A Year of Discovery

Watson Fellows reflect on moments of beauty and darkness around the world.
As part of Orientation this August, first-year students participated in one of 64 immersive experiences throughout the Puget Sound region. Students in the Visual Arts Immersive Experience made their own functional glass pieces at Tacoma Glassblowing Studio.
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A new crop of classmates

Getting oriented
For three and a half days in late August, roughly 700 first-year and transfer students explored the Puget Sound region by participating in one of 64 curated immersive experiences as part of Orientation. Introduced this year, the experiences emphasized connecting with each other, the natural world, and the larger community. Pictured clockwise from below: Jessica Spring, proprietor of Tacoma’s Springtide Press, instructs a Puget Sound student on how to use a letterpress printer; students repack more than 2,000 pounds of frozen vegetables at the Emergency Food Network warehouse; President Isiaah Crawford helps new students move in; Cathryn, a volunteer at Tacoma’s L’Arche Farm and Gardens, passes zucchinis to Puget Sound student volunteers.
Sweetest victory
With 1,232 Puget Sound family members and alumni on campus for Homecoming and Family Weekend, the Loggers’ Homecoming victory on Sept. 29 was thrilling. In front of more than 2,500 fans, the Loggers beat the Pacific Lutheran University Lutes 28-21 in double overtime, earning the rights to the storied Totem Pole Trophy. Pictured: Logger defensive end Todd Blakely ’19 wields a chainsaw—a home-game tradition—to celebrate the win.

Inside intelligence
U.S. Rep. Denny Heck visited campus Aug. 30 to speak about his current experiences sitting on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Denny represents Washington’s 10th Congressional District, which includes the areas from Shelton, south to Olympia, and east to Fife. At the talk organized by the World Affairs Council of Tacoma, he offered an insider’s perspective on the state of the Russia investigation and the threats posed to our democratic institutions.
Plant passion
Summer research students presented their findings at the Fall Undergraduate Research Symposium on Sept. 6 in Harned Hall. Isabel Mejia Natividad ’20 (pictured) studied splash-cup plants, which spread seeds via the splashing of raindrops. 91 Puget Sound students received funding to conduct summer research in the sciences, arts, and humanities this year.

Cuttlefish light show
A special summer Art+Sci Salon featured the work of self-described creative technologist Aisen Caro Chacin and Slovenian artist Robbertina Sebjanic on Aug. 2. An accompanying workshop on Aug. 3 focused on cuttlefish chromatophores: pigment-containing and light-reflecting cells that expand and contract when surrounding muscles are stimulated with electric currents. A presentation of this light show was set to Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.”
Your voice gives you power
Narratives are at the heart of humanity. The stories we tell form the movements that define generations. During the weekend of Sept. 27–29, more than 3,700 registered participants and 600 volunteers joined the 2018 Race & Pedagogy National Conference to share their stories and engage in meaningful conversations about race and education.

Produced every four years since 2006 by Puget Sound’s Race & Pedagogy Institute, the conference draws local, national, and international participants to campus. The fourth quadrennial conference, titled “Radically Re-imagining the Project of Justice: Narratives of Rupture, Resilience, and Liberation,” was packed with 120 presentations, 12 spotlight sessions, many artistic performances, and five powerful keynote speakers who each addressed the crowd at Memorial Fieldhouse.

Brian Cladoosby, chairman of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, spoke of historical trauma passed down between generations and the need to stop whitewashing history. Jeff Chang, a journalist and vice president of Race Forward, addressed the “culture wars” of the current moment and talked of art and culture as the mechanisms for achieving empathy—which, he noted, is the first step to equity.

Patrisse Cullors and Alicia Garza, two founders of the Black Lives Matter movement, talked about their journeys as activists. “Hashtags don’t make movements,” Alicia said. “People do. My plea to you is that you join us for real, to contribute substance to the vision of what it takes to make Black Lives Matter—so that all lives can actually matter.”

Valerie Jarrett, a former senior advisor to President Obama, fielded questions from the audience about the current state of democracy and underscored the need for informed, engaged citizens. “Your vote gives you voice and your voice gives you power,” she said. “Get educated, and show up.”
Fifty years ago, America was in turmoil. In the spring of 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was shot, and riots broke out across the country. Senate hearings to investigate the Johnson administration's handling of the Vietnam War were ongoing. During the Summer Olympics in Mexico City, two black athletes raised their fists in silent protest of racial inequality. America's unity at home and reputation abroad were deteriorating. It may not be coincidence, then, that 1968 was the year the children of Thomas J. Watson, the founder of IBM, created the Watson Fellowship.

Arthur Watson, the second son and a graduate of the international relations program at Yale, believed that the future of business and technology depended on cultivating a global perspective. “World peace through world trade” was his motto as he guided his father's company to become one of the most powerful corporations in America. IBM aside, the Watson Fellowship, as conceived by siblings Helen, Jane, Thomas Jr., and Arthur, is arguably the family's best legacy. As American society became more polarized, the Watsons quietly built an apparatus that would create infinite generations of “humane, effective leaders.” With personal growth, perspective, and insight at its core, the Watson Fellowship hinges on the inevitable sea change that occurs within human beings when they leave.
the familiar, embrace the foreign, and come to know themselves within a wider worldview.

The most progressive aspect of the Watson Fellowship is that it invests in the person, rather than the project. Candidates from 40 partner colleges—all liberal arts institutions—undergo a highly competitive process, involving detailed project proposals and interviews, in their senior year. Ultimately, though, they are chosen for eight personal qualities: leadership, imagination, independence, emotional maturity, courage, integrity, resourcefulness, and responsibility. Fellows are given a $30,000 stipend and a “rare window” of time after graduation to engage their deepest interests while exploring the world. They are not permitted to set foot in the United States for a full year, but beyond that rule, “they decide where to go, who to meet, and when to change course.” There have been nearly 3,000 Watson Fellowships awarded to date, including 27 to Puget Sound alumni. (Though the Watson Fellowship has existed for 50 years, Puget Sound has been a partner college for 25, starting in 1993.)

If the philosophy behind the Watson Fellowship sounds familiar, that’s because it’s so akin to the values of a Puget Sound education. With a liberal arts foundation deeply rooted in humanism—elegantly defined by Humanist magazine as “a rational philosophy informed by science, inspired by art, and motivated by compassion”—Puget Sound graduates embrace their responsibility to lead meaningful, ethical lives capable of adding to the greater good of humanity. When each of our 27 alumni became Watson Fellows, they launched the adventures of their lives, exploring their passions on an international scale and affirming the dignity of every human being they encountered.

In this special issue of Arches, we are telling their stories. Today, they are leaders in creative, tech, and business industries; teachers, scholars, and lawyers; and individuals still bushwhacking their own glorious paths through life. Fifty years after the Watson Fellowship began, as the country reels from a familiar breakdown of discourse, humanity, and truth, it’s clear that we still need these courageous adventurers, these compassionate leaders, these fluent arbiters of disparate worldviews. In fact, we have never needed them more.

—Stacey Cook, editor
1994–1995
BRYCE MAXELL '94
Australia, New Zealand

1995–1996
ELENA MOON '95
Australia, Papua New Guinea

1997–1998
ERICH VON TAGEN '97
Japan, Mexico
MARY WALKER CURRY '97, M.O.T. ’00
Germany, U.K., Greece, China, Japan, Mexico

1998–1999
REGINA JORGENSON '98
Germany, Russia, Japan, India, Hungary, Netherlands, France, Spain, Austria, U.K., Australia, Denmark
MY NGUYEN '98
Vietnam, Australia, France

2000–2001
MATTHEW (SWARNER) MUIR '00
Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador

2001–2002
JESS SOTELO '01
Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador

2002–2003
TOBY AULT '02
Brazil, Uruguay, Australia, England
JENNIFER TILLETT '02
Russia, Finland, Malaysia, Chile

2003–2004
BUCK DEFORE '03
Argentina, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Sweden, Scotland, Norway
MARY KOTSCHWAR LOGAN '03
Madagascar

2005–2006
SCOTT WARREN '05
Ethiopia, Namibia, China, Peru, Mexico, Greece

2006–2007
GREG GROGEL '06
Mexico, Germany, Australia, South Korea, China, Bosnia, Herzegovina
KENDRA LOEBS '06
Morocco, Spain, India, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia
LINH VUONG '06
Vietnam, Malaysia, India, New Zealand
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<td>2008–2009</td>
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<td>JACKI WARD KEHRWALD '10</td>
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<td>Borneo, India, Chile, New Zealand, Ecuador</td>
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<td>HALEY ANDRES '14</td>
<td>Bolivia, Japan, Thailand, Australia, Zanzibar, U.K.</td>
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<td>2015–2016</td>
<td>LISA TUCKER '15</td>
<td>England, France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand</td>
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<td>2017–2018</td>
<td>ANGELICA SPEARWOMAN '17</td>
<td>Nicaragua, Australia, India, Thailand</td>
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<td>2018–2019</td>
<td>KEAO RIVERA-LEONG '18</td>
<td>New Zealand, Indonesia, Madagascar</td>
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TOBY AULT ’02

When he set out to retrace Darwin’s course in *The Voyage of the Beagle* for his Watson year, Toby Ault knew that the world would look different after roughly 170 years. What he didn’t expect to find was that half the world he saw was under water, and the other half was in a drought.

With Darwin’s journal in hand, Toby read entries for each place he visited. In Brazil, Darwin had noted that the land “looked just boundless, like a sea of forest,” Toby recalls. “Little farms cut out of the vast wilderness, like little islands of farmland.” But Toby’s own observation was nearly the opposite: “The farms and clear-cut areas are boundless, and you have these little islands where the rainforest is left.” He was amazed by the substantial change.

In Uruguay, Toby checked into a youth hostel that had boats in the parking lot instead of cars. There had been so much flooding that year because of El Niño, and everyone he spoke to told him of their troubles. The fishermen said the fish weren’t finding the bait because the water was too muddy; the farmers couldn’t plant their crops; roads were washed away, and people couldn’t get where they needed to go.

For the third leg of his trip, Toby bought a van to travel across the Australian Outback. His girlfriend had joined him, and they were driving across the vast, dry, undulating land past herds of emaciated Brahman cattle. Late in the afternoon, a cattle truck on their right blew out a tire. Toby pulled over to help, and the rancher, who lived nearby, invited the couple to join his family for dinner.

“We had dinner at the ranch and spent the night there,” Toby remembers, “and the rancher was complaining about the drought and El Niño.” Coincidentally, Darwin had made the original journey during an El Niño year, a time when warming sea temperatures in the Pacific create large-scale interactions between the ocean and atmosphere around the world. Reading from Darwin’s journal every day, observing the landscape, and talking to the people just as Darwin had, Toby thought about the long history of the Earth and the role humans play in reshaping it. What would Darwin say about the extremes he had seen in the space of a year?

Toby’s final stop was Darwin’s home in Downe, England, and he arrived just as the hottest temperatures ever recorded in the British Isles were being seen there. Nearly 70,000 people across Europe died in the 2003 heat wave. Toby decided to spend the hot and muggy afternoon at the Natural History Museum in London, and there he stumbled upon a lecture on the warming seas.

“Toby’s final stop was Darwin’s home in Downe, England, and he arrived just as the hottest temperatures ever recorded in the British Isles were being seen there. Nearly 70,000 people across Europe died in the 2003 heat wave. Toby decided to spend the hot and muggy afternoon at the Natural History Museum in London, and there he stumbled upon a lecture on the warming seas.

The professor was talking about how, in the future, it’s going to be a lot warmer, and we need to understand it so we can be prepared,” Toby recalls. “He said we need numerical models of the climate system, and we need to come at this problem with everything we’ve got. I just sat there thinking yes. As a math major, I had a quantitative background, but I didn’t know what I wanted to do with it. This tied it all together.”

Toby went on to study climate science at the University of Arizona and is now assistant professor of Earth and atmospheric sciences at Cornell. His work involves running sophisticated numerical models on supercomputers to analyze natural climate variability and agents of climate change, such as volcanic activity, the sun’s output, and the kinds of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, to predict what we can expect from climate change in the future, and what we can do about it.

ZORBA LESLIE ’07

Zorba Leslie sat in the pews of Ntarama Church outside Kigali, Rwanda, stunned by the sight of this sanctuary of bones. The church, like many others throughout the country, had been the site of horrific massacres during the 1994 genocide that took an estimated 800,000 lives in less than 100 days. The killings were perpetrated primarily by the ethnic majority Hutus aligned with the government against minority Tutsis and more moderate Hutus. In many cases, the killers knew their victims—they were neighbors, relatives, friends.

“These churches were places where congregants would run to seek sanctuary,” Zorba says. Now they stand as memorials to a country’s unspeakable history, where the bones of the murdered still lay just as they fell. “It was a visceral reminder of how the politics of fear and animosity can be used, and are
used—not just in the Holocaust, but in contemporary times around the world, in Syria, in Burma, in the United States—to sow distrust and extreme violence.”

But this reminder is what Zorba came for. His Watson project was about exploring the meaning of justice by studying post-conflict societies of Rwanda, South Africa, Chile, and Cambodia. It was an intense project, but he wasn’t alone. The summer after he graduated from Puget Sound, he married Jessica Henley, his childhood friend and senior prom date at Stadium High School in Tacoma. Three days after the wedding they left for Zorba’s Watson Fellowship. It was an unconventional honeymoon, he admits: “You know, a year of atrocity.”

Zorba had always felt a deep empathy for people who had experienced trauma, informed by a personal history of people close to him who had experienced sexual or intimate-partner violence. This led to an acute interest in justice. On a David L. Boren Scholarship studying in Cairo during his junior year, he took a class on international criminal law highlighting the biggest justice and retribution questions of the 20th century. The idea that justice could be served, or that reconciliation was possible, in situations as devastating as these, was the most hopeful thing he could imagine.

After witnessing the static aftermath of unthinkable violence at the Rwandan church, Zorba and Jess sat in the grass of the Gacaca courts, in circles of Hutus and Tutsis coming together to speak and listen, to hear and to be heard. “Without even being able to directly understand the Kinyarwanda that was being spoken, even though we had an interpreter, but just observing people grappling with the most devastating life experiences anybody could ever imagine, the most vicious physical violence—hearing a mother describe having her infant daughter slashed from her arms—that was very impactful for me,” Zorba says. “The idea of a community coming together and just laying everything bare was so compelling.”

Zorba and Jess kept an especially tight grip on each other’s hands on those afternoons, and the experience began to give their future lives shape. After the Watson year, both went on to earn law degrees and to pursue careers working to end slavery, human trafficking, and gender-based violence around the world.

REGINA JORGENSON ’98

In the fall of 1998, Regina Jorgenson was at a dinner party in Heidelberg, Germany, with a group of women astronomers from around the world. Drinking wine and passing dishes around a large dinner table, Regina was relishing the experience. Then she heard a name that made her gasp.

The dinner guests were colleagues at the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, and they discussed their work, as well as the conflicts that came along with it—family life, tenure, and publishing. Hours into the meal, the conversation shifted. When one woman shared her story of being sexually harassed by a colleague, others followed. “By the end of the night,” Regina recalls, “everyone was going around the table talking about their own experience.”

It was a Venezuelan woman’s story about a man who had continually harassed her at conferences that really caught Regina’s attention. The ordeal had begun with a seemingly innocuous invitation to dinner. Regina recognized this man’s name because he had asked her to dinner in the same way. Regina was 22, just out of college and a month into her Watson year. Her first thought was, “This is a really weird, small world.” But by the end of the night, she had gained new clarity about the prevalence of sexual harassment in the scientific community.

“It was like a whisper network,” Regina says, referring to the astronomers gathered in Heidelberg warning each other about certain men. “But if you were young and just coming into the field, you wouldn’t be privy to this information.” For women, Regina realized, navigating the world of science couldn’t just be about your science. And for that to change, the field needed more women.

The considerable gender gap in STEM fields had first come to Regina’s attention when, as a student at Puget Sound, she was working on a project on the history of women in physics. She found that the number of women in science differed from country to country. What was it about culture that determined who could be a scientist, and what influence did cultural norms have on the way science was practiced? With her
“I could have just crumbled. I could have just stayed where I was. But I felt the calling to expand into something greater.”

Watson Fellowship, she set off around the world to find out.

Through a series of interviews and a survey she developed, Regina asked women in Russia, India, Japan, Australia, and all throughout Europe about how they got into astronomy and what their influences were, as well as about their experiences being a woman in astronomy/physics. In India, she found that women physicists abounded, perhaps because it was standard to have a live-in relative or housekeeper care for children. In Japan, the opposite was true, and when Regina arrived at an astronomy institute there, she had trouble finding a woman scientist to interview at all.

Regina noted that the underrepresentation of women in science starts with a lack of mentors, and the power structures that perpetuate gender bias. Science professors provide research-assistant opportunities, connections in the field, and job recommendations to their students. “That’s part of the way science works,” Regina says. “But we know from research that people choose mentees who are like them.” That’s why representation of women in the field is so important.

In her role as director of astronomy for the Maria Mitchell Association, Regina is doing her part. This year, she is organizing a symposium in honor of Maria Mitchell, the first American woman astronomer, which will include discussions on the recruitment and retention of women and girls to careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. And she is mentor to six of the country’s top undergraduate students, who arrive every year at her observatory as summer research fellows. Her goal is to give them the knowledge that will keep them in the field “and also to make them the kind of students who will increase diversity in their own ways.”

CLINTON AGRESTI ’09

After riding for two hours from Accra, Ghana, on a little muggy bus called a tro tro, Clinton Agresti arrived at the home of a Ghanaian musician for what would become an epic collaboration. Clinton had recently interviewed the musician for his Watson project. “When I got home, this riff sort of spilled out of me,” Clinton recalls, “and when I shared it with him, he said we had to record it.” For the next few weeks, Clinton visited almost daily, bringing peanuts and fruit juice to share. “We used around two dozen instruments from all over Ghana. He was integrating styles from around West Africa, and he translated my lyrics into Twi, his native language. I suppose I brought my West Coast sensibilities,” Clinton says. Despite numerous power outages and lost sessions, the finished track was recorded. It was a collaboration that he will always remember.

An international political economy major, Clinton designed his Watson project around exploring traditional approaches to music in Mongolia, Ukraine, Ghana, and Bolivia. “I was interested in the ways in which music is tied to entire ways of life—identity, ritual, belief, geography, people’s sense of history, and kinship,” he says. To accomplish this, he sat with herdsmen in Mongolia who knew as many as 300 songs by heart, went to weddings and funerals, and collaborated with musicians he met along the way.

This kind of cultural immersion is second-skin to Clinton. “Throw me in a group of strangers in an unfamiliar environment, and that’s where I tend to feel most comfortable,” he says.
There were moments of both beauty and darkness. In the Khovd region of Mongolia, Clinton spent one evening in the yurt of a local family, exchanging songs, sharing a meal of boiled marmot, and drinking liquor made from fermented sheep’s milk. It felt like the middle of nowhere, there on the steppe in the foothills of the Altai Mountains. “It was golden hour,” he remembers. “The sun hadn’t quite set, but there was a golden haze over everything.” After eating and singing, the herdsmen challenged Clinton to a traditional Mongolian wrestling match. Buzzed and exhausted, he reluctantly agreed. The herdsmen tied orange sashes around Clinton and his opponent, and formed a circle around them as they began to wrestle. After several painful minutes, his opponent spread his arms like an eagle, and Clinton, following the custom, descended beneath his “wing” to signal defeat. Then he staggered behind his jeep, collapsed, and vomited.

For the next three days, Clinton was bruised, sore, and sick, lying in the fetal position in a tent on the Mongolian steppe, as lonely as he’d ever been.

The wrestling match is emblematic of Clinton’s yearlong experience reckoning with the ugly alongside the beautiful. “I had this idea that if I went and saw the world, I’d return with some kind of special wisdom,” he says. “I was dropped into vastly different cultural contexts, and I encountered some xenophobic beliefs and behaviors that were difficult for me to navigate. I was actually frustrated with a lot of what I saw. The experience made me more compassionate, but I think I’m still grappling with it.”

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ANGELICA SPEARWOMAN ’17

Halfway through her journey, halfway around the world, Angelica Spearwoman was sitting in the shade of a jackfruit tree at Chinmaya University in Kerala, having an epiphany. A professor there, with whom she was studying Sanskrit, had said something that changed her way of thinking. “Language is our most powerful tool as human beings, and it is key to the emancipation of human beings,” he’d said. “So when you say the world is such a violent world, that’s giving the world permission to be that way.” Conversely, Angelica realized, when you say the world is a beautiful place, you change the conversation.

This was especially poignant for Angelica because six years earlier her sister, Jessica, had been murdered. In an instant, every man became an enemy, a rapist, a murderer, a threat. Angelica learned self-defense. She kept herself on guard. For her Watson year, she visited Nicaragua, Australia, India, and Spain to teach self-defense and promote women’s safety. “I could have just crumbled, I could have just stayed where I was,” she says. “But I felt the calling to expand into something greater.”

Then, under the jackfruit tree, her approach shifted. “It occurred to me that so much of my work was about men’s violence against women and how women can reclaim their power and agency from fear,” she says. “And then I said to myself, ‘Look at how you are violent, Angelica! What are the ways in which you contribute to this society?’” Instead of talking about violence against women, Angelica turned to healing—healing relationships with the Earth, and ultimately healing relationships with ourselves.

Angelica just returned from her travels in August. “The Watson was this amazing gift that has put me on this completely different path,” she says. While she doesn’t know what her next year holds, poetry, ecofeminism, community service, and public speaking are all on her mind.

“I’ve come to the conclusion that any violence is just an expression of that person’s suffering, so I no longer have any interest in focusing on violence,” she says. “I want to focus on healing our wounds, which are collective and individual but not separate. Reverence and respect. That’s all I care about. Honoring life. It’s a freaking miracle that we are alive. And I have to thank my sister because she woke me up to realize how precious this life is, and how quickly it can be taken. Because of her, I will dedicate my life to sharing with everyone how powerful and strong they are, and that we have the power to heal.”

—Margot Kahn

COURTESY OF ANGELICA SPEARWOMAN
MY PARENTS AND I ESCAPED VIETNAM WHEN I WAS 2. FOR MY WATSON PROJECT, I WENT back to my homeland, and I met my extended family for the first time. I had heard the names of my grandparents and my uncle and my aunts. But beyond that, I really knew nothing about them.

The minute my husband and I arrived at the airport, there was a little village waiting for us out there. It was almost like they knew me from the few pictures that my parents had sent over the last 21 years. They welcomed us in. We just felt so loved by them.

When I traveled to Vietnam, I thought that I was a very respectful, good Vietnamese daughter. I knew the language enough to get around. I thought that I understood the culture enough, but I didn’t. The less you know, the more you think you know. And the more you see, the more you realize you don’t know anything.

I would get really frustrated over cultural things. For example, as a Vietnamese woman, the expectation was that I would go to the market and wash the herbs for the morning, cut up everything and cook, and then hand wash clothes before I could even think about painting. That was a cultural obligation, which, in retrospect, I’m grateful for. But at the time, I was super annoyed, because I was there with an agenda.

My uncle found a way to connect with me. He would say, “You might not be painting, but think of what you’re experiencing.” He was opening my mind up to the experience. He was so loving and open-minded, and so wise. He had a big influence on how I perceived and approached life.

In my sketchbook, you’ll see a lot of pictures of just day-to-day life, cooking, and fruit. That was my way of sneaking in sketching while I was doing housework. The dirt must have been blessed on my uncle’s property, because every fruit tree that grew there was just amazing, so sweet and so good. He had the most amazing starfruit tree, and I felt like I had to capture that.

MY NGUYEN ’98
Deputy Director of Interior Design and Operations at Holland America Line in Seattle
THE PLACE THAT HAD THE BIGGEST IMPACT ON ME WAS ANJAHAMANA, one of the first remote villages I visited in Madagascar, where I stayed for three weeks. I was hiking to these little forest segments, where there were lemurs left, but you didn’t know how much longer they would be around. The villagers were clearing hillsides to plant rice, and the forest patches were getting smaller and smaller. I saw homemade lemur traps in the forest, and when I was out with guides, someone offered to sell a lemur to me. I was struck by the urgency of the need for conservation, but also the needs of the people. I was starting to understand a different perspective.

In another village, I noticed that some people raised chickens. I thought, Well, why doesn’t everyone eat chickens instead of lemurs? I was told, “Chickens you can sell, and get money to buy other things you need. Lemurs you’re not supposed to sell, so sell the chickens, eat the lemurs.” What I took away is that conservation is complicated. It should be approached with compassion, and a willingness to at least try to understand the perspectives of different stakeholders.

MARY KOTSCHWAR LOGAN ’03
Stay-at-home mom in Camarillo, Calif.
IN EVERY PLACE I WENT, I TRIED TO CAPTURE MY FEELINGS OF AWE AT THE landscapes. The tiny hut in the corner of the image, swallowed up by the landscape: I was constantly trying to take those pictures, to somehow capture how small I felt in those places, and the scale of human infrastructure alongside the natural world.

I was looking for how other people see the same landscapes, but have very different thoughts about what to do with them, or what they’re supposed to mean, either personally or to the country. These concepts are all culturally relative, and I think that’s one of my big takeaways from the Watson trip, I have more questions and fewer answers than I started with.

RACHEL GROSS ’08
Postdoctoral fellow at the University of Montana in Missoula
I wanted to be able to express the relevance of lucha libre, to talk about the idea of the sporting spectacle. As an athlete, I found that it was something I could speak to and understand, but I also wanted to step out of that mold and look into what athleticism as performance means culturally.

I was definitely an outsider, but I was seeing lucha libre in Mexico City, in the Arena Coliseo and the neighborhood with the crowds that were there every Saturday. People love it. It doesn’t matter who you are—young or old, man or woman, rich or poor—it’s a universal thing. You go to these shows and you see all sorts of people. It was beautiful to see the interaction of the performers with the audience, because for both it was a moment of truth—they were able to be themselves during that space and time.

You can’t really imagine this great feeling—there’s a glow to it. Pro wrestling was real to people, and they loved it.

Erich von Tagen ’97
Film and television production coordinator in Portland, Ore.
I studied comparative sociology and anthropology, and I was able to apply the participant-observation method to contortion and acrobatics for my Watson project. I was able to participate in the training methods and also to look at the culture of the people around me and how their arts and training interacted with culture.

I hold Mongolia very dear to my heart. I did a homestay with a nomadic family who lived out on the steppe with this huge blue sky and rolling hills. We milked the goats in the morning.

I loved training in this one particular studio where students were training intensively six hours a day, practicing really challenging and, at times, painful skills, and yet there seemed to be so much pure enjoyment and delight in the process. It challenged my stereotype of the intense Asian acrobatic culture to realize that these students wanted to be there, and they appeared to be enjoying it, hand in hand with challenging themselves and pushing their boundaries.

Jacki Ward Kehrwald ’10
Communications and events manager at The Circus Project in Portland, Ore.
What was your biggest takeaway from the Watson experience?

Enjoy the adventure you’re in. No matter what you’re doing, if you find the adventure and humor in it, you can be happy.

Jennifer Tillet ’02

I realized I don’t actually need to go far away to learn from people who have worldviews that are radically different from mine. I actually need to be doing that all the time, and I can do it quite close to home.

Rachel Gross ’08

To live simply and authentically. After living out of a backpack for a year, it made me realize what’s really important, and that I felt so alive being free from my stuff. Now, when my husband and I give each other gifts, we give experiences instead of things.

Margaret Shelton Betts ’11

I had gone out into the world being scared of it, and then learned that it was not a scary place. Everything you see on the news feels like it’s the end of the world. It’s hard to remember that the world is actually a very beautiful place.

Lisa Tucker ’15

Just keep going away. Don’t think of it as a once-in-a-lifetime thing. Think of it as the beginning of a new life.

Erich Von Tagen ’97
The struggle was what really made the experience. The way that it forced me to grow and to become more open—it was just an incredibly valuable experience.

Kendra Loews '06

The Watson has helped me a lot as a grad student, to make connections and feel confident, being comfortable with being uncomfortable.

Kelsey Crutchfield-Peters '14

Preparation is good, but knowing how to be flexible—and how to adapt and recover after failure—is just as important. There were a lot of things that didn’t go the way I planned. But there were all kinds of things that I didn’t plan that happened and were amazing.

Mary Kotschwar Logan '03

I had a childhood where I was left to do things on my own from first grade on. I was pretty independent, but being away from home for undergrad and then the Watson year, I really had a renewed sense of the importance of family, and wanting to reconnect with my mom and dad in particular.

Bryce Maxell '94

You’ll encounter generosity everywhere, all around the world. People have it in themselves that they want to help, but you have to be open to that and allow it to happen.

Jacki Ward Kehrwald '10
PART TWO

You Become a Different Person

The first thing you learn is that things rarely go according to plan. When obstacles arise, Watson Fellows become masters of snap judgment, and after a year of course-correcting and adapting, an inner transformation takes place.

GREG GROGGEL ’06

Greg Groggel stood at a pay phone in the center of Mexico City. Twenty million lives hummed in the heat around him. He knew no one, and he was already sick from the water. Checking in with his mother for the first time since leaving on his Watson year a few days before, he admitted, “I don’t know what I’m doing.”

Greg’s project centered on investigating the legacy of the Olympics on cities around the world, and Mexico City was the first stop. Munich would follow, then Sarajevo, Sydney, Seoul, and Beijing. Despite his careful planning, at that moment, he was overwhelmed.

Greg fell in love with the Olympics as a kid. At age 9, he watched the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games on TV with wide eyes. South Africa competed for the first time since suspending its apartheid policy. Germany sent a single, unified team after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The USA men’s basketball “Dream Team” won gold. The games “opened my eyes to a bigger world,” Greg says. Four years later, his mother drove him from Nebraska to Atlanta so he could see the Olympics in person.

“It became something I just gravitated to,” Greg says. In 2004, he got a summer job at the Athens Games. While driving athletes to and from Olympic Village, where scores of flags from all over the world flew out dorm windows, he wondered: After it was all over, what would happen to this place?

That’s what Greg wanted to know about Mexico City, long after the 1968 Summer Olympics. But when he landed there to launch his Watson project, he realized: “I don’t know anything. I need to reset.” So he started from the beginning, by examining the city’s Olympic bid documents to understand what the city had promised as an Olympic host, and then focused on assessing whether the city had delivered on its promises.

Greg used the same approach in each of the six cities. By visiting the former Olympic sites, conducting research, and meeting with Olympic officials, he got a nuanced understanding of what the games meant to each locale.

He met with South Korea’s bid president to understand the country’s goal of using the games to promote peace across the Korean peninsula. In Beijing, despite not having credentials, contacts, or language skills, Greg gained access to the Olympic Park—still under construction for the 2008 Olympics—by befriending a local guard and bribing him with cigarettes. Touring the wildly ambitious Bird’s Nest stadium and Water Cube aquatics center, Greg realized that the city’s hopes for the games went beyond helping China enter the global stage; the Olympics would transform how the Chinese people saw themselves.

The Olympics continue to captivate Greg, who lives in Madrid and directs original programming for the new Olympic Channel. And the Watson experience continues to guide him. Whenever he feels daunted by a challenge in his life, he thinks: “I can handle this. I can survive.”

MATTHEW SWARNER MUIR ’00

The nurses at the clinic were in the middle of a Christmas party. They gave him pain pills and said to come back in an hour if necessary. Matthew Muir had just landed in Quito, Ecuador, after a long stint in the Amazon rainforest. He’d been living in a tent for weeks, washing in rivers, eating local wild foods—including primates, turtles, and rodents—and drinking chicha, the local fermented beverage made from a slurry of pre-chewed grain. His guts screamed. When he returned to the clinic, the only doctor on duty—a gynecologist—diagnosed pancreatitis. In the middle of his Watson year, he was bedridden with an IV in his arm.

For his project, Matthew had embarked on a search for the bush dog, a South American wild dog about the size of a small terrier, with a caramel-colored coat. The animal is so elusive that no scientist had been able to carry out an in-depth study on the species. In the fall of 2000, Matthew set out to find the dog in Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, and Ecuador, traveling throughout tropical forests and playing the dog’s call on a recorder.

Months went by with no dog. He interviewed local elders from indigenous communities in the area about their experiences. Most had never seen a bush dog. “It was pretty wild that there was a species out there that wasn’t just elusive to biologists and Western science but to traditional ecological knowledge, as well,” he says. The general
belief among the region’s subsistence communities was that the dogs were hunters of the spirits.

Matthew was hospitalized for more than a week in Quito. And although full recovery took another six months, there was half of his Watson year still to come and a bush dog to find, so back out in the field he went. At the end of his fellowship, Matthew still hadn’t found a bush dog. But he had gained extensive experience in the field while working with research teams along the way—netting bats, trapping rodents, and tracking other wild canines.

The health scare in Quito was “part of the challenges that I learned to roll with,” Matthew reflected. “I think it served me well in my travels,” he added. With demanding fieldwork under his belt, he was able to get hired by research teams in South America and Botswana, where he assisted with a study on African wild dogs, work that eventually became his Ph.D. project.

Today, Matthew works for the international affairs office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He says it’s his dream job, helping international wildlife conservation projects all over the world through funding and technical support. He and his wife have two young sons and have moved to Alaska, where he grew up. Matthew is excited to be raising his children among remote, wild places, where they might even see a wild dog—a wolf—of their own.

HALEY ANDRES ’14

Zanzibar looked like paradise: fresh mangos, avocados, and fish. Azure seas lapping at white sand. A dynamic mashup of cultures representing native and colonial influences. But Haley Andres knew otherwise. She was working at an addiction treatment home for men on this small island off Tanzania, which is a key stopover point for heroin making its way from Afghanistan to Europe. About 7 percent of the population was addicted to heroin.

In the blinding heat of the courtyard outside the cement-block facility, Haley had helped the men paint an inspirational mural and the words “Just For Today: Try.” For about a month, she’d been leading art workshops with the men, for whom the sessions were “a real break from this 24-hour burden of being an addict and needing to recover,” she says.

Then one of her local colleagues mentioned her impending departure. “You’re going to leave soon,” he told her. “We’ve had other people come through before.”

His words knocked Haley off balance. “I had been speaking with people about the most challenging and intimate things, but I was always going to be an outsider,” she says. Had her time and effort made an impact, or was she just another volunteer passing through? Halfway through her Watson year, she felt like giving up.

Haley had approached her Watson year from a deeply personal place. After experiencing an assault and finding solace through painting, she wanted to examine the relationship between trauma and artistic practice, and to take a global look at what, in the U.S., is commonly known as “art therapy.”

The fellowship took her to Bolivia, Japan, Thailand, Australia, Zanzibar, and the U.K. In Bolivia, she worked with an NGO teaching circus skills to kids growing up in devastating poverty and art therapists helping families who had suffered domestic violence. In England, she investigated the nation’s push to incorporate the arts into treatment at hospitals and psychiatric clinics. In Japan, she learned from artists working in the wake of the 2011 tsunami.

What she saw across the world was that for people who have experienced trauma, making art could have different impacts. “It can be private and personal, but it can also be a source of community and power,” she says.

But in Zanzibar, Haley began to wonder about the assumptions underlying what she was doing, and about the ethics of art therapy. Was it sustainable for local communities to have outsiders deliver such programs? Was professional training required for this work? To whom did the art that was the product of these sessions belong?

For the second half of her Watson year, Haley shied away from working directly with people who had experienced trauma. Instead, she spent more time observing the way local communities and caregivers approached therapy, and questioning her own ideas. “It’s certainly humbling,” she says, reflecting on that time.

Today, while these questions still simmer...
within her, Haley works for The Posse Foundation, where part of her work involves counseling college students on how to apply for Watson Fellowships. She is honest when she talks to them about her own Watson year, which raised more questions than it delivered answers, including about who she is. She tells the students: “It’s OK to not know.”

SCOTT WARREN ’05

Scott Warren had boarded a microbus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for the first leg of his monthlong expedition down the headwaters of the Blue Nile, one of the two main tributaries of the Nile, amid a landscape so rugged that it had kept explorers at bay for hundreds of years. As the bus neared the capital city’s large, open-air market, Scott heard the clatter of gunfire and saw smoke filling the streets. In the aftermath of Ethiopia’s contentious election, a riot had erupted. Protesters were throwing rocks. The police were shooting civilians. Scott dashed off the bus and, with help from a local friend, found his way back on foot to the hotel where he’d been staying.

In the months that followed, while Scott continued to explore big, wild landscapes around the world, he sought to integrate himself more into local communities, cherishing friendships that made him feel more connected to the places he was exploring.

Today, Scott lives in Denver, where he is the research director for the Alterra Mountain Company, one of the largest ski resort companies in the world. He still visits with his Peruvian friends from time to time.

“When I think about the thing I’m most proud of during my Watson year, it’s making that connection,” he says.

JESS SOTELO ’01

It was dusk when Jess Sotelo realized that the barracks were full of drunk men. She was at the end of a six-hour jeep ride to a small village at the edge of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador. She’d planned to stay in the former workers’ housing as she figured out a way to approach a Huaorani community deep in the jungle—a subsistence culture so remote that it had only recently been in contact with Western media and academics. Now she didn’t feel safe.

Jess grew up in rural Alaska. She had never been outside the U.S. before her Watson Fellowship took her on a quest to explore how belief systems affect people’s responses to different modes of medical care, from folk medicine to allopathic treatment. Starting in Mexico, she shadowed nurses as they taught basic sanitation practices to residents of rural villages. In Guatemala, she worked with a Mayan priest who delivered traditional medicine to his community.

But it was the Huaorani, a culture she’d only read about, that most intrigued her. As the light quickly leaked from the Amazon sky, a Huaorani family who had been riding in the same jeep invited her to stay with them in their remote village. “Which is safer?” Jess wondered. She had to make a snap decision. “I really didn’t have anything, and no one knew where I was,” she says. But she grabbed
her backpack and joined the family on their two-day canoe voyage home.

Jess ended up spending three and a half months with the Huaorani, where many people in the community spoke only the indigenous language. The tallest person in the village, at 5 feet, 4 inches, she slept in a small, elevated hut on a poncho, wrapped in a mosquito net. Like the Huaorani, she drank rainwater, ate wild foods from the jungle, and helped the women make cord out of grass. “Help,” she explains, “meant them being kind enough to teach me.”

During those months, the questions that had inspired Jess’s Watson project became less important than just experiencing life with the Huaorani. “I’m so grateful that they took such good care of me,” she says.

Today, Jess is an emergency room doctor in Anchorage, where she deploys the same toxin found on the spear tips of the Huaorani to anesthetize patients before intubation. Her Watson Fellowship helped her become sympathetic to the cultural backgrounds and beliefs each patient brings to their own medical care, like when her Samoan patients arrive at the hospital with a huge group of family members as support. And her Watson year made Jess—formerly goal-oriented and achievement-driven—more comfortable with venturing into the unknown. “You become a different person,” she says.

—Miranda Weiss

As the light quickly leaked from the Amazon sky, a Huaorani family who had been riding in the same jeep invited her to stay with them in their remote village. “Which is safer?” Jess wondered. She had to make a snap decision.
I had been studying harp for about five months, and I was sort of harped out. I needed to take a break. I decided to go to Lisieux, a little village in France, to learn about Thérèse of Lisieux, who is one of my favorite saints. Her parents, Zélie and Louis, were the first saints to be canonized as a married couple. While I was there I stayed in a convent—I had been considering becoming a nun since I was a child.

It turned out that St. Thérèse loved the harp, and actually drew a little coat of arms for herself with a harp on it. So even when I tried to escape the harp, it came back to me, and I felt like it was a sign that I was on the right road. I realized, I don’t think I’m destined to become a nun. Years later, I got married, and when we had our first daughter, I named her Zélie Thérèse for my unexpected little trip to France.

After I had my daughter, it was a lot harder to be flexible and spontaneous. We bought a fixer-upper that ended up being very difficult, and we had some deaths in our family, and my husband is in the military and was deployed a lot. And I kept feeling like, I’m on the wrong road. How could I discern that same good gut feeling I had when I was traveling? I had to reevaluate what it was that I really wanted, and not be afraid to reroute my life. So we sold our house, and I went back to work part-time after being a stay-at-home mom. And I started playing harp a lot more. I had taken a hiatus after having Zélie. I realized I just had to make those decisions again. I was letting life come at me. You have to learn the lesson over and over.

Margaret Shelton Betts '11
Harp instructor and performer in Tacoma, Wash.
ONE OF THE REALLY NICE THINGS ABOUT NOT HAVING A ROAD MAP WAS THAT it allowed me to have really authentic interactions with people. It made me trust people more.

I was visiting a village in Borneo, and I met some indigenous leaders who invited me to a meeting of villages and tribes in the Baram region who were working to protect their lands from logging and palm oil extraction.

They were speaking about how once logging companies came to their villages, their lives went from being really bountiful and happy to being really hard. There was no food in the forest anymore. The animals had gone. The rivers were full of sediments, and there were no fish. Person after person got up and told these stories.

That was the intro to a journey I then took with a group of people from one of the villages. We traveled through the forest to sites where their ancestors, for hundreds and hundreds of years, had used the paths for hunting and to flee into the forest during World War II.

So they took me to this place that was very important to them. We spent the night dancing, they hunted boar, we had a fire, and we slept out in a traditional-style house. There was this moment where the women came together and were singing. I was struck by the fact that people were so happy to just share that experience with me. They took me in and showed me who they were, very authentically, unabashedly, and beautifully. I felt very grateful.

The whole premise of my project was this idea of people and land use. My Watson year was an extraordinary experience of interacting with people in a really loving way, and I think that's what came out of it, this feeling of respect and love for people who are just trying to live their lives.

KELSEY CRUTCHFIELD-PETERS ’14
Graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley
COMING ACROSS THE GRASSLANDS IN NORTHERN AUSTRALIA and seeing this flock of budgerigar parakeets, which was, like, a kilometer wide and five kilometers long, and thinking it was part of the rain clouds that I was also seeing that day. That was truly amazing.

In that very same day, a colony of flying foxes was taking off and leaving for about an hour, and they were blotting out the sky while they were doing it. There were just thousands and thousands of them.

Then, on Nigaloo Reef, which is on the West Coast of Australia and is the longest fringing reef in the world, I got to swim with a whale shark. That was quite an amazing experience, swimming with an animal that could easily fit you inside its mouth, if it wasn’t eating plankton.

Watching the corals spawn on the Great Barrier Reef is truly awe-inspiring, to see the corals send off their egg and sperm bundles. It’s like watching fireworks.

BRYCE MAXELL ’94
Program coordinator at Montana Natural Heritage Program in Helena, Mont.
BEING A WATSON FELLOW IMPROVES YOU AS A HUMAN BEING. I NEVER GAVE UP AND WENT HOME because it got too hard, because there was always a way. Now, with harder problems, more constraints, deadlines, and lots of difficulties, I still have that playful, creative problem-solving ability that says, *Well, what if you just try this?* Or, *What if we change the goal?* Being brave enough to do that and not give up in the face of adversity is really valuable.

JENNIFER TILLETT ’02
Software engineer in Vancouver, Canada

EVERY SINGLE PERSON FINISHING COLLEGE SHOULD HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY, BECAUSE IT sets you up for life, in terms of learning how to jump into an unknown situation and figure your way through.

I had this system I developed. It was my three-day rule. Every time I would get to a new country, I would feel really overwhelmed by the new language, the new currency, the transportation system. And so I’d tell myself, “After three days, you’re going to feel so much better here. Everything is going to be OK.” And it was so true, every single time.

I have applied that to the rest of my life. I work in travel, so in terms of logistics, there’s a direct correlation. But even when I was going through a very tough time as a stay-at-home mom going through a divorce, needing to find a job, and renovating my house all at the same time, I tried to say the same thing to myself. You know, “Everything is going to be OK, and you’ll find the way like you did when you were traveling.” So that was really a great template for life, to have the confidence that it will be OK in the end. Therefore, I’m not afraid.

MARY WALKER CURRY ’97, M.O.T.’00
Voyage product director/trip planner at Adventure Life in Missoula, Mont. (Pictured on the right.)
I LANDED BACK IN THE UNITED STATES RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RECESSION.
I had just had this incredible experience traveling around the world, but I found that many people didn’t understand or value that experience. Especially when I would visit my hometown in rural Minnesota—people thought I had gone abroad to do missionary work, to hand out bibles or do humanitarian work. They would ask me things like, “Didn’t you find that people are really backwards there?” I’d think about how I had found this incredible humanity everywhere—even if they had totally different cultures or customs, they were just people, and good people. That someone would call another culture “backwards,” when we have so many problems in our own nation, is really just saying something.

KENDRA LOEBS ’06
Intensive care nurse in Seattle

I THINK THAT PUGET SOUND GAVE ME A LEG UP ON THE WATSON YEAR, BECAUSE I HAD TOOLS TO PROCESS experiences and emotions. I was in the leadership engagement and development cohort, and I was also involved in Orientation for all four years of college. We did a lot of reflection on how we impact communities in the world. I think I was more readily able to enter spaces around the world and to try to understand how I fit into those communities before starting to execute my project. There was an emphasis on introspection and intersectionality. The Watson really fosters those qualities, as well, because it’s what happens when you’re traveling by yourself for a year. You learn more about yourself and how you fit into the greater picture of the world.

LISA TUCKER ’15
Donor advocacy and events associate at the League of Conservation Voters in Washington, D.C.
WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR THE NEXT FELLOW?

KEAO RIVERA-LEONG ’18

This past summer, Keao embarked on her Watson Year with one goal: to connect. Her project, “Stories of Malama: Biocultural Conservation for Future Generations,” stems from her desire to preserve not only natural resources, but indigenous cultures. She will travel to New Zealand, Indonesia, and Madagascar, and return home next August.
TRY EVERYTHING, ASK LOTS OF QUESTIONS, AND TRUST YOUR GUT FEELING, BECAUSE THAT NEVER STEERED ME WRONG.

MARGARET SHELTON BETTS ’11

USE YOUR PROJECT AS A GUIDELINE, BUT BE OPEN TO ANYTHING. WE MEET SO MANY PEOPLE WHEN WE TRAVEL; PATHS CROSS FOR A REASON. FOLLOW THAT WAY INSTEAD OF ONE SET WAY, AND YOU’LL PROBABLY FIND THAT’S GOING TO BE MORE ENRICHING THAN WHAT YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE.

MY NGUYEN ’98

GO TOWARD WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, BECAUSE THAT’S WHERE THE REAL GROWING EXPERIENCES ARE. IT’S CRUCIAL THAT YOU DO THINGS THAT MAKE YOU A LITTLE BIT AFRAID, BECAUSE IT’S GOING TO MAKE YOUR YEAR SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL, AND YOU’LL HAVE SO MANY MORE STORIES TO TELL WHEN YOU GET BACK.

LISA TUCKER ’15

JUST DIVE IN, AND REALLY ENGAGE, AND SOAK EVERY LAST BIT OF IT UP.

BRYCE MAXELL ’94

DON’T EXPECT THAT LIFE WILL BE THE SAME EVER AGAIN. YOU WON’T GET TO LIVE THAT WAY AGAIN, SO TREASURE IT. THE TIME YOU HAVE WILL BE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE.

ERICH VON TAGEN ’97

GET OUT OF THE BIG CITIES, TRUST PEOPLE, AND PURSUE INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF YOUR PROJECT.

KENDRA LOEBS ’06

NO MATTER HOW SCARY IT SEEMS WHEN YOU FIRST STEP OFF THAT PLANE, IT’S GOING TO GET BETTER. JUST GO OUT THERE AND REALLY HAVE A GOOD TIME, BECAUSE IT’S THE BEST ADVENTURE OF YOUR LIFE BY FAR.

MARY WALKER CURRY ’97, M.O.T.’00

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, BECAUSE IF YOU HAVE A HEALTH SETBACK, YOU’LL LOSE TIME AND ENERGY FOR WHAT YOU’RE THERE TO DO.

MARY KOTSCHWAR LOGAN ’03

MEET PEOPLE AND MAKE REALLY LASTING MEMORIES.

JENNIFER TILLETT ’02

LET YOURSELF HAVE A ZERO DAY. YOU REALLY NEED TO BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, AND THAT DOES REQUIRE SOME DOWNTIME.

KELSEY CRUTCHFIELD-PETERS ’14

DO ALL OF THE PREP WORK TO MAKE AS MANY PERSONAL CONNECTIONS AS YOU CAN AHEAD OF TIME, BECAUSE THAT HELPS, BUT THEN, DON’T BE TOO TIED TO YOUR PLAN ONCE YOU’RE ACTUALLY THERE. DON’T IGNORE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU AND THE FUN EXPERIENCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU.

JACKI WARD KEHRWALD ’10
1956 Eugene Johnson, a Puget Sound business administration graduate and Sigma Nu pledge class president, is keeping busy as chair of the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of Southern California. The organization provides low-cost eye surgery and hearing aids to Southern California residents in need. He also serves as treasurer for Lions Clubs International’s District 4L2. He and his wife, LeAnn, also recently welcomed their sixth great-grandchild.

1967 Jerry Ramsey donated the copyright of his book, Stealing Puget Sound, 1832-1869, to the DuPont History Museum in DuPont, Wash. The museum will continue to publish the work, which is the most comprehensive 19th-century history of the region. Stealing Puget Sound explores the relationship and little-known political tension that occurred between the first British settlers and the Americans who crossed the Oregon Trail 15 years later. Jerry has received three awards in connection to the book: the Murray Morgan Award from the Tacoma Historical Society, the Heritage League of Pierce County’s Publications Award, and the Pinnacle Award from the Tacoma Historical Society, the Heritage League of Pierce County.

1967 Allenmore. Elaine recently suffered a stroke, he says, and would love to receive cards from old friends.

1971 Lucy DeYoung, a business owner in Woodinville, Wash., and the city’s first mayor, led the 40th annual Celebrate Woodinville Community Parade as grand marshal on Aug. 18. She owns an executive office suites business and a property management company, and holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration and political science from Puget Sound. She earned her master’s degree in business administration from Northwestern University in 1984.

1974 REUNION YEAR Craig Eerkes, who holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, has been appointed chairman of the board of Columbia Bank. He has served on the board since 2014, and succeeds William Weyerhaeuser, a Puget Sound trustee who served as chairman of the board since 2001. In addition to serving on the bank’s board, Craig has served as the president and chief executive officer of Sun Pacific Energy Inc., a Tri-Cities-based retail and wholesale petroleum company, and was director of WMI Insurance Company for 16 years.

1974 REUNION YEAR Yahoo! News reported in May that Craig Eerkes, who holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, has been appointed chairman of the board of Columbia Bank. He has served on the board since 2014, and succeeds William Weyerhaeuser, a Puget Sound trustee who served as chairman of the board since 2001. In addition to serving on the bank’s board, Craig has served as the president and chief executive officer of Sun Pacific Energy Inc., a Tri-Cities-based retail and wholesale petroleum company, and was director of WMI Insurance Company for 16 years.

1978 Bryan Foxley was hired by commercial real estate lending, investment, and advisory company Greystone in August. The commercial lending veteran is Greystone’s managing director and is tasked with expanding the company’s lending operations in the Seattle area. He was previously vice president of commercial real estate finance at Intervest, a bank-owned mortgage banking company. Bryan holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

1984 REUNION YEAR Tim Gould became vice president of finance and operations for Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington, an organization that grants wishes to children with critical illnesses. Timothy is responsible for managing the nonprofit’s finances in order to grant the most wishes possible. According to a statement from the organization announcing Timothy’s hire, Make-A-Wish Alaska and Washington hopes to grant 362 wishes to local children, but there are more than 500 children on the waiting list. Timothy holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in the same subject from Seattle University. Most recently, he held positions at World Vision, a global relief and child sponsorship charity, and Seattle University. He also teaches finance classes online for the University of Phoenix, where he has been an adjunct faculty member for 10 years, and taught his 100th class this spring.

1985 Karen Meyer Eisenbrey’s 11th book, Daughter of Magic, was published in May by Not a Pipe Publishing. The fantasy novel is one of nine books published by Not a Pipe this year in an effort to make 2018 “The Year of Publishing Women.” The challenge was posed in 2015 by British novelist Kamila Shamsie, who asked publishers to draw attention to gender equality by publishing books written only by women. Not a Pipe is the only U.S. publisher to accept Kamila’s challenge, and Karen said she is “proud and humbled to be included” in the publishing event. Karen holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound.
1986 Margaret Dawson discussed diversity, mentoring, and her journey from journalist to technology executive in a July interview with London-based media company Compelo. Margaret is the vice president of portfolio product marketing at North Carolina tech firm Red Hat. She is also a mother and earned a bachelor’s degree in communication and theatre arts from Puget Sound. In the Compelo piece, she says she thought she didn’t have the right skills or educational background to break into such a heavily male-dominated field. While interviewing technology CEOs in China as a foreign correspondent for Business Week magazine, she had a realization. “I remember looking across the table at the CEO and thinking, ‘I want to be there,’” she told Compelo. She has held positions at Amazon, Microsoft, and HP. In addition to her career, she now is a mentor for women, specifically working mothers, and helps them get into management positions.

1988 Glenn Geiser-Getz became SUNY Geneseo’s new vice provost for academic affairs on June 28. The former Keene State College associate provost holds a bachelor’s degree in communication and theatre arts from Puget Sound, a master’s degree in communication from the University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. in communication from the University of Iowa. He has held teaching and administrative positions at multiple educational institutions for more than two decades and is a professional actor who enjoys performing onstage.

1991 Former Starbucks executive Rachel Ruggeri became Continental Mills’ chief financial officer and senior vice president in August. According to a summer Baking Business article, Rachel is responsible for the finance, accounting, and information resources for the parent company for Krusteaz, Kretschmer Wheat Germ, and other baking and snack brands. Rachel earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound, where she became a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and worked for KUPS, before earning a master’s degree in business administration from Washington State University.

1992 In July, Shelley Thompson was hired as vice president of development for the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. She holds a bachelor’s degree in politics and government from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in political science from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She was formerly executive director of the Foundation for Colorado Community Colleges.

1993 Twenty-five years after earning his English degree from Puget Sound—and after a decade of work—Edward Matuskey released a deck of tarot cards illustrated by artists throughout the United States and Europe. The Tarot of Brass & Steam was designed by Edward, a self-professed taxonomist, gamer, and tarot aficionado. The deck features illustrations of a steampunk alternate reality. Decks were printed in the spring and went on sale this summer.

1994 Sara Shininger Deboy was named Oregon City School District’s associate director of teaching and learning in June, the Lake Oswego Review reports. The former Lake Oswego Junior High principal holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound, a master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Portland, and a doctorate in education from the University of Oregon. She has held administrative roles at multiple Oregon schools over the past 11 years.

The Tacoma Refugee Choir, directed by Erin Hennessey Guinup, was profiled in The News Tribune on May 9 ahead of its performance of Refugee Stories: Hope in a Divided World. Erin, who earned a bachelor’s degree in performance music from Puget Sound and was a member of the Adelphian Concert Choir, founded the choir in 2017, after a successful pilot project with Tacoma Community House. Currently, between 40 and 65 singers from 31 countries lend their voices to the troupe. “I was pretty naive to the depth of xenophobia in our community,” Erin told The News Tribune when asked about her motivations for starting the group. “As a white woman, I hadn’t experienced a lot of the ambivalence and hatred toward people of color. It’s more important than ever that we remember who is in our community and to embrace that.”

1999 REUNION YEAR Amy Paulose, president and CEO of local candy company AMES International, was quoted in a June 22 Tacoma News Tribune article about local businesses in Tacoma. Amy’s business is based in Fife, Wash., and sells treats under the Emily’s Chocolates label to customers around the globe. Amy holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and told The News Tribune that the company is expanding sales into China and business is booming.

2000 Gianna Piccardo Ripa was appointed dean of students at St. Mary’s High School, a private college-prep school in Stockton, Calif. This is her first job in education after a decade of being self-employed in the health and wellness sector. She graduated from Puget Sound with a degree in international political economy and served as ASUPS vice president her senior year. She thanks fellow Logger W. Houston Dougherty ’83, who was Puget Sound’s dean of student services when she was a student, for the long talk that aided her decision-making process leading up to her accepting the job at St. Mary’s.

2001 In July, Amanda Hopkins was named district court judge in Colorado’s 12th Judicial District. According to the Valley Courier, Amanda worked...
Kelly Danielson M.O.T.’12 (far left, front) and the other members of the Sail Like a Girl team won the Race to Alaska on June 24. The team was the first all-women group to win the 750-mile unmotorized and unsupported race from Port Townsend, Wash., to Ketchikan, Alaska.

as the managing deputy for the regional public defender’s office in Alamosa, Colo. The Colorado Springs native holds a bachelor’s degree in international political economy from Puget Sound and a law degree from Seattle University.

2002 Business Leadership Program alumna Heather Jones Nunamaker became the regional employment and training coordinator for the College of Eastern Idaho’s workforce training and community education programs in June. According to the Idaho Business Review, she has worked in the workforce development field for six years and has 15 years of experience in leadership and customer service. Heather holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and is a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority.

2004 REUNION YEAR Jordan Hanssen, a former Puget Sound rower turned commercial fishing deckhand, was featured in a June 22 KDLG radio piece about his experience falling overboard with the rest of his crew while racing a rowboat across the Atlantic Ocean in 2013. “The boat could handle big, rough water. It’s just that these two waves that hit us were kind of funky. And they hit us like a one-two punch,” he told KDLG. “We were in the middle of shifting people in and out of the cabin, and by the time I saw the wave and by the time we were in the water and everybody was OK, it was between 10 to 15 seconds.” The crew was rescued by a Coast Guard vessel 12 hours after capsizing. Jordan spent this year’s fishing season in Alaska’s Bristol Bay. He said he will find “a cheap place to disappear” over the winter, near Seattle, to finish writing a set of novels.

Sarah Laub Skubas, a principal in the Hartford, Conn., office of Jackson Lewis P.C., was selected as one of the Connecticut Law Tribune’s “New Leaders in the Law” in May. The honor spotlights lawyers under the age of 40 who have excelled in the courtroom, in client service and cultivation, in service to bar associations, and in performing pro bono work or community service in a volunteer capacity. Sarah, who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Puget Sound before graduating from the New England School of Law, practices in the fields of employment litigation, preventive counseling, and labor relations.

2005 Aubrey Shelton ’05, M.A.T.’06 is Puget Sound’s men’s basketball head coach. He was appointed in May, following the departure of former head coach Justin Lunt, who coached the Loggers for 12 seasons. The position is a homecoming for Aubrey, who played basketball as a Logger before earning his bachelor’s degree in history. He returned to Puget Sound and received a master’s degree in teaching. For the past 11 years, he has been just miles away from the Puget Sound campus, guiding Lincoln High School’s boys’ basketball team to a 237-57 record, including six district titles and eight league titles. “I’m extremely honored, grateful, and excited to return home to Puget Sound,” Aubrey said in statement from the Puget Sound athletics department. “Together, we can build a basketball program that will make the Logger and Tacoma community proud. I can’t wait to begin.”

This summer, Ali Striggow Wallace and Luke Grange participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course in South America. Ali was in Paraguay studying new approaches to community-driven education. She helped develop an eco-leadership program with Para La Tierra, a local conservation organization. Ali is a children’s zookeeper at Houston Zoo, holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Puget Sound, and is a graduate student in Miami University’s Global Field Program. Luke, who earned his bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Puget Sound, spent his summer in Brazil studying how to save golden tamarins. Luke is an education specialist at the Detroit Zoological Society. He is a graduate student in Miami University’s Advanced Inquiry Program.

2010 Christine Chan, who began her doctoral studies in geology at the University of Kansas this fall, is one of 12 doctoral students selected to receive the university’s prestigious Madison and Lila Self Graduate Fellowship. The four-year awards are granted to incoming or first-year doctoral students who demonstrate leadership, initiative, and a passion for achievement. The fellowship covers full tuition and fees, and provides financial assistance for graduate research assistants and professional development. Christine earned her bachelor’s degree in geology from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Log-
ger cross country and track teams, and worked for Tamanawas. She also holds a master’s degree in geology from Oregon State University.

One year after graduating from North Carolina’s Wake Forest School of Medicine, Ali Garel is a physician’s assistant at the University of Utah. Ali graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in biology and was a member of the Logger cross country, track, and ski racing teams.

2011 Kainoa Correa, a former Logger baseball player and assistant coach who is now an infield coach for the Cleveland Indians, will speak at the Inside Baseball Coaches Clinic in January. He is one of 15 renowned coaches presenting at the three-day high school baseball coaches clinic in New Jersey. Kainoa holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound and coached four seasons at the University of North Carolina before joining the Indians.

As one of three Puget Sound alumni who participated in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course, Jarek Sarnacki spent the summer studying avian and tropical ecology in the Amazon. Jarek, a staff biologist at Tacoma’s Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, lives in Tacoma and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Puget Sound. He is a graduate student in Miami University’s Global Field Program.

This July, seven years after graduating with a bachelor’s degree in biochemistry from Puget Sound, Alayna Schoblaske started a career as a dentist. She practices general dentistry at East Medford Dental Clinic in Medford, Ore., and earned a Doctor of Medicine in dentistry degree from Oregon Health & Science University’s School of Dentistry in 2017.

2012 After nearly one week and 750 miles at sea, Kelly Danielson M.O.T.’12 and the Bainbridge Island women who make up team Sail Like a Girl won the Race to Alaska on June 24.

The Peninsula Daily News reports that the team is the first all-women crew to win the human-powered race from Port Townsend, Wash., to Ketchikan, Alaska. No motors or support crews are allowed. Sail Like a Girl finished the race in six days, 13 hours, and 17 minutes—two hours ahead of the four-man second-place finishers, Team Lagopus. Forty-three teams participated this year, including Team BlueFlash, which had two current Puget Sound students as crew members. The fourth annual event promised a $10,000 first-place prize. Kelly and her teammates donated their winnings after expenses to Seattle’s Pink Boat Regatta, which raises money for breast cancer research.

Megan Mitchell, who holds a bachelor’s degree in French from Puget Sound and was KUPS’ music director, released her first album, Disambiguation, this summer. According to a July article in the East Bay Express, the Bay Area native’s debut album features layered vocals that “drift diaphanously atop ebbing electronic tones.” Her music also utilizes field recordings captured both in her hometown of Alameda, Calif., and in the Pacific Northwest. Megan, who performs under the moniker Cruel Diagonals, is also an archivist who holds a master’s degree in library and information science from the University of Washington. She is an electronic resources librarian at Touro University in Vallejo, Calif.; a freelance audio archivist; and overseer of Many Many Women, an online index of more than 1,100 underrepresented female, trans, and nonbinary composers.

She told the East Bay Express that her passion for archives began at the VA Medical Center in Portland, Ore. Amanda earned her bachelor’s degree in politics and government from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and United Methodists (UMeth) club.

Colin Daunt graduated from Colorado State University with a master’s degree in food science and human nutrition in May. He is working as a dietetic intern at The Ohio State University and hopes to become certificated as a registered dietitian. Colin earned his bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound.

Cassie Fastabend ’15 (left), a graduate of Puget Sound’s theatre arts program, was the title character in New Muses Theater’s production of Lysistrata. The show ran at Tacoma’s Dukesbay Theater in June and July.

Ben Armstrong ’13, a Colorado farmer, was featured in an article about young farmers in the May issue of Aspen magazine.
This summer, Cassie Fastabend archives management and history ated with a dual master’s degree in Gamma Phi Beta sorority and worked where she became a member of the lish and history from Puget Sound, earned a bachelor’s degree in Eng- and outreach archivist in April. She ern University Libraries’ reference to promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation. According to The Garden Island, Elisabeth also has been selected by the American Medical Association Foundation to attend the first AMA Foundation Leadership Development Institute. Elisabeth earned a bachelor’s de- gree in biochemistry from Puget Sound, where she joined the Alpha Phi sorority, and went on to earn a master’s degree in public health from Harvard University. She is set to graduate from the University of Hawai’i’s John A. Burns School of Medicine in May 2019.

In May, Emily Menk earned her master’s degree in counseling and student personnel from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Emily earned her bachelor’s degree in art and design from Puget Sound and works as an admissions officer at the university where she received her master’s degree.

Molly Brown became Northeastern University Libraries’ reference and outreach archivist in April. She earned a bachelor’s degree in English and history from Puget Sound, where she became a member of the Gamma Phi Beta sorority and worked for KUPS. This summer, she gradu- ated with a dual master’s degree in archives management and history from Simmons College.

This summer, Cassie Fastabend put her theatre arts degree to use and starred as the lead character in New Muses Theater’s production of Lysistrata. Tacoma entertainment newspaper Weekly Volcano reported the antia war farce was first performed in Greece more than 2,000 years ago. It centers on Cassie’s character, Lysistrata, a feminist activist who calls on other women to resist sexual favors until their husbands return from the Peloponnesian War. The Tacoma theater company performed an ad- aptation of the play at the Dukesbay Theater during three weekends in June and July. Cassie received rave reviews, with the Weekly Volcano re- porting her performance was “crack- ling with visceral intelligence and confident defiance.”

Puget Sound sociology and anthrop- ology alumna Rachel McKean graduated from George Washington University this summer with a master’s degree in museum studies.

Jeremy Perkovich was named defensive line coach for the Stetson University Hatters football team in July. The Washington native and former Logger football player began his coaching career as a defensive line coach and strength and conditioning coach at Puget Sound following his graduation. He spent the 2017–18 season at the University of San Diego as a defensive assistant before landing his current position in Florida. As a Logger, Jer- emy earned his bachelor’s degree in exercise science, joined the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and was named team defensive lineman in 2014.

Lizzi Hahn, a Puget Sound biochemistry alumna, participated in a summer tobacco-research program at the Oklahoma Tobacco Research Center (OTRC). The center’s mission is to reduce and eliminate tobacco-related morbidity and mortality in Oklahoma through research. According to The Oklahoma, Lizzi was one of four stu- dents invited to participate in the 2018 Summer Scholars Program, which allowed the students to work under the mentorship of OTRC researchers on the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center campus. The four students conducted research and presented projects and abstracts to submit to the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

In July, two months after graduating with a bachelor’s degree in both business and economics, Max Lamberty became a senior marketing coordina- tor for Principal Financial Group. The Portland, Ore., native is working at the financial investment management company’s branch in Lake Oswego, Ore.

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Paul Pruitt ’44 died on July 2 at the age of 96. Born in Nebraska, he grew up in Washington and earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound where he played baseball as a Logger, was a member of the Adelphian Concert Choir, and worked for ASUPS. After completing his theological studies at Yale Divinity School, Paul worked as a minister in the United Church of Christ. He became active in the Tacoma-area civil rights movement of the 1960s and many other local efforts, and was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives, where he served as the 34th District representative from 1977 to 1985.

Betty Fry Rudolph ’44 passed away in California on June 16. She was 97. The Montana native grew up in Tacoma and attended Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority. She went on to earn her elementary school teaching credential from San Jose State University and taught in San Jose’s Alum Rock Union Elementary School District. She is preceded in death by her son, John. Betty is survived by her children Allen Rudolph and Karen Rudolph ’75.

Robert Medlock ’46, P’78, a U.S. Army veteran who served as a pilot during World War II, died on Feb. 20 at the age of 94. Born in Oregon, he moved to Tacoma as a teenager and flew missions during WWII in the European, North African, and China-Burma-India theaters. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he played football as a Logger and was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. He married Charlotte Plummer ’47, P’78 and went on to hold positions with the George Scofield Company, St. Regis Paper Company, and Champion International. Survivors include his wife, daughter Janice Medlock Spiger; and sons Robert Medlock, Gary Medlock ’78, Ronald Medlock, Brian Medlock, and Murray Medlock.

Betty Heidinger Smith ’46 died on July 25, her 95th birthday. A lifelong Tacoma-area resident, Betty spent 70 of her 95 years living in University Place, Wash. She graduated from Stadium High School and met Kyle Smith, a U.S. Army soldier stationed at Fort Lewis, while singing in the USO shortly after graduation. They married in January 1942, before he was sent to North Africa and Italy during World War II. While Kyle was overseas, Betty earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Adelphian Concert Choir and Delta Delta Delta sorority, and worked for ASUPS. In 1947, Kyle returned stateside and the couple founded Tacoma’s souvenir product design company Smith-Western Co., which still exists today.

Paul Gingrich Jr. ’49, a Tacoma native and U.S. Army veteran, passed away on July 19. He was 92. After graduating from Stadium High School, Paul attended Puget Sound, became a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity, and earned a bachelor’s degree in biology. He continued his education and studied architecture at the University of Washington before joining the U.S. Army and being stationed in Germany. Following his military service, he began a career at a Tacoma architecture firm, where he oversaw Tacoma General Hospital’s first remodel and construction of Wilson High School. Paul enjoyed traveling to Egypt, New Zealand, and Australia.

Robert Hauge ’49, a longtime teacher and park ranger who summited Mount Rainier more than a dozen times, died on May 4. He was 89. Robert served during World War II before earning his bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound. He went on to become a teacher and coach at Goodman Junior High in Gig Harbor, Wash., and taught for more than three decades. He worked as a park ranger at Mount Rainier National Park, grandstand manager at the Washington State Fair, and security guard at the Tacoma Dome before retiring at age 82.

Joseph St. Jean ’49 died on March 7 in Raleigh, N.C. He was 95. Joseph earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Puget Sound before earning a Master of Art degree and Ph.D. from Indiana University. He went on to become a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of North Carolina.

Joseph Martin ’49 passed away in Enumclaw, Wash., on June 11, after a brief bout of pneumonia. He was 90. Born in Buckley, Wash., he joined the U.S. Navy after high school and served as a radarman in the Pacific theater during World War II. Upon returning home, he earned a bachelor’s degree in music from Puget Sound, where he played saxophone in the university’s band. He went to work as a service repairman for Interlake

R. Ronald Rau ’41, Hon.’41 was accepted into college in the midst of the Great Depression. In fact, the Tacoma native turned down an offer of admission from Columbia University because he could not afford the train fare, a summer 2004 Puget Sound Sound Advice newsletter indicates. But Ronald’s mother was determined to ensure her son would receive an education. She and Puget Sound administrators worked to create a payment plan. Ronald then received a scholarship at the end of his first semester, according to the Sound Advice piece. He earned his bachelor’s degree in physics and was a member of the Logger golf and swim teams, and went on to earn both a master’s degree and Ph.D. in physics from the California Institute of Technology. He received a Fulbright Scholarship to study cosmic rays at the École Polytechnique in Paris. He continued his research at DESY Laboratory in Hamburg, Germany, and received an Alexander von Humboldt Research Professorship. Raus became a respected physicist; he worked at the U.S. Department of Energy’s Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York and taught at Princeton University. In 1968, Puget Sound recognized him with the title Alumnus Cum Laude, and in 2002, he received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Puget Sound. Ronald died on March 13 in New York, but his love for Puget Sound continues in the form of the R. Ronald Rau Endowed Physics Research Award, which he and his late wife, Maryjane Rau, created in the early 2000s. The fund provides scholarships for Puget Sound physics students.

PHOTO COURTESY BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY
in memoriam

Richard Osborn '49 died this spring. The Michigan native and World War II U.S. Air Force veteran earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound and went on to work for the Bureau of Prisons before transferring to the U.S. Marshals Service. He retired from his position as chief deputy marshal of Washington’s western district in the 1970s after 32 years of government service. Richard is preceded in death by Jean Muncey Osborn ’49, his wife of 71 years.

Roy Loper Jr. ’50 passed away in Illinois on July 10. He was 96. Roy was born in Texas but spent most of his childhood in Washington state. He served in the Army and was stationed in Hawai’i during World War II. Upon completing his service, he enrolled at Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Logger baseball and football teams and joined the Theta Chi fraternity. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in physical education and went on to have a long career as an occupational and correctional therapist in various VA hospitals throughout the nation.

Herb Satterlee ’50 passed away on May 21 at the age of 90. Born in Tacoma, he graduated from Stadium High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. After graduating, he joined the military and went on to work for his father at Tacoma’s Herb Satterlee Motors.

Patti Lemley Chapman ’51 died on May 19, five weeks before her 89th birthday. The Tacoma native earned a bachelor’s degree in education from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She worked as an elementary school teacher before raising two children with her husband, Timothy Chapman ’52, who preceded her in death.

Barry Garland ’51 passed away on June 7, less than one month after his 88th birthday. He was born and raised in Tacoma alongside his three older brothers and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. While on the university’s debate team, Barry met Arlene Olsback ’54. The two married in 1951, and Barry joined the U.S. Army the following year. Following his service, he worked in accounting and management training, and retired in 1997.

Richard Price ’51 died in Tempe, Ariz., on June 17. He was 94. Richard was born in Texas and grew up throughout the South before joining the U.S. Air Force during World War II. After completing his service, he earned a bachelor’s degree in society and justice from Puget Sound and began a job at Western Airlines. There, he met Muriel Maas, the woman who would become his wife. The couple and their children lived throughout California, Washington, and Arizona while Richard completed a 30-year career with the Social Security Administration.

Frederick Traill ’53 died on May 3 at the age of 86. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he became a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and a master’s degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley.

John Beimborn ’54, ’61, a Tacoma native and World War II U.S. Marine Corps veteran, passed away on May 14. He was 90. Following his graduation from Lincoln High School and subsequent military service, John earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Puget Sound. Seven years later, he earned another bachelor’s degree, in education. John went on to become a counselor at Pierce County’s Remann Hall juvenile detention center, a teacher in the Seattle School District, a counselor for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and a real estate agent. He was also a constant student and was enrolled in classes continuously for eight decades. He earned a master’s degree in psychology from Seattle University in 1988 and was awarded an honorary master’s degree in theology from Covenant Bible Seminary in 2012. He is preceded in death by his wife, Beverly Roysie Beimborn ’54.

Robert Powell ’55 passed away on May 17, five days before his 85th birthday. Born and raised in Tacoma, Robert earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Logger football team and Sigma Nu fraternity. He moved to Sacramento, Calif., shortly after graduating to begin what would become a 38-year career with Aerojet.

Alex Brockwell ’59 died on June 5 at the age of 81. He graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and went on to work for the Washington State Department of Services for the Blind.

Patricia Latshaw Crounse ’60 died on May 16. She was 90. Born and raised in Tacoma, she attended Puget Sound before graduating from Pacific Lutheran University and the University of Washington. She taught for more than 30 years in the Tacoma and Highline school districts.

Darryl Johnson ’60, Hon.’97, P’87 died on July 1 at the age of 80. Born in Chicago, Darryl moved with his family to Washington when he was young, and he attended Puget Sound before joining the Peace Corps. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Washington and continued his studies at the University of Minnesota and Princeton University. He went on to
become an American diplomat and was appointed the first U.S. ambassador to Lithuania after the breakup of the Soviet Union. Following his service in Lithuania, he held a chief of mission position in Taiwan, served as undersecretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs in Washington, D.C., and was the U.S. ambassador in Thailand. He had the opportunity to work on U.S.-China relations after President Richard Nixon opened trade with China, worked on Cold War diplomacy during the last decade of Soviet power, and witnessed both the Tiananmen Square protests and the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Lawrence Kelly Jr. ’60 passed away on July 2, two months before his 83rd birthday. Raised in Tacoma, he attended Puget Sound before joining the U.S. Marine Corps and being stationed in Japan for two years.

V. A. James Winn ’60, a retired U.S. Navy captain and Tacoma native, passed away on June 8. He was 85. After graduating from Clover Park High School and serving eight years in the U.S. Navy, James earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound while serving in the Navy Reserve. He returned to active military service after graduation and became a decorated pilot and instructor who served in Taiwan; Whidbey Island, Wash.; Vietnam; and Hawai’i. He retired from his position as executive assistant to the Navy recruiting commander in Washington, D.C., in 1977.

Lois Jacques Winnel ’61 passed away on May 11 at the age of 93. The Colorado native earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and became a senior administrator at the Internal Revenue Service’s Seattle office.

Lester Wambold ’62 died on April 16. He was 86. A Tacoma native who spent most of his life in nearby Fife, Wash., Lester earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He completed submarine service in the U.S. Navy and became a teacher at Sumner High School, where he remained for 25 years until his retirement.

Bonnie Dee Simpson ’63 died on July 17 at the age of 77. Born in Louisville, Ky., she graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in biology and, that same year, graduated from Tacoma General Hospital School of Nursing. She worked as a registered nurse for 36 years in both Washington and Kentucky.

Ronald Bertram ’64 died in Wapato, Wash., on May 23. He was 75. Born in Tacoma, he graduated from Lincoln High School before earning a bachelor’s degree in political science from Puget Sound. While at the university, he worked at the Tacoma post office and participated in the Reserve Officer Training Corps. He joined the U.S. Air Force and, upon being discharged, moved back to Tacoma and began working for Sears. In 1974, he purchased an insurance agency in Grandview, Wash., and became a fixture in the community.

Laura Greer Clapp ’64 passed away in Mississippi on July 25 from Parkinson’s disease. She was 75. Born in Tennessee, Laura graduated from Starkville High School in Mississippi before moving west and earning a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound. She moved back to the Magnolia State and became a teacher. She taught in the Rankin County public school system for three decades. She remained heavily involved in the Episcopal Church, holding multiple positions at Mississippi churches and traveling abroad for medical missions.

Burton Joyce ’65, P’82, P’85, P’91, an Army veteran and longtime Tacoma police officer, died this summer. Born on a Connecticut farm, Burton joined the U.S. Army at 24 and was stationed at Fort Lewis. He met and married Mary Krich, and the two bought a home in Ruston, Wash. He began a career with the Tacoma Police Department in 1960, and while helping to raise the couple’s six children, took night classes at Puget Sound. He earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in criminology from the University of California, Berkeley. He retired from the Tacoma Police Department as a captain in 1990.

Aileen Frater Morin ’65 passed away on June 3 in Yakima, Wash. She was 75. The longtime teacher received a bachelor’s degree in English from Puget Sound before working in schools throughout Tacoma and Yakima. She is preceded in death by her husband, Leo Morin ’65.

David Quilici ’65 died on Jan. 4 in Plano, Texas. He was 74. David was born and raised in Tacoma and earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from Puget Sound, where he joined the Theta Chi fraternity. He worked for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway for 35 years. He retired from his position as vice president of marketing in 2001.

Bonadean Corbin Han Men ’66, ’67 passed away on June 2 at the age of 79. She was born in Salem, Ore., and received a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from Puget Sound. She went on to work for Tacoma Public Schools.

Amos Deaven ’67 passed away on May 15 after suffering a heart attack. He was 77. The Michigan native joined the U.S. Army after graduating high school and was stationed in Taiwan until returning stateside in the 1960s. He graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. Amos went on to hold multiple positions with Farmers Insurance Group over his 36-year career.

Robert Bletthen ’68, a lifelong newspaperman whose Seattle Times obituary called him “the gregarious soul” of the family-owned publication, died on June 13. He was 71. Robert was born and raised in Bellevue, Wash., and earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, worked for The Trail, and played tennis as a Logger. It was at Puget Sound where he met fellow tennis player Susan Crary ’68, the woman who would become his wife. Following graduation, he began working as a copy aide at The Seattle Times and advanced through the company, eventually working in the marketing department. He retired as the company’s vice president of corporate marketing in 2007 but continued to serve on the company’s corporate board until his death. “He died in his sleep, which is the way he wanted to go, after having enjoyed his last coffee sundae with chocolate sauce,” Susan told The Seattle Times.

Michael Smith ’69 died this summer at the age of 72. The Tacoma native earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and went on to open Able Remodeling, a company he started with his brother.

Robert Solie ’69, M.B.A. ’75 passed away on July 9 at the age of 70. Born and raised in Olympia, Wash., he earned his bachelor’s degree in geology and master’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity. He spent his summers working at the Olympia Brewing Company, but his career path eventually changed to include sales, marketing, and real estate ventures. He was passionate about technology and opened his own cellphone business, Washington Cellular, in 1990. He retired in 2017.

Susan Goddard ’70, who attended Puget Sound, died on Feb. 28 at the age of 69.

Susan Arbary ’72, P’04 passed away unexpectedly on July 17. She was 69. A Seattle native, Susan earned her bachelor’s degree in music from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Adelphian Concert Choir and met Charles Orser ’75, the man who would become her husband. The two married in 1990. She went on to earn her teaching certificate and master’s degree in
David Lind ’82 passed away on May 20 after a fight against pancreatic cancer. He was 58. Born and raised in Washington, he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Logger football team and Phi Delta Theta fraternity. He went on to have a career in the sales industry and was last employed as a national account executive for student loan company Navient.

Connie Perkins Gleghorn ’84 died on June 28 after a years-long battle with ALS. She was 56. A native of Washington state, she graduated from Garfield High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. She met Joel Gleghorn ’85 while at the university, and the two married in 1985. They had three children. Connie went on to work at multiple companies as a human resources manager and most recently worked at Heritage Christian Academy in Bothell, Wash.

Karen Eagan McDermott ’84 died on June 8 from complications caused by lupus and a brain injury. She was 63. Born in New Jersey, she attended high school in Colorado and California before getting married and having a son. Karen enrolled at Puget Sound when her son was 10 years old and earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration. She went on to own Creative Impact Advertising in Spokane, Wash., and become a traveling sales representative for a national giftware company.

Derek Wood ’87, a longtime computer engineer and Washington native, passed away on May 24 at the age of 73. Born in Irene, South Dakota, he was a longtime Washington resident and earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He worked in the finance industry for more than 25 years and became vice president of American Marine Bank in 2001.

Elston Kitamori ’80 died on June 22. He was 60. Elston earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound and held positions as a programmer, systems administrator, and senior analyst at multiple banks and, most recently, Hawaii-based food company Aloha Shoyu.

She worked as a physical therapist at Tacoma’s St. Joseph Medical Center for 28 years and loved to travel and spend time with her family.

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Amy Polete ’12 married Thomas Parry at the Highlands Ranch Mansion in Highlands Ranch, Colo., on June 16. From left: Liesl Bryant ’13, Hope Bixby ’12, M.A.T.’17, the bride and groom; Beth Schimke ’11, and Cailin Fuller O’Connell ’12. Amy graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in music education and earned a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Denver in 2014. The couple lives in Illinois, where Amy is the choir director at Washington Junior High School in Naperville. Thomas teaches communication arts at Naperville North High School.

Puget Sound Professor Emeritus of English Peter Greenfield sent in this photo of The FOPS (Friends of Puget Sound)—a group of Puget Sound alumni, faculty, family, and friends who, since 1998, have gathered annually to attend plays at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. Seated on the floor, from left: Bill Baird and Sandra Lockner Dahlberg ’91. Seated in chairs, from left: Amelia Anderson; Patricia Lantz; Dot Mason; Peter Greenfield; Florence Sandler; Nancy Parker Magee ’69, P’97, P’00, P’05; Gregory Magee ’69, P’97, P’00, P’05; Sandy Johanson; and Deb Hammond. Standing, from left: Liz Anderson, Carrie Singleton, Sharon Rich, Ross Singleton P’03, John Lantz, Kurt Lang, Liz Baxter Lansing ’70, Ed Lansing, Joan Rave ’91, Hank Davis, Sue Mickey, Suzanne Annest, Mary Metzger ’66, Debbie Parks, Carole Christensen, Sally Baird, Terry Parks, Cathy Munson, Jim Reed, Herb Munson, Jean Baumgartel ’76, James Mitchell ’74, Kathy North Martin ’71, and Barbara Williams.

This summer, William Turner ’65 had one of his paintings accepted into the Museum of Northwest Art’s permanent collection. William’s Shaman’s Journey—a 48” x 60” oil on canvas painting—now resides at the La Conner, Wash., museum that collects and exhibits contemporary art from across the Northwest. William graduated with a bachelor’s degree in fine art from Puget Sound.

Before Jennifer DeLury Ciplet ’98 snapped this photo of her and “her dear college friend” Clark Ritchie ’96 in June, they had not seen each other in 22 years. Jennifer currently lives in Boulder, Colo., and Clark lives in Bend, Ore. The two finally met up for an impromptu reunion when Clark was in Boulder for a job interview. “We grabbed lunch together at the Avery Brewery in Boulder, which is where this photo was taken,” Jennifer says. “It was amazing how after 22 years it felt like no time had passed! It was great to reconnect.”
Kelley O’Dell ’09 married Keith Walter on June 11 in Kapalua, Maui. The couple lives in Colorado and celebrated with a reception there. Fellow Loggers at the Colorado event included, from left, Jeremiah Root ’10, Charles Root Jr. ’71, P’08, P’10, Taylor Sands ’12, Justine Shepherd Beckstrom ’09, the bride; and Johanna Root Heller ’08. At right: Leesa Cotton Nelson ’08, D.P.T.’11 (right) and the bride at Kelley’s wedding to Keith in Maui on June 11.

For the past 21 years, Microsoft has hosted a CEO Summit that draws titans such as Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, and Warren Buffett for five days of exchanging experiences and learning about Microsoft’s newest technologies. The secretive event—due to the high-profile attendees—has become something of a Seattle tradition and was held this year in May. Three Loggers were among the many employees who made it possible. From left: Microsoft Executive Event Producer Julie Peterson ’86, Microsoft Senior Communications Manager James Olson ’92, and Rachel Johnson ’20, an exercise science student who worked as part of the Staging Techniques audio team, stand onstage at the summit.

In May, Elizabeth Haskey ’13 completed her clinical doctorate in physical therapy at the University of Southern California and moved back to Washington to begin a job as a physical therapist at MultiCare’s Good Samaritan Hospital in Puyallup, Wash. There, she helps patients affected by traumatic brain injury, stroke, spinal cord injury, and other neurologic disorders. “I’m so excited to finally achieve my dream of becoming a physical therapist, which started on the campus of UPS years ago,” she wrote alongside this photo. “Living in L.A. was a major change from good old North Tacoma, but I learned so much about myself and the surrounding community.” Elizabeth earned her bachelor’s degree in exercise science from Puget Sound, where she was a member of the volleyball team and Pi Beta Phi sorority.

A group of Loggers gathered in Seattle this summer to recreate memories from their time in Tacoma. From left: Elliot O’Connor ’07, Cody Costello ’07, Melissa Klapproth Costello ’07, Eric Over ’06, Andrew Brik ’08, Brent Reitherman ’07, Nickolas Dasher ’04, Peter Rice ’08, and Candace Goodrich ’09.

This spring, seven former Logger men’s soccer players met up at The Dray in Seattle’s Ballard neighborhood for an unofficial reunion. Left to right: Ryan Wiita ’98, Bryan Fanning ’00, Erik Nielsen ’02, Matthew Huff ’97, Christopher Barney ’99, Adam Vance ’02, and Andrew Walls ’98.

Send Scrapbook photos to arches@pugetsound.edu.
Gretchen Nelson ’09, a children’s librarian for the King County Library, traveled to Kenya in January as part of a mission team assigned to build houses for families affected by AIDS. She is pictured here building a house and sporting a Puget Sound baseball cap.

The summer issue of Arches arrived while Alison Radcliffe Paradise ’82 was visiting Carla Lyford Foote ’81 and David Foote ’79 in Denver, so Carla thought she’d take a photo of the impromptu reunion. She wanted to include Eileen Penny ’17, who lives across the street. Eileen also happened to have alumni over for dinner. The result is this photo of seven Loggers who were on one block in Denver on a Monday evening in August. Carla says the group had fun “comparing notes from different eras and celebrating Logger friendships.” From left: David, Carla, Alison, Eileen, Rita McCreesh ’17, Karine McCulloch ’17, and Maria Birrell ’17.

The 2013–2014 ASUPS Executive “Dream Team,” as Kirsten Fahlbusch ’14 calls it, got together for a reunion weekend gathering this summer in the mountains of Colorado. The event marked five years since the team had its first mountain retreat the summer before the 2013–2014 school year. From left: former ASUPS Director of Marketing and Outreach Kathryn Ginsberg ’14, former ASUPS Vice President Santiago Rodriguez ’14, former ASUPS Director of Business Services Emmy Masangcay ’14, former ASUPS Director of Technology Services Vikram Nilakantan ’14, former ASUPS Director of Sustainability Kirsten, and former ASUPS President Eric Hopfenbeck ’14.

Isabelle Dupont ’10 married Jason Licht in Pleasanton, Calif., on July 2, 2017. Loggers in attendance included classmates and family members. Left to right: Melissa Chargin ’20, Joe Balich ’10, Lizzy Mosher ’10, Rachel Kakach ’10, Megan Starr Balich ’10, Lindsay Halsch ’10, the groom and bride, Aimee Brison Karani ’11, Emilie Dupont ’06, Spencer K’Burg ’07, future Logger Charlie K’Burg, Katelyn Stinde Manzella ’10, Matt Manzella ’10, Becca Davidson ’10, and Nora Smith ’07.
While at Duke University for an undergraduate chemistry summer research experience, Rosie Rushing ’19 (right) connected with fellow Logger Alli Phillips ’12, who is working toward her Ph.D. The two celebrated their birthdays, which are only one day apart, with a rafting trip. “I got to learn all about what graduate school is like from the inside,” Rosie said. She is now planning on attending graduate school in fall 2019.

Two Loggers graduated from Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences in Yakima, Wash., on May 19 and received their doctorates. TaReva Warrick-Stone ’09 (left), who studied molecular and cellular biology while at Puget Sound, and Becca Adams ’12, who graduated from Puget Sound’s exercise science program, are now medical residents. TaReva is in the midst of a family medicine/emergency medicine combination residency at Jefferson Torresdale Hospital in Philadelphia, Penn., and Becca is at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver, Colo., for an internal medicine residency.

Two Puget Sound School of Business and Leadership graduates were recognized at the university’s 33rd Annual Scholarships and Awards Ceremony in April. Jenny Lai ’06, who holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Puget Sound, and Joe Kurtis ’87, P’17, who earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting, were named distinguished alumni of the year. Jenny works at Boeing and is developing the company’s mentorship and leadership programs. Joe, who also holds a master’s degree and Ph.D. in human and organizational systems, is the director of partner services at Russell Investments and has been mentoring Puget Sound students through the Business Leadership Mentorship Program for more than a decade.

Chloe Wallace ’13 snapped this photo of her husband, Joel Eklof ’16, showing his Logger pride at the Ski to Sea race from Mount Baker to Bellingham Bay on May 27. The multisport relay race saw more than 350 teams ski and snowboard the slopes of Mount Baker before running and cycling down Mountain Loop Highway to canoes and kayaks in Bellingham Bay. Joel, who graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor’s degree in physics and was part of the university’s cycling club, took the cyclocross leg of the race for his team, The Luck Runs Out. He placed 90th of 360 racers—fourth in his division. Overall, the team finished in 283rd place.

After 40 years as a science teacher and curriculum specialist in Gig Harbor, Wash., JoAnn Moore ’78 retired in May. Throughout her decades at Gig Harbor High School, she worked to develop and teach curricula in the subjects of marine biology, anatomy and physiology, and biology. She holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Puget Sound and a master’s degree in teaching from Grand Canyon College, and is known for her ability to find creative ways to share her passion for learning and teaching. JoAnn received numerous accolades for her work as an educator. In 2012, she was named a National Geographic Grosvenor Fellow and traveled to the Arctic with 13 other teachers. She was invited to participate in Fred Hutch’s Science Education Partnership and was awarded the Seattle Foundation’s Patsy Collins Award for Excellence in Education, Environment, and Community in 2016. JoAnn says she is “so grateful for her rigorous start” at Puget Sound and recalls the university as “a great place to grow and learn.” She is pictured here (front left) celebrating her retirement with friends.
WHERE'S GRIZZ?

Try to find the Loggers’ fuzzy mascot amid the maroon-and-white madness of LogJam! It’s the annual festival where students bring out their Puget Sound pride, rep for clubs and causes they care about, and kick off the new academic year.
"I’m really shocked to think about how much I’ve changed in three years, but I’m really proud of my growth. Puget Sound has taught me to stand up, to speak out, and to fight for what is right.”

CARLY DRYDEN ’19
Alumni Fund Scholarship Recipient

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