-story gallery features about 30 artists in carefully curated shows. This summer the theme was summertime, with many of the pieces on display reflecting the feel of hot streets, long days, and the

playfulness of childhood. Karen has traveled worldwide to seek out artists she wants to represent, trekking to art fairs in pursuit of underappreciated talent in Paris, Miami, and Basel. She approached Lavar Munroe at the Venice Biennale in 2015, drawn to his "Human Zoo" paintings. Lavar, whose mother died when he was young, is attracted to what he calls Karen's "motherly feel." She nurtures him, sees where he is in his artistic development, and supports his vision for where he is going. Lavar recently painted a

Before launching her gallery, Karen worked at three San Francisco galleries, learning how to mount a show, how to handle artists' needs, and how to steer collectors to works they will love, as well as the business side of making a gallery a success.

series of 12 devils that sold swiftly. A different gallerist might have asked him to create more devils to make more money, but Karen was more interested in what *he* wanted to do next. Her trust in his work, Lavar says, helps him take more risks.

What the Gordon Parks Foundation saw in Karen, when it chose her to represent the late photographer's groundbreaking work, was passion mixed with savvy. "I was impressed with her as an individual, and that she had been collecting Parks herself," says Peter W. Kunhardt Jr., the foundation's executive director. "I know she lives and breathes what she does, and she understands it in all its complexities. And she sees the bigger picture, doesn't give up, and has momentum behind her—not just about making a sale but

about what is best for the artist and what will keep him relevant."

The San Francisco gallery will soon be moving to Minnesota Street Project, in the historic Dogpatch neighborhood. Meanwhile, Karen also has a space with a completely different feel in Brooklyn. The project space, opened in 2017 in a historic limestone building across the street from Prospect Park in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, is part gallery and part collaborative hub. It's a place where she can bring different artists and different sensibilities together to see what happens.

"We can develop into a place where curators of color, artists of color, writers of color can come together in a black-owned building," she says. "Where we're able to take risks on projects that don't make any money. We're what we call a double-bottom-line company, where we take the profits from San Francisco to build the careers of people of color, to invest in them.

"Last year we had a block party. We had a chef—a black chef—come in and talk about culture and food. When we have artists talk about their art in this intimate setting, you learn so much more." That intimacy with the artists she represents is important for her ability to place the artwork in good homes—"places where people will appreciate what they have," she says.

After 23 years running a successful gallery, Karen has realized many of her dreams. Hers was the first African American gallery to exhibit at Paris Photo, Art Basel Switzerland, and Art Basel Miami. Her artists are in the permanent collections of major museums, including New York's Metropolitan Museum, the Whitney, and the J. Paul Getty in Los Angeles.

"I'm still pushing the envelope in the art world," she says. "That vision I had in Hawai'i, I was able to do that. I was able to find out what makes Karen happy." What makes Karen happy, it turns out, breaks through barriers in the art world. It brings attention and acclaim to artists who, because of her, are now getting their due.

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*Danelle Morton is a magazine writer and book author based in San Francisco.*

## FIVE ARTISTS TO KNOW

Karen Jenkins-Johnson '82 has devoted her career to elevating emerging artists of color and highlighting the work of underappreciated masters. Here are five artists she believes deserve more attention. —DM

1. Ming Smith. "She plays with light and shadow in her photographs to make everyday moments ethereal and transcendent. She's the first black female photographer collected by the Museum of Modern Art, and her work is also in the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian, and the Brooklyn Museum."

2. Enrico Riley. "His paintings and drawings are vibrant and full of color; they investigate themes of historical and contemporary violence, martyrdom, grief, resistance, and hope. He's on the faculty at Dartmouth College, where he was just named to the George Frederick Jewett Professorship in Art, and he has a Rome Prize in Visual Arts and a Guggenheim Fellowship. His work is in the collections of the Studio Museum in Harlem, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, and the Nasher Sculpture Center, among others."

3. Jae and Wadsworth Jarrell. "They're founding members of AfriCOBRA—the African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists, which defined the visual aesthetic of the Black Arts movement. They work both together and separately. Jae's revolution-themed clothing exalts black families and is one of a kind. Wadsworth's portraits are pattern-intensive and combine vibrant colors with Black Power slogans, to depict the intensity of political activism. You can see their work in the collections of the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, among others. They're also included in the 58th Venice Biennale."

4. Aubrey Williams. "His paintings range from astronomy and ecology to pre-Columbian iconography and music. They're visually striking, bright, abstract paintings. He also was a co-founder of the Caribbean Artists movement, a group of London-based intellectuals and artists of Caribbean ancestry, which urged artists to look to their heritage for abstract or non-narrative inspiration."

5. Thornton Dial. "He's a self-taught artist who combines mass-produced objects with organic materials to produce works that speak allegorically about African American history and themes of displacement, struggle, and the will to overcome. For example, he incorporates ripped and stained clothing, wire, cans, carpet, and steel to create a metaphor for the shared history, genealogies, and 'roots' to Africa."

### PICTURED RIGHT:

Aubrey Williams, "Now and Coming Time I," 1988, oil on canvas, 48 x 70.5 inches; Ming Smith, "Single Pool Player, Pittsburgh, PA," (*August Wilson Series*), 1992, gelatin silver print, 20 x 16 inches; Enrico Riley, "Untitled: The Inheritance," 2019, oil and watercolor on canvas, 58 x 53 inches





# START

# ME UP

**Meet seven Puget Sound entrepreneurs who are blazing new paths, from bitcoin to ice pops.**

By Julianne Bell '13



## Rachel Connors '15

**JOB:** Founder of Bakerita.com, a blog specializing in gluten-free, refined sugar-free, and dairy-free treats.

**IN BUSINESS SINCE:** 2010

**INSTA-WORTHY:** Rachel (@bakeritablog) tempts more than 174,000 Instagram followers with her mouthwatering confections.

**FAVORITE CLASSES:** Rachel credits classes with Professors Lynnette Claire, Lisa Johnson, and Kate Stirling with giving her the confidence and practical knowledge to go full time after graduation. “Economics of Happiness with Kate Stirling changed the way I view money. It allowed me to give myself permission to go after what I love, and let wealth follow,” she says. “I still have many of the books we read in the class and refer back to them even today.”

**SIGNATURE TASTES:** Among Rachel’s favorite recipes—and the most popular on the blog—are her Paleo Chocolate Chip Cookies (which she developed while living with friends and sorority sisters in a house on North Washington her senior year at Puget Sound) and Ultimate Gluten-Free Fudge Brownies. “There is something so satisfying about taking classic favorites and adjusting them to fit into my diet, while staying just as delicious as the versions we all grew up with.”

**BEST PART OF HER WORK:** Hearing from readers who can finally have dessert again, after years of food allergies, food sensitivities, or autoimmune disorders. “I’ve had readers tell me that my recipes are the first desserts that they’ve been able to eat since implementing ‘x’ dietary restriction that give them the same satisfaction as the traditional versions they’re used to.”

**TO THE HEIGHTS:** Rachel has a book coming out with Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: *Bakerita: 100+ No-Fuss Gluten-Free, Dairy-Free, and Refined Sugar-Free Recipes for the Modern Baker*. “It still feels surreal,” she says. Look for the book in March 2020.

IMAGE COURTESY OF RACHEL CONNORS '15



# “SEWING IS AS JURASSIC AS GUNPOWDER.”

BILLY SMITH '07



## Billy Smith '07

**JOB:** Founder and CEO of Bilio, an Oakland-based company specializing in industrial design, product development, and design for manufacturing. Clients have included Allbirds, Casper, Hewlett Packard, Logitech, and Google, among others.

**IN BUSINESS SINCE:** 2015

**PREVIOUS VENTURES:** In college, Billy started Sukräfte, a business where he would repurpose materials like wetsuits and vintage fabrics into custom bags. Inspired by an invention of their grandfather's, he and his brother later founded Sporting-Sails, an outdoor-product company specializing in sails that can be used for skateboarding, skiing, snowboarding, and surfing.

**OTHER GIGS:** While at Puget Sound, Billy drove down to California on holidays and breaks for job interviews; he landed a job with Patagonia as a product developer. After that, he was recruited by Apple to lead a team designing soft goods such as Apple Watch bands, iPad covers, and iPhone cases.

**NO SEW:** Bilio aims to prove current design models outdated and eschews superfluous features like zippers and seams. “I take offense to seams—I think seams are a way to cut corners,” he says. “Sewing is as Jurassic as gunpowder. I see a great opportunity to improve products through better materials, textile design, and manufacturing processes.”

**PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Bilio has created the Bilio Bag, a handbag that's knit to shape from yarn blends using a flatbed knitting machine—the same kind Nike and Adidas have used to make footwear. The process involves no cutting of the fabric (thus no waste) and no sewing. The Bilio Bag is set to launch in early 2020.

IMAGE COURTESY OF BILLY SMITH '07



## Scott Silver '74 Todd Silver '75

**JOB:** Partners in JL Darling Corp. of Tacoma, makers of Rite in the Rain, waterproof writing paper used by geologists, surveyors, backpackers, the military, and anyone else who wants to write outdoors without worry.

**IN BUSINESS SINCE:** The company's roots go back to 1916; the Silver brothers have been in charge since 1977.

**SOUND ROOTS:** Scott and Todd's parents, Lloyd '49 and Mary Agnes Gallagher '48, are Loggers and were presidents of their respective fraternity and sorority. Todd is named after Todd Hall, the campus dorm where his father lived.

**SUSTAINABLE VALUES:** The company spent years developing an environmentally responsible water-based paper coating. Their eco-friendly paper is also recyclable.

**GLOBETROTTING:** Rite in the Rain products have been used by legendary rock climber Conrad Anker (an avid fan of the company) on the summit of Everest, by National Geographic and Discovery Channel explorers, by Iditarod mushers, and at the Olympic Games. They have traveled to the Amazon, Easter Island, Australia, Alaska, Antarctica, and Africa. “Only wish we could have gone to some of those places along with the products,” says Scott.

**MOST CREATIVE USE:** Last year, men who were surveying a remote Alaskan lake got trapped by inclement weather and fashioned a lean-to shingled with sheets of Rite in the Rain paper to keep the moisture out. They stayed in it for nearly a week.

IMAGE COURTESY OF RITEINTHERAIN.COM



## Megan Janes '12

**JOB:** Founder of Seattle Pops. The business, which started out at seven farmers markets and opened a brick-and-mortar location in Wallingford in 2017, makes frozen pops using fresh, local, and seasonal ingredients.

**IN BUSINESS SINCE:** 2013

**INSPIRATION:** A friend took Megan to a shop called Steel City Pops while she was living in Birmingham, Ala. Megan glimpsed the production process and was smitten with the delicious frozen pops, quality ingredients, and fun atmosphere.

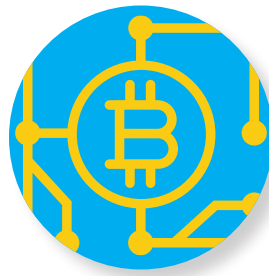
**LOGGER HELP:** Megan has twice sought help from classes taught by business prof Lynnette Claire. A 2013 class did market research on Seattle neighborhoods that led to the decision to start with farmers markets before opening a store. Students in 2017 recommended an app for business communications. "We use it every day," Megan says.

**A FAMILY AFFAIR:** Megan's whole family is involved in Seattle Pops: Dave, her dad, helps formulate recipes; Lindsey '09, her sister, is in charge of kitchen production; Suzie, her wife, manages the farmers markets; and Melody Carlisle, her mom, handles catering and administrative work.

**GIVING BACK:** Inspired by the Puget Sound athletic department's food drive, Seattle Pops works with softball teams to collect nonperishables for the FamilyWorks food bank. Seattle Pops also sells Christmas trees to raise money for the Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family program.

**FAVORITE FLAVOR:** Available flavors range from the traditional (Very Strawberry) to the unconventional (Spicy Mango Chile). Megan has a soft spot for Cinnamon Horchata.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MEGAN JANES '12



## Nicolas Cary '07

**JOB:** Co-founder and president of Blockchain.com, a platform that includes a wallet for bitcoin, ethereum, bitcoin cash, USD PAX, and stellar lumens, as well as a service for verifying transactions. In August, with promotional help from William Shatner, the company launched the world's fastest trading platform for digital assets, called The PIT.

**IN BUSINESS SINCE:** 2011

**FAMOUS FUNDERS:** Blockchain.com has raised more than \$75 million from investors including Richard Branson and Google Ventures.

**MEDIA APPEARANCES:** *The New York Times*, NPR, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *WIRED*, CNN, and more.

**MAKING HISTORY:** Nicolas made the first-ever bitcoin donation (valued at \$10,000) to an American college or university to Puget Sound in 2014.

**CLASS REUNION:** The former Sigma Chi president still meets up with friends from his Puget Sound days for a trip each year. "Making long-term, lifelong friends takes time, but it's worth every effort," he says. "It gives you a sense of confidence as you navigate the world, and my friends can hold me accountable." Fraternity brother Erik Voorhees '07, CEO of the cryptocurrency exchange ShapeShift.com, raved about bitcoin on a 2012 fishing trip and recommended Nicolas as CEO for Blockchain. Nicolas also counts Jesse Proudman '07 (*at right*) among his closest friends.

**CHARITY WORK:** Nicolas co-founded SkysTheLimit.org, a nonprofit that provides support to underrepresented young entrepreneurs, with friends Bo Ghirardelli '07 and Joel Higa '07. SkysTheLimit.org has raised \$4 million to date.



## Jesse Proudman '07

**JOB:** CEO and founder of Strix Leviathan, an investment management platform for cryptocurrencies. The company is named for Strix, a mythological owl that is "always watching, always listening," and Leviathan, an eight-legged sea monster that exemplifies "intelligent multitasking."

**IN BUSINESS SINCE:** 2018

**AWARDS:** 2014 *GeekWire* Young Entrepreneur of the Year; 2013 *Puget Sound Business Journal* 40 Under 40.

**FIRST GIG:** Launched his first tech company, a web-development firm, at age 13. He started by building a website for his dentist in order to afford a Sony Walkman CD player.

**DORM ROOM TO BOARDROOM:** In his first year at Puget Sound, Jesse started a cloud-hosting company called Blue Box in his room in Todd/Phibbs Hall. He sold Blue Box to IBM in June 2015. "As a young entrepreneur, often it was challenging to be taken seriously," Jesse says. "Puget Sound did a really good job building the self-awareness and self-confidence I needed to interact in the professional world."

**HOBBIES:** Jesse has an affinity for boating, which he turned to as a way to manage stress. "Being on the water provided me with a sense of peace and allowed me to shut my brain off," he says. He's also a self-described race car fanatic and has participated in the Lotus Cup and 25 Hours of Thunderhill races.

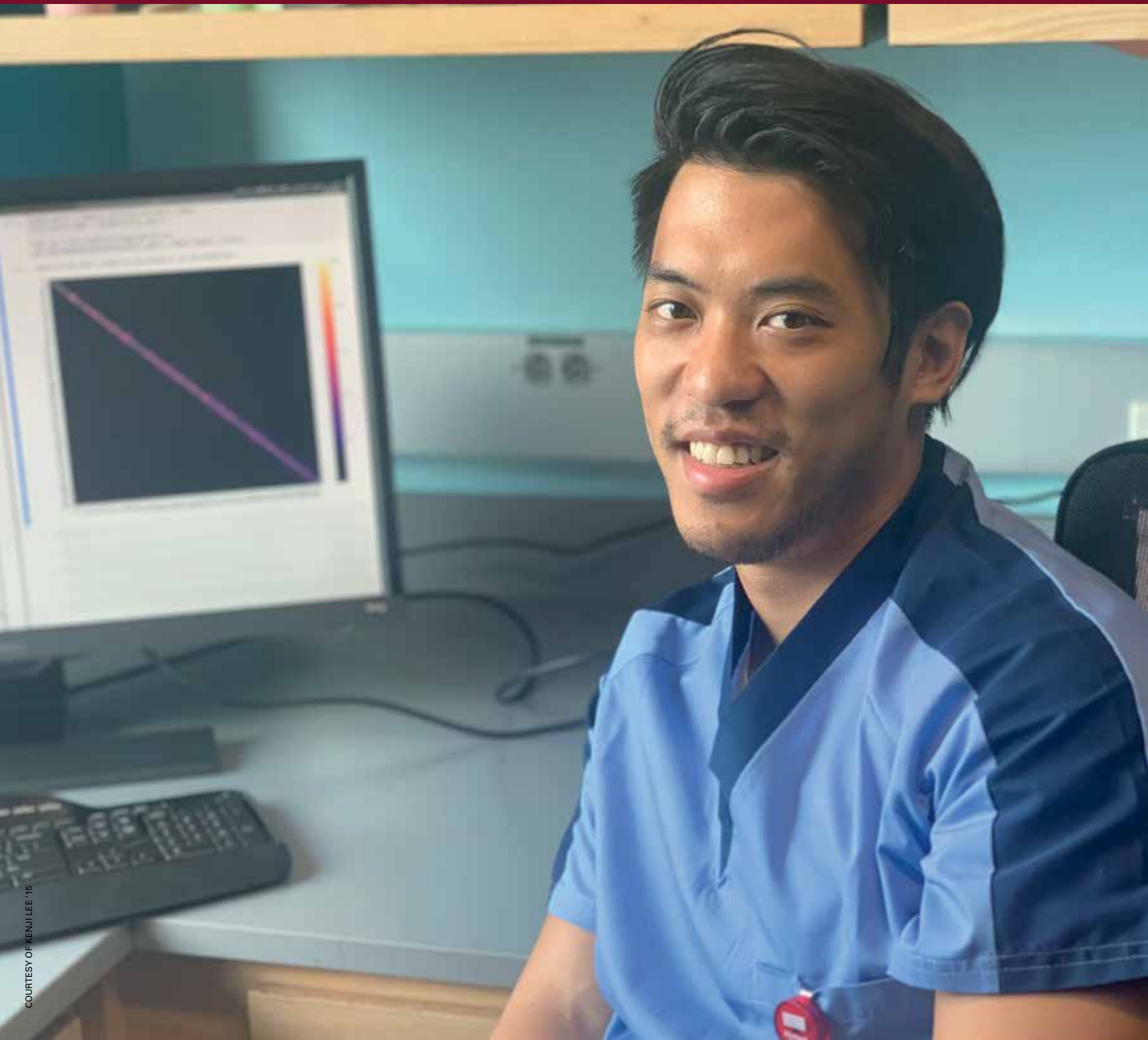
IMAGE COURTESY OF STRIXLEVIATHON.COM

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*Julianne Bell '13 is a frequent contributor to Arches. Her work also has appeared in The Stranger and Seattle Weekly.*



# classmates



# An Assist for the Brain: Kenji Lee '15

By Anneli Haralson

**THE NEUROLOGIST SAID HE ENJOYED** his work, but Kenji Lee '15 sensed a note of despair in the doctor's voice. As a Parkinson's disease specialist, the neurologist said he wished he could do more for his patients. He could give them dopamine to ease symptoms, especially problems with movement, but he could prescribe only so much before it would become toxic.

Kenji was a junior in high school at Hawai'i Baptist Academy at the time, and had always been interested in the brain. He had been hustling home after school each day so he didn't miss the 3 p.m. live-streamed lecture from Howard Hughes Medical Institute called Making Your Mind. The series was about how the mind constructs memories, keeps track of them, and makes sense of the world around it. His mother, who worked at a local medical office, noticed his interest and set up the meeting with the neurologist. Seeing the doctor's frustration turned Kenji's interest into a career path: "That made me want to do research to find out what more can we do for neurological disorders," he says.

Two years later, Kenji arrived at Puget Sound and declared majors in math and biochemistry and a minor in neuroscience. His work led him to the lab of Siddharth Ramakrishnan, an associate professor of biology and chair of Puget Sound's neuroscience program, who was studying the effects of the industrial chemical BPA on the mating behaviors and development of zebrafish. Kenji began working in Siddharth's lab his sophomore year, and jumped in headfirst. "I

was able to devote as much time as I wanted to the lab and start doing neuroscience research before I had even taken a class in the subject," he says.

By his junior year of college, Kenji had set his sights on landing a job at Seattle's Allen Institute, which conducts research on brain science, cell science, and immunology—a goal made more real after meeting the

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Kenji hopes to use neuroscience to make better prosthetics. "Most prosthetic limbs don't talk to the brain; they just talk to the muscles."

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institute's president, Christof Koch, when he came to campus to talk with students interested in neuroscience. Siddharth arranged the visit with the help of David Poston '85, who at the time was chief operating officer of the Allen Institute and a member of Puget Sound's board of trustees.

Not long after graduation, while working as a researcher at the University of

Washington, Kenji got a call from an Allen Institute employee he'd met at a conference his senior year. There was an opening. He joined the institute as a researcher, working on creating an "atlas" of the mouse brain. "We went back and documented the functional properties of several types of cells in many layers of the cortex," he says. "We looked at how the neurons reacted to certain stimuli." The idea was to provide "a common language of data that neuroscientists can use," something he says didn't exist before.

Kenji spent nearly four years at the institute before deciding to pursue his Ph.D. in cognitive and computational neuroscience. He began in September at Boston University, where he's studying how to teach computers to understand the brain's intentions, with hopes of applying that work to developing better prosthetics. "Most prosthetic limbs don't talk to the brain; they just talk to the muscles," he says. The work has implications for people who are paralyzed, have had strokes, or have neurological disorders, where connections among different areas of the brain have been disrupted.

Kenji hopes the advanced degree will allow him to spearhead his own research. He wants to develop new treatments and—like the neurologist who influenced him when he was in high school—do more than just prescribe.



## From a Puppy to Pillsy: Jeff LeBrun '03

By Anneli Haralson



COURTESY OF JEFF LEBRUN '03

**CURLED UP IN HER CRATE, SOUND** asleep, the brown puppy with a black snout and floppy ears had won over Jeff LeBrun '03—even though he couldn't seem to stop sneezing. Jeff and his wife had adopted the mountain cur mix, whom they'd named Rogue, just a couple of days earlier, and Jeff quickly realized he was allergic to the puppy but too attached to get rid of her. So he did what millions of Americans do in such a predicament: He got a prescription for an allergy medication.

"I've always been pretty good about staying on top of things, but I just couldn't get into the habit of taking those pills," he recalls. If only there were some way for his pill bottle to remind him to take his medicine.

This was 2014, and Jeff had just moved back to the Pacific Northwest with his wife after finishing grad school and working in Michigan. While working as an investments consultant in Seattle, he stumbled across a 3D printer in an office and had an idea that could make his medication worries obsolete. In an instant, he envisioned the prototype for a new pill-bottle cap—one that would remind users to take their medications, sync with their cellphones, and track their doses. That serendipitous run-in with the 3D printer was the inspiration for Pillsy, the company Jeff co-founded and of which he's currently CEO.

Pillsy was the culmination of ideas he had gathered over more than a decade of working

in biology, engineering, and business. A physics and math student at Puget Sound, Jeff initially intended to become an engineer. "But I started taking biology classes," he recalls, "and I liked that a lot. It was still technical, but I was taking courses that got me outside, like ecology, and also learning about things that impacted people's health." He switched his major and earned a degree in biology.

After graduating, he went on to take classes in engineering, computer science, and design at Tacoma Community College and got a job at a Seattle-based engineering firm. From there, he went to the University of Michigan, where he earned an M.B.A. and a master's degree in sustainable systems. Along with some fellow grad students, he created a company that used algae to clean wastewater—and then, because they were "tinkering with a lot of different things," Jeff says, they discovered that the algae created a substance called beta-glucan, a known immune-system stimulant.

Their timing was especially good—it was the late 2000s, and public concern was growing about the use of antibiotics in livestock. Farmers found that avoiding antibiotics had a downside: outbreaks of disease in their facilities. Adding beta-glucan to animal feed could offer an alternative to antibiotics. "Instead of killing bacteria, we basically support the immune system of animals," Jeff says. He co-founded a startup called Algal Scientific to commercialize the compound, then sold the

company in 2013. He also became the first business employee at a startup called Sakti3 that worked on advanced battery science, which exposed him to wearable electronics like Fitbit step trackers. Later he thought, What if I took that same wearable technology and put it in the pill cap?

In 2014, he created a prototype for a smart pill cap that sends medication reminders to a patient's smartphone. He and two co-founders launched Pillsy three years later. The device, which comes with an app, automatically senses when the bottle is opened or closed, and sends an alert when a person misses a dose. It also monitors for double doses and keeps track of how many pills remain. Pillsy has been used to help transplant patients follow their medication regimens, to measure adherence in clinical trials, and to monitor opioid usage among veterans.

The innovation holds promise for anyone who struggles to remember to take their pills. *The New York Times* reported in 2017 that 125,000 people die each year from not adhering to their prescribed medication.

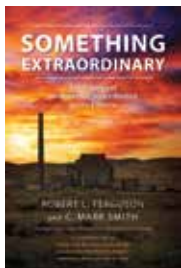
Jeff has since expanded his work. His company, optimize.health, was launched in 2018 and offers ways for health care providers to monitor their patients' blood pressure, blood sugar, pulse, and other health indicators remotely. His goal is the same as with Pillsy, just on a bigger scale: to make home health care easier, and perhaps save a few lives in the process.

## 1960 REUNION YEAR Jaclyn Carmichael

**Palmer** has made a name for herself on the silver screen. She was filmed alongside Fran Drescher in *The Creatress*, a film released in 2018 about a young author who is criticized and nearly obliterated from the field, but manages to write her way out of the public eye. Another 2018 film, a horror flick called *Old Mrs. Jenkins*, stars Jaclyn as the title character and is on the festival circuit. Jaclyn also has appeared in an episode of *Marry Me*, which is popular in Europe, and appeared in two episodes of *Murder in the Heartland* on the Investigation Discovery channel. She holds a bachelor's degree in communication studies and theatre arts from Puget Sound.

## 1961 C. Mark Smith's fifth book, *Something Extraordinary: A Short History of the Manhattan Project, Hanford, and the B Reactor*,

was released this summer, just in time for the 75th anniversary of the B Reactor going critical for the first time, in September 1944. Mark holds a bachelor's degree in history from Puget Sound and wrote the book with co-author Robert L. Ferguson.



## 1966 Linda Federico Pearn

was awarded Stadium High School's Dale Chihuly Outstanding Alumni Award this spring. The award is given each year to an individual who has made notable contributions to the school. Linda says she is humbled and excited to be chosen for this award. Before retiring, Linda was a Tacoma Public Schools teacher and City Club of Tacoma administrator. She holds a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound and is an involved member of the Alpha Phi sorority.

In May, **Heather Smith Thomas** wrote an article for *thehorse.com* about designing and building a horse

farm with limited space. She owns a ranch with her husband near Salmon, Idaho, where they raise cattle and a few horses. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound and has raised and trained horses for 50 years. She has written more than 20 books and more than 9,000 articles for horse and livestock publications.

## 1968

This summer, the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants honored **Thomas Sadler '68, P'98** with the 2018–19 Lifetime Achievement Award. According to an article in the summer issue of *The Washington-CPA Magazine*, the award recognizes those who have had "an exemplary career of leadership in the accounting profession and the community." A retired CPA, Thomas began his career in 1968, when he joined professional services firm Ernst & Young. He became a CPA in 1969 and, three years later, he joined Donald Brink to form the company Brink & Sadler. He retired from that company in 2015. He served as chair, strategic advisor, and deputy director of the Washington State Board of Accountancy and, in 2009, was named one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting by *Accounting Today*. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound and is a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

## 1971 Warren Pope's

exhibition, *Warren Pope: Blood Lines Time Lines Red Lines*, which explored social trauma, racism, and violence through contemporary sculpture and mixed-media works, was on display at Seattle's Northwest African American Museum (NAAM) from June through September. Warren is an active member of the local visual arts community and holds a bachelor's degree in art and design from Puget Sound.

## 1974 Ronald Merritt

worked for the Parsons Corporation, a defense, engineering, and critical infrastructure contractor in the Middle East, for 34 years. In March 2018, he became

sick and left Saudi Arabia. Following extensive hospitalization in the U.S. and six months of physical therapy, he was released in June 2019 and is relearning how to walk at home. Ron is now retired and enjoys working on family genealogy and leading a quiet life after years of work and travel in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

## 1978 D. William Kusler

has embraced the Snohomish County community theater scene. This spring, he performed in the Edmonds Driftwood Players production of *The Addams Family—A New Musical*. Other recent acting credits include *The Fantasticks*, *Avenue Q*, *The Family Business*, and *The Last Bride of Ansbuk Village*. Bill also is continuing his day job as a kindergarten teacher in the Lake Stevens School District, where he loves bringing song and dance into the classroom.

## 1979

In May, the American Chemical Society announced **Marcie Merritt** as the recipient of the E. Ann Nalley Northwest Regional Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society. The award was presented to her in July at the society's regional meeting banquet. Marcie works for Boeing Portland on the liaison engineering DFM team and in business operations. She is an active violinist and does extensive humanitarian, robotics, and STEM student and teacher outreach locally and on the national level. Marcie holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Puget Sound and was a member of the Logger crew and lacrosse teams.

## 1981 Antonio Esporma '81, P'14

sent along a humorous update to let his classmates know he has turned 60; still lives in Irvine, Calif.; and writes firmware for a living. "The stereo is getting better, cars are getting bigger, taxes getting worse, kids have jobs, wife is getting more beautiful, and I had to quit drinking fine liquor on account of getting old." He holds a bachelor's degree in physics from Puget Sound.

## 1982 Barbara Pawlitschek Sellers

had her first book, *Get Tough or Die: Why I Forgave My Parents for My Abusive Childhood*, published in September. The book chronicles her experiences with severe child abuse at the hands of her father and her mother, who was too afraid to protect her and her siblings. By telling her story, Barbara says, she hopes she inspires readers to do whatever they can to help prevent domestic abuse. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound. Her book is available on Amazon.

## 1983 Ken Brazile

was hired as the director of customer solutions for Nrby, a mobile workforce messaging platform, in June. He has worked in the cable and broadband industry for nearly 20 years and most recently was a customer solutions architect for web video pioneer Espial. His career also includes roles in product management, network analysis, and system engineering positions at the NCTC, Iilon Systems, Midstream, FORE Systems, and Pierce County Information Services. He earned a bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics from Puget Sound.

**Linda Worley, M.D.**, is a regional associate dean for the Northwest Regional Campus of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She was featured in a *Talk Business & Politics* article about women in business. When asked what her biggest passion is, she said: "empowering others to discover and realize their calling." Linda holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Puget Sound.

## 1985 REUNION YEAR

In July, author **Karen Meyer Eisenbrey's** latest fantasy novel, *Wizard Girl*, was released by Not a Pipe Publishing. She celebrated with a well-attended reading at Third Place Books in Seattle's Ravenna neighborhood. The following month, her first novel, *The Gospel According to St. Rage*, was re-released in preparation for the Nov. 19 publication of the sequel, *Barbara and*



## class notes

the *Rage Brigade*. Plans to celebrate the sequel are in the works.

**1987** Self-described “transportation enthusiast” **Susan Bladholm ‘87, P’16** in May received funding from the city of Portland to continue her Frog Ferry project, which would create a water taxi route between Vancouver, Wash., and downtown Portland. Currently, the trip can take between 45 minutes to an hour due to congestion on Interstate 5. The ferry should take only 28 minutes. Susan, an accomplished political staffer and private-sector director who holds a bachelor’s degree in communication studies and theatre arts from Puget Sound, has been heading the effort to create a river-friendly passenger ferry since 2016. The project is currently in the feasibility study phase.

In December, **Elizabeth Roberts ‘87, ‘90** achieved certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in library media/early childhood through young adulthood. She has worked in Washington’s Central Kitsap School District for the past 28 years—the last 19 as an elementary school teacher and librarian. “I feel fortunate to have a job that I truly love,” Elizabeth says. “Every day, I get to go to work and help little people from age 3 up to age 11 find the answers to their questions and find good books for their recreational reading. I am truly blessed!”

**1993** Inspirational author **Kristi Bowman Morgan** published her third book, *Loyal Love: Learning the Art of Unconditional Self-Respect*, this spring. It was released on Amazon in May and encourages readers with simple lessons that can easily be applied to life’s most challenging situations. Kristi also runs a writing and editing business, KB Communications, which celebrated five years in business this August. She holds a bachelor’s degree



in English from Puget Sound and is a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority.

**1995 REUNION YEAR** **Charles Radebaugh**, a business manager and YMCA board member, was featured in a *Eugene Weekly* “Happening People” article about his longtime involvement with the organization. He is president of the YMCA’s volunteer board and is a partner and general manager of Rainbow Valley Design and Construction.

**1996** **Galvin Guerrero**, president of Mount Carmel School in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, was recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club of Saipan in June. An article in the *Marianas Variety* indicated that the award is the club’s highest honor and is awarded each year to a community member who “exemplifies the Rotary motto of ‘Service Above Self,’ by giving unselfishly of his or her life to serve others.” Galvin also has been recognized with several awards from other entities, including the Office of the Governor, the Humanities Council, and Northern Marianas College, for his work to improve education and encourage children to excel in school. In addition to being Mount Carmel School president, he continues to teach high school and college courses in speech and debate, AP English literature, AP U.S. history, and AP U.S. politics and government. He holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in school administration from the University of San Francisco.

**1997** **Doug Bowen-Flynn**, a veteran actor with Massachusetts’ Gloucester Stage Company, played the role of Lieutenant Kelly in the company’s August premiere of *Ben Butler*. According to an article in *Wicked Local Gloucester*, the play takes place during the Civil War, at Virginia’s Union-held Fort Monroe, which is under the command of Union Gen. Benjamin Butler. When three escaped slaves show up at Fort Monroe seeking sanctuary, Benjamin is faced with a

moral dilemma: whether to return the escapees back to the Confederacy or make a decision that could alter the course of American history. Doug has acted in more than a dozen plays, movies, and television shows, and holds a bachelor’s degree in communication studies from Puget Sound.

**1998** **Laura Kalinski Opstedal ‘98, M.P.T.’01, D.P.T.’04** lives in Bozeman, Mont., and opened Build Physio & Performance, a sports physical therapy private practice, in January. She sent us a note in June, after being open for six months, and said, “It feels good to release the 18 years of ideas and dreams from my brain.” She is also a busy mom to four children, ages 6 to 11, and couldn’t do it all without the help of her husband of 15 years, Chris.

**2001** **Bryan Doran** joined the Metier Law Firm in Port Orchard, Wash., as a trial lawyer in July. Prior to joining Metier, he worked at Doran Law, a firm he founded. He holds a bachelor’s degree in religion from Puget Sound and a law degree from Seattle University.

**Ned Kletz**, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in communication from Puget Sound, earned his medical degree from American University of Antigua’s College of Medicine in 2017. He is currently completing his psychiatry residency at the University of Nevada. He lives in Reno, Nev., with his wife and their dog, Hudson.

**2002** **Jonathan Galloway**, along with fellow Loggers **Hart Williams ‘04** and **Baird White ‘05**, made up team Smoking Haute Rower Buoys, one of 46 teams that took on this year’s Race to Alaska. They were featured in a *Kitsap Sun* article about the annual June race that challenges sailors to travel 750 miles from Port Townsend, Wash., to Ketchikan, Alaska, using only human-powered vehicles. Jonathan, Hart, and Baird planned to row their way to Alaska. After all, the three were rowers as students at Puget Sound and now all live on

Washington’s Bainbridge Island. The team made it to Victoria, Canada, completing the first leg of the race, but did not continue on to Alaska.

**2004** **Ryan Chapman** was profiled in the *Hudson Valley One* in June following the release of his first novel, *Riots I Have Known*. Published by Simon & Schuster, the book has been reviewed by *The New York Times*, NPR, and others, and has been called “smart, wry, and laugh-out-loud funny” by Amazon and “an utter gem—an approachable send-up that packs a punch.” Ryan studied English at Puget Sound and has since had his work appear online at *The New Yorker*, *GQ*, *Bookforum*, and *The Believer*. He is a recipient of fellowships from the Vermont Studio Center and the Millay Colony for the Arts.

**Kate Law Hoflich**, an international political economy alumna and former member of the Logger track and field team, now works as an aerialist and co-owns Bow & Sparrow circus company with fellow acrobat Amaya Alvarado. After graduating from Puget Sound, Kate graduated from the New England Center for Circus Arts and moved to Portland, Ore., where Bow & Sparrow is based. This year, she premiered *Pole Disclosure*, her new contemporary feminist circus show that tells the stories of Kate and Amaya’s journeys through healthy and unhealthy relationships, and addresses women’s issues in both the circus and wider world.

**Andrew Miller ‘04, M.A.T.’05** is currently working as the director of personalized learning at Singapore American School in Singapore. He is the key leader of curriculum, instruction, and assessment for all grades, P-12, and supports implementation of competency-based learning, customized pathways, and flexible learning environments. He holds a bachelor’s degree in classics and a master’s degree in teaching from Puget Sound.

**2006** After graduating from Puget Sound with her bachelor’s degree in natural

science, **Karolyn Johnson** earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Columbia University and master's degree in nursing, with a specialty in family practice, from Simmons University. Between earning degrees, she worked at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, then moved to Chicago in 2018. She has been working as a primary care family nurse practitioner in a rehab and long-term care facility, providing care to the aging population of northwest Chicago.

**2007** **Erik Voorhees** was featured in a May 14 *Bloomberg* video interview about crypto and how it is taking over the world, according to Erik. He is the CEO and founder of cryptoasset exchange company ShapeShift and holds a bachelor's degree from Puget Sound's Business Leadership Program.

**2009** **Tashi Chogyal** was featured in a May 29 *New America* article titled "Asian American and Pacific Islander National Security and Foreign Policy Next Generation Leaders." Tashi was one of 40 Asian American and Pacific Islander "rising-star professionals" in the U.S. national security and foreign policy fields listed in the piece. Selection was based on career excellence and leadership, current work in national security or foreign policy, contributions to their issues of expertise through thought leadership, and demonstrated service to their communities. He earned a bachelor's degree in politics and government from Puget Sound and is pursuing a Master of Arts degree in law and diplomacy, with a focus on international organizations and U.S. foreign policy, at the Fletcher School at Tufts University. Before graduate school, he served as special assistant to the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

**2011** In July, **Danielle Acheampong** served on the faculty of the Student Affairs Assessment Institute in Toronto, Canada. The conference was the first joint institute between ACPA and

CACUSS, two major higher education professional organizations in the United States and Canada, respectively. She led four sessions on topics that provided developmental assessment knowledge and skill building, and supported the institute's overall focus on decolonizing assessment in higher education. Danielle holds a bachelor's degree in history from Puget Sound and works as a coordinator for assessment, research, and special projects at UCLA.

**Aaron Badham**, a sculptor in Nebraska, created a splash pad for a neighborhood park in June. The installation was covered by the city's local ABC and NBC television news affiliates. Aaron also teaches 3D design and sculpture at Hastings College. He earned a bachelor's degree in art and design from Puget Sound.

**Chris Dugovich**, a creative writer at Microsoft, wrote and produced a commercial that was named a finalist in two categories at the 2019 New York Festivals Advertising Awards. The video, created for the Microsoft Teams app, was chosen from more than 1,000 entries and honored in the Made for Social Media and Best Use of Humor categories. Chris holds degrees in business and politics and government from Puget Sound.

**2014** **Joseph Rodriguez** and **Brianna Link Rodriguez** were featured in a Q13 Fox story about their daughter, Shirley, who was born in 2017 with a rare congenital heart defect and has undergone multiple surgeries. In May, Joseph and Brianna shared their story and what they call "Shirley's Grand Adventure" at the American Heart Association's annual Evening With Heart Gala in Seattle. The event raises funds and awareness, and offers hope to others with congenital heart defects. Joseph holds a bachelor's degree in natural science from Puget Sound. Brianna graduated with a bachelor's degree in classics.

**2016** **Anthony Brady** graduated with a bachelor's degree in exercise science

and is now a biochemist and lead motion-capture technician at Driveline Baseball, a lab studying baseball velocity and its impact on the game. Based in Kent, Wash., Driveline has been called "baseball's most successful and influential biomechanics laboratory," by Connecticut's *New Haven Register*. Anthony was quoted in the May story and explained the lab's approach to research, which involves having pitchers wear markers and pitch from a mound surrounded by high-speed cameras. The markers and cameras measure the pitcher's movements and mobility. Anthony was a member of the Logger baseball team and has found a way to marry his passions of baseball and science.

**2017** In June, **Shawna Smith** wrote a column for the *Whidbey News-Times* about her job in the local property management business and the struggle she and other residents are facing to find housing. A proposal has been submitted to the city of Oak Harbor for a 51-unit mixed-use rental development for low- to moderate-income individuals. Shawna graduated from Puget Sound with a degree in communication studies.

**2019** Over spring break, **Serena Hawkey** traveled to Doha, Qatar, as part of anthropology professor Andrew Gardner's Migrants and the Global City class. She shared her experiences in a Q&A article in *425 Magazine*, where she also worked as an intern. She holds a bachelor's degree in politics and government, and spent her summer after graduation traveling.

**Molly Wampler** is working as a newsroom intern at Boise State Public Radio, an NPR affiliate. She created multiple news stories in June—her first month as an intern—including reports about kayaking championships, the X Games, the opioid crisis, and wildlife. She holds a bachelor's degree in politics and government, and wrote for *The Trail*.



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## in memoriam

### ALUMNI

**Victor Grabar '48, P'75, P'78**, a Tacoma native and U.S. Air Force veteran, died on June 29. He was 97. Victor graduated from Stadium High School and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps (now the U.S. Air Force) as a navigator. After completing his service, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He worked in the paper industry for more than 40 years and retired as an export sales consultant for Mitsui & Company in 1992. He loved to travel, especially to Asia, where he frequently visited for business.

**Betty Robinson Granlund '49** passed away on June 30 at the age of 92. Born in Oregon, she moved to Tacoma with her family when she was in high school and graduated from Stadium High School. She attended Puget Sound, where she met David Granlund, the man who would become her husband. The two married and, in 1960, built a home in University Place, where they raised their family.

**Harry Roegner '50** died in Gig Harbor, Wash., on Feb. 3. He was 93.

Born in Seattle, he graduated from Stadium High School in Tacoma, and served in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. After returning from the war, he attended Puget Sound, but went on to graduate from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He worked at several local industrial labs and retired as a chemist from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

**Victor Scarpelli '53** passed away on May 29. He was 89. Born and raised in Auburn, Wash., he graduated from Auburn High School, where he lettered in football and track. He attended Puget Sound before joining the U.S. Air Force and being stationed in Germany during the Korean War. He returned to the U.S. in 1955 and married Margie Grecco before earning a degree in industrial arts from Central Washington University. He became a teacher and taught wood shop, metal shop, plastics, assembly mechanics, and driver's education classes for more than 30 years. He was preceded in death by Margie.

**Albert Ott '54**, a former U.S. Navy pilot and chemical engineer, died on April 2 in Ponchatoula, La. He was 86. A native of Tacoma, he attended

Puget Sound and graduated from the University of Washington before joining the U.S. Navy Reserve. He retired as a captain and continued to work at Shell Oil as a chemical engineer.

**M. Jeanne Stewart Shively '55, P'86** died on May 14 at the age of 86. Born and raised in Seattle, she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority.

**Nadine Andresen Benson '56**, a native of Tacoma and longtime resident of Bainbridge Island, Wash., passed away on June 26. She was 85. Nadine studied journalism at Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University before marrying and having two children. She divorced, remarried, and moved to Bainbridge Island, where she and husband Ben Benson built a home halfway down a cliff. She worked in advertising at Cole & Weber in Seattle for 36 years and retired as senior vice president.

**Thomas Davidson '57** passed away on April 30 at the age of 87. Born and raised in Tacoma, he graduated from Lincoln High School and earned a bachelor's degree in education.

Thomas served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and U.S. Air Force, and worked as a teacher and coach in Tacoma Public Schools for more than 30 years.

**Marjorie Fish Castelli '57** died in Framingham, Mass., on June 21. She was 83. Raised in Washington, she earned a bachelor's degree in home economics from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. After graduating, she moved east and earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Yale University and a medical degree from Belgium's Catholic University of Louvain. She worked as a registered dietician in many of Boston's finest hospitals. She met and married William Castelli and went on to become a dedicated volunteer who gave her time to children's welfare groups, pet shelters, and community groups in Marlborough, Mass.

**Merle Cheesman M.Ed.'58** died on June 12 at the age of 90. Born in Kansas and raised in Colorado, he moved with his family to Sumner, Wash., when he was in eighth grade. After graduating from Sumner High School, he attended Pacific Lutheran University and Washington State Uni-



Puget Sound Professor Emerita of English **Rosemary Van Arsdel** was an internationally recognized pioneer and authority on British Victorian periodical literature. She was one of the earliest scholars to recognize the importance of magazines and newspapers to Victorian history, and played a role in identifying the authors of thousands of articles published anonymously in more than 40 19th-century British periodicals. Those articles eventually became the five-volume Wellesley Index to Periodical Literature 1824–1900, which was first published in 1966, the year she came to Puget Sound. Born and raised in Seattle, she earned both bachelor's and master's degrees in British literature from the University of Washington, and earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University. Upon coming to Puget Sound as an English professor, she served as chair of the department and, later, as founder and director of the English program for Puget Sound's law school. Her 24-year career at the university saw her create the

Writing Institute, which became a national model for demonstrating the usefulness of an English degree in the business world; receive the Kappa Kappa Gamma Doris Bronson Morrill Award for Outstanding Service to Education; and inspire her students to follow her into the world of academia. She authored nine books, as well as countless book chapters, encyclopedia articles, and scholarly reviews. She retired from Puget Sound in 1987. In 1990, she was formally recognized for her contributions to Victorian periodical research when the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals created the Van Arsdel Prize, an annual award given to the best graduate student paper investigating the history of British Victorian periodicals. The Rosemary T. Van Arsdel Endowed Library Fund also was created by the University of Washington Libraries to allow the university to gather Victorian and Edwardian period collections. Rosemary died on May 3 at the age of 92.



From teaching the Prelude portion of Orientation to serving as a mentor for students working on *Tamanawas* and developing curricula for the English department, **Mary Turnbull's** contributions to the Puget Sound campus are many and far reaching. The daughter of Puget Sound's 10th president, R. Franklin Thompson, and his wife, Lucille, Mary earned her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate in French from the University of Washington, and a master's degree in comparative literature from Puget Sound. She completed her Ph.D. in comparative literature at The University of Chicago and returned to Washington to teach French, German, and English at Curtis High School. In 1979, she joined the Puget Sound faculty to teach English and French, eventually becoming an instructor in English, the position

from which she retired in June 2011. Throughout her time at Puget Sound, Mary was recognized for her "gracious flexibility and versatility," according to a statement from Puget Sound's Office of the President, and her wish to let her students learn with a "low-key guidance rather than a pressure." She taught first-year composition and seminars, literature surveys, autobiography, literature by women, creative writing, and the senior writing institute courses. Additionally, she was involved with Orientation, the student yearbook, and student poetry club. She also served as a school director and elected school board member in the University Place School District. Mary died on July 16. Per her family's request, gifts in her honor may be designated to the R. Franklin and Lucille M. Thompson Scholarship Fund.

versity, earning a bachelor's degree and teaching certificate. Seven years later, he earned a master's degree in education from Puget Sound. After serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, he began his career as a middle school teacher, becoming a finance and operations administrator for the University Place School District in 1962. He retired 20 years later.

**Richard Hammermaster '58** passed away in Puyallup, Wash., on June 21. He was 83. Born in Tacoma, he spent most of his life in Puyallup and attended the University of Washington before transferring to Puget Sound in 1954. He was an All-American football player, participated in the university's U.S. Air Force ROTC branch, was a member of the Pi Beta Phi fraternity, and earned a bachelor's degree in education. It was at Puget Sound where Richard met Gayle Switzer '58, the woman who would become his wife. The couple married in 1958 and settled in Puyallup, where Richard taught math at Puyallup High School and later became head basketball coach. The 1971 team that he coached went for a 74-4 record, won the AAA State Championship, and earned 36-year-old Richard the State Coach of the Year title. He was inducted into the Tacoma-Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame and the Washington Interscholastic

Basketball Association Hall of Fame, and was named to the 2019 Puyallup High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Harold Perry '58**, a longtime Methodist minister and Washington resident, passed away on June 16, less than a month after his 85th birthday. Born in Spokane, Wash., he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. Two years after graduating, he married an elementary school teacher named Janice. He became a Methodist minister who developed numerous specialty programs for troubled teenagers, former state hospital patients, and members of the LGBTQIA community.

**Joan Hebert Hammrich '59** died on June 9 at the age of 86. Born and raised in Tacoma, she graduated from St. Leo's High School (now Bellarmine Preparatory School) and earned a bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound. While at a USO dance as a Puget Sound student, Joan met Leo Hammrich, the man who would become her husband. They married on Oct. 31, 1959, and moved to Tacoma, where they raised six children.

**Elinor Ulrich Skeate '59** died on April 23. She was 82. Elinor graduated from Walla Walla High School in Walla Walla, Wash., and attended

Puget Sound and Washington State University before marrying Dennis Skeate in 1957. The couple had three children, who occupied most of Elinor's time, but she pursued genealogy research and eventually wrote a book about her great-grandmother's family. The project led her to explore the history of Groton, Mass., and publish a newsletter for the town's families. She went on to write more than 30 books and ran a finger-puppet business from her home.

**Marilyn Jeter Larson '60** passed away on June 2, eight days after her 81st birthday. Born and raised in Tacoma, she graduated from Stadium High School and attended Puget Sound, where she met Gary Larson. The two married and had four sons. Marilyn worked at AT&T until she retired in 1995 and moved to Arizona with Gary. The two moved back to Washington in 2007.

**Sally Kalhagen Lynn '60**, a Tacoma native and Clover Park High School graduate, passed away on June 29. She had turned 81 three weeks prior. Born in Tacoma, Sally attended Puget Sound after graduating high school, but ultimately graduated from Washington State University. She returned to Tacoma and worked in real estate before marrying and beginning a job as a funeral director at Lynn Funeral

Home, which she co-owned with her husband, John. They retired in 2004 and moved to Ocean Shores, Wash.

**Donald Van Vleet '61** died on May 31 at the age of 88. Born on his family's farm in South Dakota, he grew up during the Great Depression and served in the South Dakota National Guard after graduating high school. As a teenager, he decided to jump on his motorcycle and head west, eventually stopping in Tacoma. He attended Puget Sound and married in 1955. He and Audrey, his wife of 26 years, raised four children and explored the Northwest and Midwest before divorcing in 1981. Donald worked in the printing industry in Tacoma and Seattle.

**Gloria Vernon Stancich '61**, a native of Ohio and longtime Washington resident, died on April 16. She was 83. Gloria graduated from Garfield High School in Seattle and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound. She was a social worker for nearly 30 years.

**Phyllis Walker Pyle '61** was involved in an accident and passed away in Utah on April 17. She was 80. Born in Portland, Ore., she attended Lewis & Clark College and earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Puget Sound. While at Puget



## in memoriam

Sound, she also met Chuck Pyle '61, the man who would become her husband. They married in 1961. Phyllis went on to work in accounting and moved throughout the country as a military wife. She and Chuck eventually settled in Washington and built a home. Phyllis played an integral role in establishing the DeafBlind Service Center in Seattle.

**Michael Bucholz '62**, a native of Tacoma and lifelong Washington resident, passed away on May 7 in Spokane, Wash. He was 83. Michael graduated from Lincoln High School and served in the U.S. Air Force. While attending Puget Sound, he served in the Air Force Reserve. Michael graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration and went on to work for State Distributing, Allstate Distribution, West Coast Grocery, and Keebler.

**John Huber '64** died on May 10 at the age of 76. Born in Boston, he grew up in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and graduated from Japan's Kubasaki High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Puget Sound, where he was a founding member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity's Delta Epsilon chapter, and joined the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corps. He served for more than 30 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel. Following his military service, he worked as a retirement community manager and, after retiring from that job, became a special-needs school bus driver for the Bellevue School District for 20 years.

**Gary Mesick '64**, a Navy veteran, businessman, educator, and entrepreneur, died on July 21. He was 81 and had battled lymphoma for one year. He was born and raised in South Dakota until his high school years, when he moved to Washington and attended Bethel High School before leaving at the age of 17 to join the Navy. He married his high school sweetheart, Pamela Fix, two years later. After his military service, he and Pamela moved to Federal Way, Wash. Gary attended Puget Sound on the GI Bill

and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He worked at General Motors and Boeing before becoming a teacher and high school principal in the Bethel School District. He retired and started a printing business, which he later sold.

**George Sickel '65** passed away in Minnesota on July 2, less than one month before his 76th birthday. He attended Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and Logger swim team. He earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Washington.

**Howard Stidham '65, '66** passed away in Puyallup, Wash., on July 4. He was 78. Born in Seattle, he graduated from St. Michaels University School in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and earned a bachelor's degree in biology and business administration from Puget Sound. He later earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Washington. He worked in engineering and safety at Weyerhaeuser, Boeing, and Battelle.

**Jim Granquist '68**, a native of Seattle and longtime school social worker, died on April 29. He was 73. The third of six children, he grew up in West Seattle and was an athletic child who loved to swim and play tennis. At the age of 16, he suffered a devastating brain hemorrhage that paralyzed his left side, but he graduated on time from West Seattle High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound and a master's degree in social work from the University of Washington. He worked as a psychiatric social worker at Rainier School in Buckley, Wash., for 35 years.

**Brewster Gray '68** died on June 20 in Tacoma. He was 72. Brewster graduated from California's San Mateo High School and held a bachelor's degree in art from Puget Sound.

**Dorothy Shoff Burkhart '68, P'72** passed away on April 30, one day before her 95th birthday. Born in

Kent, Wash., she earned a bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound and, that same year, in the wake of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, helped to organize a series of successful interracial dialogues in homes around Tacoma. According to her obituary, she was "a strong voice for peace, justice, and racial equality." She is survived by her four children, including Puget Sound alumnus James Burkhart '72, as well as 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Virginia Ann Birkby '69** died on June 5 at the age of 72. Born in Tacoma, she graduated from high school in Oregon and earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound. She earned a master's degree in educational administration from Pacific Lutheran University and worked in the Clover Park School District as a teacher, director of special education, and administrator for 30 years. After retiring, Virginia found she couldn't keep herself out of the classroom and worked for another 17 years at Oregon's Nehalem Elementary School. She was a passionate gardener and skier.

**Gary Cowden '69** passed away in Gig Harbor, Wash., on June 2. He held a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound and served in the U.S. Air Force.

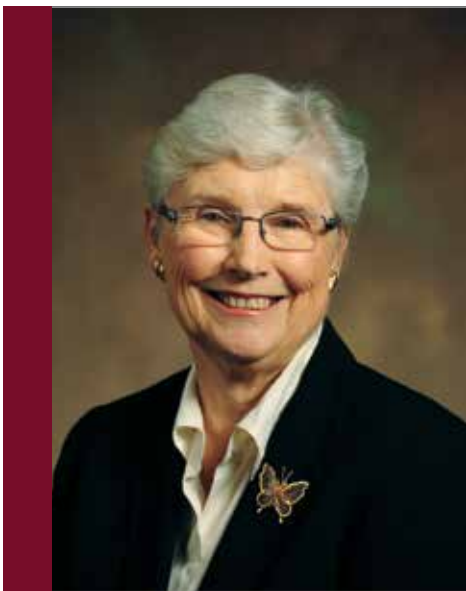
**Steven Swanson '69** passed away on May 1 at the age of 71. Born in Tacoma and raised in nearby Fircrest, Wash., he graduated from Curtis High School and attended Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity and played football. He went on to work as a car salesman for more than 35 years.

**Gary Johnson '70** passed away on Washington's Raft Island on June 8. He was 72. Born and raised in Tacoma, he graduated from Wilson High School and earned a bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound. He taught at Thomas Jefferson High School in Auburn, Wash.

**William Sperry '71** died on June 4 in Colorado Springs, Colo., while attending a reunion for his Army Officer Candidate School class. He was 77. Born and raised in Eastern Washington, he joined the U.S. Army after graduating high school and, with the GI Bill, earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army for 20 years and spent time training for the Special Forces in Germany, completing two tours of duty in Vietnam, conducting surveillance of the demilitarized zone in Korea, and serving as a military judge at Fort Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord). He ended his military career by overseeing training for the Oregon and Washington National Guard. Following his service, he started multiple businesses, including an antique mall, office furniture store, storage company, and business center.

**Emma Stuteley '71**, an Arkansas native and longtime Tacoma Public Schools teacher, died on May 20. She was 80. Emma was born and raised in Arkansas, but left to attend Puget Sound, where she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She taught third grade for 30 years.

**Ada Ehli '73, P'72** passed away on July 7 at the age of 94. Born in North Dakota in 1925, she graduated from high school and earned her teaching certificate from the Valley City State Teachers College (now Valley City State University). Ada returned to her hometown of Lidgerwood and began her teaching career in a one-room schoolhouse, teaching first through eighth grades. She married Al Ehli in 1946, after he finished his service with the U.S. Army Air Corps (now U.S. Air Force) during World War II. Nearly a decade later, Ada and Al moved to Tacoma, Wash. She taught at Tacoma's Visitation Catholic School (now Visitation STEM Academy) for nearly 20 years and, during that time, earned her bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound.



For lifelong Tacoma resident **Karen Ristvet Vialle '64**, just living in the City of Destiny wasn't enough. She wanted to contribute to its growth. After graduating from Wilson High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Puget Sound, where she was involved in band and ASUPS, and a master's degree in the same subject from Washington State University. Karen then launched her career in the public sector, where she "had the sharp elbows it took to break barriers," a July article in *The News Tribune* indicated. According to her Tacoma Public Schools board biography, she worked in state government for five years, including serving as assistant director of the Office of Financial Management under then-Gov. Dan Evans, and served in a variety of Tacoma nonprofit organizations, including the PTAs where her own children attended school. In

the 1990s, she served on the Tacoma City Council for two years before becoming Tacoma's first female mayor in 1990. She taught at the University of Washington and at Puget Sound before teaching in Tacoma Public Schools for a decade. She joined the Tacoma Public Schools Board of Directors in 2011, and was two years into her second term when she died on July 21. A friend of Karen's told *The News Tribune* that she had been battling lung cancer for the past year. "This is a significant loss. We will all miss her dearly," Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent Carla Santorno told *The News Tribune*. "We have all been praying for her to rally and come back. We can't imagine life on the board without her." She is survived by her three children and eight grandchildren. A public memorial was held for Karen on Aug. 3.

**Michael Nelson '73, M.B.A.'82** passed away on Camano Island, Wash., on July 10. He was 72. Born and raised in Illinois, he completed Army Officer Candidate School and joined the U.S. Army at the age of 20. He commanded the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam and returned to Fort Lewis (now Joint Base Lewis-McChord). He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Puget Sound and had a 40-year career in banking. He retired as a senior commercial loan officer.

**Ross Pomerenk '73**, described in his obituary as a "legendary teacher, carpenter, sailor, musician, Frisbee enthusiast, Volvo junky, a spirited political debater, and a lover of cats," died on June 9 in Seattle. He was 67. Born in Wenatchee, Wash., he earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound and taught in the Peninsula School District and on Lopez Island. He was an early supporter, long-term board member, and the heart and soul of the Wintergrass Music Festival.

**Randall Rappe '73** died on May 1 in Olympia, Wash. He was 68. A Washington native, he was born in Omak and raised in Okanogan. He graduated from Okanogan High School

before earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound. One year later, he married Jann Ullrich. Randall worked as an auditor and information tech for various state agencies.

**Gary Shores '74, P'09** passed away on April 14 in Oregon. He was 66. Gary earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity. He went on to work in insurance.

**Dorothy Tullberg Degarmo '75** died on May 24 at the age of 93. She held a bachelor's degree in sociology from Puget Sound and worked at Western State Hospital.

**Trevor Richards '79** passed away in Tacoma on May 1. He was 75. Born and raised in Australia, he moved to Tacoma with his wife, Karen Elford, in the late 1970s. He earned a bachelor's degree in education from Puget Sound and taught elementary school in Federal Way, Wash., for 23 years.

**Craig Stump '84** passed away on May 4 after a brief illness. He was 58. Born and raised in Tacoma, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Puget Sound. He married and moved to Tucson, Ariz., where he earned a master's degree, doctorate,

and M.D. from the University of Arizona. He was an associate professor and program director of the endocrinology, diabetes, and metabolism fellowship at the University of Arizona College of Medicine-Tucson, as well as a member of the clinical staff at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System.

**Adam Pelatt '00**, a native of Montana and father of two, died on July 19. He was 41. Born in Billings, Mont., he earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and multiple music groups, including the Adelpian Concert Choir.

**Kari Meyer '05** died on Aug. 24, 2018, two weeks after her 37th birthday. Born in Medford, Ore., she graduated from Oregon's Phoenix High School and earned a bachelor's degree in Japanese from Puget Sound. She worked in her family's orchard before moving to Hawai'i and taking a job with a shipping company. Kari then moved to Singapore, where she taught English to Japanese businessmen and their families. She returned home and, most recently, worked for software companies in Portland, Ore.

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## Always a Logger

Retiring staff member and alumnus **George H. Mills '68, M.S.'72** was honored at gatherings on campus and in Hawai'i for his 49 years of service to Puget Sound. After graduating with degrees in chemistry and biology, George joined the Puget Sound staff as an admission counselor. He went on to build an impressive career, ultimately serving as vice president for enrollment. In addition to introducing generations of grateful Loggers to Puget Sound, he served as a mentor to scores of enrollment professionals across the country. Clockwise from top left: **Scott Higashi '91**, president of the Hawai'i Regional Club, hosted a celebration at the Bishop Museum. George also was honored on Maui, at an event hosted by university trustee **Sumner P. Erdman '87** and on campus during Homecoming and Family Weekend.



◀ The New York Regional Club hosted a picnic in July in Central Park. More than 25 alumni from throughout New York City's boroughs and surrounding areas gathered for an afternoon of conversation, games, and snacks. **Sofia Lama Scott '11**, the regional club's president, said the club will be holding quarterly events and is looking to expand to more members. Those interested in joining should email [alumoffice@pugetsound.edu](mailto:alumoffice@pugetsound.edu) to make sure their mailing address is up to date so they can receive invitations to future events. Alumni and students in attendance included **Jenny Wrobel '09, Clint Agresti '09, Louisa Raitt '15, Brian Threlkeld '83, Lucy Fey '15, Jonathan Cohen '79, Brian Cross '15, Alessandra Lopez '23, Daniel Peterschmidt '15, Elizabeth Frost '17, Jake Hearen '10**, and Sofia.





▲ In July 2018, a large group of friends from Puget Sound's Class of 1999—many of them with their spouses and children—reunited for a few days of camping on the Olympic Peninsula. **Scott Schoeggl '99** snapped this photo, which includes Loggers Scott, **Jeffrey Masse '99**; **Ben Dowling '99**; **Yoshi Nakagawa '99**; **Rachel Needham '99**; **Jori Chisholm '97**; **Nicole Fortin '99**; **Kathryn Heermann '00**; **Jillian Shephard '99**; **Rafael Gomez '99**; **Gretchen Van Dyke Miller '99**; **Erika Sparks Martinson '99, D.P.T.'02**; **Sarah Grant '99**; **Ashleigh Snyder Powell '00**; **Sam Louton '99**; **Danielle Harrington '99**; **Tim Wertin '99**; and **Zachary Ehlert '00**. Not pictured, but also in attendance: **Theodore Smith '00**, **Frederick Rundle '99**, **Michael Rottersman '99**, **Hannah Aoyagi '01**, and **Laura Haycock Schoeggl '00**.



▲ Nearly half of the violin octet that performed Andrew Norman's *Gran Turismo* at the 2018 Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival last June were Logger alumni or faculty members. From left: **Brandi Main '16**; Maria Sampen, violin professor and string department chair in Puget Sound's School of Music; Puget Sound School of Music affiliate artist and violinist Tim Christie; Maria's daughter, Charlotte Christie; and **Eunmin Woo '19**.



◀ In May, **Shoshana Strom '16** met up with two fellow Loggers in Washington, D.C. Shoshana lives in D.C. and works as the communications coordinator for the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington, D.C. **Alissa Charvonia '17** was visiting the area to scope out housing and tour Howard University, where she will be starting a Ph.D. program in clinical psychology. The timing of her trip couldn't have been better, since **Rachel Schroder '17** happened to be in town the same weekend visiting Shoshana. "We accidentally wore maroon and white, clearly showing how much we miss UPS, and posed near a brick wall that looks startlingly like it could be campus," Shoshana said about the photo she sent along. From left: Rachel, Alissa, and Shoshana.



## scrapbook



▲ Several sisters from the Gamma Phi Beta sorority gathered for their 11th reunion since 1976 to celebrate their time together at Puget Sound. Though they live across the United States, they love to get together every few years and pick up right where they left off. Front row, from left: **Annie McFee Pritchard '77**, **Ann Maloney Conway '78**, **Gillian Gough '75**, **Joan Salzer Lompart '78**, and **Marla Schram Campbell '75**. Back row, from left: Katherine Eckert, Carol Parsons, **Cara Carter-Nolan '77**, **Sarah Patrick Waller '78**, **Jane Ingram Hager '77**, and **Amy Wurzweiler Lowes '78**.



▲ In June, a group of Beta Theta Pi fraternity brothers from the Classes of 1991 and 1992 met in Austin, Texas, and took the town by storm. **Matt Allen '92** offered up his coffeehouse, Coffee Shark, to be the hub for celebrating more than 30 years as Betas. From left: **Nicholas Thompson '92**, **Matt Scott Larson '91**, **David Swartley '92**, **Kendal McDevitt '91**, **Chris Coy '91**, **Jonathan Walton '92**, **William Seymour '92**, **Jeffrey Malmquist '91**, and **Paul Franklin '92**.



▲ **Rochelle Nguyen '99** (right) and **Kendra Bertschy '07** met in Nevada earlier this year during the 80th Legislative Session. Rochelle served as an assemblywoman for District 10 in the first-ever majority women legislature, while Kendra was a lobbyist for the Washoe County Public Defender's Office.



▲ Once a month, a group of Puget Sound Sigma Chi fraternity brothers who graduated in the '50s meet at the Tacoma Yacht Club. **Tom Baker '54** submitted this photo of the group from its May meeting. Back row, from left: **Arnold Hamilton '51**, **James Luzzi '50, P'86**, **Don Chovil '51, P'79**, **Robert Peterson '50**, and **Jon Torgerson '54**. Front row, from left: **Bruce Hunt '51** and Tom.






▲ On June 1, **Laura Calcagni '10** married Matt Rosenfeld in the SoDo district of Seattle. Loggers who gathered to celebrate the big day included, from left: Laura's parents, **Kathy Sahr Calcagni '85, P'10** and **Nick Calcagni '83, P'10**; **Alina Vaynberg Moore '08**; **Chris Moore '06**; the bride and groom; **Casia Chappell '10**; **Margo Archey '10**; **Carly Golden '10**; **Lindsay Akoni Guzzo '10, M.A.T.'11**; **Shawna McElroy Potter '10**; **Stephanie Eisele '10**; and **Brittany Duncan '09**.




▲ A group of former students and alumni who entered Puget Sound in 1981–82 got together this summer in Issaquah, Wash., to plan their 35th reunion. **Chris Dederer '85** submitted this photo from the gathering and said, "Little planning was done, but lots of memories were shared!" Back row, from left: Matt Dederer, **Becky Dederer '87**, **Kimberly Brooke Muilenburg '85**, Kim Golding, Vincent Kueter, **Lloyd Kaide '86**, Shelly Kaide, and **Greg Ursich '85**. Front row, from left: Bert Hayashi, **Cheryl Fitch Blackburn '85**, **Marc Blackburn '85**, **Carole Zimmerman Favilla '85**, and Chris.


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 **Some things to keep in mind:**

**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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## scrapbook



▲ This year, the 49th Annual Ka Ohana Me Ke Aloha spring Lū'au, held during Spring Family Weekend in April, included a hula featuring Puget Sound alumni who graduated between 1987 and 2014. They danced to the song "Hi'ilawe," which honors Ha'inakolo, god of the bird catchers. Front row, from left: **Larissa Ogawa '14**; **Larissa Labrador-Kravich '01**; **Graciela Blanco '87**; **Amber Yamamura '03**; **Cindi Williams Tomhave M.A.T.'94, P'04**; **Carol Odland '89, '96, P'10**; and **Jocelyn Takayesu '03**. Back row, from left: **Heather Graf DeJesus '97**, **Clay Krauss '01**, Lyle Maines (faculty), **Ian Rozmiarek '01**, and **Bradley Tomhave P'04**.



▲ In June, more than a dozen Delta Delta Delta sorority sisters who were celebrating 50 years since graduation gathered at the home of **Joan Gilbert '69** in University Place, Wash. Front row, from left: Joan; **Debbie Brewitt Regala '67, Hon.'13**; **Lucy DeYoung '71**; **Judi Morgan '71**; **Andrea Dirkes Huss '70**; **Mildred Ann Magnusen '72**; and **Diane Crews Dela Cruz '69**. Back row, from left: **Constance Davis '69**; **Mary Doolittle Cleary '69**; **Dorcas Rushfeldt Colito '68**; **Karen Partenheimer Sherrill '69**; **Pamela Wiles Drugge '69, P'97**; **Carolyn Hill Peterson '69, P'06**; and **Charlotte Anderson Lingo '69**.



▲ In May, **Diana White '99, M.Ed.'00** accepted a transfer to Sacramento, Calif., where she is the federal tuition assistance program manager for all of California's Army National Guard soldiers. Just after her transfer, she received several awards for her previous work with the Wisconsin and Minnesota Army National Guardsmen, including the 15-year time-in-service recognition, Civil Service Achievement Medal, Wisconsin State Achievement Medal, and Minnesota State Appreciation award. She is pictured with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Justin Falness, who presented the Minnesota State Appreciation award. Diana also runs her own home business—Mockingbird Lane Wire—designing and making both wire sculpted jewelry and more traditional pieces using silversmithing techniques. She started the business in 2008. Diana holds a bachelor's degree in English from Puget Sound.



▲ Four Puget Sound alumni found themselves teaching at White River High School. From left: **Susan Sellevold Root '85**; **Robin Williams Howard '81**; **Ronda Thoreson Henry '81, P'08, P'09**; and **Catherine Uhler '85**. Ronda, who had taught special education at White River since 1997, retired in June. "I will miss teaching with these alums," she said.





▲ A group of alumni from the Class of 2002, and their spouses, gathered in August for dinner and snapped this photo. From left: **Erika Oliver Whinihan '02**, **Mark Penaroza '02**, **Julie Goldenberg Hay '02**, **Carley Ann Sasaki-Stockman '02**, **Kristen Shinohara '02**, **Ryan Manuel '02**, Tayllor Myxter, **Czarina Ramsay '02**, and Adam Rosencrantz.



▲ Each spring, **Larisa Vail '00**, **Lindsay Page Mallow '00**, **Avery Strasser Becker '00**, **Lindsay Kelley Burgio '00**, and **Elizabeth Argenti '00**—who became friends while they were Alpha Phi sisters at Puget Sound—meet up for a girls' trip. This year, the destination was Sedona, Ariz., and the women traveled from all over the country to reunite. Larisa and Avery both live in Portland, Ore.; Lindsay Kelley Burgio resides in Sausalito, Calif.; Beth lives in Washington, D.C.; and Lindsay Page Mallow lives with her husband, fellow Logger **Geoff Mallow '00**, in Denver. Lindsay Kelley Burgio said everyone is looking forward to attending their 20th reunion in Tacoma next year.



◀ A group of friends from the 2012 M.A.T. cohort, who are now all teachers, reunited at local hangout E-9 in Tacoma over Summer Reunion Weekend in June to catch up and celebrate the end of the school year. From left: **Jamie Roberts Simons M.A.T.'12**; **Andy Vanderpool M.A.T.'12**; **Jen Littlefield M.A.T.'12**; **Kathleen McGuire Hochstatter M.A.T.'12**; **Adam Griffin M.A.T.'12**; **Keith Asfour '03, M.A.T.'03**; **Elizabeth Ruiz-Puyana '05, M.A.T.'12**; **Averyl Lundquist '11, M.A.T.'11**; **Katia Olmeda-Rosa M.A.T.'12**, and **Molly Gibson Higgins '11, M.A.T.'12**. Not pictured: **Danny Priest M.A.T.'12**.



▲ Three of the Tacoma Historical Society's executive officers—all Logger alumni—paused for a photo at a recent meeting held on the Puget Sound campus. From left: vice president **Dale Wirsing '58**; secretary **Kimberley McDowell '91, P'05, P'08**; and president **Bill Baarsma '64, P'93**.



◀ Alumni aren't the only ones who look forward to *Arches* coming in the mail. Aurora, the cat of **Michael Cole '95** and **Amy Shipp '01**, enjoyed the spring edition. Michael and Amy both moved to Tacoma from Southern California to attend Puget Sound and never left. They met five blocks from campus, and now live three blocks from campus and enjoy walking their foster dog, Mitchell, through campus almost nightly. Michael holds an English degree from Puget Sound and works in the software industry in Seattle. Amy, a politics and government alumna, works at a local metal fabrication business.







An aerial photograph of Puget Sound High School's sports complex. In the foreground, a green football field with white yard lines and a goalpost is visible. To the right, a red running track curves around the field. Behind the field is a large, multi-story bleacher structure filled with spectators. A large parking lot packed with cars is situated between the bleachers and a baseball field. The baseball field is a vibrant green with a brown infield. In the background, there are several large school buildings, including a prominent white gymnasium. The school is surrounded by a dense forest of tall evergreen trees, and beyond that, a residential neighborhood with houses and more trees is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

# ps

Hundreds of Puget Sound students, alumni, and families were on hand to cheer the Loggers to home victories during Homecoming and Family Weekend. Securing its fifth consecutive Homecoming win, the football team pulled off an overtime victory against the George Fox Bruins, and men's soccer Head Coach Reece Olney clinched his 300th (and 301st) wins with Puget Sound in two conference games against Willamette and Linfield.



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