Shared Spaces

Your memories—some heartfelt, some humorous—of your college roommates
The School of Music’s Opera Theater program presented Stephen Sondheim’s musical “Into the Woods” in April, as students filled the Schneebeck stage with storybook characters. The theater program was noted, photographer, except Alex Crook, contributing editor.
Going All In
President Isaiah Crawford on encouraging students to participate in the democratic process.

You recently were named to the Presidents’ Council for the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. What made you decide to play a leadership role in that effort?
I was honored to be invited to serve on the ALL IN Presidents’ Council. As an organization, we endeavor to empower colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement, which is foundational to us and the mission of the University of Puget Sound. As you know, we look to prepare our students to be the highest of voters?

Why is it important to engage citizens when they're college-age, very new voters?

This is, when they're college-age, that’s a perfect moment to be educated about their civic responsibilities, offering students numerous opportunities to be educated about their civic responsibilities, including community engagement and voter registration. In 2016, our associate director of student voter participation in past presidential elections, with more than 60% turnout in 2016 and more than 80% in 2020. Have we been so successful in encouraging students to register and vote? Yes, we have. In fact, University of Puget Sound received the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge Award in 2021 for having one of the nation’s highest undergraduate student voting rates among 840 institutions in the 2020 presidential election.

Since 2016, our professional staff within Student Affairs have created goals specific to voter engagement. The commitment to that campaign in which we participated. The high level of participation we saw in 2016 spurred us to create a student employee position dedicated to voter engagement. The commitment to that student employee position has continued, and we look forward to having our eager Voter Engagement Specialist advance our initiatives this fall.

What can we do to further enhance student participation in elections?

More than 8 million Gen Z voters will enter the voting ranks this year, increasing the number of eligible Gen Z voters in the fall 2024 election to about 40 million. Participation in this year will hinge on connecting students to issues that they care about and will be on their home state ballots, such as climate change and economic initiatives. It will also be important to engage with them about the importance of voter participation on the social media platforms they utilize regularly.

What can we do to further enhance student participation in elections?

We will launch a number of initiatives in fall 2024. Voter education and registration, voter education, ballot access, and “Get Out the Vote”—that was a national campaign in which we participated. The high level of participation we saw in 2016 spurred us to create a student employee position dedicated to voter engagement. The commitment to that student employee position has continued, and we look forward to having our eager Voter Engagement Specialist advance our initiatives this fall.

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**NONPROFIT WORK**

Students shared career paths and rewards in the philanthropic sector in a February presentation by three CEOs of nonprofits: Maria Kolby-Wolfe ’92 (Washington Women’s Foundation), Jill Nishi ’89, and Professor of Computer Science David Chiu ’94 (Alaska Peninsula Foundation). The event was jointly sponsored by Career & Employment Services and Alumni & Parent Relations.

**TOP PAPER**

A paper by Julia Kaeppel ’24 and Professor of Computer Science David Chiu ’94 was named Best Paper at the International Conference on Big Data Computing, Applications, and Technologies. The paper on cache management stemmed from Kaeppel’s summer research.

**Ask the Expert:** Regan Nelson ’02

**Reduce Your Exposure to Toxic Chemicals**

Longtime health educator and advocate Regan Nelson ’02 is the host of the Clean & Green Living podcast, which guides listeners on lifestyle changes to minimize exposure to toxic chemicals.—Kristin Baird Rattini

**THE PROBLEM**

The chemical industry has grown substantially in recent decades, with countless new compounds created each year. “Chemicals are really everywhere,” Nelson says. “We’re using more health and beauty products. We’re wearing synthetic clothing. We’re exposed to chemicals in nearly every room of our home. And plastics are part of our convenience lifestyle.”

**WHO’S IN CHARGE?**

Over sight has failed to keep pace with the proliferation of potentially harmful products. The Modernization of Cosmetic Regulation Act of 2022, for example, was the first significant update of FDA oversight of cosmetics since 1938.

**A TRUSTWORTHY RESOURCE**

The nonprofit, science-driven Environmental Working Group is one of Nelson’s favorite resources. “They’re all about education and advocacy,” she says.

**YOU CAN LOOK IT UP**

EWG’s “Skin Deep” database evaluates more than 102,000 skin and beauty products and assigns a hazard rating and data availability rating. Its annual “Dirty Dozen” list highlights the 12 fruits and vegetables most contaminated with pesticides, while its annual “Clean 15” list identifies the 15 fruits with the lowest pesticide residues.

**WHERE TO START**

“YOU’ll never live a completely toxic-free life, so focus on small changes that can make a big difference,” Nelson advises. Begin with products you use most frequently and swap them out one at a time. “Start by buying products without ‘fragrance’ on the ingredient list. Fragrance is not an ingredient but up to 300 that companies don’t have to disclose, because their formula is a trade secret.” Fragrance can include harmful chemicals like phthalates, which are linked to obesity and Type 2 diabetes, and formaldehyde, which can be highly toxic. “But there’s no way for consumers to know they’re there,” Nelson says, “since they’re not listed on the label.”

**A Special Dialogue**

Yaa Gyasi’s acclaimed 2016 novel Homegoing has played a role in several classes in African American Studies at Puget Sound, including AFAM 310: The African Diaspora Experience, in which students prepare for a study tour to Ghana. Homegoing earned the American Book Award, the National Book Critics Circle’s John Leonard Award for Best First Book, and the PEN/ Hemingway Award for a First Book of Fiction, among other honors.

So it was perhaps no surprise that Gyasi’s March visit to campus sold out quickly. Gyasi and artist Jabari Owens-Bailey spoke to a full house in Schnee Hall to explore themes that appear in both the book and the exhibition, including the concept of “double consciousness” and the African diaspora.

Bringing Gyasi to campus was a combined effort involving the African American Studies program, the Peace & Pedagogy Institute, the Museum of Glass, and the Pierce County Libraries. A Two-Way Mirror continues at the Museum of Glass until Oct. 27.

**Sports Stars**

Puget Sound sports teams had a great winter and spring, including the women’s basketball team, which won the Northwest Conference championship and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time in 15 years. The Loggers beat Carroll University in the first round, then saw their season end with a second-round loss to the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Final record: 20-9. Guard Katie Minnehaha ’24 (picture above) had a team-high 15 points in the win over Carroll.

The women’s crew team won the Northwest Conference Rowing Championship at Vancouver Lake—their first conference title since 2015. The Loggers were one of eight teams selected to compete in the NCAA nationals, scheduled for May 31–June 1. Jackie Lewis ’24 (below) of women’s track owned the 400-meter dash for her entire Puget Sound career. In April she won her fourth straight NWCC conference championship in that event.

In men’s track, first-year competitor Alex Rhodes ’27 took first in both the 200-meter and 400-meter at the conference championships. Rhodes also won the silver medal nationally in the 400 at the NCAA Division III indoor meet, becoming the first Puget Sound men’s sprinter to earn Division III All-America status.

**A Love Letter to Drag**

The Puget Sound Drag Show—a 25-year-old tradition that was sidelined during the COVID-19 pandemic—made a return in February with “A Love Letter to Drag,” a collection of performances in Upper Marshall Hall. Hosted by Seattle-based drag queen Alatsa Manila, the event featured music, dance, comedy, and stories from local drag performers, including two student drag artists. The show was sponsored by the student-run Gender & Sexuality Alliance, which recently reconstituted after a pandemic hiatus. Before the show, GSA also hosted a seminar with another regional drag queen, Poison Waters, who talked about her three-decade performing career as well as her experience growing up as a person of color in the LGBTQIA+ community. Proceeds from the drag show went to the LGBTQIA+ Leadership Scholarship for students.

**IMPRESSIONS IMAGERY**

We loved the photos that won this year’s AGIFS photo contest—there’s some serious talent showing here. Jason Tran ’27 took both first and third place with two drone images, one from campus (top) and one of Washington’s FairFax Bridge (middle). The bottom photo was the second-place winner, taken by Ezra Mason ’27.

**REGAN NELSON: PHOTO PROVIDED**

**Two-Way Mirror: Double Consciousness in Contemporary Glass by Black Artists. Gyasi and Owens-Bailey talked about themes that appear in both the book and the exhibition, including the concept of “double consciousness” and the African diaspora. Bringing Gyasi to campus was a combined effort involving the African American Studies program, the Peace & Pedagogy Institute, the Museum of Glass, and the Pierce County Libraries. A Two-Way Mirror continues at the Museum of Glass until Oct. 27.**

**TO THE HEIGHTS | DISPATCHES**

**SKETCHBOOK**

**SPORTS STARS**

**NONPROFIT WORK**

**THE PROBLEM**

**WHO’S IN CHARGE?**

**A SPECIAL DIALOGUE**

**SPORTS STARS**

**A LOVE LETTER TO DRAG**

**IMPRESSIONS IMAGERY**

**REGAN NELSON: PHOTO PROVIDED**

**SKETCHBOOK**

**SPORTS STARS**

**A LOVE LETTER TO DRAG**

**IMPRESSIONS IMAGERY**

**REGAN NELSON: PHOTO PROVIDED**
A Better Baseball Field
The Loggers are hoping for a new synthetic infield by 2025. By Tina Hay

The baseball team’s 24-year-old field may get an upgrade next year, funds permitting: The grass infield will be replaced by a synthetic one that is easier to maintain and will make it usable year-round.

While the majority of Major League Baseball teams play on grass fields, many collegiate teams—especially in rain-prone regions—play on artificial turf. Puget Sound is one of only two schools in the Pacific Northwest Conference to have a grass infield, according to Logger coach Jeff Halstead ’00, MAT’03. The current field suffers from water drainage problems, redirecting the focus of coaches and student-athletes away from training and competition to care for the field.

A new synthetic infield will allow the team to practice outdoors throughout the academic year and will reduce or eliminate the number of games that have to be rescheduled because the field is unplayable, Halstead says. According to Amy Hackett, athletic director, it’s an investment in the championship culture that Puget Sound is working to build.

The upgrade will also make possible other uses of the field and partnerships with leagues and semi-pro teams. The estimated cost of the project is $1.2 million. The Ben B. Cheney Foundation committed $300,000 to launch the effort and to inspire support from alumni, parents, and community members. Currently, more than half of the $1.2 million total has been raised. (For more information or to donate, go to pugetsound.edu/turf.)

The Cheney Foundation has been supportive of the university for more than four decades, contributing to campus projects including the Susie L. Wilson Welcome Center, the Athletics & Aquatics Center and other athletics facility upgrades, Weyerhaeuser Hall, and the Science Center, as well as to student scholarships.

PacRim Partners

While a group of Puget Sound students took part in the 2024 PacRim trip this past winter and spring, a trio of university administrators headed to Asia as well, to forge connections with local universities and meet Loggers living in the region. President Isiaah Crawford and two vice presidents—Victor Martin (university relations) and Matthew Boyce (enrollment) met with schools and universities in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and Fuzhou, China, and explored partnership opportunities for student and faculty exchange programs. They also had dinner in Chiang Mai with this year’s PacRim students and faculty. Crawford and Martin attended an alumni gathering in Tokyo hosted by Tadahiro Kawada ’85, while Boyce made additional visits in Taiwan.

BFFs “Grateful for these college roommates almost 20 years later. Once a Logger!”
@skyler6

HAPPY TO HELP “We had a great workshop with some amazing University of Puget Sound Physical Therapy students this weekend!”
@clubpilateswesttacoma

OH, SNAP! Tag us @univpugetsound on Instagram and you might just show up in Arches.

Fall 2024 Schedule
September 25 - Washington, D.C.
September 26 - New York City
November 7 - Portland, Ore

See more details here
A Growing Issue

Community land preservation may help ensure the future of farming.

BY HANNAH VAN SICKLE

As a livestock farmer in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, Anna Houston ’12 has built a thriving enterprise that hinges on providing her close-knit community with pasture-raised poultry, eggs, and lambs—all produced on a patchwork quilt of other people’s land.

Since launching Off the Shelf Farm in 2018, Houston and her husband, Rob Perazzo, have relied on handshake lease agreements with neighbors to provide space for their flocks to roam. “We’ve spent six years fertilizing these pastures with our poultry operation, and our sheep and lambs graze on the lush grass we’ve worked so hard to create—one of which we own,” says Houston, for whom long-term land access, via ownership or legal lease, has eluded her. Until now.

In a bout of tremendous community effort, Off the Shelf Farm is on the move to a 79-acre parcel of flat land called River Run. The Berkshire Community Land Trust, a Great Barrington nonprofit, is buying the $1.65 million property, allowing Houston and Perazzo to lease the land at an affordable rate and steward River Run into the future. Chief among the benefits are long-term stability and the ability to recoup their investments in soil and buildings.

Nationwide, the idea of community supported farmland has been gaining steam, and for good reason: Access to land remains out of reach for many would-be farmers. Across the country, family farms are dwindling due to lack of interest and financial viability. In tourist destinations like the Berkshires, a haven for second-home-owners, real estate prices are perennially sky high; in other regions, including Pierce County, Wash., open space and arable acres face development pressure that’s steep.

“A cost of land is one of the biggest obstacles to getting into farming,” says Emilie Peine, director of the International Political Economy program at University of Puget Sound. A 1972 book by Bob Swan titled The Community Land Trust: A Guide to a New Model for Land Tenure in America outlined a tangible means of keeping land affordable, allowing farmers to hold equity, and including the community at large in a commitment to local farming. Across the Pacific Northwest, folks have been digging into farmland preservation for decades. Community Farm Land Trust in Olympia, Wash., began using Swan’s model in 1997 to preserve arable acres and keep them affordable. By offering farmers 99-year lease agreements on land acquired via purchase or donation, the CLT model not only provides farmers long-term land security and allows them to build equity via infrastructure and soil improvements, but it also ensures that the land is preserved for farming in perpetuity.

“The questions surrounding land and food—particularly where it comes from, how we grow it, and who profits from the systems in place—are pretty foundational to the field,” says Peine.

According to Washington Farmland Trust, some of the state’s best soil has been lost to development over the past four decades. An estimated 70% of local growers will retire in the next 10 years without a succession plan in place—a problem exacerbated by barriers to land access for new farmers. Systemic racism is one of those barriers: Black farmers, who account for less than 2% of the nation’s total and own less than 1% of the farmland, have historically found it difficult to access financial credit and government programs essential for scaling successful operations.

If the future of farming hinges on farmland preservation, CLTs are poised to play a pivotal role in building strong communities with thriving local food economies. Back in Massachusetts, the move to River Run will provide Houston crucial resources such as water and power in the field and position her to expand meat-bird operations alone by more than 350%. Having a permanent home means Off the Shelf Farm is finally eligible to receive sizable, state-funded grants—like one recently awarded for the construction of critical infrastructure including a greenhouse and a barn to house the animals. Houston and Perazzo soon will begin anew the years-long process of using nutrient-dense manure to bolster once-dormant fields. Houston anticipates a new challenge a decade down the line: so much forage, due to an abundance of nutrition in the soil, that she and Perazzo are forced to expand again. At least that’s their hope.

For Houston, community remains the cornerstone of daily life—an enduring lesson learned during her time as a Logger. From her leadership role with Puget Sound Outdoors to her study abroad semester in India, a single seed was sown: the importance of creating a community where one lives. Right now, that community includes fellow food producers, local consumers, donors, and members of the local land trust. “The CLT model aspires to be a resource, one that requires all of us to rely on each other,” Houston explains.

Houston once aspired to live abroad and pursue international development. In retrospect, the path she’s pursued has proven even more powerful and meaningful. “So long as enough people step up and commit to one another, the power of working together gives back in dividends.”

BY HANNAH VAN SICKLE

FARM FAMILY

Anna Houston ’12 and her husband have done well as farmers, even though they don’t own the land they work. Now they’re about to benefit from community-supported farmland, an idea that’s gaining momentum across the United States.
Unlocking the Secrets of the Cells

Leslie Saucedo on understanding cell biology—and making it less intimidating to students.

BY JONNY EBERLE

July 2023. We asked Saucedo about her career mission to understand what causes unregulated cell growth—a hallmark of cancer. She’ll retire this summer after sharing her passion for cellular biology with students at Puget Sound for 21 years. Her most recent book, Getting to Know Your Cells (Springer), was published in July 2023. We asked Saucedo about her career path, collaborating with an alumna on the illustrations for her book, and the benefits of studying fruit flies.

Did you always know you wanted to teach college students? I always wanted to teach. When I was an undergrad, I thought I wanted to teach high school chemistry—although I did meander a lot. I changed my major three times. But I was also interested in science and understanding what’s happening when our bodies do us wrong. So, I ended up working in immunology and eventually cancer, which isn’t all that different. The immune system’s kind of a jerk a lot of the time, and cancer, I think everyone would agree, is a jerk all the time. I got my Ph.D. and then did my postdoc in Seattle at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, but teaching was always in the back of my mind. I had to hide that, because at the time, the accepted pathway was to get your education and some experience and go run a research lab. So, I taught a night class as a grad student, and I taught as a postdoc, before I found my way to Puget Sound.

Your research focuses on cell biology and the mechanism behind cancer. What drew you to that area of study? In my lab, we work with fruit flies, which I never imagined I would do. I started out working as a technician in a lab that was looking for genetic mutations in people who were more susceptible to Neisseria, a family of bacteria that causes meningitis and gonorrhea. It felt very important to be working with human subjects, but it turns out that you can’t control humans, which makes them hard to study. So, I moved into working with cells in tissue culture obtained from mice and humans, which included researching skin cancer in people who had a genetic predisposition for it. When I came to Seattle, I interviewed with someone who was doing research with fruit flies. At first, I scoffed at it, because a fruit fly is so simple compared to an organism like a human. But fruit flies have been used as a genetic system for more than a hundred years, and I came to realize how useful they are in understanding how cancer forms, because you can control every variable. You control the matings, you control the environment, you can take genes, add some, take some out, and change their sequence—and you can learn a lot that way.

You have a 2023 book called Getting to Know Your Cells. What inspired you to write it? The book was born out of a need I had. A lot of hard-core scientific papers. I tell them in week one, “You have to be comfortable with all that you don’t know, and that’s OK.”

The book is illustrated by a Puget Sound alumna, Maria Jost ’05. How did that collaboration come about? Working with Maria was probably the most fun part of doing the book. She graduated shortly after I started here, and she’s always been on my radar. I’m a big fan of her art. She mostly does botanical drawings, and she’s done some public installations around Tacoma. She’s also an instructor at the Science and Math Institute here in Tacoma. I reached out to ask if she would illustrate the book, and she agreed. We met once a month for a year. Meeting with her and trying to tell her what I wanted was fascinating. I’d give her horrible, hand-drawn sketches and she’d turn them into these beautiful images. What do you hope students get out of your classes? A love of learning, honestly. My goal is to have students realize that teachers aren’t just graders and assessors who throw assignments at them. Teachers can model how to dive into a subject and be challenged by it, how to work through it and succeed. I think sometimes my students get a little frustrated with me, because I will let them struggle a little bit, especially in my senior capstone course. It’s all hard-core scientific papers. I tell them in week one, “You have to be comfortable with all that you don’t know, and that’s OK.”

Teachers can model how to dive into a subject and be challenged by it, how to work through it and succeed.”
A New Org Chart for Orcas?

Research led by Phillip Morin ’86 suggests that the killer whale might be at least three separate species.

BY TED ANTHONY

The sign-off on Phillip A. Morin’s emails contains a renowned Albert Einstein quote: “I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious.” The quote fell short in describing Einstein. And it doesn’t describe Phil Morin ’86 in his entirety, either.

Morin, a conservation geneticist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, has worked with the famed primatologist Jane Goodall and has built a career helping the world better understand killer whales. He’s certainly passionately curious. But he has almost four decades of expertise to back up that curiosity.

Now, his research has concluded that some of those killer whales, or orcas, should be considered separate species. The results, published this March in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*, could be a game-changer—and could increase opportunities for whale conservation.

Evolution doesn’t always conveniently provide bright lines between species; there isn’t even a single global standard for how “species” is defined. Within the world of killer whales exist numerous varieties, called ecotypes. Morin and his colleagues focused on two ecotypes that roam the North Pacific—Bigg’s killer whales and resident killer whales—to learn whether the differences between them are just regional variations, or are enough to consider them separate species.

Unfortunately for researchers, killer whales resist being watched. They move around a lot and are hard to get close to—and, well, they’re also usually underwater. A key to the latest research effort was genetics, made possible by the decades-long accumulation of small skin samples, collected using dart biopsy from live animals and dead beach-stranded animals, as well as DNA from the teeth and bones of museum specimens.

The researchers did a quantitative analysis of genes on the Bigg’s and resident whales. In the end, they were able to sequence the entire mitochondrial genome (more than 16,000 nucleotides) from hundreds of individuals—and later, entire genomes (about 2.6 billion nucleotides) from dozens of individuals. They found enough differences to suggest that the two types of whales were on different evolutionary trajectories—and had been for several hundred thousand years. Morin says there was “minimal or no genetic exchange,” meaning they weren’t interbreeding, even though they live in the same waters.

Other factors—among them differences in skin coloration patterns and fin and head size; behavioral differences; and dietary variations—made the team confident that the two types of whales are, in the end, separate species.

The two new species will be called *Orcinus ater* (for the resident killer whale) and *Orcinus rectipinnus* (for the Bigg’s orca), with all other killer whales remaining *Orcinus Orca*, pending approval by the Society for Marine Mammalogy, which maintains the official list of species. Morin hopes that this genetic approach can be applied to larger uses in classifying animals. Being able to “dill down to the genome,” as he puts it, “instantly gives a huge amount of information to researchers. That’s really exciting for me.”

Morin enrolled at Puget Sound in 1982, thinking he’d maybe pursue veterinary science. But he fell in love with research as an undergraduate, and spent a year after graduation in a genetics lab at the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. He was hooked. He did his dissertation work at the University of California, San Diego, on chimpanzees, working with Goodall and living at her house in Tanzania while researching some of her behavioral records, and collecting hair samples at the Gombe Stream National Park for genetic analysis. He eventually gravitated to the field of marine mammals, which “was way behind because they were so difficult to study.” Genetics has helped solve that.

Morin, who currently lives with his husband in Seattle, hopes his group’s research can be used to examine what data are most critical for better understanding the taxonomy of killer whales globally—no small accomplishment, given that they are “the most widely distributed mammal outside of humans on the planet.”

Most important, he hopes that the definitive identification of more species more quickly can produce stronger conservation efforts to ensure that the marine ecosystem continues to thrive. Knowing, for example, that *Orcinus ater* prefers salmon while *Orcinus rectipinnus* feeds on larger marine mammals can help influence conservation choices and policies, which can protect each species more effectively.

“Molecular genetics is a huge field, and it allows us to do things more rapidly, which is what we need to keep up with what’s going on in this biodiversity crisis, this extinction that is happening faster than we learn what’s being lost,” Morin says. “Hopefully genetics can help close that gap. We’re trying to do this as fast as we can.”

Passionately curious, Morin is—but (apologies to Einstein) with some serious special talent, too.
Some days, like the ones in mid-March when the cherry trees outside Howarth Hall are in bloom and the sun bathes the campus, feel nearly perfect.
I was very, very lucky and had an awesome roommate, Chase Nordlund ’82, my first year and the following two years in Harrington Hall. Chase and I were from Southern California and had very similar tastes in music, film, comedy, and other things. One of my many enduring memories with Chase is our punk rock group, the Knapkinz, which made its simultaneous debut and breakup at Harrington’s
tale show our freshman year and highly anticipated the next year. Both were standing-room-only shows because the Heaven and Earth tour was huge and tickets sold out fast. "That was the biggest show we saw in the auditorium, but we didn’t know it was only so big. On the heels of our incendiary first song, ‘Please Don’t Squeeze,’ we were bowled over by standards well beyond Tacoma’s North End but couldn’t quite coax the right amount ofantry out of our tennis rackets, ending up on the no-wonder scrap heap of what might have been. Alas, the Knappiek did not endure, but my friendship with Chase did, and I am forever thankful for recalling the mischief and fun times we had together at Puget Sound more than 40 years later. Hey Chase, let’s put the band back together!

Tom Sarris ’83

Larkspur, Calif.

RETURN OF THE ODD COUPLE

Although we were both born and raised in the same hometown—Palo Alto, Calif.—our journey began when we started the occupational therapy program junior year. Must have been that KCQED public TV T-shirt that Lucy [Lucy Anderson Jacob ’81] noticed I was wearing that singled me out as a fellow Bay Area. We became roommates in off-campus housing. From there we realized we shared a love for tidiness, a love for cooking, and a love for making things clean, and she can cook. Lucy taught me the art of shopping for grocery bargains, 101 ways to prepare cottage cheese, and cleaning supplies, hoping to teach her the art of cleaning, to no avail. It was like The Odd Couple—weyllated those guys. Forty years later, when my best friend and I visit each other, Lucy cooks and I clean. Some things never change!

Annie Nachtmann-Forburger ’82

Glendale, Calif.

SEVEN ROOMMATES?

corner had a bunk bed, dresser, and two wardrobe closets. Our desks were in the middle of the room, so that the lounge became a room divided into four quarters with desks in the middle. Welcome to Puget Sound!

Among us were “the tall ones”—two who were close to 6 ft tall and were happy-go-lucky, vivacious, determined students. In Corner #2 were the twins: a home ec-Pollinanna-lovely girl and an exceptionally brilliant but socially challenged concert pianist. In Corner #3 was the unmatched pair: a pretty Alpha Phi destined to date big-name Greeks and the other who pledged Chi Omega, loved too well, and left school prematurely. Finally, in Corner #4 was the athletic duo—a bouncy, outgoing, enfermed swimmer and her bunkmate, a shy Easterner who was bewitched by Rainier.

We get along reasonably well, going to some meals together, laughing about our “situation,” and sharing clothes, makeup, and lots of stories. We rarely had serious disagreements, though we were not best buds. We endured because we were happy to be at Puget Sound; living on top of each other was secondary. We even posted on our door the name we decided proudly to call ourselves: The Eligible Eight!

Jim Porter ’71

Lakewood, Wash.

NO ARGUING WITH THAT

It was move-in day, freshman year. I arrived first to the dorm in Todd Hall; it was the room right over the main entrance, and it was pretty small. My roommate, Pat, arrived at age 18, I was about 120 pounds; Pat was a football lineman, over 6 ft and well over 200 pounds. After introductions, he locked me up and down, and said, “You’ll be taking the top bunk.”

Bill Porter ’71

Lakewood, Wash.

BONDED BY MUSIC

I lived at A-Frame E. My roommate, Steve Brune ’74, was a musician and played acoustic guitar. I was a big rock fan and had already been to a lot of concerts. Steve played this one acoustic album every day, Rhett of Light by Pentangle. It drove me crazy at first, but by the end of the year I was converted, and that opened up doors to other music. We had epic parties there! We even made our own T-shirts. I made another lifelong friend there. Dave Abbott ’74. I am still connected with around 100 people I met at Puget Sound, and we have a reunion every 10 years.

Tom McCurley ’75

Vista, Calif.

SURPRISINGLY GOOD MATCH

BF was the current status of my relationship with my college roommate Jim Brecher ’62 and I roomed together for three years in New Hall before I journeyed off to get a law degree at the University of Washington. Jim was the perfect roommate for me. He was steady, thoughtful, accepting, and a kind soul. Sixty-plus years later, he still calls me on my birthday. He is the poster child for kindness, harmony, ambition, and acceptance. He was an anchor of reality to my ship of personal turmoil. Our lives, careers, and relationships have been blessed. He is the stick and mirror that reflected qualities that have served me well in who I am today. My experience at Puget Sound was exceptional and I attribute that to the grace and good nature offered naturally by my best friend, Sigma Chi fraternity brother Jim Brecher, alias Mort Beemer.

Paul A. Coulter ’73

Fullerton, Calif.

DO NOT DISTURB

My freshman roommate on the fourth floor of Seawall Hall (indisputably), Tanya Muschietti De Aitas ’86, was from Jamaica. Her family had moved to Seattle. It was my policy to cancel any dinner after lunch and before my midafternoon class. They were very good about it. In September 1985 I roomed with her for three years in New Hall before I journeyed off to get a hand-me-down TV. We also made plans to split the Netflix subscription. So maybe things were gonna be OK.

And they were! She hated glitter and rocked all black, bleaching it. I actually had more “pink/girly” stuff than she did! She had a car and, as a Tacoma local, she intro-duced me to Hells Cupcake and taught me how to do the Puyallup.

She and I weren’t your typical “bFFs,” but she is one of the best things to have happened to me. She was a safe space, a giver, and someone who saw me at my worst (suddenly breaking into tears when my mechanical pencil lead broke one too many times); my silliest (deciding to rearrange our room for the umpteenth time due to needing a better study vield); and my truest (ever getting “out” for a night after not wanting to show up social and then needing to be dragged home because my exams often took an hour since I had to say goodbye to everyone else). Her family became my family; and mine, hers. We are terrible at staying in regular touch (the best of friends sometimes aren’t)! but we do celebrate the heck out of the big moments. From graduating to pursuing graduate degrees, from dancing at each other’s weddings to becoming mothers—we make an effort to be there for the big things.

Despite not being “perfect” matches as a roommate pair, we can’t imagine our lives had that not happened. So, thank you, random roommate pairing process. Or whatever magic was at play for the fall of 2008.

Lindsey Hammond Stoddard ’12

Portland, Oregon

DO NOT DISTURB
THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

My first-year roommate and I were randomly paired together as part of the humanities program, and I wasn’t sure how we were going to get along. We had fairly different personalities and interests, but we were both from the East Coast with few, if any, connections in Washington. He had been taking an introductory Thai course first semester, and I remember him listening to an incredibly repetitive Thai nursery rhyme called “Chang Chang Chang” (the word for “elephant”) in our dorm room so often that it became a sort of inside joke. Over the semester, we grew closer as friends as we realized we had very similar senses of humor. So it concerned me when I came back from winter break to find an ominous note on the whiteboard outside our door: “We need to talk about the elephant in the room.” Immediately worried, I stepped inside to find at least two dozen clip-art elephants hidden throughout our dorm room. I couldn’t stop laughing, and for the rest of the year, we traded back and forth hiding these paper elephants in each other’s things—backpacks, shoes, pillows cases, everything almost everything was fair game. Eight years later, we’re still tricks and treats in each other’s things and still hide them in each other’s things when we get the chance. Dick Gerard ’73 Tacoma

A DRAFTER FULL

When I was a 1973 rookie in the Beta Theta Pi house, we would swap roommates every six weeks to get to know each other. I recall a senior member moved back into the house and then did a Winter- term contract overseas. He left us with three guys in a four-guy room. This was not a problem, of course. However, you know what they say: “When the cat’s away, the mice will play.” Our elderly roommate had not been around for a while, and when he left, he gave us a stern warning not to mess with his stuff four-week-old tuna sandwich! His desk drawers were full of them.

John Mitchell ’77

Tacoma

NEVER AGAIN

My first year, I shared “The Bomb Shelter” in the basement of Anderson/Langdon hall with three other women. We had a tremendous amount of room in that oddly shaped, rather dark and cavernous space, but we still were impacted by the schedules of each other, especially at night. One of our roommates was taking a very challenging course load on her path to becoming a doctor, and she was struggling to keep up. She came up with a new studying strategy that she called the 20:20 strategy. Throughout the night, she would study 20 minutes, then sleep for 20 minutes. And so on, all night long. I can hardly fathom the experience from her perspective (just as she’s starting to fall asleep, it’s time to get back up, and vice versa)—but from our perspective, we’re hearing an alarm go off every 20 minutes, all night. Needless to say, it didn’t work very well for any of us. We woke up tired, and she ended up having to retake some of those classes. That was the last I’d heard of her in Egypt. Not wanting to lose my new sleep strategy, Shannon Hughes ’92 Carmel, Calif.

MY TWO JENS

I walked into my first floor Anderson/Langdon freshman dorm room in 1989 with equal parts excitement and trepidation. I was triple with two Jennifer’s; both of whom went by Jen. Jen 1 had long dark hair, Birkenstocks, Grateful Dead bootleg, and a Jim Morrison poster for the door. Jen 2 had perfectly coifed blonde curls, expertly applied makeup, and a Flashdance style off one shoulder pink top. Jen 3 wore a UK address, so my immediate thought was “Whoa, how amazing is this that I will have a British roommate?” Getting the inaugural introductory phone call from my future roomie and her having a boring American accent. I was a little disappointed to learn her family lived in the UK, but she was actually very much American. Fast forward to 2004–08 and, with the exception of one year, we never stopped being roommates. We dressed up together for Halloween, shared cooks in the cafe, spent one weird summer dog-sitting for cheap rent in Seattle (that’s a tale for another time)—she’s got lists on. Since graduation, we’ve been in each other’s weddings, spent holidays together, and made those exciting phone calls to each other announcing new jobs and new babies. At some point, we started wondering, How did we get paired together? Of all the matches that could have been, how did fate align? After some brainstorming, we decided it was because we both listed John Mayer as our favorite artist in our roommate survey—the year was 2004, after all. So, thanks John Mayer—and Puget Sound housing, of course—for bringing us together.

Callie Snyder Bruhn ’08

Beaverton, Ore.

THANK YOU, JOHN MAYER

Getting a random roommate was defi- nitely one of the things I was most excited about—and most terrified of—so the fall of 2004 approached and I was about to move into a basement dorm of Todd/Phillo. I was paired with a junior who had a UK address, so my immediate thought was “Whoa, how amazing is this that I will have a British roommate?” Getting the inaugural introductory phone call from my future roomie and her having a boring American accent. I was a little disappointed to learn her family lived in the UK, but she was actually very much American. Fast forward to 2004–08 and, with the exception of one year, we never stopped being roommates. We dressed up together for Halloween, shared cooks in the cafe, spent one weird summer dog-sitting for cheap rent in Seattle (that’s a tale for another time)—she’s got lists on. Since graduation, we’ve been in each other’s weddings, spent holidays together, and made those exciting phone calls to each other announcing new jobs and new babies. At some point, we started wondering, How did we get paired together? Of all the matches that could have been, how did fate align? After some brainstorming, we decided it was because we both listed John Mayer as our favorite artist in your roommate survey—the year was 2004, after all. So, thanks John Mayer—and Puget Sound housing, of course—for bringing us together.

Callie Snyder Bruhn ’08

Beaverton, Ore.
Whether it’s some cheap grub on a study break, a chance to knock back a few on the weekend, or a meal with the parents when they’re in town, Tacoma has eateries and watering holes to meet a student’s every need. On this and the pages that follow, we celebrate 10 of our favorites.

**A Bite of Tacoma**

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**E9 Firehouse and Gastropub**

Built as a firehouse in 1907 and now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Engine House No. 9 is a go-to spot for wood-fired pizza, as well as beer from E9 Brewing, the city’s first craft brewery. Its outdoor seating and proximity to campus make it a favorite with students.
THE RED HOT

“Hot dogs and beer” doesn’t begin to describe the Red Hot experience. The rotating selection of craft beer is impressive, and then there’s The Hound Dog, which includes bacon and peanut butter. On the first Friday of the month, try the fried bologna sandwich (†).

MSM DELI

Unassuming on both the outside and the inside, Magical Sandwich Makers Deli on 6th Avenue offers some of the tastiest—and biggest—sandwiches in town. Extra hungry? Try the Mike’s Deluxe.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Laila Iskandar has been making her own ice cream since 2012, and her shop, Ice Cream Social, now has three Tacoma locations. Besides mainstays like vanilla and chocolate, you might find coconut lavender, orange chocolate chip, grapefruit sorbet, or sweet potato marshmallow.
BOB’S JAVA JIVE
This concrete coffeepot—nearly a century old—has been a speakeasy, a brothel, and a tiki bar (complete with two live monkeys). Today it’s a funky bar with live music, including jazz, and a big karaoke destination. Kurt Cobain was once a regular, and Neko Case used to tend bar there.

FRISKO FREEZE
A Tacoma landmark, Frisko Freeze has been serving up burgers, fries, and shakes in the Hilltop neighborhood since 1950. From the neon sign to the drive-up window to the logoed T-shirts and other merch, this is the quintessential American burger joint.

SHAKABRAH JAVA
Serving all-day breakfast for more than 30 years, Shakabrah Java is famous for its ginormous pancakes and its endlessly customizable Shaka Potatoes. Shelves of games and books make it clear you’re welcome to hang out.

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Serving all-day breakfast for more than 30 years, Shakabrah Java is famous for its ginormous pancakes and its endlessly customizable Shaka Potatoes. Shelves of games and books make it clear you’re welcome to hang out.
SOUTHERN KITCHEN
Gloria Martin and her crew serve comfort food so good that Guy Fieri once paid a visit to fawn over the cornbread stuffing, and Kevin Hart filmed an episode of *Hart of the City* there. Don’t miss the fried chicken, the biscuits and gravy, the slow-cooked red beans, the hush puppies... 

SOUTHERN KITCHEN (2)

MAGOO’S ANNEX
This classic neighborhood bar is close to campus and might just have the city’s best Taco Tuesday. In operation since 1943, it once boasted a legendary jukebox and still offers darts, pool, and legendary friendly regulars.

MAGOO’S ANNEX (3); COURTESY OF SOUTHERN KITCHEN (2)

SILK THAI CAFE
Carved wood decor, Siamese art, and delicious aromas complement the food offerings—which range from traditional Pad Thai to more adventurous dishes like the spicy Tom Kah Gai soup and the pumpkin curry.

SILK THAI CAFE (3)

View this story online and share it with friends: Go to pugetsound.edu/abiteoftacoma.
A NEW BOOK BY RACHEL S. GROSS ’08 INTERROGATES THE HISTORY OF OUTDOOR BRANDS AND HOW THEY CAME TO DEFINE THE AMERICAN WAY OF EXPLORING NATURE.

Selling the Great Outdoors

BY ZACHARY FLETCHER ’20
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JONATHAN CARLSON
Where did the idea for the book come from?
A couple of different places. As a student at Puget Sound, I did a summer research project expanding on work I'd done in History 200 with Nancy Bristow. It was on the history of women's outdoor recreation. The companies that did say yes—Eddie Bauer and L.L. Bean. Why is that history important?
Tracing the military origins, not just of products themselves but of the way of testing and asking questions about what works, is important because it shows how deeply tangled the outdoor industry is, with both national history and specifically with the military-industrial complex. The Vibram sole, for instance, has its origins during World War II. A lot of military technology became civilian wear in the decades that followed. I think one of the presumptions that consumers like me had was, “Ah, this product will allow me to escape from commercial life and give me an entry point into wild nature.” And this history of gear not only deconstructs that idea but also shows that the federal government and the military apparatuses had a really heavy hand in shaping what we buy—and what we think we ought to buy.

Tell me more about the response you got from outdoor companies.
A lot of companies, when I started this project 15 years ago, didn’t have formal archives or collections. So the “no” was not just “We’re going to protect our story” or “We don’t give access to outside researchers,” which is the case for some privately held companies. A good example of that is L.L. Bean, which has an archive but publishes its own histories and doesn’t want to let other folks in. But a lot of other places just hadn’t done the collecting work. They hadn’t seen the history of their companies as valuable. The companies that did say yes—Eddie Bauer is a good example—had a formal archive and archivist position, a gear library with historical materials and their old jackets that people who worked in the design department could check out. I also had a lot of fun looking at the closet at Adventure 16’s headquarters outside of San Diego, where the CEO welcomed me in and let me look at things like newsletters they had sent out to customers in the 1970s and 1980s. These days, you can go to Utah State University, to the Outdoor Recreation Archive. But none of that existed when I started this project, and I hope that my work can help highlight the ways that this history of business can be valuable, and lead to more people preserving their past.

What was the research process for the book?
There was no set archive or library where all this information was located. So I cold-called a whole bunch of outdoor companies to say, “Do you have archives and can I come look at them?” Most places said no, but a few said yes—letting me into either formal and beautifully cataloged archives or, you know, bins in a closet, or stacks of paper in a back room somewhere. I went through those archival treasures in more than 15 states as a way of uncovering the story of the industry and understanding the relationship between the companies and the consumers who bought from them.

Where did the idea for the book originate?
It was on the history of women’s outdoor recreation. The companies that did say yes—Eddie Bauer and L.L. Bean.

Why is that history important?
Tracing the military origins, not just of products themselves but of the way of testing and asking questions about what works, is important because it shows how deeply tangled the outdoor industry is, with both national history and specifically with the military-industrial complex. The Vibram sole, for instance, has its origins during World War II. A lot of military technology became civilian wear in the decades that followed. I think one of the presumptions that consumers like me had was, “Ah, this product will allow me to escape from commercial life and give me an entry point into wild nature.” And this history of gear not only deconstructs that idea but also shows that the federal government and the military apparatuses had a really heavy hand in shaping what we buy—and what we think we ought to buy.

The origins of the American outdoor industry, you write, are full of paradoxes. How does this alter the behavior of consumers?
I mean, gear is supposed to function, right? And one of the important things on people’s list is, Is it going to keep me warm or dry or safe? Am I going to die if I go up a mountain wearing this jacket or using this tent? I think that’s a crucial question and ideally the starting point for all of us if we’re acquiring something new. But that’s not the only thing we’re thinking about. I certainly put myself in this category of a consumer with a varied set of interests—I’m interested in how warm or dry I am but also in the brand emblem that’s on my chest or my shoulder. And I think that reason consumers show this affinity for particular brands is that brands have cultivated stories around what they represent—stories that go beyond functionality and speak not just to style but to expertise or belonging.

Tell me more about the response you got from outdoor companies.
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A large part of the book focuses on the military origins of brands like Eddie Bauer and L.L. Bean. Why is that history important?
Tracing the military origins, not just of products themselves but of the way of testing and asking questions about what works, is important because it shows how deeply tangled the outdoor industry is, with both national history and specifically with the military-industrial complex. The Vibram sole, for instance, has its origins during World War II. A lot of military technology became civilian wear in the decades that followed. I think one of the presumptions that consumers like me had was, “Ah, this product will allow me to escape from commercial life and give me an entry point into wild nature.” And this history of gear not only deconstructs that idea but also shows that the federal government and the military apparatuses had a really heavy hand in shaping what we buy—and what we think we ought to buy.

How did writing this book make you rethink your relationship to the outdoor industry?
Part of doing this project over so many years meant that as I grew older alongside of it, what I needed shifted. Older folks can carry less weight because their backs hurt more, for instance. I actually think that the biggest lesson for me has been that almost everything that I think I need, I don’t. In other words, the starting point for me was that the acquisition of goods is going to help me buy my way into an identity and a sense of belonging. What I’ve seen is that generations of Americans dating back to the 19th century have thought that if they had access to a certain kind of commercial goods, they would be a part of the culture that they wanted to be. And for the most part, they didn’t need those specialized goods. So this project has reminded me that the impulse I have to get more stuff—because it’s cool, because it works really well—ain’t always necessary. So I actually buy less stuff now.
Native American women who made buckskin suits for white outdoorsmen. Acknowledging that history is important, but in many ways, figuring out what we do with that history is far more complicated. I think Natives Outdoors is doing a version of that. It doesn’t right the wrongs of decades of erasure or appropriation, but it does pave the way for that new outdoor aesthetic and honor a different past than the imagined heritage of Eddie Bauer of the 1990s, for instance.

You’re one of the judges for the Innovation Awards at the gear industry’s Outdoor Retailer trade show. What are some cool new products we may see soon?

The award winner from last year was WoolAid bandages, which are essentially BandAids made from wool. When I saw that it’s possible to make a product that’s going to protect my wound while it heals—that’s also made out of a natural fiber—I couldn’t believe no one had ever thought of it. Other products include skis that aren’t made from petrochemicals, and products with return labels so that if you lose your glove, people can scan a QR code and return it to you. Gear innovation is less about “Oh, this jacket is warmer than ever” and more about “What broader impacts can it have on the environment and how do we lessen the footprint of the industry as a whole?”

What do you hope the casual outdoors person takes away from this book?

I hope it helps people shed some of the pre-suppositions that we have about the right way to participate in the outdoors. Or that one version of dressing as an outdoors person is the one that’s going to make you fit in. The reason that matters is because it can pave the way for a broader sense of inclusion for more people and in more places doing a range of activities that don’t have to be at the pinnacle of a sport to be important or valuable to them in their lives. I think the other takeaway is that we have to think carefully about what we acquire, given the broader impact that we know the consumption of goods has on our environment. And so if each of us critically examines our own habits—at the same time that outdoor companies are continuing to pursue their different versions of sustainable business—we can all approach our habits from a more critical place.

TRAILBLAZERS

In her book, Shopping All the Way to the Woods, Rachel Gross ’08 highlights the lack of diversity in the outdoor industry, but points to promising trends for the future. Here are five companies working to make the outdoors a more inclusive space.

1. Outdoor Afro

“Outdoor Afro celebrates and inspires Black connections and leadership in nature,” the nonprofit organization writes on its website. In addition to hosting outdoor education and conservation events, Outdoor Afro has partnered with REI to design a line of camping gear and clothing, in addition to collaborations with Keen, Smartwool, and other companies.

2. NativesOutdoors

NativesOutdoors was founded to elevate Native peoples and stories in the outdoors and address the lack of representation of Indigenous people in the outdoor industry. NativesOutdoors has partnered with Eddie Bauer to confront Indigenous appropriation in gear and to elevate Native artists and communities in the outdoor industry.

3. Blackpackers

Blackpackers “addresses the gap in representation and provides gear and lessons for how to pack for a backcountry trip.” Gross writes in her book. The nonprofit also provides outdoor education and trips at a low or subsidized cost and works to create new career paths in the industry.

4. The Venture Out Project

Venture Out hosts backpacking and adventure trips for the queer and transgender community. It also offers inclusivity workshops as well as hiking, backpacking, canoeing, and other kinds of outdoor trips. Venture Out has worked with REI, Eddie Bauer, Marmot, and other companies.

5. Fat Girls Hiking

“Fat Girls Hiking creates a community for safe spaces and more access with online advice on gear that fits,” Gross writes in her book. The group aims “to create a space where fat and marginalized folks can come together to connect.” They write, in order to create a more body-inclusive vision of the outdoors. Fat Girls Hiking hosts events and has chapters across the United States.

To read this story online or share with a friend, go to pugetsound.edu/rachelgrossbook.
Honoring Our Best
The university names five Loggers to receive its most prestigious alumni awards.

BY JULIANNE BELL ’13

Professional Achievement Award/Lifetime Sarah Rudolph Cole ’86 is one of the country’s leading scholars on arbitration, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution. She holds the Michael Maurer Chair in Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Seattle University School of Law and has contributed to the fields of law and philosophy, as well as other areas of study. Among her many accomplishments, she has contributed to the development of the field of arbitration, and has written extensively on the topic of dispute resolution.

Professional Achievement Award/Mid-Career Laura Heywood ’81 has a special knack for harnessing her passions. “The closest thing I can come up with for a consistent job description is ‘professional enthusiast,’” she says. “I’ve been a broadcaster, a spokesperson, an entrepreneur—a whole bunch of things in one—but they all seem to come back to the fact that my superpower is spreading joy through contagious enthusiasm.”

Service to Community Award For Jean Baungartel ’76, a sense of adventure, coupled with her passion for humanitarianism, has taken her all over the globe. In her career as an occupational therapist, she’s traveled to Chile, Vietnam, Peru, Honduras, Nepal, Bhutan, and Georgia, among countless other places. “I think occupational therapy has given me a really unique way of getting to know people in another country,” she says. “When she started as a Puget Sound student, Baungartel already knew she wanted to work in occupational therapy—she was inspired by her grandmother, who treated returning soldiers and worked in a mental hospital in the then-nascent field during World War II. But Puget Sound’s liberal arts approach allowed her to explore unexpected subjects, including a ceramics class led by Professor Emeritus Mike Veseth ’72. “The more time I spent at Puget Sound, the more excited I was to engage with people at different stages of life has been a real joy,” she says. “People from the Class of ‘72 all the way to grad students of the Class of ‘23—being able to engage with them has made for a much richer understanding of the university and a much greater grip of its continuing mission.”

She met her husband, James Mitchell ’74, in a psychology lab. After he completed his law degree, the couple volunteered for the Peace Corps in Chile, where Jean provided therapy to children with neurological and learning disabilities. She spent 30 years working for Group Health Cooperative/Kaiser Permanent, mentoring a number of Puget Sound students along the way. Through her retirement in 2015, she still strives to improve wellness in low-income counties and education for local health care workers. She’s also a member of the steering committee for Health Volunteers Overseas and a founding board member of the Tacoma-based nonprofit LCHIA African Heritage Relief Organization, which aims to better the lives of women and children in Kenya.

Baungartel has advice for students looking for a fulfilling line of work: “I recommend that anyone who has a career that combines traveling the world and meeting interesting people in other countries with providing service,” she says, “getting a degree in physical or occupational therapy will lead them to the perfect profession.”

Service to Puget Sound Award Jess Harry ’86 has served his alma mater in a wide range of roles. He has been a class agent for 15 years, served on the Alumni Council Executive Committee, and has been an integral part of Logger Day Challenge since its inception in 2018. He also has chaired the alumni committee of the Puget Sound Fund and volunteered for the ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge) program. In 2016 he created the Jess T. Harry Scholarship Fund for deserving students. “I’m motivated by that feeling of connection to current and previous students and being part of something that’s bigger than I am,” he says.

“Taking the lead from community and approaching things with a broad mindset is the best way to do that,” she says. “And I think that’s very much something I learned from my Puget Sound education.”

Know a Logger who deserves to be honored? Nominations for the 2025 awards are welcome.

Just fill out the form at: puestosound.edu/awardnomination

She calls his time at Puget Sound “transformative.” He praises his liberal arts education for developing his intellectual curiosity and communication skills. Those skills have served him well in his career as a consultant, trainer, and facilitator in the banking industry—a job that has taken him to 29 different countries.

During college, he was a member of the Adelphian Concert Choir. He points to Professor Emeritus Mike Veseth ’72 as a formative influence for his sense of humor and teaching ability.

“My superpower is spreading joy through contagious enthusiasm.”
Gabriel Lehrman ’16

BY MARIKA PROCTOR ’14

Gabriel Lehrman, a 2016 graduate of the College of Arts and Sciences, is a chazzan—one an ordained spiritual leader, able to perform the same duties with the same authority as a rabbi if needed. As a music major, Lehrman has been studying to become a cantor—an ordained musical leader of a Jewish congregation. He is also an ordained spiritual leader, able to perform the same duties with the same authority as a rabbi if needed.

Preparing for this responsibility has also drawn Lehrman outside the synagogue, doing chaplaincy work with unhoused folks in San Francisco and investigating the intersections of ecology and Judaism on farms across the United States. As he looks ahead to his May 2025 ordination, he remains acutely aware of a world on the verge of six pains and contractions. “The most important thing, for me, in living a spiritual life, is in the small acts that you do every day, and understanding that in the context of all that has come before you and all that is to follow.”

1960s

Congratulations to Ken Wiley ’62, who stepped down in December 2014 after 41 years of hosting the Art of Jazz show on KNKX FM. The Seattle Times profiled Wiley in January 2014, calling his long-running Sunday afternoon show “beloved” and “eclectic.” Wiley, now 85, was inducted into the Seattle Jazz Hall of Fame in 2003.

1970s

Scott Elder ’70 now lives in Avignon, France. His second collection of poetry, Maria, was published in 2023 by Emboss Press in Liverpool, England. A third collection, My Hotel, is due in Spring of 2026 by Salmon Poetry in Ireland. Since 2014, his work has been published on both sides of the Atlantic, praised or commended in numerous competitions in the UK and Ireland, and shortlisted for the International Business Books prize. Website: www.scottelder.co.uk.

Deserae Tovye ’74 is retiring and living in Deer Lodge, Mont. She is an active member of the Deer Lodge Art Club and is involved with Deer Lodge historic preservation. She recently traveled to Sainte Fe, N.M., on a Catholic Saints and Martyrs bus tour.

Randy Alimento ’71, ID ’80, has been elected to serve as chair of the board of directors of USA Bobski/Skeleiton. He’ll also attend meetings as a representative to the U.S. Olympic Committee and the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation. He says he’s excited to lead the USABS board of directors in 2023. It is for individuals who are in trauma recovery who experience dissociation, and for those helping them, Fuller says, “I continue to enjoy my work, traveling, and being in the mountains with family and friends.”

1980s

Eric Bailey ’81 was inducted into the Business Traveler Hall of Fame at the Plaza Hotel in New York City in December 2023. His induction was the culmination of more than 20 years working with the Microsoft travel program to improve the traveler experience through innovative technology and the drive for more sustainable business travel. Eric and his wife, Laurie Zettler ’80, live in Seattle’s Ballard neighborhood with their three children.

Paul Weigel ’91 is the author of a new book, Iron Dad: A Cancer Survivor’s Story of Discovering Strength, Life, and Love Through Fatherhood, to be published in June. He also participated, along with Katie Couric, in a PSA about colorectal cancer.

1990s

A short story by Rob Overmyer ’98, “Miss Direction,” published in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine in 2023, was a nominee for Best Short Story at the 2024 Mysteries Writers of America Edgar Allan Poe Awards. Oiler also appeared on the Writers on the Edge (WROTE) Podcast to talk about his newest mystery novel, Cinque du Sky. The WROTE Podcast helps promote LGBTQIA+ authors, musicians, and other creatives to share their work.

The book, Incurable Optimist: Living with Hope & Chronic Pain, by Jennifer Cramer Miller ’87, was the cover story in the Autumn 2023 issue of Arches, won an International Impact Book Award in January. The book was honored in two categories: family and medical.

Pamela “Jorgie” Sjostrom Fuller ’88 has a new book, Disconnected to Survive: Understanding and Recovering from Trauma-based Dissociation (Springer Publishing, December 2023). It is for individuals who are in trauma recovery who experience dissociation, and for those helping them. Fuller says, “I continue to enjoy my work, traveling, and being in the mountains with family and friends.”

Erica Stevens Vaught ’95 is excited to share that her gap year consulting business, The Intergalactic Gap, is thriving, and she has been able to reconnect with old friends. Fuller says, “Who knew that starting a business when you were 50 would be such a great idea? She says, “You can follow her on Instagram @TheIntergalacticGap to find out about gap year opportunities around the world. The book is a commentary on her experience dissociation, and for those helping them. Fuller says, “I continue to enjoy my work, traveling, and being in the mountains with family and friends.”

1990s

The Bay-area native is on his final placement as a chazzan or cantor in Washington, D.C., as part of his studies at Hebrew Union College. In Lehrman’s liberal Jewish tradition, a cantor not only leads the congregation in song, but is also an ordained spiritual leader, able to perform the same duties with the same authority as a rabbi if needed.

Preparing for this responsibility has also drawn Lehrman outside the synagogue, doing chaplaincy work with unhoused folks in San Francisco and investigating the intersections of ecology and Judaism on farms across the United States. As he looks ahead to his May 2025 ordination, he remains acutely aware of a world on the verge of six pains and contractions. “The most important thing, for me, in living a spiritual life, is in the small acts that you do every day, and understanding that in the context of all that has come before you and all that is to follow.”

For religion and music double-major Gabriel Lehrman ’16, the past is a tool to help make sense of the present—a skill he sharpened in both classroom and studio alike.

In religion courses at Puget Sound with Stuart Smithers, Lehrman learned how to dig deeply into his own Jewish tradition, putting it in conversation with the world around him. “It blew my mind,” he recalls of a particularly transformative seminar on Jewish philosopher Walter Benjamin. “It always a logger

CLASS NOTES | ALWAYS A LOGGER

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ARCHES SPRING 2024

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Ryan Sanada ’97 of Honolulu has been elected to the board of the Hawai'i Bar Association. He is associate general counsel for Outrigger Hospitality Group, which manages about 40 resort locations worldwide. He also serves as a senior director and the non-profit Outrigger CARES Foundation. He has a law degree from the University of Hawai‘i Richardson School of Law.

Regina Jorgenson ’56, director of astronomy at the Maria Mitchell Association (MMA), spoke about the total solar eclipse visible across North America at the MMA Science Speaker Series. Jorgenson began her career in astronomy over an internship at the Maria Mitchell Observatory in Nantucket, Mass., while she was a student at Puget Sound.

Trey Y. Williams ’38 has joined international law firm Clark Hill, a senior attorney in the firm’s environmental and natural resources practice. He’ll be based in Denver. He is an environmental and natural resources attorney and advises clients on compliance and issues related to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund) and state related laws. Williams came to Clark Hill from Beveridge & Diamond’s Seattle office.

President Biden in April announced his intention to nominate Amanda S. Jacobson ’99 to be U.S. ambassador to Equatorial Guinea. A career diplomat, Jacobson has joined the U.S. Embassy in Gaborone, Botswana. She is the new ambassador to that country. She has served as chief of staff to the board of the Hawai'i Employers Council. He was a member of Sigma Chi sorority and the Army and later worked for the Postal Service and then the State Department.

A book by Emsse Czarka Perkins ’02 received a 2024 Independent Print Award in the category Pregnancy & Childbirth. The book, To Carry and To Keep the Land, is the third song in her forthcoming debut album. The song celebrates the connections between people and the planet, taking inspiration from the landowners, advocates, farmers, and friends she has made living in Denver. She hopes the song sparks more curiosity about food systems and their role in combating environmental issues.

Anita Jewett Frisancho ’50, ’59, died March 8, 2024, in Seattle. She was a youth mentor at the University of Washington Prep and a substitute teacher for Seattle First National Bank (now Bank of America) and clerical specialists for two major Washington State agencies—Commerce and Labor. He retired in 2000.

William (Bill) Thorndox ’59, ’53, ’72 of Olympia, Wash., died Jan. 22, 2024. He was 86. He was a vice president and consumer advocate for two major Washington State agencies—Commerce and Labor. He retired in 2000.

Janet Wright Franzen ’60 died Dec. 9, 2023. She was 82. At Puget Sound she was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority, and they lived in Idaho for a time before moving to the town’s internationally recognized music festival. She also lived many years in England. We learned in February 2024 of the death of Charles L. Wulf ’55, a business administration graduate, who lived in Seattle.

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James Hanna MEd ’64 of Joyce Edris Craig ’64 died April 28, 2024. He was 84. She was a multi-faceted and versatile career as a youth coordinator, teacher, after-school enrichment and summer program director, and International Affairs and the Marcelle Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund for Romance Languages and Music. In addition, in 2017, Martin’s friend of 46. She had a master’s degree in education from clicking Army service in Vietnam, then returned to her home in San Francisco Menendez ’84 died unexpectedly Feb. 29, 2024. A full obituary will appear in the Autumn 2024 issue.

Elizabeth (Beth) McAulay ’81 died Feb. 7, 2024, in Federal Way, Wash. She had a 39-year career in nursing, ending her time with her retirement from the Puget Sound General Hospital in 2020. She died Feb. 28, 2024, in Bremerton, Wash. She was 88. An Army infantry veteran, he worked for Time Oil Company.

Billie Kay Batson ’81 died Feb. 7, 2024, in Federal Way, Wash. She had a 39-year career in nursing, ending her time with her retirement from the Puget Sound General Hospital in 2020. She died Feb. 28, 2024, in Bremerton, Wash. She was 88. An Army infantry veteran, he worked for Time Oil Company.

Ronald L. Heil ’71 JD’76 of Port Orchard, Wash., died Dec. 19, 2023. He was 83. He had a degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He had a degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

Sue Ann Stevens ’85 of Pocatello, Idaho, died Oct. 25, 2023, in Tucson, Ariz. She was 60. She had a degree in English from Puget Sound, where she was on the crew team. She worked as a PR and marketing professional at Holland America Cruises Lines before becoming a partner at her own company, Skinner, Dunlevy, and Stevens International in Seattle. She was an active Puget Sound vol-
university in Martin’s honor. The university also maintains the Jacquie Martin Award, given for excellence in French literary studies to French majors or minors. Martin remained an active and beloved member of the Logger community until her death on Jan. 3, 2024. She was 101 years old.

Judy Harris Morford ’65 of Bainbridge Island, Wash. She was 88. Her husband, Marvin Holmes ‘49, died Feb. 26, 2024. He had degrees in education and school counseling from Puget Sound, and worked for Federal Way School District for 33 years as a building administrator and counselor. He was 85.

Arthur W. Carnahan ’65 of Shilo, Ill, died March 22, 2024. He was 82. He worked for the Washington State Department of Corrections in the Tacoma area; then, in the mid-1960s, he managed several large senior living facilities in Missouri and Texas.

Richard G. (Dick) Fournier ’64 of Kinneland, Wash., died Jan. 5, 2024. He was 90. A former high school and school principal, he was an entrepreneur as well, involved in such projects as apartments rental, car washes, a frozen yogurt company, the American Lake Ski School, and Emerald Yacht Charters.

Virginia (Ginny) Clinton Lovett ’64 died Jan. 2, 2024, in St. Mary’s, Ga. A music major at Puget Sound, she studied music in Vienna, Austria, during her junior year and later earned a master’s in music. She was a longtime church organist and choir director, and taught piano lessons.

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Summer in the Sound
BY STELLA ZAHISTOWSKI

See how well you do on this summer-themed crossword puzzle. Show us a photo of your completed puzzle and you might win a prize from the Logger Store! Send the photo to archive@pugetsound.edu, or post it on Instagram or Twitter and tag us (#pugetsound). Congrats to Gary Rogers ’63 of Woodinville, Wash., who won the prize from the Winter 2024 puzzle. See the solution to this issue’s puzzle at pugetsound.edu/summercrossword.


Andrea Hatch ’05 and Michael O’Malley ’06 were married on May 20, 2023, in Portland, Ore. Loggers in attendance, from left: Lisa Long ’04, Daniel Caims ’07, Daniel Bradley ’06, Kate Sojda ’06, Emerald Archer ’04, Professor Elizabeth Bernad, Claire Baldwin ’07, the bride and groom, Julia Marie Lewin ’06, Marisa Liu ’06, Eric Rochever ’07, Robert Kelsey ’08, Joe Colistro ’08, Steve Juddkins ’06, and Wyatt Lewin ’08.

While waiting for the ferry from Positano to Sorrento, Italy, Rachel Quisenberry- Bennett ’02 (left) and Emily Peters Muus ’06, MAT ’21 happened to be beside each other with their families and friends. While chatting about how much they enjoyed their time in such a beautiful place, they discovered a couple of happy surprises. They are proud Puget Sound alumni, and they both were in Alpha Phi during their time at school. Says Rachel: “No matter where you travel, you never know when you’ll encounter a fellow Logger.” Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers held their annual get-together this past winter at Suncadia Resort in Washington. From left: Victor Hytrek ’77, Jon Wellinger ‘75, Tom Grant ’77, Al Cottle ’74, Kevin Kerstens ’76. Chuck Oxer ’75, Bill Hirschberg ’79, John Broten ’76, Peter McNeil, Larry Faggemose ’74.

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Loggers from the 1990–91 PacRim program held a virtual gathering in late November 2023. Top row, from left: Eric Gisler ’91, Natasha Hollins Egan ’92, Rachelle Blair ’91, P’25, Mason (Beau) Hobert ’93, and Sarah Richards Hedges ’92. Second row: Jeff Jacobson ’91, former faculty member David Satenshine (joining from Kyushu), Julie Gilson ’93, Jim Mullinax ’90, and Amber Pearson Race ’92. Third row: Jennifer Stewart Crosby ’92, Kimberly Rountree Johnson ’92, Brian Renggli ’91, Patrick Egan ’92 (joining from London), and Cathy Freeman Conley ’91. Bottom row: Rob Rozeahnal ’91, Gretchen Richter de Medeiros ’92, Jason Tamme ’91, David Chaney ’91 (joining from Australia), and James Webster ’91.

Still bemoaning more than three decades later: When best friends Megan Coffey Swensson ’92 (left) and Gretchen Richter de Medeiros ’92 (center) met in their first year at Puget Sound, they were cast in a play as twins. Throughout the rest of college, they often found themselves wearing the same outfits without planning or consulting each other. This is what they were wearing when they met up in Tacoma to spend the day together with their dear friend Hope Alexander Willy ’04, MAT’96 (right). Hope quickly changed her shirt to match the theme!

Molly Campbell Nelson ’04 is teaching 5th and 6th grade in Boise, Idaho, at Washington Elementary. Her teaching partner was absent one day in April, and the substitute turned out to be a fellow Logger: Lindsay Mullen ’23. Mullen’s boyfriend, Rob Gutthker ’23, is working on his master’s degree at Boise State. Molly and Lindsey took a picture together on a field trip at Camel’s Back Park. Says Molly, “Substitute teachers come and go, but this time I got a fun new friend out of it!”

Loggers living in New Mexico held their first-ever alumni event in March: a gathering at the Albuquerque independent bookstore, Bookworks. Professor Jeff Matthews P’16 (of the School of Business & Leadership) spoke about his book, Generals and Admirals, Criminals and Crooks: Dishonorable Leadership in the U.S. Military. From left: Liz Collins ’81, Matthews, Emily Villegas P’27, Hattie Villegas ’27, Max McMuller ’21, Rolando Villegas P’27, Byron Gangnes ’82, P’08, Maja Stuart Peterson ’23, Kyle Kelsoch ’16, Hillary Benson Gangnes P’90, JO’84, P’98, W. Houston Dougherty ’83, Linnéa Ista ’85, Ashley Biggers ’04, Kimberly Pine Dougharty ’90.

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Amy Roll ’12 married Ben Evans in Wales in June 2023, with a number of Loggers in attendance. From left: Preston Van Buren ’13; Chandler Fox ’12; Erin Przylucki; Mike Knape ’12; the groom and bride; Steve Roll ’79, P’12; Ruby Aliment ’12; Pieter VerHaar ’12; Sarah VerHaar; and Elizabeth Cohen ’11.

The Puget Sound New York City Regional Club held a happy hour social in December at the Bryant Park Winter Village. Back row, from left: Jordan O’Hanlon ’19, Elena Hollemon ’20, Julian Mariel ’20, Olivia Cadwell ’15, Rick Hinkson ’80, Brian Cross ’15, Arda Bulak ’16. Front row: Holly Reif ’19, Mary Dwiggins ’17, Suzie Spaulding ’88, Lucy Fey ’15.

The New York Club also met in March for a Logger Day Challenge Happy Hour at Brooklyn’s Prospect Bar and Grill. From left: Jenny Weirbel ’09, Clinton Agresti ’09, Talia NJ ’16, Arda Bulak ’16, Sophie Komick ’19, Greta Lindquist ’10, Megan Fries ’12, Lucy Fey ’15, Kevin Nguyen ’09. To join the New York club and get invited to future events, email alumoffice@pugetsound.edu.

Julie Davidson ’96 (left) enjoyed meeting up with fellow Logger and foodie, Kris Hay, at Balcon Express on 6th Ave. Kris works in Career and Employment Services and maintains the website Tacoma Aroma Flavor. “We planned an eclectic agenda of updates and adventures,” says Julie. “We didn’t plan to show up in matching Logger Pride gear!”

Livernash carved the sandstone owls in about 1950 near the Walker Cut Stone Company, Wilkeson, Wash.
October 4–6, 2024

Cheer on our athletes, connect with old friends and new, attend classes and workshops, lace up your running (or walking) shoes for the annual 5K, and much more. Enjoy all that Puget Sound has to offer, including exhibits in Collins Memorial Library, Kittredge Gallery, and Museum of Natural History, performances presented by the School of Music, and tree and campus tours.

Contact the Office of Alumni & Parent Relations at 253.879.2877 or alumoffice@pugetsound.edu.