

# archives

Study Abroad for Grownups  
p. 12

A Century of Loggers  
p. 22

Farewell to a Beloved Boat  
p. 26



## Incurable Optimist

At 22, Jennifer Cramer-Miller '87 was diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Thirty-five years and four kidney transplants later, she's still choosing joy.



**COMING YOUR WAY:** Students in ENVR 210—U.S. Environmental Law and Policy—took to paddleboards to check out the Thea Foss Waterway, site of a historic cleanup and restoration. The university's Sound Policy Institute facilitated the excursion.

**Tina Hay**, editor

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UNIVERSITY of  
**PUGET  
SOUND**

**TO THE HEIGHTS**

**2**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Isiah Crawford on the quest for a carbon-neutral campus.

**3**

DISPATCHES

Goings-on on campus and off, including a new provost, a new name for the natural history museum, and advice for staying fit after 60.

**8**

CONNECTIONS

Summer classes for community residents include a look at Native American history.

**10**

Q & A

David Chiu on making computers smarter—and computer science less intimidating to students.



**12**

EXPLORATIONS

Alumni and friends become students again in a Brett Rogers-led study trip to Greece.

**14**

YOU ARE HERE

A drone's-eye view of LogJam.

**FEATURES**

**16**

INCURABLE OPTIMIST

Months after graduating from Puget Sound, Jennifer Cramer-Miller '87 got a diagnosis that changed her life—but not her outlook.



**22**

LET'S GO, CLAMDIGGERS?

How did Puget Sound sports teams become known as the Loggers? It's complicated.

**26**

FAREWELL TO A GOOD BOAT

With bagpipes, beer, and wrenches, a well-traveled craft meets its end.

**ALWAYS A LOGGER**

**33**

PROFILES

Carol Kalapus '51 is still kayaking at 94; Benita Ki '11 brews coffee to build connections; Troy Anderson '91 helps at-risk girls in Bangladesh; Dorothy Sheldon Patton '71, MS'73 stars in OB-GYN research.

**34**

CLASS NOTES

Updates, news, and achievements from Loggers around the world.

**39**

CROSSWORD

Knowledge, Identity, and Power

**40**

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering members of our community who have passed.

**44**

SCRAPBOOK

Loggers share photos of their reunions, weddings, serendipitous encounters, and more.



**49**

OBJECT OF OUR AFFECTION

Celebrating 50 years of Arches.

GREECE: ANNIE K. LAMAR '19; LOGGER: COLLINS MEMORIAL LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

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**Featured Contributors**

**Maureen Harmon** (p. 5) is former editor of *Denison Magazine* and a founding partner of the consulting firm Dog Ear Creative.

**Michael Weinreb** (p. 6) is an Oakland, Calif.-based sportswriter, screenwriter, and book author. He is a regular contributor to *Arches*.

**Karin Vandraiss '13** (p. 12) has written for more than a dozen publications, on travel, mental health and wellness, and other topics.

**Loris Lora** (cover, p. 16) is a Los Angeles-based illustrator whose clients include Google, *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and several book publishers.

**Chuck Luce** (p. 26) was editor of *Arches* from 1999 until his retirement in 2017. He lives in Port Orchard, Wash.

**Maggie Mertens** (p. 34) is a Seattle-based freelance writer whose work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Glamour*, among other publications.



**Cover** Jennifer Cramer-Miller '87 shares with us an excerpt from her new book: *Incurable Optimist: Living with Illness and Chronic Hope*. See p. 16.

## A More Sustainable Campus

President Isiaah Crawford on developing a climate action plan for the university.

### The word “sustainability” gets tossed around a lot and has many different meanings. How do we define it at Puget Sound?

From my perspective, when I look at the history of this institution in addressing sustainability and environmental justice, I think we approach this from the common understanding of the term: We look to meet our present needs without compromising future generations. We focus on three central pillars: environmental conservation, social responsibility, and promoting economic development and growth.

### Have we had successes so far?

We have—in the way we look after our facilities, the standards we have for the efficiency of our buildings, the ways we address sustainability and environmental justice in our curriculum, and the work of our Sound Policy Institute. It’s both on the academic side—through our curriculum and scholarly pursuits—and on the physical plant side of the institution.

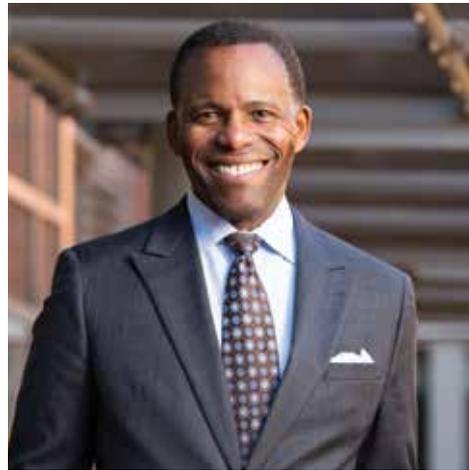
### When sustainability is mentioned in our strategic plan, it’s linked to a phrase you just mentioned: environmental justice.

#### How do you define that term?

It speaks to the right of all of us to have a safe, healthy, productive, and sustainable environment, where “environment” speaks to the totality of a person’s existence—their biological, physical, social, political, and economic realities—such that essentially, everyone has a level of agency and the opportunity to live a healthy, self-actualized life. It means that the ability to protect and promote our needs doesn’t come at the expense of those who are less fortunate, that there’s an equitable approach to this work.

### The university is in the process of developing a Climate Action Plan. What’s that about?

Lexi Brewer is leading that work as our director of sustainability, and we’re very interested in making sure that we get strong buy-in from the



members of our community: our faculty, staff, and students, and our community partners. We’re looking to identify the barriers we need to overcome and investments we need to make in order to become a decarbonized campus. We certainly want to be carbon *neutral*, but we’re framing it as a goal of being decarbonized. The difference is that an institution can be carbon neutral by purchasing carbon offsets. Carbon offsets will be part of our strategy, I’m sure, but not the primary strategy, which is the case for many organizations.

### The idea of offsets is that you could just pay a tax, essentially, to improve your climate score.

Yes. We’d rather not take that approach, if we can help it. I’m not saying we won’t have any, but our focus is on ways in which we can truly reduce our carbon footprint.

### Something like 80% of the campus is heated using fossil fuels. Is that an area you’ll be looking to address?

Yes, and we’re very interested in taking advantage of geothermal heating and cooling. We do some of that already, and Lexi and Bob Kief [associate vice president for facilities] have some ideas about where we might be able to do more.

### Besides heat and electricity, where else does sustainability become salient?

A good example would be to develop a comprehensive university wide composting program. We’re doing some pilot work now, and there are some immediate opportunities for us there. Another is the way we maintain our grounds—Bob and his team do a lot of good work, and there are opportunities to further decarbonize our grounds maintenance. We’ll also look at university travel and other areas.

### How do you balance the necessary expenses in becoming decarbonized against the fact that budgets are already tight? Will you look for private support?

Yes, we certainly hope that some friends and alumni will want to support us in implementing our climate action plan, once it’s developed. We will also see if we can secure state and federal grants, as well as reaching out to foundations and other philanthropic organizations. But I also want to offer that this is a very important goal for our institution—so we will make whatever investments we can to support it through our operational budget.

### What role do students play in this effort?

We want to make sure that our sustainability efforts have consistent student-led leadership, such that it just doesn’t go through one particular set of students over a four year-period and end there. Students will help us develop the climate action plan, will have instrumental roles in implementing strategies associated with it, and, we hope, will inspire their peers to engage in this effort. We anticipate not only that students will help us become a decarbonized campus, but also that more students will engage in sustainability-related coursework and scholarship, and pursue careers that focus on the environment.

—Interview by Tina Hay

# What We're Talking About on Campus



## GEOLOGIC WONDERS

Thirteen students studied **volcanoes, geology, culture**, and more this past summer in Costa Rica as part of the Geology department's "Georneys" program. (Climbing through the Venado Caves' famed "Birth Canal," above, was entirely optional.) The experiential learning program, begun in 2007, is supported by the F.A. McMillin Memorial Fund, established in memory of a much-loved geology prof.



## NEW LEADERSHIP

**Beth Picardo '83, JD'86** is the new chair of the university's **Board of Trustees**. She succeeds **Robert Pohlad P'07**, who will serve as immediate past chair. The trustees elected five new members at their spring meeting: **Maria Arellano**

**'86; Ryan Dumm '07; Betsy Campbell Stone '79, P'14; Bruce Titcomb '80, P'13; and Nicholas Vasilius '07.**



Former Tacoma mayor and former Puget Sound faculty member **Bill Baarsma '64, P'93** received an honorary doctorate and delivered the **Commencement address** to the Class of 2023 on a sunny day in May. Convocation speakers were **Eliana Goldberg '23** and Professor of English Alison Tracy Hale.

## NEWLY FAMOUS

The Puget Sound **Athletics Hall of Fame** has increased its numbers, with four individuals and a team slated to be inducted during Homecoming & Family Weekend: **Brian Brendel '91**, two-time track and field All-American; **Danita Erickson '94**, who won the NAIA title in the women's 1500

meters and was a five-time All-American; **Jeff Halstead '00**, who graduated as the football program's all-time leading receiver and the baseball program's all-time leading hitter, and is now head baseball coach for the Loggers; **Julie Vanni '02**, a two-time All-Northwest Conference student-athlete in women's basketball and in track and field; and the 2003 women's crew team, which was runner-up at the NCAA DIII championship.



## LIBRARY LEADER LEAVES

**Jane Carlin**, director of Collins Memorial Library, has retired after 15 years at the university. During her tenure, the library added new resources and services, established the **Archives & Special Collections**, and created numerous exhibits and events for the campus and local community. Carlin had a special interest in book arts and helped the library develop a strong collection of artists' books.

## THEY LIKE US

*The Princeton Review* named Puget Sound one of the **nation's best institu-**

**tions for undergraduates**, including the university in its annual guide, *The Best 389 Colleges: 2024 Edition*. Only 15% of America's four-year colleges are in the book.

## THEY REALLY LIKE US

*The Princeton Review* also cited Puget Sound as one of the nation's **Best Value Colleges** for 2023, based on more than 40 data points designed to measure return on investment. Schools ranked "Best Value" represent just 8% of the nation's four-year undergraduate institutions.

## MORE KUDOS

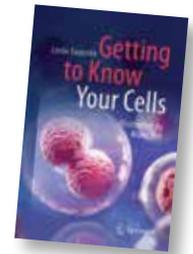
The university earned a top spot—four out of five stars—in *Money's Best Colleges in America 2023*. Puget Sound placed among the top universities for education quality, affordability, and graduate outcomes. And *U.S. News & World Report* named Puget Sound one of the most innovative national liberal arts colleges.



## AN AFRICAN IMMERSION

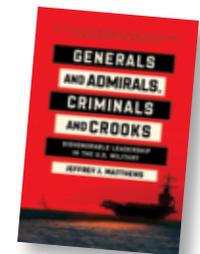
Ten students, led by Assistant Professor LaToya Brackett, spent a month in **Ghana** over the summer as

part of AFAM 311: African Roots. The students did internships, had a day of service at a school, and visited the W.E.B. DuBois Centre, among other activities. In the photo: the group at **Black Star Square** in Accra.



## CELL SERVICE

Professor of Biology **Leslie Saucedo** has written a book, *Getting to Know Your Cells* (Springer, 2023). The book is a **field guide to human cells**, including how different types of cells work and how they interact with each other in the body, as well as an overview of the immune system and cancer formation. Gig Harbor-based artist **Maria Jost '05** provided the book's illustrations.



## ALL THE NEWS ...

George F. Jewett Distinguished Professor of Business & Leadership **Jeff Matthews P'16** got some

ink in *The New York Times* for his **new book**, *Generals and Admirals, Criminals and Crooks: Dishonorable Leadership in the U.S. Military* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2023). The *Times* looked at three new books that examine what it calls “the good, the bad, and the ugly of American military leadership and culture.”

**HOMETOWN PRIDE**

**Tacoma** got a shoutout on the *Today Show* in July when real estate broker Frances Katzen offered her five **top U.S. cities** where people most want to live. Katzen ranked the City of Destiny No. 3.



**NATURAL BOSS**

**Kena Fox-Dobbs**, an environmental scientist and chair of the Department of Geology, is the new director of the **Puget Sound Museum of Natural History**. Peter Wimberger, director of the museum since 2005, retired in June.

**FUNDRAISING SUCCESS**

The university raised \$26.16 million in **private support** last fiscal year, a **43% increase** from the previous year. Highlights included the single **largest gift in school history**—\$10 million from the Tom and Meg Names Family Foundation to support

athletics and wellness—and a \$2 million gift from **Ellen Ferguson '72** (see story, opposite page).

**TRACKING OPIOID USE**

Daniel Burgard, professor of chemistry, co-authored a paper in the journal *Nature Water* arguing that public health officials should monitor drugs found in **wastewater** to stay ahead of the **opioid epidemic**. A national wastewater surveillance system “could help public health and safety officials anticipate new drug outbreaks and respond more quickly,” the authors say.

**SOCCER SWITCH**

Reece Olney, **men’s soccer** coach since 1994, stepped down at the beginning of the fall season. He had a 325-168-63 record and four Northwest Conference titles as head coach. Said Athletic Director Amy Hackett: “We will miss his passion for the work, and certainly his **booming voice** on the sidelines.” Interim head coach is **Sam Zisette '16**, who played under Olney and most recently co-founded the men’s semipro team Ballard FC.

**COMING SOON ...**

Puget Sound will launch a **new department**—Environmental Studies & Sciences—in Fall 2024. It will offer three different bachelor’s degrees and a minor, allowing students to explore the evolving issues of **environmental studies** through an interdisciplinary lens combining natural sciences, social sciences, arts, and humanities.

**Ask the Expert: Erik Waterland '05 Staying Fit After Age 60**



*Just south of campus, **Erik Waterland DPT'05** runs Waterland Performance, a physical therapy practice he founded in 2019. Waterland has been practicing physical therapy for nearly 20 years; he also works with Puget Sound students as an adjunct professor in the School of Physical Therapy. We asked him what older adults can do to stay in shape. —Amy Downey*

**SECRET TO SUCCESS**

“Lean muscle mass is probably our only real ‘fountain of youth’ in medicine,” says Waterland, pointing to a growing amount of research suggesting that building up your muscles helps reduce the risk of falls, improves the circulatory system, and boosts brain health, among other benefits. “Everything is tied to how strong we are and how well we move.” Waterland recommends exercises that mimic how the body naturally functions—such as squats and lunges—as well as ones that focus on balance, coordination, and weight resistance.

**KNOW BETTER**

Boomers can find an

unprecedented amount of online health and wellness resources. “The current aging population is the first one to have access to this kind of information,” says Waterland. (One podcast he particularly recommends is “The Peter Attia Drive.”) Such resources, says Waterland, can be powerful tools in helping manage heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and other health issues.

**CHALLENGE YOUR LIMITS**

Activities like walking, tennis, and pickleball can break a sweat, but don’t rely solely on them. Waterland recommends adding strength training into your routine at least twice a week.

**RECOVERY-READY**

Those with surgery in their future may want to consider “prehab,” or physical therapy before the procedure. Prepping or strengthening the body for what’s next, says Waterland, will maximize rehabilitation.

**PUMP IT UP**

Waterland wants to dispel the myth that you inevitably lose strength and ability as you get older. “There’s no age limit to getting stronger—you just have to push the muscles the right amount.” The *Today Show* recently featured one of his clients doing exactly that: Tacoma’s Madonna Hanna started competitive sprinting in her 60s and, now 70, won gold at the 2023 National Senior Games.



## The Call of the West

**Ecologist Drew Kerkhoff became Puget Sound's new provost in July—and he's thrilled to be back west, where the landscape and ecology sparked his academic career.** *By Maureen Harmon*

When Drew Kerkhoff left Ohio, to follow his future wife to New Mexico, he had no plans of ever heading back east. The western landscape and ecology fascinated him, and Kerkhoff—who at the time made a living building custom furniture—spent his downtime exploring his surroundings. It was out in nature that he found a new career path, a path that would eventually lead him to become Puget Sound's new provost.

Ultimately, Kerkhoff earned a master's and Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in quantitative ecology, the work of applying math and computation to explain the natural world. A postdoc followed, and eventually, a job. The role? A tenure-track position at Kenyon College—back in Ohio. His ecological education gave him a new appreciation for the beauty of Ohio's hills and forests—and the job itself proved to be perfect. For 18 years, he embraced his role as a professor and eventually associate provost. At Kenyon, Kerkhoff worked to bring computational and data science approaches into the biology curriculum; developed an

academic initiative in science and nature writing with courses team-taught by a creative writer and a scientist; and helped launch Kenyon's mission to become carbon neutral by 2040. All that background came with Kerkhoff to Puget Sound when he assumed his role as provost in July.

"Puget Sound is just a phenomenally interesting institution," he says. "It's a lot like Kenyon in many ways. It has a very close-knit community on a beautiful, residential campus. At the same time, there are some real differences that make it exciting for me, including Puget Sound's service-oriented graduate programs. It's really exciting to think about coming into an institution that has great potential, great ambitions, and offers me many opportunities to learn."

Perhaps that's Kerkhoff's administrative side talking. But mention Puget Sound's location and the ecological explorer in him bursts out. "It's a beautiful place," he says. "A wonderful mid-sized city surrounded by mountains and water, orcas and bears."

## History and Healing

The university has announced plans to launch the Legacies Project, an initiative to examine and reckon with its long and complex past, understand how those legacies still resonate in the present, and take steps to create a more welcoming and inclusive future.

"We must understand and teach how our present is shaped by our history as a university and a community, from the expulsion of Chinese immigrants and incarceration of Japanese Americans to the Fish Wars protests and the Northwest Detention Center," says Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, vice president for institutional equity and diversity. She points out that the university's own history includes blackface minstrelsy, antisemitic vandalism, and connections to the Cushman Indigenous Boarding School.

The Legacies Project is made possible by a \$2 million gift from **Ellen Ferguson '72**. Ferguson earned degrees in political science and history from the university before a career of museum work. She's a longtime supporter of the school: She endowed a scholarship fund for student financial aid and is a founding donor for the LGBT Leadership Fund.

Ferguson credits her time at Puget Sound with creating a foundation for her lifelong commitment to social justice. "My studies in political science at the height of the Vietnam War, getting involved in campus activism, and living in a close community with a diverse group of students changed my life," she says. "I was captivated by the Legacies Project and its goal to create a more welcoming and inclusive campus environment for an increasingly diverse student body and university community."

The project will include thematic programming; grants and fellowships for research, scholarship, and creative work; and a permanent campus history exhibit with rotating displays; among other efforts. Puget Sound will also invite the wider South Sound community to engage with the discussions. —*Jonny Eberle*

## New Museum Name

The university has removed the name "Slater" from its natural history museum, which is now called, simply, the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History.

The move follows a request from a student—**Grace Eberhardt '20**—and a subsequent review by a specially appointed committee. President Crawford recommended the name change, and the Board of Trustees unanimously approved it this past May.

The museum, located in Thompson Hall, houses one of the Pacific Northwest's significant natural history collections, with more than 100,000 bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, plant, insect, and geological specimens. The

Q U O T E D

“A person wasn’t supposed to be president and be cool—but then Ron showed up, and he was both.”

**DARREL FROST ‘04**, FORMER ASUPS PRESIDENT, SPEAKING AT THE JUNE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FORMER PRESIDENT RON THOMAS, WHO DIED APRIL 17.



## A Thinking Woman’s Game

**Women’s soccer coach Stephanie Cox brings an impressive pedigree—and an introspective approach—to the job.** *By Michael Weinreb*

For Stephanie Cox, books are an essential teaching tool. This spring, not long after the “interim” tag was removed from her title as the head women’s soccer coach, she held a book club with her players. They discussed Brené Brown’s *The Gifts of Imperfection*, to better understand how they needed to rely on each other and embrace their vulnerabilities.

But Cox also likes to assign books to herself. And the one she recently chose was *Brag Better: Master the Art of Fearless Self-Promotion*, by Meredith Fineman. “I’ve always tried to be humble about my accomplishments,” Cox says. “But as I’m recruiting athletes, I realized I can’t be hesitant to talk about my experience in a way that’s genuine, and that resonates with our core values as a program.”

That experience—including a national championship as a player at the University of Portland, a gold medal as a defender for the U.S. Women’s National Team in 2008, and a long career with OL Reign, Seattle’s women’s pro team, not to mention a year as an assistant under former Loggers coach Randy Hanson and a stint as coach at Gig Harbor High School—is what landed her the interim job at Puget Sound after previous coach Kim Calkins left after the 2021 season. And after leading the team to a 16-4-1 record in her first season and a berth in the NCAA Division III tournament, there was little doubt that Cox deserved the permanent job.

Now the challenge is to keep the program’s longtime success going, while expanding the meaning of the word success. “I want them to see that their work on the field isn’t just about wins and losses,” Cox says. “It’s about something bigger than that. I see it as an opportunity for them to launch well as adults—to go out and impact the world.”

*(continued from page 5)*

university named it the Slater Museum of Natural History in 1979 in honor of James R. Slater, a professor of biology from 1919 to 1951. More recently, though, Slater’s support of eugenics—the idea of selective breeding to improve the quality of the human population—has come under criticism.

The field of eugenics flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, leading to involuntary sterilization of people deemed “unfit” and perpetuating beliefs and policies based on ableist, racist, and xenophobic attitudes that were common at the time. Slater taught a eugenics course at Puget Sound for 30 years and, though the subject was once an accepted part of biology curricula, he continued to teach it long after other colleges and universities had discontinued it.



“[The evidence] clearly points to the negative impact the name ‘Slater’ has on members of historically marginalized communities and, in particular, individuals who are neurodivergent and people of color,” according to the final report of the Slater Museum Name Review Committee.

More information on eugenics is available at [historyofeugenics.pugetsoundmuseum.org](http://historyofeugenics.pugetsoundmuseum.org).



## CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

Attendees at Summer Reunion Weekend in June caught up with friends, toured campus, enjoyed a barbeque, and attended lectures by faculty. Here, Jonathan Stockdale, professor of religion, spirituality, and society, gives a talk called “Does a Dog Have Buddha Nature? Drawing the Line Between Human, Inhuman, Animal, and Beast in Zen Buddhism.”



# Are You Logger Linked?

Puget Sound's mentorship network, **Logger Link**, gathers alumni and students together in an interactive, career-minded space where you can ask questions, share information, and make meaningful, Logger-to-Logger connections.

Whether you're seeking or offering career advice, we invite you to help build this dynamic community of Loggers helping Loggers. Get Logger Linked today!



Visit [pugetsound.edu/loggerlink](https://pugetsound.edu/loggerlink)  
to learn more.



Logger  
Link

## 'How We Got Here'

Participants in a Community Summer class see the history of the Native American experience through the eyes of an Indigenous instructor.

BY TINA HAY

OVER THE SUMMER, 30 PEOPLE—some from campus, many from the local community—spent a series of Saturday mornings in Howarth Hall hearing about a weighty subject: the history of Native Americans in the U.S.

Instructor Doris Tinsley, a member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation, billed the class as a “crash course,” and it lived up to its name, covering more than 500 years’ worth of American Indian history in just a handful of sessions. Tinsley touched on everything from the arrival of the Europeans in the late 15th century to the modern-day crisis known as MMIW, for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

“Crash Course Intro to Native American Studies and Contemporary Issues” was one of 16 classes the university offered in the Community Summer program, in which faculty and staff teach non-credit courses open to the public. This summer’s topics included music production, yoga, ceramics, the history of cancer, and even a bit of quantum mechanics.

Many who signed up for Tinsley’s course cited her heritage as a plus. “The advantage for me was that Doris is an Indigenous person herself. Such resources are very hard to come by,” says Douglas Cannon, a Puget Sound emeritus professor of philosophy who has long been interested in Native American issues. “Her perspective was different from what I had ever been exposed to in a classroom.”

Tinsley, a former university staff member, grew up in the Shinnecock Nation on New York’s Long Island. She has a degree in American Indian studies from Virginia Tech and is working on a master’s in tribal administration and governance at the University of Minnesota. (She, too, has had primarily white professors along the way.)

One of her goals for the class was to help participants understand “how we got here,” as she put it—that is, “how we went from being the majority to being the minority of the minority.” She started with the Vatican’s

“It was fascinating to hear about things that are not going to be in your average history book.”

15th-century Doctrine of Discovery, which empowered Europeans to displace and conquer non-Christian people around the world, including those in America. She talked about the Marshall Trilogy, three Supreme Court decisions between 1823–32 that set federal policy toward Native Americans. She covered the government acts of the late 1800s that broke up tribal lands, uprooted Indigenous people, and forced them to relocate—actions that, in Tinsley’s words, “amounted to cultural genocide.”

Attendees also learned about Richard Henry Pratt, who founded the Carlisle Indian School to assimilate Native Americans into the white way of life—an idea embodied in his maxim “Kill the Indian, save the man.” Tinsley touched on the boarding school movement that followed, as well as the so-called Sixties Scoop, in which Indigenous children were removed—often under false pretenses and sometimes forcibly—from their families and adopted into white families.

Tinsley also addressed 1970s Native American activism, including the American Indian Movement, the occupation of Alcatraz Island from 1969–71, and the 1973 takeover of Wounded Knee in South Dakota, where, in 1890, federal troops had massacred more than 300 Lakota people.

Tinsley knows a bit of the modern history firsthand: Some of her aunts, uncles, and grandparents were involved in AIM. “I think AIM taught a lot of communities how to rally

and lobby, how to go to Senate hearings,” she says. “It was also the first time that these events were covered on the TV news. It opened people’s eyes to what was happening on reservations.” She also told the class about COINTELPRO, a much-criticized FBI operation from 1956–71 aimed at ending activism by Native Americans and others.

“It was a lot of new information I hadn’t seen before,” says **Bruce Sadler** ’83, who teaches at Mount Tahoma High School in Tacoma and who expects to incorporate some of what he heard from Tinsley in his U.S. history course. “It was fascinating to hear about things that are not going to be in your average history book.” Sadler was one of several attendees who are schoolteachers in Washington state, where legislation called “Since Time Immemorial” mandates that the K-12 curriculum include coverage of tribal history, issues, and contributions.

The Puget Sound summer course was too short to be comprehensive, but Tinsley offered numerous resources for those wanting to do a deeper dive. A sampling, many of which are available on YouTube:

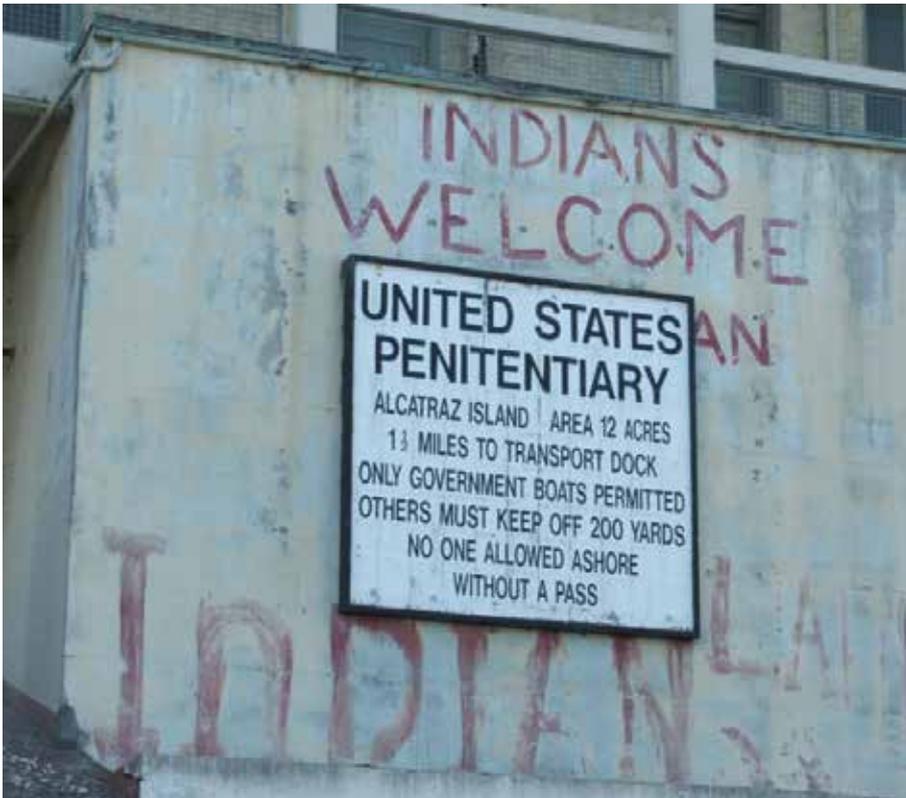
—A Vox.com video, *How the U.S. stole thousands of Native American children*.

—A 2017 PBS documentary called *What Was Ours*.

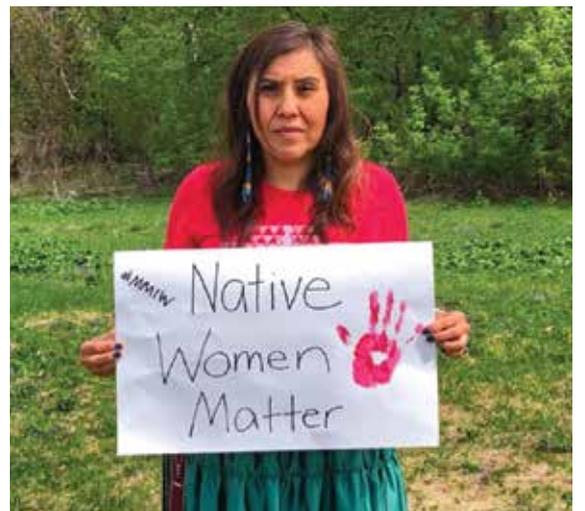
—A short film by Tree Media called *Doctrine of Discovery*.

—A 2021 *CBS Saturday Morning* segment called “A Look Back at the Takeover of Alcatraz Island.”

The class ended in late July, and Tinsley has left the university for a job with Synergy Enterprises, which provides training and curriculum on Indigenous education for the federal government. But the learning continues: Some of the class members have started a book group to keep the conversation going. Next on their list: Vine DeLoria Jr.’s *Indians of the Pacific Northwest*.



**ADVERSITY AND ADVOCACY**  
Clockwise from top: the Carlisle Indian School in 1892, an activist raising awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women, a remnant of the 1969 Native American takeover of Alcatraz Island.



## Wrangling Big Data

Computer Science Professor David Chiu is focused on finding useful information in a world that's drowning in data.

BY JONNY EBERLE

*Professor of Computer Science David Chiu taught his first class at age 22, in grad school, and immediately fell in love with teaching. Since coming to the university in 2014, he's taught everything from introductory to advanced classes, and in 2022, he received the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching. We talked with Chiu about the golden age of dial-up internet, his research on data management, and creating an inclusive, student-centered classroom experience.*

### What brought you to Puget Sound?

I consider myself a native Ohioan. I was born in Taiwan and spent the first nine or 10 years of my life there, but I grew up around Akron, Ohio. I love Ohio and might have spent my whole life there, but after graduate school, my wife and I were ready for a change of scenery. She also had spent all of her life in Ohio. We were feeling adventurous, so we came out west, and we've been here ever since. We really love it here. As for the university, what impressed me so much was the people. There is something special about the people of Puget Sound—they're very collegial and collaborative. I immediately felt like these were the people I wanted to work with every day. And when I interviewed here, I was exposed to a lot of great students and was really impressed with them as well. So it was the whole package.

### What sparked your interest in computer science as a field of study?

I got my first job when I was 15. This was in the '90s, when the internet was becoming democratized. You had the big names, like America Online and CompuServe, but what made the internet truly accessible in its early stages were the Ma and Pa providers. My mom worked for one of those little companies and one day she said, "David, I don't think you're doing enough with your life. Why don't you come work as a technical support representative here?" I wasn't even good with computers,

"Students find out that much of computer science is just solving puzzles."

but being around people who loved them, I started dabbling. Pretty soon, I realized I could write programs to command these computers to automate a lot of work for me, and that's how I got interested in programming.

### Could you share a little about your research?

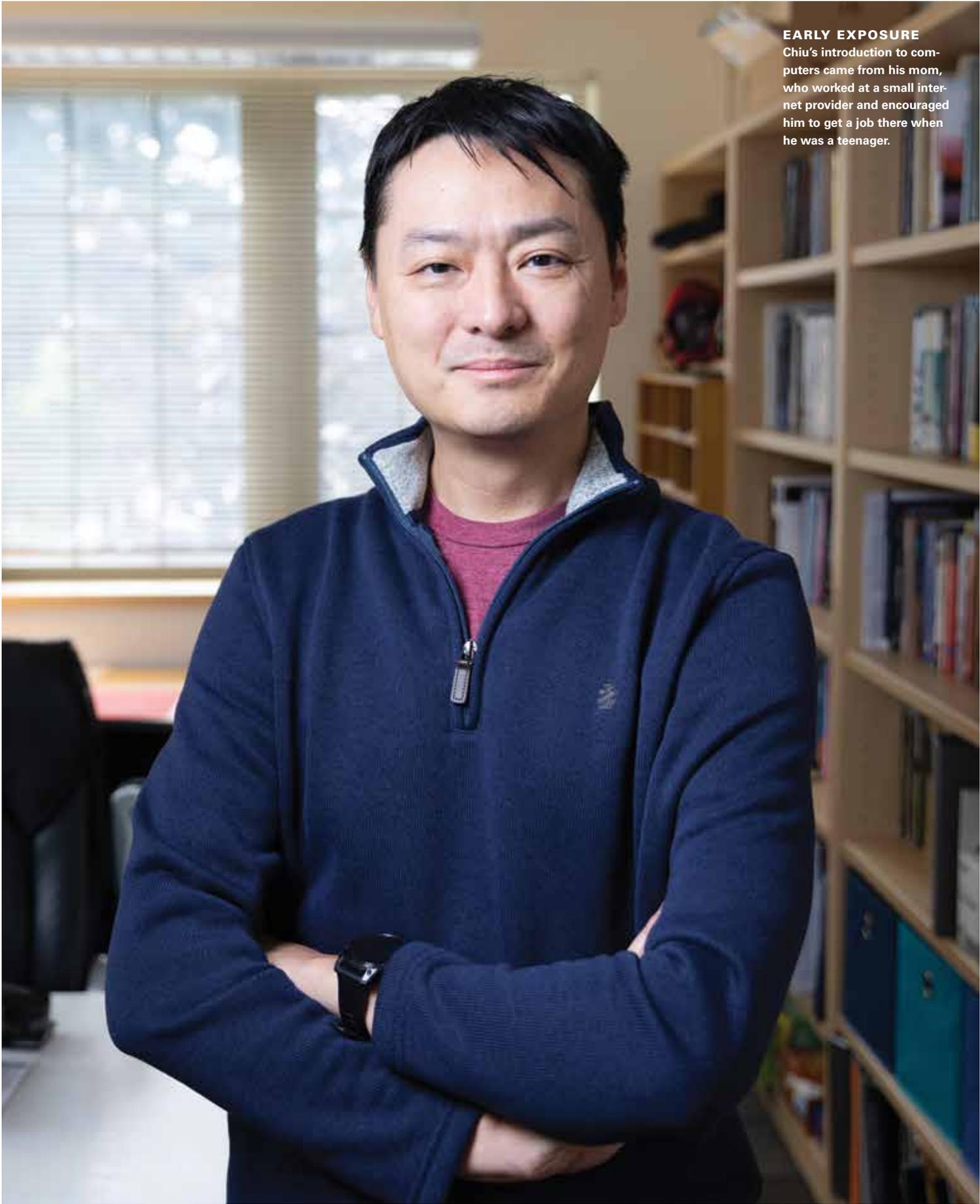
My research is in data management and cloud computing. Data management is interesting in particular because today's machines are so capable that organizations can generate a massive amount of data. But just having loads of data isn't useful alone. You need to be able to uncover the information that's buried deep within the data. So, to process large data sets more quickly, my research involves defining and building database indices, which are efficient ways of summarizing and accessing the data underneath. Think of it like the index in the back of a textbook. If you're looking for a specific term in a textbook, you wouldn't read the whole book cover to cover in search of that term; you'd likely consult its index. The index filters out all the pages that are non-pertinent and tells you exactly which pages you should be looking at. Similarly, with computers, we don't want to scan all of the data that's stored on the disk without some sort of filtering. We're building these things called data structures that allow us to filter tons and tons of data from ever being read off a disk. That will allow us to accelerate our processing, accelerate our searches.

### Computer science is a very technical subject. How do you make it accessible for your students?

I try to create a very inclusive culture in my classroom where we're all supportive and not competitive with one another. I try to make sure that the materials I use are current and engaging, and I try to inject a lot of humor in my classes, so that students don't feel anxious coming to talk to me. The most exciting courses I teach are the intro courses because, for a lot of students, it's their first foray into computer science and programming. There can be anxiety about the use of jargon, and many students come harboring a feeling that they are somehow already behind their peers. It's important for me to get students to realize that anyone, with a level of preparation, can learn computer science. Over the course of the semester, they find out that much of computer science is really just solving puzzles, and they become more confident in their abilities. They find this inner energy and this inner confidence that they're actually better at this than they thought. I try to challenge the way they think, but I also try to help them approach the subject without fear of being judged for doing something wrong. We have a lot of students who take the course for their math requirement and end up becoming computer science majors because they fall in love with the computational approach to problem-solving.

### How do you spend your free time?

When I'm not on campus, I'm probably spending time with my family. I have two kids. They're 9 and 6, so they're at a really fun age. We spend a lot of time together exploring the outdoors and doing stuff that our kids can handle—finding activities to do around the city and trying new foods. At some point, I would love to take them on an extended camping trip, but I think we're still a few years off.



**EARLY EXPOSURE**

Chiu's introduction to computers came from his mom, who worked at a small internet provider and encouraged him to get a job there when he was a teenager.

## Greece to the Heights

Professor Brett Rogers has been taking his students to Greece for years. In May of this year, he led a trip designed for alumni and friends.

BY KARIN VANDRAISS '13

“Boarding a boat in Greece is like nothing you’ve ever experienced,” Professor Brett Rogers tells the bus passengers. “As soon as they lower the gangplank, it’s a mad dash. Hang onto your suitcase and just get on the boat!”

Rogers, a professor in the Greek, Latin, and Ancient Mediterranean studies program, gives a bracing smile from the front of the bus as it winds its way down to the port of Thira, on the island of Santorini. Over years of guiding student trips, he’s learned the usefulness of being transparent about the experience you’re about to have.

Rogers was at the helm of a Puget Sound-sponsored trip in Greece this past May, and on that particular day the group was scheduled to take a high-speed ferry to Heraklion, on the island of Crete. After disembarking, Rogers counted off the 24 travelers—alumni, faculty, trustees, parents of recent grads—doing it in Greek, naturally. It was only Day Three, but Rogers noticed an almost family-like camaraderie had already formed among the group, similar to the bond he sees among students.

Rogers had kicked around the idea of an alumni trip for years. “We’re one of the few universities to have an ancient Greek motto,” he says. “If we’re going to the heights—*prosta akra*—a hell of a way to do it is by going to the Acropolis.”

When Rogers got the green light to put the trip in motion, his first call was to the woman in Greece who’s become his go-to travel agent after 25 years of sojourns to the Mediterranean. She suggested that the group start in the islands and work their way back to Athens, which interested Rogers from a pedagogical perspective. The natural chronology of moving from Akrotiri, Santorini’s exquisite Bronze Age site, to the Palace of Knossos in Crete, then jumping to the mainland to explore Athens, would allow Rogers to start with the picturesque islands you see in postcards, then

For many, the trip recreated a key part of their Puget Sound experience: the chance to engage personally with professors.

challenge the idea of Greece as a tourist destination and tell a fuller story of Greece as a real and complicated country.

“You can sign up for tours that will hit the historic sites, but having taken classics courses at Puget Sound, I knew the quality and perspective that would be involved,” says **Hannah Bartlett** ’12, an executive assistant based in Seattle and one of the trip participants. Bartlett saw the trip as an extension of courses she’d enjoyed as an undergraduate, and she particularly appreciated the accessibility of the material, since expertise in the group ran the gamut—from those who majored in classics to others with only a passing familiarity with Greek mythology.

Rogers knew he would need a teaching assistant to help keep the trains running on time, and immediately thought of **Annie Lamar** ’19. A former classics and computer science major who traveled with Rogers to Greece as a student in 2018, Lamar is now a Ph.D. candidate at Stanford, doing research at the intersection of classics and artificial intelligence.

In many ways, the trip replicated what a study abroad experience is like for students:

Rogers and Lamar did guided tours at nearly every site, and **Sara Freeman** ’95, professor of theatre arts, gave a lecture on the history of Greek theater from the steps of the Theater of Dionysus, as well as a lecture at the theater at Epidauros.

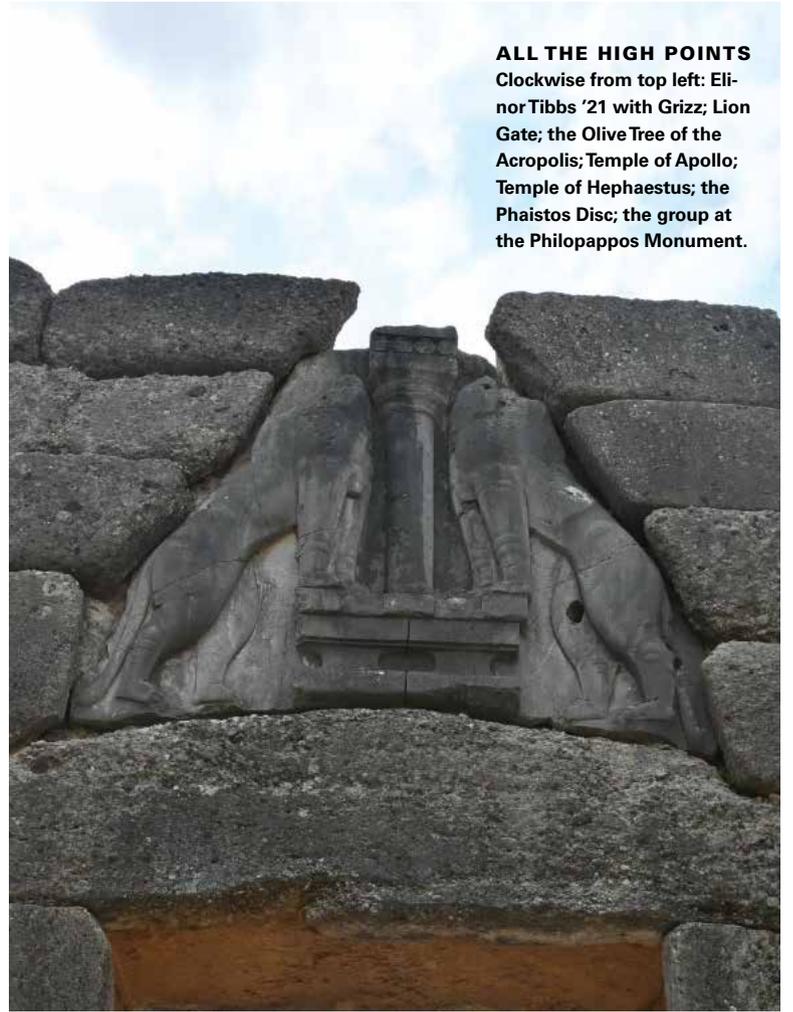
For some, it offered a taste of the study abroad experience they might have missed as an undergraduate. Trustee **Ken Willman** ’82, P’15, P’18, wasn’t able to spend a semester abroad when he was a student. Since then he has lived in London, Tokyo, and Hong Kong and has traveled extensively overseas, but Greece was still on the bucket list for him and his wife, Rosemary. “There was so much great discussion; it was a true in-the-field experience,” Willman says. “We rarely travel with groups, but a trip like this, led by someone like Brett Rogers and with a group of people who all have this common connection, was an unusual and special opportunity.

“One of the most important parts of my Puget Sound experience was the opportunity to engage personally with professors,” Willman says. “This recreates that experience.”

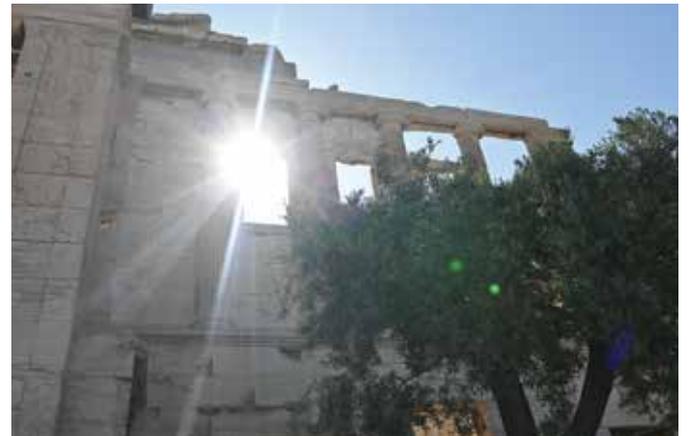
It wasn’t all academic: Between touring ruins and museums, the group swam in crystal clear waters, explored local markets, and during a particularly memorable stop in the seaside village of Matala on Crete, some enjoyed an impromptu *retsina* (a traditional Greek wine infused with pine resin) tasting over lunch.

On the final day, the group stood amidst the cliff-top ruins of the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion. It was more peaceful here than the bustling Acropolis or Delphi, and the travelers quietly took in the glistening Aegean Sea one last time as they listened to Rogers read aloud a passage from “The Iliad” in dactylic hexameter, and reflected on all they had experienced over the past 10 days.

They wouldn’t soon forget the trip, or one another.



**ALL THE HIGH POINTS**  
Clockwise from top left: Elinor Tibbs '21 with Grizz; Lion Gate; the Olive Tree of the Acropolis; Temple of Apollo; Temple of Hephaestus; the Phaistos Disc; the group at the Philopappos Monument.



TO THE HEIGHTS | YOU ARE HERE

**JAMMIN' AT JONES**

Students took to Jones Circle in early September to browse clubs and activities during LogJam. The event also featured food trucks, a hatchet toss, the Repertory Dance Group, and a performance by the bilingual hip-hop group Tulengua.







**AT AGE 22, JUST MONTHS AFTER GRADUATING FROM PUGET SOUND,** JENNIFER CRAMER-MILLER EXPERIENCED A SUDDEN, LIFE-THREATENING DISEASE—ONE THAT WOULD LEAD TO FOUR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS. IN A BOOK PUBLISHED THIS AUGUST, CRAMER-MILLER CHRONICLES THE UNCERTAINTY, HER WILL TO SURVIVE, AND HER DETERMINATION TO FIND JOY. WHAT FOLLOWS IS AN EXCERPT FROM THAT BOOK.

# Incurable Optimist

*How I learned to live with chronic illness—  
and chronic hope.*

BY JENNIFER CRAMER-MILLER '87

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LORIS LORA

One morning at the tail end of my 22nd year, while I was downing coffee with my roommate, my face felt peculiar. Squishy. Leaning toward Lisa over the table in our apartment's tiny kitchen, I said, "Check this out. Don't my eyes look smaller?" "Too much salt?" Lisa asked, before blowing steam from the top of her mug.

"Maybe." I pressed my fingers into the puffy skin that surrounded my upper and lower lashes.

It was Saturday, my energy lagged, and the warm cocoon of my duvet called. Eventually, I motivated myself to shower



and throw on jeans and a chunky November-style sweater. Another glance in the mirror. Typically, I would blame a little puffiness on the regular suspects, PMS or MSG. But on this day, the skin around my eyes resembled spongy marshmallows.

I wondered if more coffee might help. It didn't. My brain felt as dull as the Seattle sky outside the apartment windows, where falling raindrops played percussion on glass. Lisa took off to hawk hosiery during her Nordstrom shift downtown. I stayed in. As the hours ticked by, my legs felt tight, and my inner voice vacillated between calm dismissal (it's nothing) and far-flung possibilities (bubonic plague?). I had no idea to what extent—but I was not okay.

Sprawled on the couch with the television on, I called my boyfriend, Nick, and vented about my dilemma.

"I'll come over tonight with some booze to flush you out," he offered, sounding lighthearted.

"Skip the booze. Just come over," I said. "There's no party potential tonight."

Six months earlier, Lisa and I had graduated from Puget Sound. I met Nick in college too, but with more credits to complete, he still lived close to campus in Tacoma.

That night, after Lisa came home from work, Nick arrived with a bottle of wine. The three of us sank comfortably into the couch, but my mind was far from relaxed. My eyes seemed worse, the skin around my ankles

felt taut, and I had no fitting reference for these symptoms.

"Drink up." Nick handed me a glass filled to the brim.

"Jen, wine won't do it. You need a doctor," Lisa said firmly.

"I don't have one." During college, the student health building was an easy walk across campus. But I hadn't needed a doctor since graduation, and as a recent resident of Seattle, I knew nothing of the city's medical clinics.

"Get one."

The next day, I dialed my parents and explained that I felt off. "Maybe I'm coming down with the flu?" I said in a measured voice. I didn't want to alarm them, but that didn't work. Although their Minnesota home was miles from Washington, they jumped into action.

Monday morning, Dad reported he'd gotten a referral to a Seattle internist from his doctor in Minneapolis. They set an appointment for the next day, Tuesday, at 11:00. I noted it on my calendar and dashed out the door so I wouldn't be late for work. I snagged the bus from our Capitol Hill apartment to my office in Pioneer Square, where I worked as a public relations intern.

Same routine as always. I raced into the building on Occidental Avenue, jogged through the lobby to catch the elevator, and stepped into the office on the sixth floor where everyone buzzed—20 or so professional bees in a frenzy of creative production. I sat at my designated intern cubicle and resumed updating a CEO database, trying to ignore my

swollen eyes, feet, and fingers.

I was excited about this choice internship at Cole & Weber, a subsidiary of a national PR firm, Ogilvy & Mather. When my boss, Stacy, selected me from 200 applicants, I let out an involuntary squeal and shimmied a happy dance. With my foot in the door and my work in the mix, I planned to secure a future position. I wanted to put my newly earned business degree to work. So I intended to be the perfect intern.

That's why I reluctantly approached Stacy to tell her I had a doctor's appointment the next day and had to leave before my lunch break. She tried to scrutinize my face, but I lowered my head. Fine with me if she saw the same hard-to-tame, medium-length brunette hair and freckles splattered on my nose—but I didn't want her to stare at the swelling surrounding my brown eyes. "Everything okay?" she asked. She was three years older, and our relationship was strictly professional. But at this moment, she seemed more concerned about me than my performance.

I forced a perky tone. "Oh, I think so. Just need to be sure."

My daytime internship was for career advancement, but the pay wasn't much. So at night I sold costume jewelry and taffeta prom dresses at a department store. Late '80s fashion was ripe with Lady Diana-inspired shoulder pads, vivid colors, and lots of chunky costume



jewelry to complete the look. Pushing accessories and special-occasion dresses covered the extra money I needed to pay my rent. That night, as I exchanged pleasantries and sold boatloads of gold necklaces and silver earrings, I couldn't ignore the discomfort that pressed against my skin.

On Tuesday, I drove to the University District to explain my symptoms to a doctor. A nurse drew my blood and asked me to pee in a cup. Then I waited alone in an uncomfortable wooden chair propped against the wall and focused on the vinyl wallpaper and tiles—a study in beige on beige. Windowless clinic rooms are never cheerful, but thankfully in my young life, I hadn't seen many. The doctor walked in and sat down at the little desk next to me.

He was tall and thin, with brown leather shoes that he undoubtedly chose for comfort over style. His face looked serious—no smile or friendly eye twinkle—and his white hair matched his white doctor's coat. He delivered his words softly, but they hit hard. "I'm sorry, young lady. The result indicates your kidneys are damaged."

I gave him a few seconds to tell me it was a joke, but he didn't seem like the jokester type, and come to think of it, how unfunny of a joke would that be? My mind raced with nonsensical thoughts. Yet this doctor was no-nonsense (his practical shoes ... case in point), and this situation was the farthest thing possible from a joke.

His words echoed in my mind—*your kidneys are damaged, your kidneys are damaged*—as the walls seemed to fold in. *Is this room getting smaller?* "You will need to have a biopsy to determine the extent and cause of the damage," he explained. His eyes traversed from my newly created medical file to my stunned face.

"A biopsy?" *Isn't this a cancer word?* I

figidged in my chair and stared at him like he was speaking a foreign language.

What happened to the standard doctor line? You have a simple case of (fill-in-the-blank) and I will prescribe (fill-in-the-blank) and voilà, better in three to four days. I'd take a cold, maybe the flu, a simple strep throat—one of those familiar ailments, please. But "biopsy" fell outside my medical comfort zone.

He said they'd found protein in my urine (officially known as proteinuria), which was causing the fluid retention. Protein has no place in urine. The tiny filters in healthy kidneys, the nephrons, do not allow protein to pass through, just as a coffee filter does not let coffee grounds pass into your coffee pot. My kidneys' nephrons were like a lousy coffee filter with holes. Microscopic holes.

"The biopsy will help us diagnose what's causing your kidneys to leak protein," he explained.

Right away, I called home. My mom booked the first flight from Minneapolis to Seattle. I learned later she'd experienced an immediate sinking feeling after my initial call three days earlier. She'd heard something in my voice, and ripples creased her tight-knit maternal fabric—she felt sure I was experiencing something far from the flu.

My parents urged me to have the biopsy in Minneapolis, my hometown, because my dad knew and trusted a nephrologist, Dr. David Brown. My dad built custom homes, and years earlier, he had contracted a lovely place for Dr.

Brown and his wife. But we'd never expected to seek Dr. Brown's expertise in kidney care.

Lisa sat by my side when I called Nick to tell him the news. He asked, "What are they looking for with a biopsy?" His voice shook.

"The cause of damage. I'm going to Minneapolis to find out what's going on, and then I'll be back for Sarah's party." Lisa stood to



face me, cocked her sweatpants-clad hip, and widened her ice-blue eyes. (Sarah was another Seattle resident and college friend.)

"Jen," Lisa said, narrowing her gaze, "Sarah's party is not your top concern. It's in two weeks." Nick said the same thing, but two weeks seemed like a long time to me.

"Well, I better be on the mend by then," I suggested to Nick on the phone, to Lisa in the room, and to the Fix-It gods who may have been eavesdropping.

The next day, I picked up my mom at the airport, and her Julie Andrews-esque auburn hair, fair complexion, and lovely countenance ushered in a familiar wave of safety. We stopped at the grocery store, picked up a few items, and headed home.

"Nice," Mom said when she took in our greige-stained wood floors and freshly painted walls. I showed off our new digs and set her suitcase in my room. After we unloaded the groceries into our spare cabinets and nearly empty refrigerator, she said, "You don't have any food. What do you girls usually eat?"

**He delivered his words softly, but they hit hard. "I'm sorry, young lady. Your kidneys are damaged."**

Lisa and I shared a glance. “Stuff that doesn’t go in the oven,” I replied, and we laughed. The three of us sat together at our little white hand-me-down card table (this was the first time we actually set the table too), and the Mom-made hot dinner nourished us.

“What do you think is going on?” Mom asked as she lowered a napkin to her lap.

“I don’t know ... it doesn’t make sense. I eat healthy, I’m not into drugs—I even floss. Sometimes.”

“Flossing is overrated,” Lisa said. She smiled as she moved a chunk of her thick blond hair behind her ear. Mom laughed too, but when her smile faded, I saw a flash of concern flood her eyes. Later, she shared that when I greeted her at the airport, she knew her instincts were right. I was not well.

But for me, until this point, “not well” prompted Vitamin C or chicken soup for my soul. Quick fix. Move on. I thought that’s how it always worked. I had a lot to learn. The next day, Mom and I flew to Minneapolis. It was late November 1987, and the chain of events had just begun.

**T**he next morning, I sprawled face-down on a stiff bed in a sterile hospital room. While I waited for the procedure to begin, the thin blanket that covered me was no match for the cold circulating air. My muscles twitched.

While my parents sat together in the nearby waiting room, a nurse by my side shot a magic elixir into my IV, and within seconds the tense, frosty edges melted away.

Dr. Brown stood next to me. “How do you feel?” he asked.

“Floaty.”

A squirt. Cold, slimy gel on my back. Dr. Brown explained he would place five tiny needles into one of my kidneys, guided by ultrasound.

“You will feel pressure and hear a loud click from the needle punch,” Dr. Brown said. His description was accurate. The pushing sensation was painless, but the sound startled me—as if a cap gun fired into my back.

“We’ve done one. Okay? Now we will do a couple more.”

*Push. Pressure. Punch. Click. Wince. Breathe.*

I could not believe this was happening. I was fine less than two weeks ago.

“We’ve got some good samples,” Dr. Brown said.

“Now we wait. I want you to stay on bed rest for 24 hours.”

An attendant wheeled me from the procedure room, deep in the bowels of the hospital, up to my room on the fourth floor. A nurse placed sandbags on my back to prevent bleeding. As instructed, I lounged as still as possible, but my insides fluttered. What the hell?

I had common goals for my life at the time. As twentysomethings do. I planned to launch into a public relations career after my performance as a star intern. In my professional dealings along the way, or in my robust Pacific Northwest social circle, perhaps, I would meet a rom-com-worthy guy. A soul-mate? Sure. He would be so rock-solid, so handsome, so irreverent that I would regularly

and tied with a bow.

Well, maybe that is the amped-up and glossy version. But boiled to the essence, my peers and I expected to travel a path that led us into the epitome of adulthood—career, love, family. Up until this point, happy was my default setting; I’d never really considered an alternate state.

And now, plucked from the West Coast and Puget Sound, I shivered in the frigid winter of Minnesota, in a hospital with Mom, Dad, Dr. Brown, and yet-to-be-understood kidney damage. The end of my 22nd year spun off the path of grandiose expectations and careened right off a cliff.

## This was uncharted territory— conversing about a progressive disease that had afflicted me out of the blue.

think, *How can I be so lucky to have caught this guy?* (Though Nick and I had been dating for a few years, he wasn’t the one I envisioned in this scenario.)

Mr. Perfect and I would live blissfully in a lovely and oh-so-happy home, where I’d whip together meals that would be today’s version of Instagram food porn. I’d pump out photogenic babies and display my perfect family on annual holiday cards. All the while, gracefully keeping it together as a how-does-she-do-it professional career woman. Nicely wrapped up

My parents and I had to wait a week for the biopsy results. The window narrowed on Sarah’s party, but I still entertained the idea. I returned to my parents’ suburban home, where I had grown up with my older brother, Steve. My dad built this home for our family when I started kindergarten and Steve first grade. Like a two-story stationary time capsule, it was chock-full of childhood memories.

I retreated into my childhood room, looked at my swollen ankles, and felt the pressure from the extra fluid invading my cells.



*How sick am I?*

The following Monday, Mom, Dad, and I sat in the lobby of Dr. Brown's clinic. It appeared far more polished than the doctor's office in Seattle, and I stared trancelike at the bronze-toned wallpaper.

A nurse escorted us back to a clinic room. The hard edges of the plastic chair mirrored the discomfort of my mind and body. Dr. Brown sported a bow tie and tweed suit, greeted us curtly, and sat down. He adjusted round wire-rim glasses and ruffled through the pages in my chart.

My dad leaned forward on the edge of his chair like a take-charge CEO ready to tackle an issue. I saw a focused anticipation in his brown eyes. Coarse dark hair topped his round face, which made him look younger than his 52 years. My mom's eyes were deep wells of blue, reflecting worry. She rested her hand on mine. Dr. Brown set the papers on the desk and delivered six words: "You have a progressive kidney disease."

For a moment, I considered myself a character in a cheesy soap opera who gets bad news—the words reverberated inside my mind while my face registered a melodramatic pause.

*Progressive disease.*

*Progressive disease.*

*Progressive disease.*

*What?*

Dr. Brown explained a condition called nephrotic syndrome was causing inflammation in the tiny filters of my kidneys. The three of us sat with dazed expressions as he continued

to educate us about my problem. I was grateful to have my parents in the room because I had trouble focusing. As we sat together vested in my outcome, I felt like a middle school student receiving negative feedback at a teacher conference.

"The biopsy indicates focal segmental glomerulosclerosis."

"That's a mouthful," I said, stunned.

"Also known as focal sclerosis or FSGS," Dr. Brown explained.

"How does this happen?" Dad asked.

"Larry, I can't answer that. Jennifer has an autoimmune dysfunction, and we don't know the cause."

"Do you know the cure?" *An excellent question, Dad.* But the word itself seemed surreal. *Cure.* This was uncharted territory—sitting in a small clinic room conversing about a progressive disease that had afflicted me out of the blue.

"What we need to do now is monitor the kidneys and try to stop the damage with a medication called prednisone."

"Will prednisone fix it?" I asked. I wanted a simple answer and did not realize how complicated the question was.

Dr. Brown told us there is a child-onset nephrotic syndrome that responds well to treatment. "It's unclear, Jennifer, at 22, if you are experiencing a late child-onset case, or if your case will be more advanced. I would like to consult with some colleagues and see you back here in a few days."

The child-onset route seemed the better of the two syndromes. So I pinned my hopes on having the kid version. That scenario could make this condition go poof and evaporate with prednisone. I planted this idea firmly in my mind.

*Child onset. Please.*

*Child onset.*

I had trouble sleeping



that evening, focusing on the goal of being an adult with a child's illness. I remembered when my mom used to tuck me in and wish me sweet dreams, way back when pastel wallpaper flowers surrounded me. With Steve one room away, our dog Gus asleep downstairs, and my parents nearby at the end of the hall, the world had seemed nothing but safe.

And now, unsettled, I tossed and turned and pulled up the window shade. Cold air wafted from the chilled panes of glass and hit my face. I looked at the November snow-covered landscape, a frozen version of Seattle rain, and hoped prednisone would bring me back to the place where I belonged.

I saw two outcomes to this situation. Heal or fail. I wanted to heal.

**Jennifer Cramer-Miller '87** has endured four kidney transplants; she is delighted to have just celebrated the 12th anniversary of her last transplant and describes her health now as "happy, hopeful, and holding." She is a writer and speaker, chairs the board of the Minnesota National Kidney Foundation, and is an ambassador for Donate Life. Her book, *Incurable Optimist: Living with Illness and Chronic Hope*, was published in August by She Writes Press and is available at the Logger Store (either on campus or at [bookstore.pugetsound.edu](http://bookstore.pugetsound.edu)) and other locations. Cramer-Miller lives outside Minneapolis with her husband and dog.



To read this story online or share with a friend, go to [pugetsound.edu/incurableoptimist](http://pugetsound.edu/incurableoptimist).





**NO NICKNAME YET**

This photo of the 1901 football team ran in *Ye Recordre*, a predecessor to *The Trail*. Puget Sound sports teams at that time lacked a nickname—that wouldn't come for another 20 years.

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**LET'S GO, GRIZZLIES.  
NO, CLAMDIGGERS.  
NO, SOCK-EYES.  
NO, SKY PILOTS.  
WAIT. LOGGERS!**

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## **HOW DID PUGET SOUND SPORTS TEAMS GET THEIR NICKNAME? IT'S COMPLICATED.**

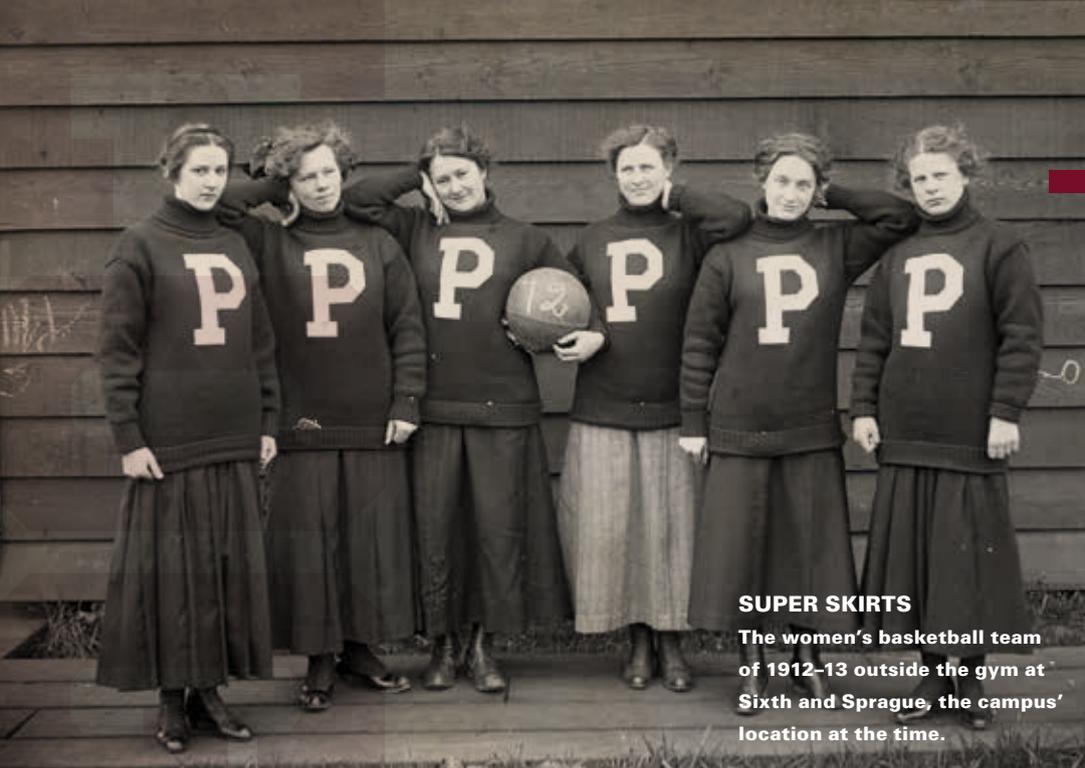
BY TINA HAY



**I**n the late 1970s, half a century after his own playing days were over, a former Puget Sound football player named **Charlie Brady '24** would drop by Baker Stadium on occasion to watch Logger football practices. He was retired, nearing the age of 80, and living within walking distance of campus. **Brian Threlkeld '83**, an offensive lineman at the time, remembers Brady. “We’d all shake hands with him as we trotted out to practice, and he loved it.” In 1980 the team even invited Brady to fly with them to the season opener at Chico State, a 37-0 Logger win. Brady wrote a poem in thanks, and one of the coaches pinned it up in the locker room.

The players didn’t know much about Brady—“just that he was an old-time Logger, and deeply devoted to his alma mater,” Threlkeld says. They certainly didn’t realize that Brady had played on the very first Puget Sound football team to be called the Loggers. In fact, Brady may have an even bigger claim to fame: He might just be the man responsible for the Logger nickname.

This year, Puget Sound sports teams mark 100 years of being known as the Loggers. The name is a point of pride, evoking toughness. “Loggers are a deep-rooted, loyal community who symbolize strength and perseverance,”



### SUPER SKIRTS

The women's basketball team of 1912-13 outside the gym at Sixth and Sprague, the campus' location at the time.

call yourselves that when competing for your school?

The *News Tribune* repeated the tale in an article about Charlie Brady's death two years later. And if it weren't for Threlkeld, that might be the story that everyone believes to this day.

In 2013, a group of former football players and coaches from the "green and gold era" were planning a campus reunion, and Bill Linnenkohl '76, a former All-America linebacker, wondered if anyone had a list of Logger football All-Americans. Threlkeld knew that the existing list was incomplete, so he volunteered to do some digging. In the course of that research, he learned that Archives & Special Collections at Collins Memorial Library had digitized many of the back issues of *The Trail* and put them online—and that reminded him of Charlie Brady.

Curious to verify the story he had seen in the *News Tribune* years earlier, Threlkeld started searching back issues of *The Trail*, as well as old editions of *Tamanawas* (once they, too, were put online). He searched on the word "logger," read game summaries from assorted sports, looked for pictures of athletes in uniform. A tiny mention in the 1920 *Tamanawas* caught his eye: In a calendar looking back on the events of the school year, he saw four dates listed for February 1920:

- 3. Registration for second semester.
- 5. College adopts nickname of "Grizzlies."
- 21. C. P. S. wins from Bellingham 19 to 17.
- 24. The Costume Ball, er-er Party was a great success last night.

It was the first known mention of "Grizzlies"—or any sports nickname, for that matter. In that same edition, the yearbook offered a new Grizzlies-themed cheer that it hoped would be "conducive of arousing college spirit." It was an odd cheer by today's standards; here's a sampling:

*With a bevo and a bivo  
With a bevo-bivo-bum-bum.  
Johnny got a rat trap  
Bigger than a cat trap,  
Johnny got a cat trap  
Bigger than a rat trap,  
Bum! Bum! Dum!  
Cannibal, cannibal,*

says Athletic Director Amy Hackett. The name is also distinctive—no other NCAA team has the nickname. But how did the name come about? Whose idea was it? There's no official answer to that question, nothing definitive in the athletic annals, no one still alive who can say exactly how it happened.

In recent years, Threlkeld—now an attorney living in New York—has been trying to solve that mystery. He has spent hours digging through online sources, talked with football old-timers and Tacoma-area historians, visited the archives in Collins Memorial Library. Based on his sleuthing, he's pinpointed the year that students adopted the Logger name: 1923. But the source of the name remains an enigma; in fact, Threlkeld found two conflicting tales about how it started. And that's the enduring mystery: Which version is correct?

Puget Sound has fielded sports teams almost since its founding in 1888. A news item in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* from May 6, 1893, told of the Puget Sound University General Athletic Association sending a team to Seattle to compete in field events. Threlkeld found evidence of a football team as early as 1894—it played three games that season, against Port Townsend AC, Vashon College, and the Maple Leaf Club.

Photos from the turn of the 20th century show that the teams' uniforms—when there were uniforms at all—were plain, with no nickname. That's because, for the first 32

years of the school's history, Puget Sound teams *had* no nickname. *The Trail* often referred to sports teams as simply "the Maroon and White." The Tacoma newspaper, the *Daily Ledger*, even called the team "the Wesleyan lads," a reference to the school's Methodist roots.

Finally, in 1920, Puget Sound sports teams got a nickname: the Grizzlies. But the name never really took off, and three years later, students scrapped it and instead voted to become the Loggers, a name that has endured for a century.

Brian Threlkeld learned a bit of this lore when he was still a student-athlete. He played offensive tackle and center from 1978-82 under Coach Ron Simonson. During the 1980 season, the *Tacoma News Tribune* happened to profile Charlie Brady, the older gentleman who often stopped by to watch practice. Reading the article, Threlkeld learned that Brady had enrolled at Puget Sound in 1918, left school the following year for financial reasons, and eventually returned, serving as humor reporter for *The Trail* and lettering in both football and basketball.

The *News Tribune* story also suggested that Brady's father, John, was the one who coined the name "Loggers." Brady and some of his teammates had spent their summers working on John Brady's logging operation in Ashford, Wash., in the Nisqually Valley west of Mount Rainier, and one day they were discussing the need for a new team nickname. You work as loggers, Brady's father pointed out; why not

*Zis boom bab.  
Grizzlies, Grizzlies,  
Rah! Rah! Rah!  
Boola,boo, Boola-boom.  
Grizzlies, Grizzlies,  
Give them room!*

The following year, *Tamanawas* sported an embossed grizzly bear on its cover. But *The Trail* rarely called sports teams the Grizzlies in its sports coverage, and the name never really caught on. “Most students, including the varsity athletes, apparently were indifferent to the nickname,” Threlkeld says. The era of sports teams being called the “Grizzlies” proved to be short-lived—just three years.

(The Grizz mascot who patrols the sidelines today is a relative youngster, having debuted in 2006. ASUPS officers **Alex Israel '06** and **Ryan McAninch '06** created Grizz to replace the previous mascot, a lumberjack. Israel and McAninch named the new mascot Grizz as a nod to the early-1920s nickname.)

How, then, did the Grizzlies morph into the Loggers? The sources that Threlkeld could find made no reference to the story of Charlie Brady and his lumberjack teammates as the source of Puget Sound’s new nickname. Instead, with the help of then-archivist **Adriana Flores '13**, Threlkeld found a brief mention in *The Trail* dated Jan. 10, 1923, stating that the college needed a new nickname. “Get busy and hand in your suggestion to the Athletic Manager,” the article instructed, promising that students would then vote on the names at an upcoming assembly.

A week later, *The Trail* reported that nine names had come in: Clamdiggers, Whales, Seals, Sock-Eyes, Steelheads, Skippers, Sky Pilots, Pilots, and Loggers. A week after that, student **Preston Wright '28** wrote an opinion piece lobbying for Loggers: “It is a name that implies strength, fearlessness, conquest, and rough, whole-hearted friendship,” he wrote, adding that the name lent itself to such symbols as the “two-bitted ax, the peevee, or the crosscut saw.”

If the promised athletic assembly and student vote ever took place, the student newspaper seems not to have reported on it. But mentions of “Loggers” started appearing in the paper almost immediately. “Loggers Lose to Camp Lewis,” read the headline to a basketball story in the Feb. 14, 1923, *Trail*.

For the rest of that spring, the newspaper regularly referred to the college’s basketball, baseball, and track & field teams as the Loggers. Local newspapers also picked up on the name: On Oct. 26, 1923, the *Vashon Island News-Record* reported that the University of Washington football team would take the field “against the College of Puget Sound Loggers” the following Saturday in Tacoma. “The Loggers this season have a good team, one of the best that has represented the College of Puget Sound in years, but they can hardly expect to cope with the brilliant Washington team.” (Sure enough, UW beat Puget Sound that day, 24-0.)

So what really happened? Did Charlie Brady’s father originate the Loggers nickname, as the *News Tribune* twice claimed? Or did it start with a poll by the student newspaper?

It’s possible that both stories could be true. Charlie Brady and Preston Wright could have known each other as students; moreover, Wright was a savvy older student who had considerable work experience and happened to be sports editor of *The Trail*. It has crossed Threlkeld’s mind that Brady told Wright about his father’s idea and that Wright responded, *I know a way to make it happen*. “That’s wholly speculative, of course,” Threlkeld says. “But it might help account for the two versions.”

We may never know. But Threlkeld is actually OK with that. For one, there’s still the pride that comes from being the only NCAA team in the country to use the name. That’s not to discount the Lewis-Clark Valley Loggers, a football club associated with Lewis-Clark State College in Idaho, but they’re considered only an NCAA “affiliate.” (Puget Sound beat those Loggers, 20-0, in an exhibition game at Baker Field earlier this season.) Lincoln Land Community College in Illinois competes as the Loggers in the National Junior College Athletic Association. But no NCAA team at the Division III level or above claims the Logger name. Only Puget Sound.



#### VINTAGE THREADS

This 1951 photo of an unidentified baseball player—or coach?—may be the oldest existing photo of anyone in a Logger uniform.

Beyond that, Threlkeld is just happy to have figured out *when* the name originated, if not exactly how. “I’m glad we discovered this, and in time to mark the centennial,” he says. “And I’m glad that I knew one of those original Loggers.” He regrets that he never had a chance to ask Charlie Brady or others of that era to tell their story. But he’s happy for what he does know. “When you’re out there playing, the name isn’t something that helps you win a game,” Threlkeld says. “But these things are significant, because they help develop a sense of who we are.”

A postscript about Charlie Brady: After graduating from Puget Sound, he spent a few years teaching, then returned to the family business, working in the timber industry until his retirement. Because, after all: Once a Logger, always a Logger.



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# Farewell to a Good Boat

WITH BAGPIPES, BEER, AND WRENCHES, A  
WELL-TRAVELED CRAFT **MEETS ITS END.**

■ BY CHUCK LUCE

The *James Robert Hanssen*, the world-record-setting 29-foot rowboat that crossed the Atlantic twice (almost), ended its storied life at a boatyard in Port Townsend, Wash., on June 5, 2023. The cause was structural fatigue and homelessness. She was 17.

Walking away after the memorial celebration, a woman among the hundred-or-so present was overheard saying: “When I came this morning I said to myself, I am not going to cry at a boat funeral. I am not going to cry at a boat funeral. But I did!” Other people wept, too.



#### ROWBOAT ROYALTY

Hanssen and his crewmates set a Guinness World Record in 2006, racing 3,200 nautical miles across the Atlantic from New York to England.



### ◀ ONE LAST RIDE

In June of this year, the crew of the *James Robert Hanssen* took the boat on its final voyage from Tacoma to Port Townsend, where they decommissioned it “in the most fun and sensible way possible,” Hanssen says.

### ▽ PAYING HOMAGE

The crew adorned the *JRH* with photos and names of people important to them—including Jordan’s father, for whom the boat is named, and former Puget Sound President Ron Thomas.



The *JR Hanssen* was built and outfitted in 2005–06, after **Jordan Hanssen ’04**, one of the Loggers who helped Puget Sound clinch four consecutive Northwest Conference rowing championships, saw a poster in Seattle announcing a rowing race from New York to the U.K. Even in the rowing community, pulling oars across an ocean is on the outer limits of extreme, but Hanssen managed to recruit fellow Puget Sound rowing team members **Brad Vickers ’05**; **Greg Spooner ’01**, **DPT ’10**; and **Dylan LeValley ’05**. Together they formed OAR (Ocean Adventure Racing) Northwest, and, as the exhausting list of requirements to prepare for the race grew, so did their supporters and advisers. There were experts on ocean science, navigation, and

communications systems; a meteorologist; a team physician; media consultants; photographers; legions of family and friends. And the people at Emerald Harbor Marine in Seattle, the owner of which told the men, “I don’t want to help you, but if I don’t, you’re going to f---ing die.”

The crew named the boat for Hanssen’s father, who had died of a massive asthma attack when Jordan was 3 years old. Half of the money raised for the adventure was donated to the American Lung Association.

On June 10, 2006, the vessel left Liberty Landing Marina in New York, headed for England. It was a crossing of interminable two-hour shifts of rowing-sleeping, rowing-sleeping, and of settling into bedding

that was always cold and wet, and of pelting, stinging, skin-piercing rain squalls, and of wind that made sounds that none among the crew imagined wind could make, and of the four-man crew waiting out storms stacked like soggy cordwood in a sealed compartment the size of a couple of bathtubs. But, too, of heart-breaking sunsets, stampeding dolphins, and swirling galaxies of bioluminescent plankton as oars swept through the water, and nights when the ocean was dark and flat as glass, and when the sky reflected upon water gave the sensation of gliding along, not beneath the stars, but among them.

Seventy-one days and 3,200 nautical miles later, the men arrived in Falmouth. The *JR Hanssen* had won the first international



### △ CREW REUNION

At the funeral for the *James Robert Hanssen*, from left: Patrick Fleming '05; Greg Spooner '01, DPT'10; Adam Kreek; Jordan Hanssen '04; Rick Tarbill; and Brad Vickers '05.

ocean-rowing race from New York to England and become the first boat to row from the mainland U.S. to mainland U.K. without assistance.

In 2013 the *JRH* embarked on another Atlantic crossing, this time from Dakar, Senegal, to Miami, with a new crew—Hanssen, **Patrick Fleming '05**, Olympic gold medalist Adam Kreek, filmmaker Markus Pukonen, and Spooner as shore commander—on a scientific and educational mission in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Alas, after 73 days, when the rowers were within an easy 800 miles of the U.S. coast, a pair of freak waves swept over the *JRH*'s stern at the most vulnerable time possible—during a shift change when the sleeping compartment hatch

was open—swamping and capsizing the boat.

“Sea survival training and safety equipment kept our drama from turning into tragedy,” Hanssen says. They were rescued in 12 hours but left the rowboat behind, drifting in the Bermuda Triangle (of course!), 400 miles north of Puerto Rico. Ten days later, with support from the CWF, the boat was located and retrieved, preserving tens of thousands of dollars of scientific equipment and raw scientific data and documentary film.

After that, the *JRH* entered a cushy retirement, under cover in the Foss Seaport Waterway Museum in Tacoma. But it couldn't last. It's a small boat but a large artifact, and the bulging museum could no longer justify taking up the floor space to display her. She was

moved outside and sat, slowly deteriorating, in the Northwest weather. By early 2023, it was time to decide what might be next.

A happy possibility might have been donating the *JRH* to another adventurer. But she'd been upside down in saltwater for more than a week, had had a few big knocks against a tugboat during the rescue, and was an aged-out design. That option didn't seem responsible. Other museums were contacted, but they too had display-space issues. Reluctantly, then, the guys concluded it was time to decommission: “In the most fun and sensible way we could,” Hanssen says.

A fiery farewell at sea, Viking-funeral style, might have seemed appropriate, but the *JRH* is a fiberglass boat. Burning her would be



### △ A PROPER FUNERAL

Bagpipers played as the *James Robert Hanssen* rowed its last mile to the Port Townsend boatyard, where volunteers dismantled it.

toxic—philosophically the complete opposite of the work for which the boat had been a platform. Sinking her also was out of the question, for similar environmental reasons. The most ethical way to destroy her was to become a part of the Vessel Turn-In Program of Washington state's Department of Natural Resources, which takes boats that have outlived their purpose and recycles them. The *James Robert Hanssen* would be the second boat to participate in this program.

But she needed one last voyage, and that voyage would need a purpose. After contemplation, “the best of a bunch of bad ideas,” says Hanssen, was a beer run for a party. But not just any party: It was the Ruckus, which

celebrates the end of the human-powered Seventy48 race from Tacoma to Port Townsend, and the start of the Race to Alaska, a grueling 750-mile race for human-powered boats along the Inside Passage from Port Townsend to Ketchikan, Alaska. Organizers call the R2AK the hardest kind of simplicity, which is, of course, what the life of the *JRH* had been about.

So, this past May 30, old and new crew began a three-and-a-half-day row from Tacoma to Port Townsend, with stops in Southworth, Kingston, and Port Hadlock, carrying two kegs of Western Red Brewing beer kept iced day and night. Upon arrival in Port Townsend, the crew served beer out of the boat on the day of the Ruckus.

At 5 a.m. on Monday, June 5, the day after the party, Hanssen started the Race to Alaska with a blast from a 110-pound cannon. By 8:30 a.m. it was a perfect Northwest day. Port Townsend Bay was calm and the cloudless sky an impossible shade of blue that one finds only near the Pacific. The *JRH* rowed her last mile from the Northwest Maritime Center dock down to the boatyard. A flotilla of skiffs and kayaks followed, while bagpipers on a motorboat led the maritime march. At its final destination the boat was hauled out of the water and onto its trailer. A swarm of volunteers went to work removing salvageable parts. Speeches and singing followed. The crew broke a paddle, hand carved by



## Voyages and Crew of the *James Robert Hanssen*

### 2006 Atlantic Rowing Race

(3,200 nautical miles)

Race from New York to England, won, set Guinness World Record

**Jordan Hanssen '04**

**Brad Vickers '05**

**Greg Spooner '01, DPT'10**

**Dylan LeValley '05**

Hanssen wrote a book about this crossing: *Rowing into the Sun: Four Young Men Crossing the North Atlantic*.

### 2012 Canadian Wildlife Federation Salish Sea Expedition

(600 nautical miles)

Circumnavigation of Vancouver Island

**Jordan Hanssen '04**

Rick Tarbill

Adam Kreek (2008 Canadian Olympic gold medalist)

**Greg Spooner '01, DPT'10**

Markus Pukonen (he would later make an eight-year, non-motorized circumnavigation of the world)

### 2013 Canadian Wildlife Federation Africa to the Americas Expedition

(3,800 nautical miles; 3,000 before capsizing)

Dakar, Senegal, to Miami. Ended in capsizing after 72 days. Boat rescued. Subject of TV episode, *Dateline's* "Capsized"

**Jordan Hanssen '04**

Adam Kreek

Markus Pukonen

**Patrick Fleming '05**

**Greg Spooner '01, DPT'10** (shore commander)

### △ GOODBYE TO AFRICA

Hanssen, Fleming, and Kreek leave Ngor Beach, Senegal, headed for Miami in an ill-fated 2013 expedition that *Dateline* later featured in an episode called "Capsized."

Hanssen, over the *JRH's* bow. And then all hands pitched in pushing the boat to the place where it would be broken apart, the pieces to be ground up and recycled. The crew led the procession, with oars raised like swords and Conch shells trumpeting. As it passed through the booyard, accompanied by the flute and fiddle of an Irish band, workers stopped to watch the curious sight. A couple of men removed their hats as it passed. Finally, Hanssen wetted the hull one last time with water that had been collected from the Atlantic. Call it a reverse christening.

Over the course of 17 years the *James Robert Hanssen* made three epic voyages,

totaling about 200 days. Hanssen and Spooner estimate that its oars dipped into the water 7 million times, give or take a couple hundred thousand. Perhaps 200 people were involved with her missions; more than 1,000 if you count the people who helped fund the adventures. The boat is in pieces now, its shape and capacity no longer defined by her slender fiberglass hull. But as Hanssen observed: She's big enough now to carry everyone.



See a gallery of images of the *James Robert Hanssen* at [pugetsound.edu/JRHboat](http://pugetsound.edu/JRHboat).

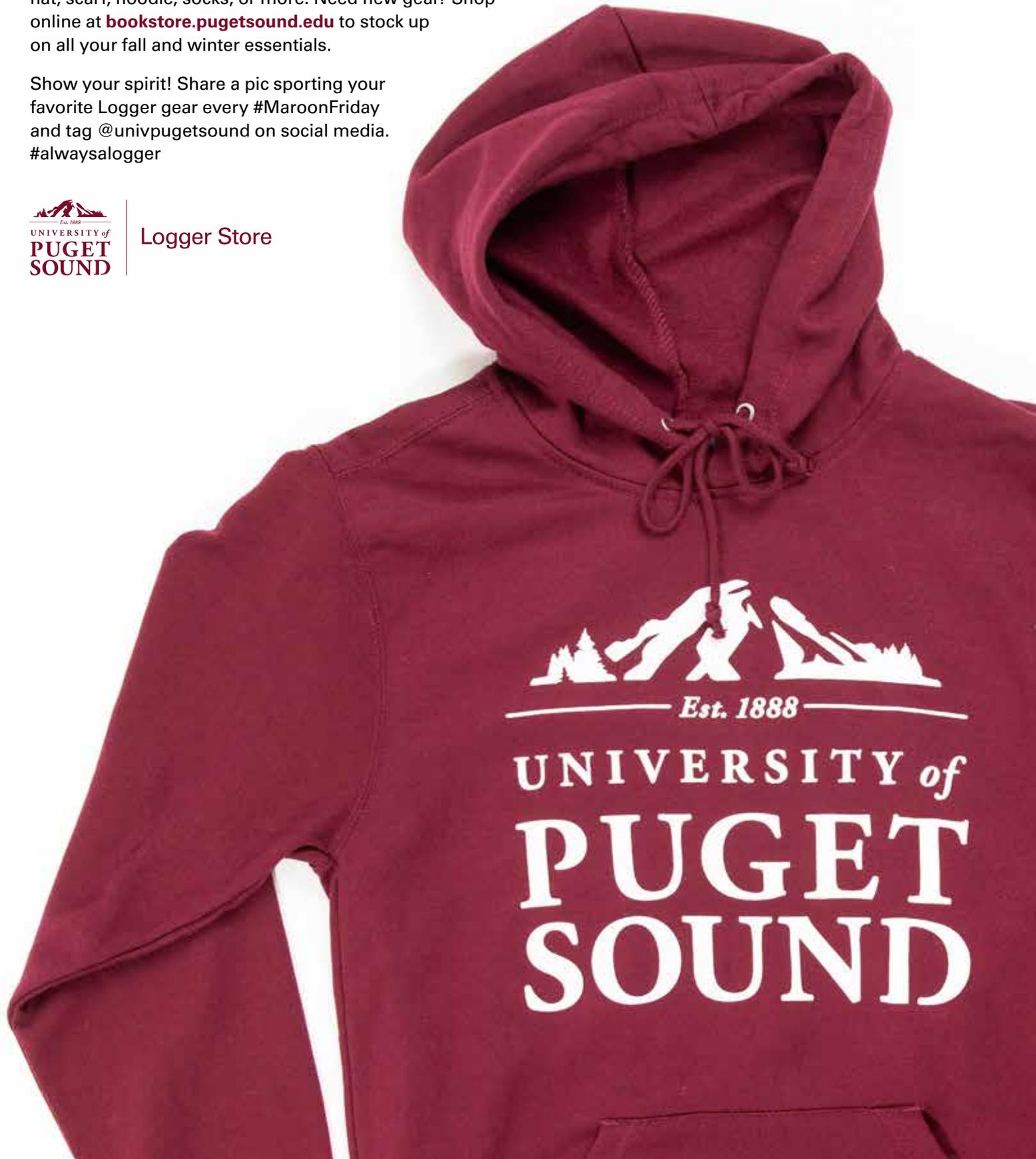
# Bundle up, Loggers!

Keep cozy and rep the maroon and white with a Puget Sound hat, scarf, hoodie, socks, or more. Need new gear? Shop online at [bookstore.pugetsound.edu](http://bookstore.pugetsound.edu) to stock up on all your fall and winter essentials.

Show your spirit! Share a pic sporting your favorite Logger gear every #MaroonFriday and tag @univpugetsound on social media. #alwaysallogger



Logger Store



# Always a Logger

**Class Notes**

*p. 34*

**Crossword**

*p. 39*

**In Memoriam**

*p. 40*

**Scrapbook**

*p. 44*



**STILL STRONG**

Carol Petrich Kalapus '51 loves to kayak—and swim, and ride her three-wheeled bicycle—even at age 94. See story, next page.

## Life at Her Pace

Carol Petrich Kalapus '51

BY MAGGIE MERTENS



SINCE CAROL PETRICH KALAPUS '51 turned 94 in May, she's had to slow down a bit. For her, that means just a daily ride on her three-wheel bicycle along the Tacoma waterfront, regular swims in her pool, and kayaking in lakes instead of in the Puget Sound as she used to.

Kalapus majored in recreation at the then-College of Puget Sound, where she met her future husband. A notice in *The Trail* at the time said that "Pi Phi Carol Sue Petrich passed chocolates last week to announce her engagement to Len Kalapus." She and Kalapus '51, a star football player turned elementary school principal, were married for 67 years until his death in 2018. Kalapus still lives on her own at the home on 10 acres just outside of Tacoma where she's lived for the past 68 years and she and Leonard raised their three children.

Kalapus has always been active and she has the trophies to prove it—about 100 of them, some for showing horses, some for playing tennis. There was no women's tennis team when she was in college, but she

did play one match on the men's team. (Another school had shown up with a woman on their team, so the boys recruited Carol to play against her.) She played recreationally after college. Then there are the fair ribbons she's won for her landscape paintings—paintings that can be found all over the house.

She got into kayaking at 75, when her children were taking it up. Kalapus enjoyed the solitude on the water, and explored the vast majority of the shoreline of the South Sound that way.

Four years ago, Kalapus took her beloved kayak

**ACTIVE FOR LIFE**  
Kalapus' athletic pursuits go back to her college days, when the men's team recruited her to play with them in one match.

to eastern Washington for a solo trip. "I paddled around different lakes and camped out in my van and had a good time," she says. These days she needs help getting into and out of the boat. One day this summer, her grandkids drove her to a lake, helped her into the kayak, and came three hours later to help her get out again. "Beautiful paddle," she said. "Came home and rested, then swam for half an hour."

Though she claims this is a slowed-down life, she seems to relish rigging up ways to keep things moving at her pace, like the special car rack she's installed for her tricycle and her kayak, and the pulley system she uses to open and close her swimming pool cover. "I enjoy my own company," she says. Which is probably a good thing, as not many people of any age could keep up with the likes of Carol.

*To see more photos of Kalapus—and her paintings—go to [pugetsound.edu/kalapus](http://pugetsound.edu/kalapus).*

### 1950s

**Dave Parker '50** was honored on his 99th birthday by family and friends at a gathering at Mason United Methodist Church in Tacoma in May. Dave graduated from Stadium High School in 1942, enlisted in the Army, and served on the front lines in Germany during World War II. After returning to the States, he enrolled at Puget Sound, where he met his future wife, Donna Bennett '49. (She died in 2011.) Parker owned Mercury Press in Tacoma until it closed in 1996.

**Edson Gilmore '59** wrote in to say, "I am now 86 and going strong. I have been married 59 years and have four children, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren." Upon graduating from Puget Sound, he received a commission through ROTC as an Air Force second lieutenant and spent five years on active duty as a navigator. He later attended Asbury Theological Seminary and served as a Methodist pastor in Oregon and Idaho for 38 years. He is an active gardener and has traveled to all 50 states and all continents except Antarctica. Gilmore, who learned to ski in the phys ed program at Puget Sound, has skied throughout the U.S. as well as in Canada, France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and New Zealand. "Puget Sound was a fantastic starting point for life's great journey," he says. He lives in Woodburn, Ore.

### 1960s

**Jerry Hines '69** is a retired IT administrator for the *Seattle Times*. He reports that he "remains an active car nut and event organizer," and that 2024 will be the 40th anniversary of the Alcan 5000, an endurance road rally that he has organized since 1984 ([www.alcan5000.com](http://www.alcan5000.com)). The

### ALUMNI COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ted Meriam '05, president; Erin Carlson '04, vice president and leadership development and alumni awards chair; Alexandria Van Voris '16, admission chair; Alika Antone '00, DPT'05, athletics chair; Angie Bauer Tronset '11, career development and mentorship chair; Doug Palmer '18 and Kenneth Teal '81, class community co-chairs; Julie Gates '90, digital engagement and communications chair; Gabi Marrese '19 and Abby Sanderson '25, future and young alumni co-chairs; McKenzie Mortensen Ross '06, regional clubs chair. Currently recruiting for affinities chair.

event was spotlighted in *Motor Trend* in 2022: [www.motortrend.com/events/what-is-the-2022-alcan-5000-off-road-rally/](http://www.motortrend.com/events/what-is-the-2022-alcan-5000-off-road-rally/). Hines and his wife live on Anderson Island, Wash.

## 1970s

**Margaret Pauley Riddle Kingrey '75** has a new book, *North Mt. Tabor Road*, released by Amazon Publishing in April 2023. She says, "It's a book about moving to the country in Indiana, then downsizing and moving again eight years later."



**Bob Emerson '78** and his wife, Mary, who live in southwest Florida, wrote to share their latest adventure: swimming with sperm whales and pilot whales off the coast of the Caribbean island of Dominica. (That's Mary in the photo above.) Bob and Mary frequently seek opportunities to swim with marine mammals in the wild; they recommend such activities for creating and strengthening your physical, emotional, and spiritual bonds with the natural world.



**Dr. Randall S. Fowler '78, P'08** retired from emergency medicine last fall after 42 years in the medical field. He agrees with Mark Twain that if you're lucky enough to find a job you love, you'll never work

a day in your life! He still volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps and with Doctor Patrol at Grand Targhee Ski Resort in Wyoming, and will go to Turkey this fall to help refugees as part of Global Health Outreach. Most recently, he's become a volunteer firefighter. He celebrated his retirement and 42 years of marriage to Keri Lu by spending 10 days on a small island in the middle of French Polynesia "with no cellphones, texts, emails, or internet!" He has fond memories of Thompson Hall and the "terrific faculty and students" of Puget Sound. He welcomes mail at [RSFowlerMD@gmail.com](mailto:RSFowlerMD@gmail.com).

# Building Community with Coffee

Benita Ki '11

BY CHRISTOPHER HANN



BENITA KI '11 NEVER FIGURED on staying in Tacoma after graduating from Puget Sound. But the city's spirit of community drew her in, compelling her to put down some roots, and that same spirit has driven her to become something of an accidental entrepreneur. Five years ago, with two business partners, she started Civic Roasters, a Tacoma-based coffee roastery with a strong interest in social justice.

"It really came out of an expression of who I am," Ki says of Civic's business model. "I didn't start this to be an entrepreneur or make a ton of money or anything like that. Civic Roasters in some ways is the embodiment of my values of community and justice."

The business roasts coffee beans from a range of countries, including Mexico, Colombia, Ethiopia, and Vietnam, and donates a portion of its proceeds to local groups working on behalf of marginalized populations. Ki also is setting the groundwork for the day when Civic Roasters can hire formerly incarcerated women. Civic's clients

**LOCAL IMPACT**  
The business that Ki helped found, Civic Roasters, donates some of its proceeds to local nonprofits.

include grocery stores, restaurants, and coffee shops, and its website attracts individual customers from all over the country. A crowdfunding campaign last year raised about \$100,000, which Ki took as a strong sign of community support.

For now, Ki and her partners hold other jobs—they take no salary from Civic Roasters—while they search for a brick-and-mortar home for their business. Ki works at a farm operated by the Franklin Pierce School District. Her job title, community nourishment coordinator, seems perfectly aligned with the aspirations she harbors for Civic.

Why coffee? Ki sees the morning staple as the perfect product for fostering community. "A coffee shop is a place where people gather," she says. "Having a product produced by small farmers all over the world feels like a special thing to get to share."

# From Poverty to Hope

Troy Anderson '91

BY CRISTINA ROUVALIS

SOME OF THE TEENAGE GIRLS TROY ANDERSON '91 has met in Bangladesh and Thailand were trafficked and forced to work in brothels. Others grew up in such grinding poverty that they dropped out of school, only to become child brides.



**CHANGE IN PLANS**  
Anderson initially went to law school, then shifted to helping at-risk girls and young women in Bangladesh.

Anderson aims to help stop that cycle of abuse and hopelessness with the Bangladesh-based nonprofit he founded, Speak Up ([speak-upforthe poor.org](http://speak-upforthe poor.org)). He and his staff advocate for girls in poverty by providing education

and safe housing for those rescued from human trafficking and brothels or otherwise at risk of exploitation. Some 1,600 girls, ranging from sixth grade to college age, are enrolled in Speak Up's educational program, giving them a pathway to go into nursing, teaching, or other professions. More than 20 have graduated from college.

Anderson grew up with an international background: His father worked at international schools in Yemen and Syria. Anderson earned a business degree from Puget Sound and went on to University of California Law School, intending to use his education to help the poor. After reading about human trafficking, he volunteered for a nonprofit over the summers during law school, posing as a sex tourist in Thailand and India with hidden cameras that could be given to police. But as soon as one girl was rescued from the brothels, another one

would take her place. He realized that it's not enough to remove girls from exploitative situations—he wanted to empower them in a way that prevents them from being exploited in the first place. He started Speak Up in 2008, and he now is based most of the year in Bangladesh.

He says the combination of poverty and low opinion of women can lead to exploitation. "This is dark and very sad," he says, "but then simultaneously, it's an incredible, hopeful thing." If the young women have jobs, they're likely to invest their money in their family and their communities—which, he says, is exactly what these developing countries need.

**Sarah B. George '78** retired on April 1, 2023, after 30 years at the University of Utah, where she spent 27 years as executive director of the Natural History Museum of Utah, was an adjunct professor of biology, and closed her career as



the university's chief philanthropy officer. Under her leadership, the museum moved to a newly constructed facility and grew to serve 500,000 people a year, and as she retired, the university wrapped up a

successful \$3 billion fundraising campaign. She volunteers on the boards of Hawkwatch International, the National Center for Science Education, and KUER radio, and with her husband, Rick Ford, is embarking on long-delayed natural history travel, starting with Antarctica.

## 1980s



**Bruce Sadler '83** was recently inducted into Sigma Chi fraternity's Order of Constantine. Bruce has long been involved with Puget Sound's Delta Phi chapter of Sigma Chi: He has served as its advisor, helped it earn the

"Peterson Significant Chapter Award" three straight years, and helped the chapter navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. He also has served as secretary and treasurer of the Tacoma alumni chapter.



**Karen Meyer Eisenbrey '85** has a new novel, *Ego & Endurance* (Not a Pipe Publishing), which she describes as a "a hard sci-fi workplace rom-com/survival story in space, inspired by and modeled on the Shackleton expedition." It's her sixth novel. "These books won't make me rich," she reports, "but in spite of that, I retired from paid work this summer."

## 1990s

After 30 years in corporate sales and leadership in the employee benefits industry, **Dani Getrich Stang '90** has transitioned to joining her husband, Rick, in his Denver-area real estate business—The Perfect Home Group/Keller Williams DTC. They continue to be on the local leadership team for Sleep in Heavenly Peace, building and providing beds for children in need. "If any Loggers are interested in getting involved, please reach out," she says. Her email: [daneenstang@gmail.com](mailto:daneenstang@gmail.com).



After earning his economics degree from Puget Sound, **Daniel Talley '90** moved with his wife, **Aisha Ahmed Talley '90**, to Eugene, Ore., where he finished his Ph.D. in economics in 1996. Daniel

has worked his way up the faculty ranks at Dakota State University in South Dakota for the past 27 years and recently became the school's most senior full professor. Recently he carried the university's ceremonial mace when leading the faculty into graduation ceremonies.

# Improving Women's Reproductive Health

Dorothy Sheldon Patton '71, MS'73

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO MEASURE AN academic research career: by grants earned, papers published, awards bestowed. While Dorothy Sheldon Patton '71, MS'73 has racked up impressive numbers in all of those categories over her nearly 50-year career as an OB-GYN researcher at the University of Washington—including, recently, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology—she prefers to



**CAREER SCIENTIST**  
Patton earned a career achievement award for her research on sexually transmitted infections.

think of her legacy from a different perspective.

Instead, she's proudest of the young people she's mentored, especially young women in science. "By far the most rewarding part of what I do," she says, "is opening doors for them, helping them start their studies and meet people, and letting them know that their hard work will pay off."

Patton credits her own mentors at Puget Sound—especially biology faculty members Eileen Solie, Edward Herbert, and Gordon Alcorn, all now deceased—for setting her on the path to scientific and career success. Patton is known among her peers internationally for creating a macaque monkey model for studying the pathogenesis of chlamydial infections. This asymptomatic sexually transmitted infection, or STI, can cause significant health problems in humans, including infertility, if it migrates into

the upper reproductive tract. But it's treatable with antibiotics, if detected in time.

"We desperately need new prevention technologies, including a vaccine," says Patton. Her model is used in her own lab and worldwide to advance knowledge and treatment of chlamydia and other diseases, including HIV, and to develop safe, simple, and low-cost products to protect users from STI transmission.

"Women's reproductive health continues to be an underappreciated, understudied, and underfunded area of research," she says. "But my interest has not wavered over the entire course of my career."

**Greg Heartman '91**, vice president of product management at TraceGains, guest-authored a piece, "Ingredient Agility: The Cornerstone of CPG Supply Chain Success," in *Food Industry Executive*.

**Patrick Mullaney JD'92** has joined Schwabe's Seattle office as part of the Real Estate and Construction industry group. He brings more than 30 years of experience in land development and permitting matters, as well as expertise in negotiation with government agencies, land use litigation for public and private developers, negotiation of development agreements, and dispute resolution.

**Carolyn Ingram '93** has been named to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) of the U.S. Government Accountability Office. She is an executive vice president at Molina Healthcare, Inc., which provides managed health care services.



**Tracy Fagan '94** wrote a book, *When Love Isn't Love*, published by Kingdom Publishing in November 2022. The novel is about a promising college grad who is lured into a marriage of deceit, shame, and heartache. "God hears

her cry," Tracy says of the protagonist, "but will she escape before it's too late?" Tracy lives in Lone Tree, Colo.

**Danielle Lemieux '98** recently won the principal horn role for Northwest Sinfonietta, a professional chamber orchestra based in Tacoma and Puyallup. ("Horn" means French horn," she explains.) After graduating from Puget Sound, she earned a master's in horn performance from New England Conservatory of Music and spent a year in Oslo on a Fulbright Scholarship for horn performance in 2001–02. She has been a tenured musician in the Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra since 2003, the Auburn Symphony Orchestra since 1998, and Northwest Sinfonietta since 1998;

she's also been principal horn of the Vashon Opera for the past six years.



**Stephanie Muggli Menefee '99, MAT'00**, and **Renata Kwong '03** met up at the Sing! Say! Dance! Play! workshop, held in Austin, Texas, in July 2023. The two-day event was put on by MusicPlay and, according to Stephanie, "was two days of great learning and music fun for music teachers." Stephanie teaches elementary music in Tacoma and Renata teaches music in Hong Kong.

2000s



**Allison Young Crane '01** writes: "I have had the pleasure of teaching in the math department of Enumclaw (Wash.) High School alongside fellow Logger **Kathie Kuechler Ross '85** for the past 17 years. Kathie recently celebrated her *last* first day of school—she is retiring next summer after 39 years in education."

**Andrew Miller '04, MAT'05** has been working in schools in China and Singapore, and recently returned to Washington state to serve as the associate director of social studies for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Patricia Toole MSOT'04** of Seattle partnered with Eleanore's Project and local therapists in Lima, Peru, to bring postural care education and properly fitted custom wheelchairs to the kids of Yancana Huasy school. "It was an amazing opportunity to help grow local capacity and give back from my great education," she writes.

**Britta Strother Chou '05** and her husband, **Solomon Chou '04**, welcomed twins, Elise and Emerson, in July 2023. Britta is a business development manager/water regulation expert for JMT, and Solomon is a financial advisor for JPMorgan Chase. They live in Littleton,



Emerson, in July 2023. Britta is a business development manager/water regulation expert for JMT, and Solomon is a financial advisor for JPMorgan Chase. They live in Littleton, Colo. At Puget Sound, both were on the crew team, and Solomon was in the Adelphian Concert Choir. In the photo, Solomon is holding Emerson; Britta is with Elise.

**Keahi Makaimoku '05** has been named CEO of the Hauaoli Mau Loa Foundation. Based in Honolulu, the foundation aims to provide opportunities for people less fortunate and to protect the environment. Makaimoku has been on the staff since 2012.

**Jonathon Brown '06** is associate chief of the Division of Arthroplasty at Lehigh Valley Orthopedic Institute. He lives in Greenville, Del. At Puget Sound he majored in biology, played football, and was active in Phi Delta Theta.

**Alexandria Galvan Maurer '07** earned a Master of Arts in Teaching degree in May 2023 from Pacific University. She is now job-seeking and working to publish her research on indigenous students' experiences as dual citizens in U.S. social studies classes. She and her husband, **Vincent Maurer '04, DPT '07**, live in Flagstaff, Ariz., with their four young children. The two have started Wingman Physical Therapy, offering specialized physical therapy and fitness training for dirt bike riders and offroad motorcyclists.

**Nani Vishwanath '09** and her husband, **Matt Hoffman '08**, met at Puget Sound and say "the university holds a special place in both of our hearts." Earlier this year, they commemorated their shared love of campus in a distinctive way: by each getting tattoos of the giant sequoia. "Recently, we made it back to Tacoma and snapped a picture of our tattoos with the original tree, and enjoyed showing our kids—Sameer, 6, and Amaya, 3—around campus." The family lives north of Seattle.



2010s

Dr. **Siri Erickson '14** has completed residency training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine—Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi. She is now in a fellowship program in family medicine obstetrics with CoxHealth in Springfield, Mo.

**Peter Davidson '16** finished his Ph.D. in geology at Oregon State University in February 2023. A chapter from his dissertation was published as an article, "A younger and protracted emplacement of the Ontong Java Plateau," in *Science* magazine in June. The article focuses on a massive underwater plateau near the Solomon Islands in the Pacific Ocean.



**Haley Westman '18** (at left in photo) and **Maddy Powers '17** both graduated from Seattle University School of Law with honors on May 13, 2023.

2020s



We caught a few glimpses of **Zoe Gilbert '20** during TV coverage of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in late August/early September. Zoe was working as a production runner for ESPN. Her dad was at the Open, too—Brad

Gilbert just happens to coach Coco Gauff, this year's women's singles champion. Dad posted a photo to X (formerly Twitter) of himself, the champ, and his daughter.

**Katline Barrows '21** graduated from Duke University in May 2023 with a master's degree in environmental management. Her master's thesis, *Do Federally Managed Fish Stocks Have a Better Stock Status than State-Managed Fish Stocks?*, compares the stock statuses of fish managed by East Coast federal fishery management councils to those managed by the Atlantic Marine States Fisheries



Commission and four selected states. Preliminary results reveal that federally managed fish stocks have a statistically significantly better overfishing status (related to harvest/fishing effort) than state-managed fish. Katline's sister, **Kyra Barrows '23**, is also a Logger.

# KIP-ing it Real

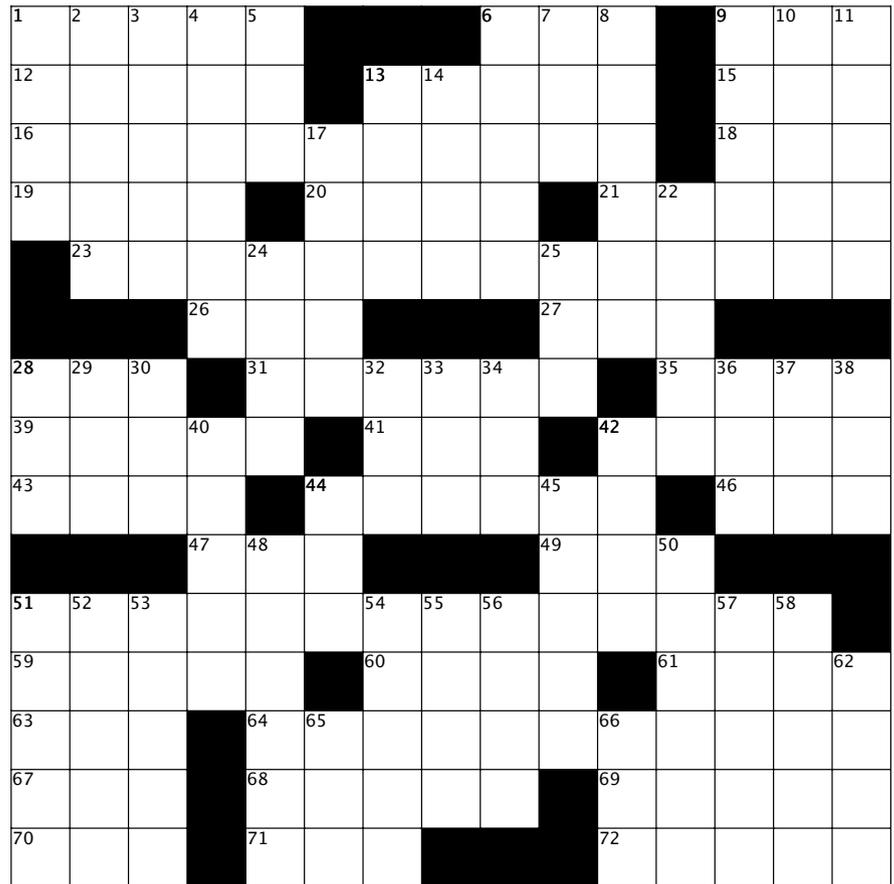
BY STELLA ZAWISTOWSKI

Among the graduation requirements for Loggers these days is completing one course under the theme of “Knowledge, Identity, and Power.” More than 70 courses across two dozen departments satisfy the requirement; we’ve hidden the names of four of the courses in this issue’s crossword. Show us a photo of your completed puzzle and you might win a prize from the Logger Store! Send the photo to arches@pugetsound.edu, or post it on Instagram or Twitter and tag us (@univpugetsound). Congrats to **Carin Torp ‘85** of Keene, N.H., who won the prize from the Spring 2023 puzzle. See the solution to this issue’s puzzle at pugetsound.edu/KIP.

## ACROSS

- 1 *Sabrina, the Teenage Witch* aunt
- 6 Dove’s sound
- 9 Mossyrock \_\_\_\_ (structure in Lewis County)
- 12 Become impassable in winter, perhaps
- 13 Adolescents
- 15 “when will u get here?”
- 16 History class that fulfills the Knowledge, Identity, and Power course requirement
- 18 Permit
- 19 What a quarterback tries to avoid
- 20 Florist’s container
- 21 Oscar of *Moon Knight*
- 23 GLAM class that fulfills the Knowledge, Identity, and Power course requirement
- 26 Molecule analyzed in a crime lab
- 27 Change the color of
- 28 Fully understand
- 31 Did a Peloton class
- 35 Collins Memorial Library transaction
- 39 Come up

- 41 Bond, but not relationship, for example
- 42 Playground feature
- 43 Made, as a putt
- 44 Devices used in 34-Down surgeries
- 46 Like a bass voice
- 47 Debtor’s letters
- 49 Football coach Parseghian
- 51 Seminar in Scholarly Inquiry that fulfills the Knowledge, Identity, and Power course requirement
- 59 *Cheers to the Fall* singer \_\_\_\_ Day
- 60 Sport with eagles and albatrosses
- 61 Disneyland transport
- 63 “It” game
- 64 Science class that fulfills the Knowledge, Identity, and Power course requirement
- 67 Get older
- 68 Climate activist Thunberg
- 69 Tries not to be found
- 70 Clear (of)
- 71 Hospital areas where triage is performed: Abbr.
- 72 Maker of a mushroom cloud, for short



## DOWN

- 1 Successful at-bats
- 2 Old Apple messaging app
- 3 Sucky creature?
- 4 Got down quickly
- 5 Busy mo. for accountants
- 6 Formally gives up
- 7 Half and half?
- 8 Become rigid
- 9 Annoyance at the airport
- 10 Persistently bothered
- 11 Contest on a tennis court
- 13 Taiwanese president \_\_\_\_ Ing-Wen
- 14 Make less complicated
- 17 Bit of sunburn-causing radiation
- 22 Get a whiff of
- 24 A single time
- 25 “Hmm, that’s weird”
- 28 Fuel for a car

- 29 Important historical period
- 30 Chemical element with the shortest name
- 32 Source of some weekly veggie deliveries: Abbr.
- 33 Vinyl lover’s purchases
- 34 Organ with an iris
- 36 Vinaigrette component
- 37 Big fuss
- 38 Fresh out of the box
- 40 One enjoying Snoqualmie, perhaps
- 42 Antidepressant type: Abbr.
- 44 Jean-\_\_\_\_ Picard
- 45 Singer whose albums include *Bananaphone* and
- 48 “Bitter” or “blood” fruit
- 50 Indie writing genre
- 51 Host nation of the 2022 World Cup
- 52 Freshwater eel, at a sushi bar
- 53 Barely beat out
- 54 \_\_\_\_ Gooch (*Mame* character)
- 55 Stuff on a chimney sweep’s face
- 56 Idris of *Luther*
- 57 Slowly eat away
- 58 Wise gurus
- 62 Classic adventure game that debuted in 1993
- 65 Shout from a pirate
- 66 Shout from one who’s just figured it out

## IN MEMORIAM

**Sheila J. Lamar Hungerford '48** of Roseburg, Ore., died Feb. 25, 2023. She was 96. At Puget Sound, she was active with Pi Beta Phi, SPURS, and *The Trail*.

**Robert V. Lynch '50** died July 31, 2023, at age 95. A business administration graduate of Puget Sound, he began working in the vending business while in college and continued after graduating. He lived in Tacoma.

**Beverly J. Sinkovich Marcella '51** of Tacoma died July 19, 2023, at age 93. A biology major at Puget Sound, she managed the laboratory at the former Puget Sound Hospital and laboratory services for AKE Pathologists. She was active in the nonprofit organization Quota of Tacoma and once served as president of Quota International.

**Shirley M. Brubaker Harader '52** died May 30, 1922, in Silverdale, Wash. She was a retired counselor, having worked at View Ridge Elementary in Bremerton, Central Kitsap District, and Central Kitsap Junior High. She also was an avid gardener and enjoyed going to the theater and shows. She was 92.

**Janet Hunt Dawes '53**, a Tacoma native, majored in music at Puget Sound and enjoyed playing and teaching piano throughout her life. She was an active volunteer with a passion

for local land-use issues, and worked to preserve the Nisqually Delta—work for which she was profiled at HistoryLink.org. She died June 9, 2023, in Lacey, Wash., at age 91.

**William D. Bridges '54** died March 14, 2023, in Tacoma. He was 90.

**William P. Adams '55** of Des Moines, Wash., died May 1, 2023, at age 89. He earned a business degree at Puget Sound and worked for 29 years for Boeing, finishing as a senior manager in contract administration. He met his future wife, Patricia DeMars '55, in college; she died in 2009.

**Agnes V. Beall Downs '56** of Davenport, Iowa, died Aug. 9, 2023. She was 89. After graduating from Puget Sound, she worked as a teacher, then raised a family. Later she became a nurse and was director of nursing for a hospice. At Puget Sound she met her future husband, Richard Downs '56; they were married for more than 60 years before his death in 2017.

**Cora Ann Keller Kelly '56** of Gig Harbor, Wash., died July 11, 2023. She was 89. Known as “Corky,” she raised a family, played competitive tennis into her 70s, was a guild member at St. Nicholas Catholic Church, and volunteered for many years at the Peninsula FISH Food Bank.

**Jane White Santucci '57** majored in art/design at Puget Sound and pursued an art career, specializing in batik paintings, antiques, and interior designing. She was a longtime member of the Marin Society of Artists in California. She died May 2, 2023, in San Anselmo, Calif. She was 87.

**Alica Marie Waage Rowan '57**, of Turlock, Calif., died at age 90 on May 21, 2023. She was an accountant at Anglo Crocker Bank, Pabco, and Fiberboard, then started Service Supply System, Inc., with her husband. She also was active in her community and in her local Catholic parish.

**Ralph W. Emerson '58, MED'69**, died in June 2022, at age 91. A retired teacher in the Tacoma schools, he lived in Olympia, Wash.

**Lloyd R. Filkins '59** of Gig Harbor, Wash., earned a business administration degree from Puget Sound, then married his college sweetheart, Mary Lucas '60, and began a career as a commissioned officer in the Air Force. He retired after 20 years with the rank of lieutenant colonel, then worked for Blue Banner Foods and H&R Block. He died March 27, 2023 at age 86. Mary survives him.

**William W. Ruddick '59** died July 5, 2023, at age 86. A business administration major, he worked as a business consultant. He lived on Bainbridge Island, Wash.



**David Jenkins '79**  
1956–2023

WHEN DAVID JENKINS '79 took a year abroad to attend the Netherlands' Nyenrode Business Universiteit, he launched both a business career and an adventurous spirit.

Jenkins, a native of the Pacific Northwest, was part of a Puget Sound exchange program focused on international business. Besides exploring international companies, students toured NATO headquarters and the Berlin Wall, then worked six weeks for a major corporation. Jenkins also took advantage of a side trip to Russia.

The year-long program “was pretty profound,” says Molly Miller Jenkins '79, who also took part in the program and who would marry Jenkins 40 years later. “They just gave us so much exposure to things. It really fostered a lot of ideas for David that he wanted to learn more about.”

After college, Jenkins earned a master's in social work and an MBA, then worked in human resources in Colorado and in real estate in Florida before returning to Seattle, partly to help care for his aging mother. Jenkins' overseas experience and love for sailing prompted him to quietly establish an experiential learning endowment at the university, centered on improving Puget Sound waters and the world's oceans. The other endowed fund he created, the Mike Veseth International Political Economy Scholarship, honors his favorite professor.

“David was a beneficiary to many people, and he didn't do it for the glory,” says lifelong friend Walt Suman. “He had a deep-seated kindness.”

Jenkins, 66, died unexpectedly April 4, 2023, atop Washington's Mount Si. Despite coming to mountaineering late—in his 50s—he had climbed the tallest mountains in 49 states as well as six of the Seven Summits, the world's highest peaks.

Besides his wife, Jenkins is survived by three children and seven siblings. —*Meri-Jo Borzilleri*

We learned in March 2023 of the death of **Douglas J. Tenzler '59** of Port Townsend, Wash. He was a business administration major at Puget Sound.

**Glenn T. Alstead '61**, known to many as Ted, grew up in Tacoma and was a general contractor, land developer, and realtor in the Puyallup/Tacoma area. He died April 5, 2023, in Tacoma at age 85.



**Neva Topolski '14,  
P'07, P'12, P'14**

1962–2023

NEVA CHILD TOPOLSKI '14, P'07, P'12, P'14 was a longtime administrative assistant for the Physics department and the Science, Technology & Society department. "Sam," as she was known to many,

retired in 2022 after 21 years in the Puget Sound campus community.

A naturally ebullient person, Topolski frequently inspired smiles and laughter in friends and family, often brightening others' days while running errands on campus or visiting the Sub. Coworkers viewed her as a tenacious problem-solver and a trusted confidante. Off campus, she was a mom to four and grandmother to four more, roles that she enjoyed more than anything. She was also a much-loved member of the Sunset Bible Church in University Place. In high school, she met her lifelong friend Jillian Bates, and the two of them embarked on many adventures together, including half-marathons, vacations, backpacking, baking, eating at favorite restaurants, and camping.

Topolski met her future husband, Brian, in 1985 and married him six months later at Seymour Conservatory in Wright Park; the two sent out their wedding invitations on Post-It notes. Three of their four children—Meghann Edwards '07, Peter Topolski '12, and Chris Topolski '14—graduated from Puget Sound; a fourth, Holly, went to Seattle University.

Topolski loved travel and had interests ranging from *Jeopardy!* to Disney and from Shakespeare to coed church league softball. She died May 25, 2023, at age 60. —*Julianne Bell '13*

We received word in June 2023 of the death of **Fred-eric A. Babb MA'61** of Black Diamond, Wash.

**Sandra L. Garrison Ehrhard '61** attended Puget Sound and finished her accounting degree at the University of Washington. Most recently she lived in Puyallup, Wash. She died

Dec. 2, 2022, at age 83.

**F. Richard Miller '62** majored in political science, did a fellowship at American University, and then spent seven years working for the CIA. He later managed the family real estate business in Tacoma and was a librarian, historian, and writer for the Tacoma Art Museum.

He died at age 83 on May 17, 2023, in Tacoma. His sister, Sharon Miller Montgomery '64, died in 2019.

**William R. Hansen '63** of Lakewood, Wash., was a physical education major at Puget Sound and played varsity basketball. He died Feb. 25, 2022, at age 81.

**Arthur H. Schultz '63** died Jan. 3, 2022, in Puyallup, Wash. He was 88. At Puget Sound he was a music major and played in the band.

**James Otis Bunnell '64** died Sept. 5, 2020, in Auburn, Wash. He was 82.

**Tom E. Riley '64** of University Place, Wash., died July 31, 2023. He was 82. After graduating from Puget Sound and serving in the Army Reserve, receiving an honorable discharge as a first lieutenant, he worked for Weyerhaeuser Company, traveling extensively for the company in the Far East. He retired in 2003.

**P. Ann Petterson Amies '66** of Vancouver, Wash., earned a B.F.A. in art from Puget Sound. She was an artist, specializing in pen-and-ink work, and taught art both privately and in schools, colleges, and nursing homes. She and her husband also self-published two sets of books. She died May 24, 2023, at the age of 78.

After graduating from Puget Sound, Reverend Dr. **Wayne S. Martin '66** attended seminary and spent

five years in the ministry in the Chicago area. He then earned a medical degree from Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara School of Medicine in Mexico and eventually practiced family medicine in Burlington, Wash. He, his wife, and daughter also created a ministry at Creekside Continuing Care Community. Martin, of Mount Vernon, Wash., died May 28, 2023. He was 79.

We received word in June 2023 of the death of **Dale George Smith '67**, of Prescott, Ariz.

**Michael L. Baird '70** died Dec. 14, 2022. He was 74 years old and lived in Gilbert, Ariz. After graduation he served a number of years in the Air Force, including a stint flying a C-130 Hercules transport plane in and out of Vietnam. After leaving the Air Force, he was a pilot for United Airlines until his retirement.

**Rueben Brunson Jr. '70, MBA'73, P'96** joined the Army in 1965 and served in Vietnam, earning a Purple Heart; his injuries required nearly two years' hospitalization. He earned two degrees from the university and then opened Brunson's Market and Deli in Lakewood. Brunson, who lived in University Place for 50 years, died June 12, 2023. He was 80. Among his survivors is daughter Kimberly Hardy '96.

**Ellen Davis McKanna MEd'70** started college in

the late 1940s, then finished her bachelor's in the 1960s and went on to get a master's from Puget Sound. She taught elementary school in the Franklin Pierce School District for 30 years, including 15 years focused on special education. She also was a past president of the Tacoma-Pierce County Genealogical Society. McKanna died May 28, 2023, at age 92.

We learned in May 2023 of the death of **John D. Bryce '71**. He was a political science major as an undergraduate and lived in Vancouver, Wash.

**Jack L. Daniel Jr. '71** died June 24, 2023, in University Place, Wash., at age 79. He was a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor. He later taught business classes at Puget Sound and other universities before retiring in 1998. Among his survivors is his wife, Margaret Simpson Daniel '83.

**Carolyn Johnston Hendricks '71** of Lacey, Wash., died July 6, 2023, at age 74. She was an executive assistant at various Washington state agencies, and enjoyed quilting and volunteer work.

**Karen Enz Hunter '71** died Nov. 12, 2022, in Kalispell, Mont. She was a devoted mother of two and a voracious reader who surrounded herself with books. At Puget Sound she was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority and met her future



**Thomas Dixon MA'71,  
Hon'89, P'96**

1936–2022

THOMAS DIXON MA'71, HON'89, P'96, FOUNDING DIRECTOR of the Tacoma Urban League and a mentor to other civil rights leaders, died at his home in

Tacoma on April 26, 2023. He was 92.

In 1968, during the height of the civil rights movement, the Tacoma Urban League began with Dixon as its executive director. For the more than three decades that followed, Dixon created programs that helped people secure employment, housing, and education. An Air Force veteran, he was especially sensitive to challenges facing veterans. “Mr. Dixon’s leadership, vision, and passion created opportunities for many returning from war,” read a statement by the League. For his leadership in civil rights, Dixon received the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize in 2015.

After receiving degrees in sociology and economics from Sophia University in Tokyo, he earned a master’s in urban studies from Puget Sound, and later was awarded an honorary doctorate from the university.

He co-founded the Black Collective in Tacoma in 1969 to mentor the next generation of civil rights leaders. He also co-founded the Elizabeth Wesley Youth Merit Incentive Award, given to youth in ninth through 11th grades who demonstrate academic progress, community service, and good citizenship.

Dixon was a life member of the Tacoma Branch NAACP, a trustee at Evergreen State College, a member of the Governor’s Affirmative Action Policy Committee, and a member of Tacoma-Pierce County Economic Development Board, among many other organizations.

Among his survivors are his wife, Sylvia, and his son, Whitney '96. —*Cristina Rouvalis*

husband, Douglas Hunter '71. She was 73 years old.

**Jerrold D. “Jerry” Lambert '71** of Port Orchard, Wash., died Jan. 13, 2023, at age 84. He enrolled at Puget Sound after serving in the Army; then, after graduating, he worked in banking for many years,

was a substitute teacher, and later served full-time with the Washington State Army National Guard.

We learned in June of the death of **Bernice H.**

**Cherrey Ward '71, P'75** of Centralia, Wash. Among her survivors is a daughter, Carol Netzel '75.

**Rev. Ann S. Blair '72** was an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and served as pastor of congregations in Pennsylvania and upstate New York for 30 years. More recently she lived in Portland, Ore. She died May 12, 2023, at age 72.

**Daryl L. Thompson '72** of Auburn, Wash., earned an English degree from Puget Sound and worked at Boeing and several nonprofits; she also was a grant writer and public relations officer for Auburn School District. She was active in Kiwanis, PEO, and the PTA. She died April 28, 2023, at the age of 73.

**Roy N. Burt '73** grew up on a dairy farm in Washington and joined the Navy after high school. He later spent 21 years as a patrolman and detective with the Seattle Police Department, earning a degree in public administration from Puget Sound along the way. He died in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, Sept. 29, 2022. He was 86.

**Nathan A. Kirk '73** earned an accounting degree at Puget Sound, then went on to get a law degree from Brigham Young University. He practiced law in the Tri-Cities, Wash., for 15 years before going back to his true passion: computer programming. He died June 6, 2023, in Auburn, Wash., at age 71.

We received word in March 2023 of the death of **Mark A. Rhodes '73**. He was an art major at Puget Sound.

**Teresa A. Valois '73**, known as Resa, earned a degree in occupational therapy from Puget Sound and settled in Seattle, where she developed the Driver Rehabilitation Program at the University of Washington, helping people with disabilities learn to drive modified vehicles. She loved hiking, backpacking, swimming, dancing, and sailing. She died March 3, 2023, at age 71.

After graduating from Puget Sound, **Kathy E. Murray Dahlum '74** went on to earn a master’s and doctorate in education and worked as an educator and inclusion facilitator in Los Angeles Unified School District for 34 years. She died in Torrance, Calif., April 23, 2023, at age 70.

We received word in February 2023 of the death of **Bob M. Patterson '74**. A history major at Puget Sound, he lived in Gig Harbor, Wash.

We learned in March 2023 of the death of **Lee O. Ruth-erford '74**. He was a sociology major at Puget Sound.

**Jan B. Seferian MM'74** of Tacoma died July 2, 2023, at age 91. She attended Julliard School of Music and performed at the New York City Opera and in off-Broadway productions. She moved to Tacoma when her husband, Edward, took a teaching position at the university; together they helped develop the Tacoma Symphony. She was an avid supporter of the arts in the community.

**Scott Gaspard '75** majored in business administration at Puget Sound, where he also played football. After graduation, he worked for the state government in Olympia for five years, then was CEO of the Washington Financial League, a banking trade association, for 25 years. He died July 25, 2023, in the home he built on Anderson Island, Wash. He was 69.

**John G. Mansfield '75** spent five years in the Navy after high school, then worked as a communications officer for the CIA before getting his Puget Sound degree. He retired in 1992 after 26 years of government service and moved to Tacoma, starting a company called the Media Center. Later in life he was a realtor. He died April 11, 2023, in Tacoma at age 81.

**Robert L. Martin Jr. '75** died April 15, 2020. He was 66 and lived in Plymouth Meeting, Pa. After graduating, he was a Peace Corps volunteer in Southern Asia, then spent a career in finance, working on stock equity and option trading floors in Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York. He also was a representative of New York Life Insurance Company.

**Mack D. Stanhope '75** died Dec. 22, 2020. He was 80.

We received word in June 2023 of the death of **Charles D. Coffinger '76**.

**Michael D. Dunham '76** died Feb. 24, 2023 at the age of 72. He was a busi-



### Matthew Pickard

1953–2023

MATT PICKARD MED'94, P'06, who taught math and statistics at Puget Sound for more than 40 years, was known as a generous colleague, teacher, and leader, as well as a consistent source of patience and gentle guidance. His courses

were thoughtfully prepared, and he was always happy to provide support outside of class. He also served as the statistician for the Center for Writing and Learning for more than 20 years.

Pickard, who was a respected elder at the First Presbyterian Church and frequently led Bible studies, served as an advisor for the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship and InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and was a regular presence at the Christmas at Kilworth: Festival of Lessons and Carols service. He retired from the university in 2021.

Pickard held a particular affection for golf and running. Director of Student Programs Serni Solidarios remembers a time when they participated in a 153-mile Rainier to the Pacific relay on a team with a few other colleagues about 30 years ago, calling Matt the “only rational member” and “the team’s inflator—a positive force with his quiet encouragement on a long all-day and all-night run.”

Pickard died June 6, 2023, a day after his 70th birthday. He is survived by his wife, Kim P'06, and their sons, Austin '06 and Andrew. —*Julianne Bell '13*

ness administration major at Puget Sound.

We received word in March 2023 of the death of **Evaristo Gonzalez '76**. He was a political science major at Puget Sound.

**Philip R. Peters '76** earned a degree from the University of Washington, then served in the military in Vietnam, where he was twice wounded, receiving two Purple Hearts and a Silver Star. He later earned a second degree, this one in business

administration from Puget Sound. He retired at 59. Peters died April 25, 2023, in Tacoma at age 76.

**Michael E. Purdy '76, MBA'79** who followed a career in managing government contracts with a second one as a presidential historian, died Aug. 2, 2023. He was 69. Purdy, who was ASUPS president as a student, went on to work for the City of Seattle, Seattle Housing Authority, and University of Washington. After retiring, he started a web-

site, presidentialhistory.com, and wrote two books and numerous articles on U.S. presidents. In the 1980s he also earned a Master of Divinity degree.

**Christopher Scott MBA'77** died April 2, 2023, in Lyndon Center, Vt., part of an area known as Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. He was 74. His career included stints in the Air Force acquisition community, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense, and the commercial sector. He was an avid swimmer, swim coach, and trail runner.

**Delores J. Davis Chaney '78**, known as “Dee,” died May 20, 2023, in Albuquerque, N.M. She was 88, having earned both an associate's and a bachelor's degree later in life. She is remembered for her love of family, country dancing, and playing pool.

**Ilene Ann Evans '78** of Shoreline, Wash., graduated from Puget Sound with degrees in art and sociology, and was a prolific artist and writer. A member of the Qagan Tayagungin tribe of Aleuts and the Shumagin and Aleut Corporations, she was an activist and an advocate for Native fishing rights in the Pacific Northwest in the early 1970s; she also was active in the Pacific Northwest Aleut Council for many years. She died May 12, 2023, at age 80.

We received word in June 2023 of the death of **Donna L. Hennessy '78** of Round

Rock, Texas. She had a degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

We learned in March 2023 of the death of **Kelley Olwin Cahill '83** of Erie, Colo. She was a business administration graduate of Puget Sound and had worked at Bank of America.

**Alyson L. Ruff-Roberts '86** was a double major in biology and music at Puget Sound, where she became interested in microbes that live in extreme environments. She later earned a master's at Montana State, doing research on the microbes in the hot springs of Yellowstone National Park, and worked in the biotech industry until becoming a full-time mom. She died in Belfair, Wash., on June 18, 2023, at age 58.

**Kenneth Camplese '90** was a biology major at Puget Sound and went on to earn a master's in marine biology from Western Washington University. He taught biology at colleges in Washington and Connecticut. He was an active member of his Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and volunteered for several wildlife and oceanic organizations. He died Jan. 17, 2022, in Marlborough, Conn., at age 54. Among his survivors is a sister, Karen Camplese Migliaro '93.

**Craig K. Chamberlin '92** of Veradale, Wash., died April 30, 2023, at age 52. He attended Puget Sound on a football scholarship,

graduated with a degree in economics, and worked for the sheriff's offices of Okanogan County and Spokane County for a combined 26 years. He later was a spokesperson and business developer for SERVPRO.

**Katharine Day Bunnell MOT'93** of Vashon, Wash., died May 17, 2023, at age 80. She earned an art history degree from Cornell University and later moved to the Pacific Northwest, where she raised her family, did her master's in occupational therapy at Puget Sound, and became an occupational therapist in the public schools. Katie, as she was known, was active in the Vashon Island community for more than 40 years.

**Maria T. Shalako '96** of San Dimas, Calif., died May 8, 2022, at age 65. She was an English major at Puget Sound and had worked at Allied Entertainment Inc.

### Faculty and Staff

**Robert Hermanson** had an M.B.A. from California–Berkeley and owned Forest Enterprises, a wood chip mill in Spokane, Wash. He also taught finance at Puget Sound and other universities. We learned of his death in May 2023.

**Carolyn Ady Simonson**, who taught at Puget Sound and later chaired the English department at Tacoma Community College, died April 20, 2023, in Tacoma. She was 96.



▲ PacRimmers from 2011–12 held a 10-year reunion in Leavenworth, Wash., in August 2022. Front row, from left: **Annin Ramsing '13**, **Jessica Lefton '13**, **Selina Tran '11**, **Erin Hoshibata '11**. Middle row: **Veronica Alvarado '13**, **Stuart Drake '11**, **Samantha Brown '13**, **Kristi Visser '12**, **Grace Heerman '13**, **Rachael Shelden '12**. Back row: **Greg Wenger '13**, **Allen Smith '13**, **Chris Ammons '11**, **Monica Edwards Fitzgerald '13**, **Audrey Butler '11**, Nate Shelden, Jacob Shelden.



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▲ ▼ **Hillary Marshall '93, MAT'95** married Jim Chapman on Aug. 13, 2022, in Cannon Beach, Ore. Above: Hillary with college roommate and fellow Alpha Phi, **Anne Pamplin Evenson '93**, and new stepdaughter, Dr. Amy Chapman. Below: the wedding party. Hillary is a library media specialist with Washougal (Wash.) School District; she and her husband live in Portland, Ore.



◀ The Tacoma Public Schools Secondary Instructional Coaching Team includes a number of Loggers. From top left: **Josh Smith '96, MAT'00**; **Jessica Stella '08, MAT'10**; **Robin Preciso MAT'02**; **Carolyn "CJ" Martin MAT'13**; **Amanda Fox '92, MAT'93**; **Tim Chalberg MAT'13**; **Audrey Wilson MAT'13**; **Praxia Apostle MAT '08**; **Annette Miles Hockman '86**; **Kathy Hanawalt '02, MAT'03**; **Cheryl Steighner '04**; **Matt Bornstein-Grove '07, MAT'08**. Not pictured: **Abbie Stevens Brown '03, MAT'05**; **Sue Bendl Gregory '90, MAT'91**. CJ Martin also serves as an assistant coach for the Puget Sound women's softball team, and Jessica Stella and Audrey Wilson have also taught as adjunct professors in the School of Education.



▲ Four football teammates from the Class of 1978 shared breakfast with former athletic director **Doug McArthur '53** at Cooks Tavern in June. From left: **Ed Raisl '78, P'13; Pat O'Loughlin '78; Frank O'Loughlin '78;** McArthur; and **Fred Grimm '78**, a Puget Sound trustee emeritus.

▼ **Amanda Johnson '17** and **Matty Specht '17** were married May 14, 2023, in Estes Park, Colo., with a number of Loggers at the wedding. Front row, from left: **Rachel Sugar '16, Anna Joseph '17**, the groom and bride, **Kelsee Levey '17, Jane Sadetsky '17, Brianne Morrison Wilmor '17**. Back row: **Reilly Rosbotham '16, Rachel Greiner '18, Ryan Grate '17, Tyson West '17, Colin Kelly '17, Eden Ehrmann '17, Zoe Scott '17**.



LISA JOY PHOTOGRAPHY

▼ Four Puget Sound classmates and their families reunited in Los Angeles in the spring after an 11-year hiatus. From left: **Sara Staller Hatayama '04, Carrie Peterson Smith '04, Joel Smith '04,** and **Greg Hatayama '04**.



WE'D LOVE  
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**Send us your news:**

We welcome news of new jobs, marriages, births, election to office, retirements, and more. For photos, high-resolution digital images or prints are best; please identify all alumni in the photo.

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▲ Four alumni received awards from Puget Sound during Summer Reunion Weekend in June. Pictured with President Isiah Crawford, from left: **Betsy Campbell Stone '79, P'14** (Service to Puget Sound Award); **Doug Palmer '18** (Young Logger Service Award); **W. Houston Dougharty '83** (Professional Achievement Award); **Katherine Kehrli '86** (Service to the Community Award).

▶ Sigma Chi members from the Class of '58 get together regularly, but the reunion in July was the first in many years to take place on campus. They toured campus, had lunch at the Sub, and were delighted when a Sigma Chi undergrad noticed their Sigma Chi insignias and introduced himself. Pictured at the new Wilson Welcome Center, from left: **Jim Fox '62**, **Mark Smith '61**, **Warren Hanson '62**, **Ron Newman '64**, **C. Clark Montgomery '61**, and Warren's dog, Bess.



Send Scrapbook photos to [arches@pugetsound.edu](mailto:arches@pugetsound.edu).



▲ **Stacey Yamamoto Stewart '94** played in a golf tournament in Meridian, Idaho, in June, and found that two other Loggers were playing in the same tournament. From left: Stewart, **Kathy Murchy Eckert '76**, and **Ann Maloney Conway '78**. After visiting, the three discovered something else in common, says Stewart: "We were all members of Gamma Phi Beta sorority."



▲ Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters **Lisa Whatley Nunn '85**, **Candy MacRae Ranney '85**, and **Jennifer Ricks '84** met up on campus over the summer to celebrate 40 years of friendship.



▲ **Elizabeth Basalto '12** married Takeshi Okamoto on May 20th, 2023, in Albany, Ore. Several fellow Loggers joined them: from left, **Alex Voorhees '12**, **Shannon Coriden Adams '11**, **Poonum Sandhu '13**, **Margaret Johnson Hutchins '12**, the bride and groom, **Kylie Sertic '13**, **Meghan Peterson Dassenko '13**, **Alex Dassenko '13**.



◀ In summer 1993, a small group of Sigma Nus took a road trip to Lake of the Woods in Southern Oregon—a trip that began a 30-year tradition of getting together annually. Pictured from left on this year's trip: **Rob Vaughn '96**, **Matt Fields '95**, **Chip Radebaugh '95**, **Kevin Murray '96**, **Eric Akines '96**, **Mike Morris '96**, **Darren Ravassipour '96**, **Jon Buck '97**, **Chris Smith '95**, **Hari Sreenivasan '95**, **Rob Hoag '96**, **Jeremy Soine '96**, and **Mike Morris '97**.



▲ In May 2023, Adelphian Concert Choir members of the 1973 semester abroad program in Vienna, Austria, gathered for a 50-year reunion in Leavenworth, Wash. Seated in front, from left: **Heidi Barrett '75, Scott Baker '75, Jon Palmason '74.** Standing, from left: **Linda Purcell Nye '75, Georgette Anderson Dun '75, Mary Schoenleber Berthiaume '75, Jerry Berthiaume '74, Arlene Clark Collins '76, Glenda Williams '72, Mary Jane Towner Glaser '75, Joan Gilbert Nielsen '73, Laurie Stowe Gogic '76, Sandy Noll McLean '76, Laurel Boll Gonzalo '72, Ellen Seibert Poole '75, Nancy Crawford Holm '75, Kathy Nelson Chandler '75, Leslie Brownell Malek '76, Despina McLaughlin Alatsis '75, Chris Ward Gutenkauf '74, Jan Anderson '75, Michael Delos '74.** Attending via Zoom were **Jack Kirk '76, Leslie Pyl Sanders '75,** and **Ramona Fuller Hannes '74, MEd '80. Pat Castro '75** attended the reunion but was absent from the group photo.



▲ Class of 1980 members of Beta Theta Pi gathered at Red Rock Canyon outside Las Vegas in April 2023. From left: **Dave Thompson '80, Ross Hering '80, Curt Spillers '80, Scott Bodmer '80, Mike Taylor '80, Dave Kelly '80,** and **Kevin Hurtley '80.**



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# GIVING TUESDAY

This **GivingTuesday** we celebrate the powerful generosity and impact that we collectively have as Loggers. Join us on **Nov. 28** for a day of connection, gratitude, and support for the Puget Sound community.

Save the date and watch for more information on how you can join this global movement of generosity or head to **[loggersgive.pugetsound.edu](http://loggersgive.pugetsound.edu)** if you don't want to wait!

