

arches

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**A TASTE
OF THINGS
TO COME**

**REPERTORY DANCE GROUP
CELEBRATES 30 YEARS**



The Puget Sound Memory Project, which was made possible by a gift from **Ellen Ferguson '72** and inspired by the activism of **Grace Eberhardt '20**, officially opened in February. After the ribbon cutting, President **Isiaah Crawford** and Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity **Lorna Hernandez Jarvis** discussed how the project helps examine and address the university's long and complex past, and takes steps to create a more welcoming and inclusive future.

The Road Not Taken

Did you ever have an experience at Puget Sound that was helpful because it steered you away from a future path, rather than toward one you were considering? That's exactly what happened to me while writing my honors thesis.

Up until that point, I had enjoyed the challenges and community I found in the Honors program, and I had toyed with the idea of going on to graduate school. But I was miserable throughout the process of researching and writing that long, drawn-out project throughout my senior year, and at some point in the spring, I had two important revelations.

First, I realized grad school clearly wasn't for me. And second, I understood that my thesis didn't have to be perfect — it just had to be done.



This issue of *Arches* includes a story that celebrates the Loggers who had a different experience with those long research papers and honors theses — the people who felt and still

feel invigorated tackling a complex subject and sustaining their work on it over months, years, decades, or lifetimes. We're talking about the more than 700 alumni in our records working as professors and researchers in higher education (see "An Intellectual Odyssey" on p. 22). Writer **Kristi Bowman Morgan '93** started working on this story last fall, and we've been thrilled at the response. In almost all cases, these Loggers

told us that they were inspired by their professors at Puget Sound, and the learning that happened in the classrooms, labs, libraries, performance halls, offices, and walks to the SUB after class. We've also included plenty of additional content and extended Q&As with these alumni online, which you can check out at pugetsound.edu/arches.

Although my experience was the opposite of invigorating (I might have called it "soul-crushing" at one point), the learning that happened while writing my thesis still helped shape my professional life. Realizing that sometimes "good enough is good enough" has kept my tendency toward perfectionism at bay, and learning I actually thrive writing on a daily deadline made the transition to working at a newspaper a piece of cake. I am now in a happy place with three big deadlines a year (with lots and lots of little ones that energize me).

I'd love to hear about your Puget Sound experiences that might have helped steer you in an unexpected direction — email me at arches@pugetsound.edu to share your memories. And as always, thanks for reading *Arches*.

—Lisa Kozleski '94

P.S. I'm looking forward to attending Summer Reunion Weekend in June and hope to see you there. I'll be looking for alumni input on a big story I'm planning for the fall!

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Take a peek into the School-Girl Days scrapbook of Lyle Ford Drushel 1912.



We are located on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe. The Puyallup people have lived on and stewarded these lands since the beginning of time, and continue to do so today. We recognize that this land acknowledgment is one small step toward true allyship, and we commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land and beyond.

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The President's Perspective

On Endings and Beginnings



“One of the greatest joys of my presidency has been the opportunity to work alongside you — our incredible alumni. Whether meeting you at events, welcoming you back to our beautiful campus for Homecoming, or seeing the way you mentor our students, I am constantly inspired by the way you carry the ‘To the Heights’ spirit into the world. You are the living legacy of this university, and your passion for this institution has been a primary source of energy for me throughout my tenure. With that spirit of community in mind, I wanted to share with you my plans to retire and conclude my service as the 14th president of the University of Puget Sound on July 1, 2027.

“This decision comes with a full heart. The timing feels right as I look at all we have accomplished together — navigating a pandemic, modernizing our curriculum, expanding graduate education, securing the largest individual gift to the university in our history, and advancing ambitious plans for the years ahead. By sharing this news now, I hope to provide the Board of Trustees, under the leadership of Chair **Beth Picardo ’83, JD’86**, the time needed to conduct a thoughtful, inclusive national search and to ensure a transition that sustains our momentum. The road ahead will be busy and inspiring, and I look forward to all that we will continue to accomplish together.

“Serving this university has been the honor of my professional life. Kent and I are profoundly grateful for the warmth of this community and for the countless moments we have shared with you — at lectures and performances, in classrooms and laboratories, at community and campus celebrations, alumni gatherings, at Logger games and competitions, and at our glorious Commencement ceremonies. The rhythms of life at Puget Sound, from the first day of classes to graduation, have shaped us deeply, and we will carry these memories with us always. Thank you for all you do for this extraordinary institution.”

— *President Isiaah Crawford*

What We're Talking About on Campus



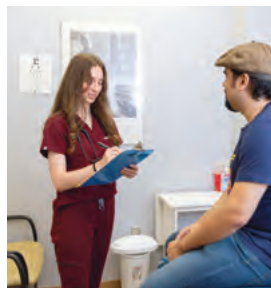
TOPS IN TEACHING

It seems fitting that, in an *Arches* issue that celebrates Loggers working in academia and the faculty members who inspired them, we kick off the news section with a celebration of teaching.

Wind Woods, associate professor of theatre arts, received the **President's Excellence in Teaching Award** for 2025. He was praised for blending creative and analytical approaches in the classroom and for encouraging students to examine the intersections of art, culture, and politics. Colleagues describe his courses as a "masterclass in responsive pedagogy," and students highlight the sense of community and joy Woods cultivates. Congratulations, Professor Woods!

CIVIC DIALOGUE IN ACTION

House Speaker **Laurie Jenkins JD'90** and Senate Republican Leader John Braun anchored an engaging panel discussion on campus in January as part of the **Washington State Legislative preview**. Award-winning journalist Austin Jenkins moderated the discussion, which centered on the parties' top priorities for the upcoming legislative session, the potential impact on individuals and communities, and questions from the audience.



HPA REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

The university's **Health Professions Advising (HPA)** program is experiencing unprecedented growth, now supporting 523 students and alumni as they pursue careers in health care. This year, 442 undergraduate students — 28 percent of the student body — identify as pre-health, while 81 alumni are actively preparing applications for professional health grad programs. In the current application cycle, medical school applicants using HPA for support have received interview invitations from 20 top-ranked institutions, and the majority of medical school applicants have already secured acceptances for programs. In addition, all of the dental school and occupational therapy applicants working with HPA have received official acceptance offers, and physician assistant applicants have received interview invitations from 13 programs across the country. Learn more about this important program at pugetsound.edu/HPA.

A NEW LEAD LOGGER

Tiffany Newton joined Puget Sound as the new **director of Alumni and Parent Relations (APR)** in December 2025. Originally from Northern California, Newton previously worked as APR director at Willamette University. Newton's unique background in social work and community engagement gives her a keen understanding of human connection and empowerment. "Our alumni are the owners of this



brand, this experience and what this institution means," she says. "We want to show them where the institution is headed, and whatever initiatives or priorities they can take pride in themselves and be a part of supporting." — *Minnie Jellinek '27*

FIVE FEATURES YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS

There aren't enough pages in *Arches* to tell all of the great stories of Puget Sound's people, places, and ideas. Head to pugetsound.edu/stories for even more campus news, including:



Debbie Cafazzo's profile of **Sophia Irigoyen '28** and **Jennifer Irigoyen MPH'27**, a mother-daughter duo currently enrolled at Puget Sound.



Veronica Craker's feature on a class called "**Murder and Mayhem Under the Microscope**," which taught students about true and fictional crime.



Jonny Eberle's spotlight on student storyteller **Anna Dery '27**, part of the "**To The Heights**" series profiling what it means to be a Logger.



The deep dive by Frances Edwards-Hughes '27 into the **First Year Inside program**, which helps students begin their college journey with confidence.



The historic look at **Black History Month** written by Minnie Jellinek '27, which spotlighted an interview **Donovan Wilson '22** had with **Louis Smith '69**.

Classes for a Changing World

DATA 160 Survey of Data Analytics with Code

— with **Marissa Masden**,
assistant professor of mathematics
and director, Data Analytics



COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is about what people do with data, why they do it, and how students can do the same thing.

PRACTICAL ASPECTS: By the end of this class, students will be able to describe, select, computationally implement (using built-in tools), interpret, validate, and communicate the results of at least one example of the core data-analytical techniques; use the Python scripting language as it is commonly used in modern data analysis; participate in the cycle of (non-statistical) data analysis; exhibit awareness of the overarching ethical issues surrounding working with data; and discuss how these ethical issues affect data careers.

FOUNDATION OF A NEW PROGRAM: DATA 160 is a foundational course in the university's new interdisciplinary Data Analytics program, which was launched last fall. The goal of the program, which offers individual courses as well as a minor, is to equip students with the skills needed to navigate the growing world of big data, artificial intelligence, and data-driven decision-making. Courses give students experience with conventional statistics, as well as big-data competencies and programming skills, with electives providing exposure to disciplinary approaches to data and statistics.

THE PROF'S VIEWPOINT: "I made DATA 160 because I think every student deserves to know how data is used in the modern age, in terms of what people do with data, why they do it, and how they could do it themselves. I intend it to be empowering, in a handful of ways. First, that understanding what is happening with data, and how people interrogate a data analysis for accuracy and fairness, can let students begin interrogating the analyses they see in the wild. Second, building the technical skills to work with data themselves — even if that data is messy — allows them to find new information nobody has seen before, and enables them to communicate in a way that augments their words, or that can be convincing to a different audience. Finally, I think there's a profound joy in discovering something interesting and coherent from what may initially seem like a mess of numbers and labels."

Classes for a Changing World is a regular feature in Arches that spotlights one of the scores of inspiring, innovative, and timely courses offered each semester at Puget Sound.

Honoring the Honor Societies

The University of Puget Sound is celebrating major milestone anniversaries for three honor societies this year. Phi Kappa Phi is in its 50th year, Phi Beta Kappa is in its 40th, and Phi Eta Sigma (formerly SPURS) is in its 20th. Mortar Board celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2022.

Honor societies recognize students who excel in academics, leadership, and service. **Alison Paradise '82** — a math and computer science instructor who is the current faculty advisor for Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board, and Phi Eta Sigma — was in SPURS, Phi Kappa Phi, and Mortar Board during her time as a student at Puget Sound. There are thousands of Logger alumni who were members of one or more of these societies. SPURS (now Phi Eta Sigma) recognizes achievements in first-year students, while Mortar Board and Phi Kappa Phi recognize rising juniors and seniors, and Phi Beta Kappa recognizes graduating seniors. Some honor societies also include a focus on service and organizing community events on campus.

Puget Sound's honor societies are all part of national organizations, and that is also part of their appeal. **Ella Tao '27**, president of Phi Eta Sigma, shares memories of her time at the society's national convention: "We get to talk to other schools and figure out what they're doing," she recalls. "We can bounce ideas off each other, and I think it's a really cool way of getting new feedback and figuring out what we can do to improve our chapter." Paradise says this anniversary year is an important time to celebrate the history and recognize the achievements of the university's honor societies, while also reflecting on how they continue to evolve to best serve the Puget Sound community. "We're still here and still working," she said. "We're still recognizing student achievement as best we can."

— *Janae Hill '26*

Were you a part of an honor society at Puget Sound? Share your reflections with fellow Loggers by emailing a letter to the editor at arches@pugetsound.edu.

Your Letters

The Wonders of WINTERIM

We received a flood of letters letting us know that the print version of “Objects of Our Affection” [Winter 2026] incorrectly stated the final term of Winterim took place in 1981, when the final term actually occurred in 1984. The Arches team thanks all of the eagle-eyed alumni from the early 1980s who kindly wrote to inform us of our error and shared their favorite Winterim memories. Here are some of their reflections:

I am writing to share my very fond memories of the Winterim trip I participated in. Our group of around 20 students went to Asia for a business-focused trip, with professors Robert Terpstra and I believe two others. We had a great tour starting in Tokyo, then to Beijing including a visit to the Great Wall, on to Shanghai, then Hong Kong (pre-return to China), Singapore and a stop in Taipei, from early January to the beginning of February 1983! To this day, I make references to this trip as it expanded my knowledge and understanding of so many cultures and business practices. At the time, mainland China was quite closed to the world, and we were under watch but had a very extensive tour that was focused more on culture than business. This trip is an outstanding memory of my Puget Sound experience.

Tamara Marson '83
Seattle

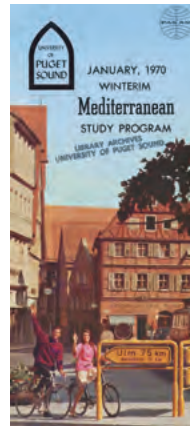
Your highlight of Winterim brought back some fun memories. I entered Puget Sound in the fall of 1983 and participated in the last of Winterim classes in January 1984. I had a difficult time choosing from the vast array of eclectic classes, especially the ones in Hawai'i and abroad, but ended up staying on campus and chose Celtic Literature. I had a great interest in all things British (and still do) and looked forward to reading and learning about Irish, Welsh, Scottish, and English sagas and mythology. Our professor had the entire class memorize the Welsh National Anthem and I can still recite it — 42 years later. I even impressed the locals in a pub in Cardiff with my recitation once while traveling. Thanks for the glimpse of the past.

Stephanie Brown '89
Yakima, Washington

I just finished reading the latest *Arches*. I love it so much! But I'm writing today about your Winterim article. I loved seeing the old '70s Winterim brochures. I took Winterim courses in 1982, 1983, and 1984. I'm not sure where you found the date 1981 as the last year of Winterim but it was definitely not 1981.

Jane Knechtel '84
Portland

My first Winterim of my course of study in physical therapy was a functional anatomy class that took place in 1981. We were to



learn all about skeletal muscles in the month-long course. What an overwhelming month that was! ... [In addition,] I have records of a self-study Winterim course that I created in 1984. **Darrell Reeck**, professor of religion, was my advisor. The course was a five-week study of the missionary activity in the Nandi Hills of Kenya. My host while I was in Kenya was my brother, **Larry Campbell '81**, who was working with the Peace Corps in Kenya at the time, which afforded the extended time in the country.

Larcy Campbell Amorelle '84
Des Moines, Washington

The piece in the Winter 2026 *Arches* about Winterim was a delightful reminder of one of my favorite aspects of my time at the University of Puget Sound. I enjoyed studying Ancient Greek in 1982, Northwest Coast Indian Art in 1983, and American Folk Music in 1984 before the program ended. Taking a single fun but intensive course made January less onerous and

much more pleasant! Thanks for the blast from the past.

Karen Meyer Eisenbrey '85
Seattle

I write to tell you why, as a student, Winterim shaped my future. I was a fine arts major. When I started, I threw myself into the pottery department to take classes from the internationally renowned master, **F. Carlton Ball**. In spite of my status as a freshman, I was invited to take his January Winterim class working with porcelain at the Banff School of Fine Arts in Banff, Alberta, Canada. We threw pots in the morning and skied in the afternoon — spectacular. ... My final Winterim, during my junior year, was in the theater department. The class produced, directed, and acted in the Edward Albee one-act play *The American Dream* under the guidance of **Tom Sommerville**. ... These theater experiences helped me understand that I liked being on stage, and this understanding led eventually to my going to law school at Puget Sound and having a

successful 35-year career as a trial lawyer — on stage with judges and juries. The January Winterim played a huge part in my growing up and career life. My professors were giants in their fields who treated the month very seriously; and we did, too.

Beth Jensen Chew '80, JD'85
Tacoma

Keeping up with the Joneses

I believe you have misstated the naming of Jones Hall [Pride of Puget Sound, Winter 2025]. Yes, Mrs. Franke Tobey Jones was both a supporter of and donor to the College Puget Sound and the Tacoma community, but ... Mrs. Jones asked that the building be named in honor of her late husband, Charles Hebard Jones. Take a walk over to the front entry of Jones Hall and look at the beautiful, carved wooden piece placed over the front doors, and the carving says C. H. Jones Hall — not F. T. Jones Hall.

Nancy Brones, neighbor
Tacoma

More Championship Memories



We received many letters in response to the Winter 2026 cover story on the 50th anniversary of the men's basketball team's national championship victory, including from several Loggers who fondly recall their own championship seasons. We updated our online story with additional winning teams and seasons, and included highlights from the mailbag here:

The story on the 1976 basketball champions was a great bit of remembrance. I was around and got to keep up with several of these guys in the years following.

Don Zech continued his winning ways through 1981 when we just missed a trip to the national tournament.

The quote about his "not suffering fools kindly" was spot on. ...One correction to the article, though. The move from NCAA Division II to lower levels came after 1982.

NAIA was the wrong answer, but Division III completely suits this program. We are fortunate to have nearby Northwest Conference rivals who are also great examples of D3 athletics. Logger up!

Bob Akamian '82
Beaverton, Oregon



The cover story took me back 50 years, to when I was a Fine Arts major specializing in the human figure. I was asked to do an illustration for the front page of *The Trail* following the men's basketball team's national championship win. It was a fun project for me as I knew **Curt Peterson '76** (he's in the upper left in the sketch) and *The Trail* staff. Those who were on campus during that time may remember it — it was quite the celebratory time. Go Loggers!

Dana Nunnally '76
Kirkland, Washington



I enjoyed the championship issue of *Arches*. But you missed one! I was a player and coach of the men's tennis team in 1966 when Puget Sound won the Evergreen Conference championship. Other members of the team were **Pete Rockness '67**, **Mike Harris '67**, **Mike Pipe '67**, and **Jim Rawn '69**. Football coach **Bob Ryan** was our tennis advisor.

Dennis Hinton '66
Seattle

As a former music major, I wasn't sure the Winter 2026 issue of *Arches* devoted to sports would be of interest to me. But then I found the tribute to **Leroy Ostransky**, one of my music theory instructors; and a letter to the editor from **Candy Campbell '70**, a fellow participant in the fall 1968 Vienna semester abroad, an experience I remember fondly for its cultural, historical, and musical experiences. Finally, the cover story of the championship team reminded me of the mutually supportive environment I found at Puget Sound. I always read *Arches* cover to cover. In an era when many small colleges are floundering, it's heartening to see the University of Puget Sound is still going strong!

Penelope Price Mathiesen '71
Ellettsville, Indiana

Loggers and the World Cup

I also enjoyed the article regarding the World Cup and connections to our Logger community [The Joyful Game, Winter 2026]. As one of at least a few Loggers who are working on aspects of this year's Seattle soccer celebrations (outside of the stadium, behind the scenes, and off the pitch), it's lovely to be reminded of how widespread our alumni community really is. Thanks for another great edition!

Gretchen DeGroot
Lenihan '99
Seattle

Logger Lookback

Ready For A Reunion

Summer Reunion Weekend 2026 is just around the corner! While official reunion activities have varied over the years, Loggers have been getting together for as long as students have been joining the ranks of alumni.

In these archive photos from 1949 and 1971, campus community members of all types celebrated summertime with an enduring classic: the picnic.

At a festive all-day gathering at Titlow Beach, **Mary Louise Moon Long '50** (below, far left) and **Beverly Sinkovich Marcelia '51** (far right) grabbed a bite with two unknown Loggers. (Do you know their identities? Please email arches@pugetsound.edu so we can update this story.)



Twenty-two years later, Dean of Admission **Ed Bowman '57, P'86, P'93** (left) took time to appreciate a rare afternoon of Pacific Northwest sunshine.

Surrounded by classmates, friends, and family, these Loggers met up to play games, share lunch, and trade ideas in the true spirit of Puget Sound camaraderie. You can, too, at Summer Reunion Weekend 2026. Great things happen when Loggers link up! — *Amelia Hooper, Director of Prospect and Information Management*

Do you like to party with your Logger peers? Send your photos and stories to arches@pugetsound.edu. And we hope to see you in June at this summer's reunion!



The Pride of Puget Sound

Congratulations to the following University of Puget Sound students, staff, and faculty making a difference in their communities.



Hajung Lee, associate professor of religion, spirituality, and society and director of the Bioethics program, visited Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Indonesia last summer as part of a Harvard Medical School delegation bringing bioethics expertise to communities.



Andrew Monaco, associate professor and chair of economics, shared his team's 2026 Pierce County Economic Index at the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber's annual Horizons Economic Forecast in January.



Nick Brody, professor of communication studies, appeared on the *Nerd Farmer Podcast* to discuss the concept of Morally Motivated Online Mobs, explaining how they distort political discourse and shape the information environment.



Associate Registrar for Operations and Curriculum **Eli Gandour-Rood** was recognized with the Emerging Leader Award at the Pacific Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers conference.



The History of Science Society recognized Professor and Director of Science, Technology, Health, and Society **Kristin Johnson** for her book, *Darwin's Falling Sparrow: Victorian Evolutionists and the Meaning of Suffering*.



Robin Jacobson, professor of politics and government, delivered the keynote address at the Tacoma as a Welcoming City event in March at the Asia Pacific Cultural Center.



In an essay published in *Aeon* titled "Sleep is Delicious," **Sara Protasi**, associate professor of philosophy, argues that sleep is valuable for much more than physical and mental health, suggesting that sleep itself can be pleasurable.



Jennifer McCullen, assistant professor of psychology, explored how adverse childhood experiences and lifelong stressors impair emotion regulation through the lens of Ebenezer Scrooge before a December screening of *The Muppet Christmas Carol* in Tacoma.



Kristopher Imbrigotta, professor of German studies, was named a Global Fellow for 2026 at Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea, in recognition of his work with faculty colleagues in German and theater.



In a paper for the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry **Steven Neshyba** and Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences



Joel Eklof '16 identified a major gap in climate education and presented a climate model to fill it.



Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Anthropology **Gareth Barkin** published a new study that warns of a subtle cultural imperialism embedded in the world's most popular AI models.



Master of Education in Counseling student **Allie Watkins MEd'26** was elected to serve as the graduate student representative on the Washington School Counselor Association Board.

Turning the Tides

For the last five decades, the Tides Tavern, founded by Logger **Peter Stanley '69**, has been a beloved spot to grab a bite on the Gig Harbor waterfront. The historic eatery, which opened in 1973, entered a new era in January 2026 after it was acquired by the Anthony's Restaurants chain. Amy Burns, the company's president and CEO, said the company would maintain the beloved aspects of the Tides, including the menu, the team, the dockside service, and the award-winning women's restroom (if you know, you know).

One of the restaurant's regulars was retired biology professor **Eric Lindgren**, who taught at Puget Sound from 1971 to 1984. In the early 1970s, Lindgren moved to Gig Harbor, and his first small cabin was about a half mile from the tavern. He recalled paddling over to the restaurant

in his canoe after a full day of lecturing when he had a hankering for seafood. It was here where he thumbed through students' work over 25-cent beers and pub food. An anniversary poster from the Tides hung on his office door at the university, and in large letters at the top it said, "exams composed and graded at Tides Tavern."

Lindgren wasn't the only person on campus who loved this place. He recalls students piling into cars and making the journey over the Tacoma Narrows Bridge for a bite. "Since I lived so close and was probably good for a pitcher, they would call and we would sit around and chew the fat." While the version of Tides Tavern once loved by community members might have changed, loyal customers are hopeful that its original charm endures.

— *By Lindy Rybloom '26*



'The Art of Not Knowing Yet'

Grace Youn '13 on making music, building a brand, and defining your path

STORY BY JANA E HILL '26 | PHOTO BY ALEX CROOK



"You know, there is actually an art form to being curious. There is an art form to not knowing yet. And I have to remind myself [of that] every day." That's what **Grace Youn '13** concluded near the end of a visit to campus in February, after she had given two master classes to students and community members as well as the Spring 2026 Susan Resneck Pierce Lecture in Public Affairs and the Arts titled "The Art of Not Knowing Yet."

Youn, who grew up in University Place, Wash., and earned her Bachelor of Music degree in performance, is a Los Angeles-based multi-instrumentalist, arranger, and producer. She started sharing her own arrangements on YouTube in 2011 and recently traveled as a violinist, guitarist, arranger, and vocalist with the Irish singer and musician Hozier during his Unreal Unearth Tour. Youn also serves on the School of Music Advisory Board, contributing to the conversation of what a career as a musician can look like.

During the Pierce Lecture, Youn explored what she called "the curiosity loop" — endlessly pursuing side quests and defining your own path, instead of the outcomes that society deems necessary to achieve success. The next day, she sat down with our *Arches* team to expand on that conversation, discuss her life as a musician, and more. Here's what she had to say:

What was the first thought that crossed your mind when you were invited to come back and give this year's Pierce Lecture, and what did it feel like being up on stage?

When I was asked to do this, I was prepared to say no. It's been so long since I've done any academic study. I never really felt like I

was a great student in the traditional sense. The things that I was interested in weren't necessarily the things that were the focus. So coming back here, I was just wondering, am I even important enough to do this? Do I actually have something compelling to say? Does what I have to say about curiosity actually matter? Can it relate to non-artists? All of those questions were swirling in my head at the time of the ask. And then, I realized I just actually had to go at it and do it. And I'm glad I did.

You mentioned in your lecture that there is a mindset shift to not just focus on the outcomes. Is there a moment when you really started to pursue that mindset shift, or was it natural?

It is not natural. And I actually fight this every single day of my life as a creator. In the lecture, I talked a lot about the concept of making bad art [art that is not immediately perfect or that you think is terrible]. And I have to tell myself that every time I open my laptop and start the writing process. I have to make something. And sometimes I actually tell myself to purposefully make something that I think is going to be terrible to really see if I could actually get myself to do it. And it's always amazing because it's like, oh, it's actually not that terrible.

The audience loved hearing about your time on tour with Hozier. What is something that would surprise people about life on tour?

Every day looks a little bit different, and for me to feel like I could be the best version of myself, I had things that I had to do every single day to create routine. I actually had my own matcha kit that I brought on tour, and so me making matcha for the band was normal. I had the matcha powder, I had my whisk. I had my kettle that would heat the water exactly to 176 degrees. It was a grounding moment for me to just take five minutes for myself — to make my own drink.

"At the end of the day, if you are able to authentically tell your story to the world, it will resonate."

One of your master classes was titled "Findable. Referable. Hirable. Personal Branding for Musicians," and it focused on building a reputation and presence in the music industry without influencer energy. What is the most important thing when it comes to branding as a musician?

For me, it's authenticity, and that's going to look different for everybody. At the end of the day, if you are able to authentically tell your story to the world, it will resonate. It might not resonate with everybody, but it will resonate with somebody, and that's the person I'm always concerned about.

What advice would you give to graduating Puget Sound students (like me)?

You will never have all the answers. And that is OK. I really am a firm believer in timing. There are certain points in my life when I wished an opportunity would come. Looking back, I realize I was not ready for that opportunity yet. I still had more learning and growing to do. Life's answers are not going to be in front of you all the time, and some of your answers may take longer than you think to find. But they'll all make sense eventually. We just have to be present enough in the process and get comfortable with being uncomfortable.

The story was reported on and written by senior Janae Hill '26, an English major and Communication Studies minor, who is one of two Arches student writers this semester. After graduation this spring, Hill plans on finishing her novel.



Grace Youn '13 is a Los Angeles-based multi-instrumentalist, arranger, and producer. In March, she was on campus to give two master classes to students and community members as well as the Spring 2026 Susan Resneck Pierce Lecture in Public Affairs and the Arts titled "The Art of Not Knowing Yet."

'THE PENDULUM BEGINS TO COUNT'
Suspended from the third-floor ceiling in the center of the spiral staircase in Harned Hall's main lobby is the Foucault pendulum, which marks time while the world turns at Puget Sound. University photographer Alex Crook captured this time-lapse photo of it passing over the base of inlaid wood this winter. The base was set in a pattern named for British physicist and mathematician Roger Penrose, who, in the 1970s, developed sets of shapes to tile a surface in regular but nonrepeating patterns. The base was designed and constructed by Professor of Physics Alan Thorndike, who retired in 2012 and died in 2018.







ACTIVIST AND ADVOCATE
Ramona Bennett Bill MED '81,
Hon '00, sits in front of the
sweat lodge affectionately
called "The Ramona Dome,"
located at her Puyallup home.
The lifelong organizer, advocate,
and community leader just
published her memoirs,
Fighting for the Puyallup Tribe.

The Education of Ramona Bennett Bill

Grad's new memoir, Fighting for the Puyallup Tribe, chronicles a lifetime of on-the-ground advocacy and 'thinking generationally'

STORY BY DOUGLAS SACKMAN
PHOTOS BY ALEX CROOK
HISTORIC PHOTOS COURTESY
THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS

The education of **Ramona Bennett Bill MED'81, Hon.'00** did not start auspiciously.

In first grade during World War II, when students were taught letters with stereotypical blackboard pictures of chiefs to go along with “I is for Indian,” her mom visited school one day. But, steeped in the anti-Japanese racism suffusing the schoolyard, “this nasty pig of a boy made slanty eyes at her.” Young Ramona promptly “clocked him!” After that, her mom stayed home, but she remained a combatant in her daughter’s education. When Bennett Bill talked about how she was taught “Columbus discovered America,” her mom set things straight: “We weren’t lost.”

Teachers told Bennett Bill, whose father was white, that she could pass as white. She refused: “As a child and all through life, I identified as Indian. That was important to me.” Her mom told her the truth about white people’s “racism and genocide,” and when “we traveled in areas with ‘No Dogs or Indians allowed’ signs, I could have gone with my dad and used the restaurant or gas station facilities, but I always peed in the bushes with my mom.”

At Franklin High School in Seattle, a counselor told her point-blank that she wasn’t college material, putting her in the typing and bookkeeping pipeline. But she was wrong about the material Bennett Bill was made of. Now enshrined in Franklin’s Hall of Fame,

she would go on to use those skills to earn college degrees — including a Master of Education degree in 1981 and an Honorary Doctorate in 2000 from the University of Puget Sound.

And she would use them to literally put the Puyallup Tribe back together, helping bring back “scattered” and “lost” members and lands. As she defiantly recounts in her firecracker of a memoir, *Fighting for the Puyallup Tribe*, much of her life’s work was devoted to fighting for education — but the right kind of education for her and her people. Along the way, her education was grounded in community: she learned from family and other Indigenous leaders, and then she applied all she learned with a fierce sense of commitment.

All quotes and excerpts are from *Fighting for the Puyallup Tribe* by Ramona Bennett Bill and used with permission from the University of Washington Press.
Copyright © 2025 Ramona Spirithawk Bennett Bill.



Ramona Bennett Bill waits for the school bus on Illahee Road in Bremerton on the first day of third grade in 1946.



Bennett Bill is wearing an outfit she designed and sewed herself in ninth or 10th grade, about 1952.



Bennett Bill calls roll as elected secretary at the National Congress of American Indians' 34th convention in 1977. Courtesy of the Puyallup Tribe.

From personal and family experience, Bennett Bill knew that much of the education Puyallup and other Indigenous people had been subjected to was meant to torch their culture. Her mom was exposed to the “sadists and pedophiles” of the Cushman Indian School before moving on to the Catholic-run Saint George Industrial School, where she and other kids were “repeatedly told, ‘You have nothing to cry about. You get a free education! Don’t giggle or laugh.’” And if “they made little fists, ‘Don’t even think about it!’” Her mom said they were “beaten stoic.”

dehumanizing order at these schools violated the way Puyallups had always reckoned time “by the tides, nature’s schedule, and seasons.”

But the students did make “little fists,” fighting back against the unnatural institutionalization. They also turned the intent of boarding school education on its head, using it when they could to preserve and protect themselves and their cultures. As Bennett Bill explains this paradox, the “boarding schools caused pain and suffering and enriched our lives. Mama always said, ‘Every silver lining has a cloud.’”

IN HER OWN WORDS

We were taught and told: Each river was given families of Indians. We are needed to protect our brothers and sisters, the nations of salmon. How blessed are we to be descended from those families Creator put here at Spalalabush. The white people couldn’t say our name, so we’re known as Puyallup (which they also can’t say).

Creator put everything we could possibly need right here. Mother mountain’s name to us is still Tahoba, not Rainier. She provides fresh clean water year-round and a home for the salmon. Puyallup River was First Avenue and the Salish Sea the highway. The thick tall trees provide shelter, canoes, clothing, utensils, nuts, and warmth. Every kind of roots and bushes you could imagine, some for our diet, some for our art and garments. This area is especially rich with wild cranberries. Bogs here and near the ocean provide both a treat and medicine. Tiny native blackberries grow along the ground in areas that had burned. Tiny, sweet huckleberries grow on our side of the mountains.

Several runs of salmon come to us year-round. Our beaches were rich with several kinds of clams, and the tide flats and Salish Sea held crabs, geoducks, and devilfish (octopuses). Deer, elk, seals, sea lions, fowl, and small game shared our paradise. We prayed before we took any life, animal or vegetable. We were always thankful and grateful. We do not kill for fun.

—Ramona Bennett Bill

Bennett Bill decries how education and religion were used as a weapon. The founder of the boarding school system, Richard Henry Pratt, made cultural genocide his motto: “kill the Indian, and save the man.” Such “education” equaled “culture shock:” she wrote that “our kids were removed from our own families and brought to institutions. The term ‘institutionalized’ fits perfectly. The kids were lined up and marched every time the schedule required a change of locations.” The rigid grid of time and

One example is sewing, taught to every girl to ready them to perform domestic service for white households. But sewing machines, which had long-since become a prized potlatch gift, could be used to thread Indigenous patterns. Working at the Seattle Indian Center in 1966, she typed, wrote grants — and sewed for the dance and culture classes. Teaming with others, she thrifted and sewed the Seattle All-American Indian Dancers into being. Around the same time, the Puyallup Tribe, confronting severe

efforts to eliminate them as a sovereign people, faced an existential dilemma: “selling our tribe or hanging on to a hopeless belief in our future.” Voting members were deadlocked. At the last minute, Maiselle Bridges mobilized her

— including University of Puget Sound English professor **LeRoy Annis**, acting as an ACLU witness. He had been notified by **Sharon Hansen P’87**, wife of another professor who helped protect the camp, **J. Tim Hansen P’87**. Hansen

IN HER OWN WORDS

Indian time was determined by the tides, nature’s schedule, and seasons. There’s a time to dig, hunt, pick, and gather. There always were hands ready and time to clean, sort, store, dry, and prepare the foods and materials for future use. Our life ends when our work is done. Scal-lal-a-tud is a spirit or angel who comes to lead us across the veil. Kiyah (Grandma) said, “If you want to walk with liars, fools, cowards, or thieves, just be that way and you will . . . in this world and the next.”

We believed and believe in an afterlife. We earn our place there. If we die suddenly or are angry or terrified, some believe, our spirit goes to what’s now called Lake Crescent (on the Olympic Peninsula). We need to heal before we cross the veil. Mama said, “We cry when we come into this life and cry when we leave it, because we don’t know what to expect.”

—**Ramona Bennett Bill**

Chemawa boarding school network and secured the vote needed to keep the Tribe from giving in. A connection forged in a place designed to destroy Indigenous culture ended up keeping the Puyallup Tribe together, if only by a thread.

The Tribe decided it was time for new leadership, and Bennett Bill was elected to the council. Other representatives concentrated on land and salmon; Bennett Bill took on health and education. But from the vantage point of the small plot of remaining land the Tribe maintained along the Puyallup River, she could see that everything was interrelated. In the summer of 1970, the Tribe set up a fishing camp there, determined to exercise their Treaty-guaranteed right to “hunt and fish at their usual and accustomed places.” The state saw things differently and cracked down violently on the Puyallup people and their allies on Sept. 9, 1970. Over 500 law enforcement agents surrounded the 70 people protecting their rights on the river where salmon swam. Firing live ammunition and tear gas, police blocked the roads, but allies began swimming in

was motivated to help because when his dad helped run the Minidoka, Idaho, prison camp of Japanese-Americans during World War II, he had seen children “beaten up and ridiculed” in public school.

Bennett Bill, Annis, and some 60 others were arrested and hauled to jail. Tim Hansen bailed out Bennett Bill, and he took her to the Puget Sound campus where there was a “big crowd to talk about what’d happened.” The news from the river got out, reaching sympathetic people across the nation and world. Sharon Hansen — who later “learned how to do nice beadwork” — stored fish in her laundry tub, *The Trail* reported, and helped sell salmon for the Tribe on campus. In the face of repression, the acts of courage by the Puyallups (and their allies) paddled on the movement that led to the momentous Boldt court decision of 1974, upholding the Tribe’s right to fish and protect the salmon, as they had always done.

On the river that summer, Bennett Bill’s commitment to righting the wrongs of education deepened, as she spent time



Bennett Bill with her husband, Clyde Bill, on the shore at Suquamish in the summer of 1976.



Bennett Bill traveled to Washington, D.C., with Charles William, Roleen Hargrove, Ella Aquino, and Martin Sampson to lobby for treaty services. Courtesy of the Puyallup Tribe.



Bennett Bill is pictured here with her daughter, Ah-Bead-Soot, and her mother, Gertrude McKinney, in about 1980. Courtesy of Elizabeth Winter.

with Puyallup kids who were suffering in state-run schools. “Our fishing camp pushed us to get our own school system going,” she recalls. She wanted to create “a school where Indian kids could laugh, cry, argue, learn, speak Indian, sing, and dance without being ridiculed or punished.” Turning that vision into a reality would involve an arduous journey on earth that had been scorched by anti-Indigenous policies. The Puyallup Tribe would need to reclaim and restore its land to create the school she envisioned, but the school she envisioned would also

help them reclaim and restore their land. It seemed like everyone was putting up obstacles, telling her and other Indigenous leaders they should go away — that they were “trespassing.” Fed up, she started swashbuckling onto lands, and into buildings, telling the purported owners that they were the trespassers. With others, she occupied Fort Lawton in Seattle in 1970, leading to the creation of Daybreak Star Cultural Center, which continues to offer a pre-school for Indigenous children as well as offer classes and host powwows.

While it’s impossible to recount here every anti-trespassing move she made in her own Puyallup homelands, they included:

- claiming an unused elementary school;
- criss-crossing the continent on the Trail of Broken Treaties, occupying the Bureau of Indian Affairs head-quarters in Washington D.C., and getting arrested again;
- writing grants to build school buildings;
- striking a deal with the governor to reclaim Tribal lands that had been used for the Cushman school and then the Cushman Indian Hospital, only to see him renege on it behind her back;
- occupying those buildings, serving an eviction notice to the state while being backed up by Uzi-packing Tribal Vietnam veterans;
- going toe to toe with government officials who threatened to blow up the building and everyone inside;
- and ultimately forging a deal to get the land back with the Under-secretary of the Interior, who traveled from the other Washington, wanting to make amends for having wrongfully arrested her in the Bureau of Indian Affairs occupation.



Bennett Bill and her daughter, La-huh-bate-soot, lead the newly assigned Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and others on a walking tour in 1975. Courtesy of the Puyallup Tribe.



Pictured here are Bennett Bill with Faye LaPointe (left) and Suzette Mills (right) in 1974. LaPointe had agreed to supervise a tutoring/counseling education program at Hawthorne Elementary School (now part of Chief Leschi Schools). Mills and Bennett Bill confirmed and welcomed her. Courtesy of the Puyallup Tribe.

It’s a tale you couldn’t make up, yet it is the one that Bennett Bill actually did make up, as she went along, compelled to fight for the Puyallup Tribe and her educational vision.

Having secured the land, they could now create “a school to offset the damage the boarding schools had done.” They named it Chief Leschi, honoring the legendary leader who stood up for Indigenous rights in the 1850s, and who was “judicially murdered.” Bennett Bill sees this fight as the same ongoing fight for the rivers, salmon, health, and education. In creating Chief Leschi Schools, the Puyallup leaders wanted their children “to know we love them. A

school is the heart of a community. We intended and wanted our tribal community to have a heart.”

In December 2025, Bennett Bill was honored at an assembly at Chief Leschi. After the event, she shared on Facebook the words she told the schoolchildren, that “our ancestors loved us and tried to leave something good. We loved them before we saw their faces and tried to prepare good things. It’s called thinking generationally.” It was a full-circle moment. From her first days in school, state-run education had given her the proverbial run-around. But she was always faster, and she had more stamina. In 1971, she used federal grant money to offer some college classes through Fort Steilacoom Community College, which provided classrooms at the psychiatric Western State Hospital.

While appreciated, being put there sent a double-edged message: “I never got over the notion that thinking Indians were college material caused the FSCC administrators to think we were crazy.” But the students “went on to do amazing things.” Bennett Bill earned her own Bachelor of Arts degree from The Evergreen State College while serving as Puyallup chairwoman and helped get the Tacoma branch started by offering its founders space in the new Puyallup building. Later, her son Charles Carson would earn his degree there. Talk about being “college material!”

After her time as chairwoman, she continued her pursuit of education. Bennett Bill told *Arches* that Tim Hansen and **Bob Ford MA’72** — who was a professor of counselor education and director of the Black Studies program — recruited her to come to Puget Sound when her term on council was nearing its end in 1979. She laughed as she told the story about how she had been accepted to the program and arranged her school funding, but on the day of her interview with the admission committee, she learned she would also

need to take a standardized test. The committee told her that the Miller Analogies Test, a standardized exam used for graduate school admissions until 2023, was being offered that day at Pacific Lutheran University.

So she went out that same day, “paid the \$70 and took the test, and they said I got all 60 questions right,” Bennett Bill said. Her particular test focused on Greek mythology, and she remembers being asked how she knew so much about that topic.

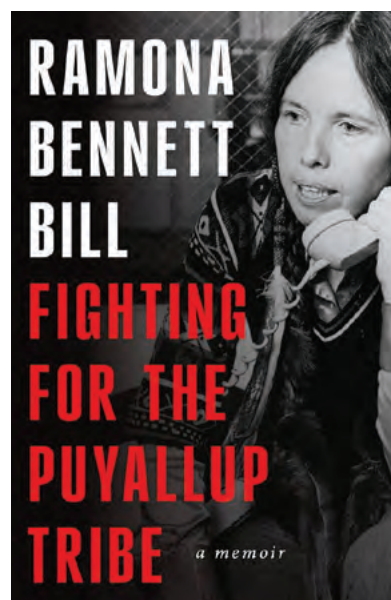
“In high school, I would go to a Carnegie library in Seattle,” Bennett Bill recalled. “I never could find any Indian legends, so I read Greek mythology. The day I took the test, I could remember everything. And that’s the Creator at work.” She started classes for a Master of Education degree in counseling the Monday after she was recalled.

Her educational pursuits were always community-centered and multilayered — while pursuing higher ed, she was also working for the Tacoma Indian Center and teaching her own and many other children in her orbit. She served as principal of the Wa He Lut School in Olympia, Wash., founded Rainbow Youth and Family Service, and received an Honorary Doctorate in Public Affairs in 2000 from Puget Sound.

Now 87, Bennett Bill continues to give back and educate everyone around her. Pick up a copy of *Fighting for the Puyallup Tribe*: you, too, will be educated — and entertained — in Ramona Bennett Bill’s illimitable fashion.

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Douglas Sackman is Distinguished Professor and Chair of History at the University of Puget Sound. A U.S. historian focusing on the North American West, he is the author of Wild Men: Ishi and Kroeber in the Wilderness of Modern America and Orange Empire: California and the Fruits of Eden, among other publications.



A relentless advocate for Native rights, Ramona Bennett Bill has been involved in the battles waged by the Puyallup and other Northwest tribes around fishing rights, land rights, health, and education for more than six decades. Her memoir, *Fighting for the Puyallup Tribe*, is full of vivid stories of her testimony in courtrooms and press conferences on issues affecting Indian Country, and celebrates the many friends and comrades she made along the way.

IN HER OWN WORDS

Chief Leschi sacrificed his life because he knew he loved us without ever seeing our faces. It’s up to us to think generationally and know we love the ones who’ll come after us. We must leave something good for them.

I’ll conclude with a phrase that Indigenous people in North America use at the end of a prayer, speech, or story to express our worldview about the interconnectedness of all creation — people, animals, insects, plants, inanimate objects: AMR — All My Relations.

—Ramona Bennett Bill



To read this story online or share it with a friend, go to pugetsound.edu/ramona.



A TASTE OF THINGS TO COME

REPERTORY DANCE GROUP CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF CREATING A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY DANCER BELONGS

STORY BY LINDY RYBLOOM '26
PHOTOS BY CAMILLE McCLAFFERTY '28
AND ALEX CROOK

It was the evening of April 29, 1997, and something remarkable was about to take place. Students crowded into Schneebeck Concert Hall, buzzing with excitement and nerves. As they navigated to their seats, they whispered to each other, eager to witness the inaugural spring showcase of the Repertory Dance Group (RDG).

Chatter filled the room until 8 o'clock struck and the lights dimmed. A group of student dancers — a mix of dance team members, theater students, and first-year students from a variety of dance backgrounds — glided onto the stage in the dark. The spotlight flickered on, illuminating faces covered in stage makeup. Music filled the hall and attendees

watched in wonder as the dancers swayed to the beat and broke out into energetic dance, showcasing elaborate choreography. The song came to an end, the students slid off stage, and roaring applause echoed through the hall. For the first time, Puget Sound had a club where dance in all forms, for all abilities, was possible. That joyful experience is still craved and celebrated by students today.

RDG will recognize its 30th anniversary in the 2026-27 school year, and it remains the largest student club on campus, with more than 180 members. Over three decades, it has been a space where dancers, experienced or not, feel safe to come together, free of judgment, for the sake of their shared art.

The road to that first opening night took exhaustive work behind the scenes by many people, including **Gretchen DeGroot Lenihan '99**, one of the founding members of the club. As a new student at Puget Sound, she was



Gretchen DeGroot Lenihan '99

eager to find a creative outlet on campus where she could exercise her dance skills, simply for fun.

Lenihan had grown up in Puyallup and, before coming to Puget Sound, she was enrolled in a rigorous, pre-professional ballet training program. Although she knew she didn't want to dance professionally, she missed the art form when she got to campus.

"Puget Sound had a dance team — UPSwing — that performed at Logger athletics events, mostly basketball. But there was no outlet for varying styles or more theatrical dance prior to RDG," Lenihan recalled.

"RDG co-founder **Christine Adams Benson '98** and I were both in UPSwing and in the chorus of a senior-directed play that involved dance in the spring of 1996," Lenihan said. There, they met other dancers who shared similar interests, and it was this group who dreamed up RDG.

"All of us who came together initially were people for whom dance had been a really important part of our identity," Lenihan recalled of those early days, "but we also knew we wanted to do different things in college."

Lenihan still has her original RDG materials, including the tattered beige program from the first spring show, called A Taste of Things to Come. The welcome message speaks to RDG's goal to provide campus with "a resource through which students of all levels would have the opportunity to teach, learn, create, and perform dance in all its forms."

Lenihan said the club's focus was to "feed something emotionally in people that they really need." **Lauren Sanford Setten '11** said she felt that focus when she arrived on campus in 2007. She had been dancing since the age of three at a conservatory-style training studio in her



Lauren Sanford Setten '11

hometown of Jackson, Wyo. Intense rehearsals and rigid coaches made her feel as if she didn't have the skill to pursue dance long-term, but RDG helped shift her perspective.

Setten was encouraged to join the group during orientation week. She was sporting her high school dance team sweatshirt when a fellow student approached her and asked if she was interested in RDG. "I don't know that I would have shown up to audition had she not said something to me," Setten remembered. That audition went well, and she became the only first-year choreographer that year, then serving as historian and then vice president during her junior and senior years. "I think what RDG did for me is it allowed me to dance on my terms," Setten said. "It was fun again."

Serving in RDG leadership roles also gave Setten the confidence she needed to forge her own path in the dance world, and she now owns a completely woman-run dance studio in Tacoma called Cultivate Dance Project. The studio, which offers classes for dancers of all ages from toddlers to adults, encourages people of all abilities and experiences to try their hand at dance. Like RDG, her studio is committed to fostering positive experiences for all dancers.

For **Rae Kertzner '26**, RDG has been a space to try new things. He never took a dance class before coming to the university, but he stumbled upon a rehearsal during the spring semester of his first year. "I walked in and I knew the choreographer, and she said, do you just want to be in my dance?"

He said yes, and has been active as a dancer and rehearsal advisor since that moment. Kertzner describes the atmosphere of the club as something that "feels huge," adding that it appeals to people from all different corners of campus.

Breaking into a group that is predominantly female has been an encouraging experience as well. Here, he added, there is no hierarchy, and everyone has a place on the dance floor.



Rae Kertzner '26

"I think in general, because it's less common to be a guy doing RDG, the guys who do it are uplifted to be there." Kertzner's RDG origin story speaks to the nature of the club. No matter where



CELEBRATE RDG AND MORE AT SUMMER REUNION WEEKEND



students are in their dance journeys, they are welcome to join in. Lenihan, Setten, and Kertzner all agree that RDG succeeds because it is a collective effort. A spirit of collaboration and genuine pride in each other keeps the student-run club afloat and appeals to new members.

Thirty years ago, setting up for the bi-annual show meant borrowing Lenihan's family van to transport rolls of dance flooring to the concert hall. Today, there aren't enough seats in Schneebeck to hold the audience, so dancers walk into an off-campus auditorium in elaborate costumes to start their shows.

Despite this change, the important aspects remain the same: the sense of community among the dancers, the joy in the dance, and the thunder of the applause at the end of the show.

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*This story is one in an occasional feature in Arches that showcases a pivotal moment in time in the university's history. It was reported on and written by senior **Lindy Rybloom '26**, a Communication Studies major and English minor, who is one of two Arches student writers this semester. After graduation, Rybloom would like to spend time abroad before landing a job in the journalism world.*



To read this story online or share this story with a friend, go to pugetsound.edu/RDG30.

All alumni are invited back to campus June 5 to 7 for a weekend filled with festivities and fun. There will be a special focus on those who graduated in classes ending in 1 and 6, with additional events for the classes of 1976 and 2001.

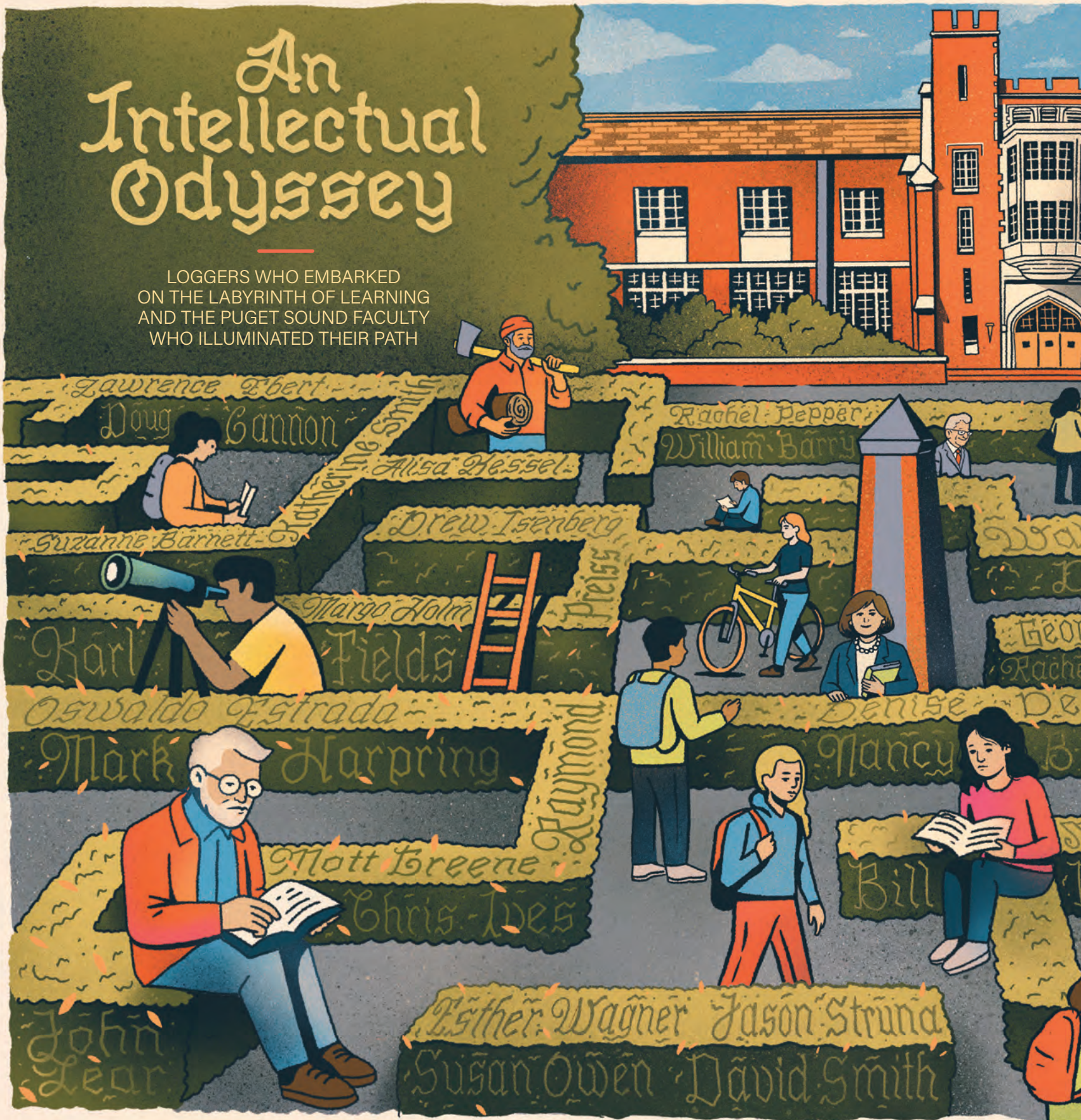
In addition, in honor of its 30th anniversary, there will be special celebrations for alumni who participated in RDG, as well as alumni who were orientation leaders from all eras of Preludes, Passages, and Perspectives; members of the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound (ASUPS); involved in Ka 'Ohana Me Ke Aloha (formerly Hui O Hawai'i); graduates of the Master of Arts in Teaching program, School of Education, which is celebrating 35 years; and more.

Save the date, spread the word, and get ready for an unforgettable weekend of reconnecting and celebrating. Questions? Go to pugetsound.edu/srw, email reunion@pugetsound.edu, or call 253.879.2877. And see you at Summer Reunion!



An Intellectual Odyssey

LOGGERS WHO EMBARKED ON THE LABYRINTH OF LEARNING AND THE PUGET SOUND FACULTY WHO ILLUMINATED THEIR PATH





t the University of Puget Sound, the classroom has always been more than a place where faculty deliver information to students.

It is where conversations unfold as students test ideas and begin the challenging and rewarding work of thinking itself.

For more than 700 Loggers, that work does not end at graduation. Today, they stand at the front of classrooms and labs around the world, continuing a lifelong relationship with learning, teaching, and discovery.

Loggers teach philosophy and physics, history and medicine, music and climate science, education and architecture. Some always imagined themselves becoming professors or researchers. Others arrived there by less direct routes through industry consulting, clinical practice, entrepreneurship, or years spent seeking answers to questions that refused to let go.

What unites these alumni is not a single discipline or career trajectory, but a shared Puget Sound education rooted in close faculty mentorship, rigorous inquiry, and the belief that students are capable of serious, original thought. Whether they graduated from Puget Sound in 1974 or 2018, alumni recall moments when a Logger professor assumed their competence before it was proven, encouraged them to pursue uncertainty rather than easy answers, or offered patience when confidence wavered.

Their stories complicate any romantic notion of academia. They speak candidly about shrinking job markets, long years of training, and institutions under political and economic pressure. Yet they return to the same source of meaning: the classroom, the professor, the students. A discussion that catches fire. A research project that reframes how a student understands the world. A moment when guidance becomes empowerment.

In this story, we celebrate Puget Sound alumni who now find themselves on the other side of the desk. What follows is a candid conversation, tracing how Puget Sound shaped these alumni — and how they, in turn, are shaping the future of higher education.

STORY BY
KRISTI BOWMAN MORGAN '93
ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRENT BATES

The Ball to Adventure



Becoming an academic was never part of the plan for **Christina Baker '06**. A first-generation college student, she moved forward step by step, from BA to MA to Ph.D., guided by encouragement more than certainty. “I never really knew I wanted to be an academic, I just kept going because people believed in me,” Baker said. Faculty mentors like John Lear, the late Mark Harpring, and Oswaldo Estrada not only shaped her scholarly interests, but modeled what it meant to be both rigorous and generous. Now an associate professor of Latinx American performance and director of the Humanities Center at Temple University, Baker focuses on undergrad students, recreating the intimacy of a liberal arts education she experienced even within an R1 institution.



That sense of gradual discovery also resonates with **Sara Pritchard '94**, who did not grow up imagining academia as an option. Her fascination with environmental history took shape at Puget Sound, where faculty such as Nancy Bristow, Drew Isenberg, and Michel Rocchi encouraged undergradu-

ate research and treated students as emerging scholars.

Today, as a professor in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at Cornell University, she carries forward that discussion-driven, student-centered ethos, even while navigating the increasing demands placed on faculty. “I enjoy discussing ideas with students and facilitating discussions, whether the entire class or in smaller groups,” she said. “I appreciate getting to know my students — their backgrounds, their interests, what drives them — and helping cultivate trust in the classroom as we learn together.”



For **Rachel Gross '08**, the desire to teach was always present. “I always wanted to be a teacher. When I arrived at Puget Sound, I simply changed my goal for what level I wanted to teach at,” she said. As a history and Spanish major, she recalls a moment in Wyatt Hall when Katherine Smith affirmed her goal of becoming a professor, when, as Gross puts it, “I was buoyed by that confidence and reaffirmed in my path.” That encouragement was reinforced through research in Nancy Bristow’s History 200 course and a summer project supervised by Doug Sackman in the Yosemite National Park archives. Now an associate professor of history and director of graduate studies at the University of Colorado - Denver, Gross strives to recreate the seminar-based conversations and faculty investment that shaped her at Puget Sound.



Others felt the pull to academia early. **Erik A. Anderson '91** knew after his first semester that he wanted to recreate the intellectual community he found

at Puget Sound. “I developed close relationships with my professors, gained confidence in my intellectual abilities, and experienced an intimate and supportive learning community,” Anderson recalled. Philosophy professors like Doug Cannon and Bill Beardsley treated students as thinkers, transformed his confidence, and shaped his teaching philosophy. Now the philosophy department chair at Furman University, Anderson sees his work as both a privilege and a responsibility, especially in a moment when learning the skills of critical thinking through a liberal arts education is more important than ever.



For **John Harding '94**, the path to academia was nearly preordained. Immersed in Asian studies and religious studies, he found mentors who deepened his scholarly focus and offered life-changing advice about graduate study. Those professors still influence his work today as a professor of East Asian religions and coordinator of Religious Studies and Asian Studies at the University of Lethbridge in Canada. “I have Mott Greene’s class and journal assignment in mind when I create assignments for students to respond to readings,” Harding said. “When I supervised a student’s independent study and fieldwork in Japan, I thought about how Chris Ives had made that possible for me. Before I started an Asian Studies program at my university, I looked back to my undergrad experience as a model, and I also spoke with Suzanne Barnett, who was a founder of the Asian Studies program at Puget Sound. I continue to find her example and the example of other role models from Puget Sound invaluable.”



Meeting the Mentor



Nearly every alumnus points to a Puget Sound professor whose influence still reverberates. For **Forrest Pierce '94**, now a composition professor at the University of Kansas, mentorship was foundational. "I had some wonderful mentors who were able to help me get the training I needed to be successful as a professor," he said.

Of Lawrence Ebert, Pierce recalls "eight or nine classes" that grounded his craft, while Denise Despres



"taught me to write English prose in a way that has benefited me ever since." Mott

Greene's journal assignment also made a lasting impression on Pierce. "The journal was transformative," Pierce recalled. "I had never been given an assignment like that, in which my only task was to explore how the ideas, texts, and traditions I was encountering interfaced, resonated, and danced with my own background and worldview. In short, it was the most reality-based thought practice I could

have imagined. The journal still sits on my shelf, and gets opened from time to time."

Helen Hoenig '77, now professor of medicine (geriatrics) at Duke University, traces her academic path to early experiences at Puget Sound, where her curiosity was encouraged rather than constrained. "My tendency to ask a lot of questions did not begin when I started work at the University Hospital," she recalled. "It was there from the get-go in my occupational therapy (OT) classes." That curiosity was met with patience and care by Margo Holm, who joined the faculty the same year Hoenig began OT school. Holm's willingness to meet after class and engage deeply with questions showed Hoenig how careful inquiry could shape both practice and teaching. Reflecting on her own mentors, Hoenig says what stands out most is "their care and kindness towards me," adding that the best way to honor those gifts is to pay it forward by supporting students with empathy, rigor, and respect.



That ethic of assumption, believing in students, and supporting their intellectual adventures also shaped **Phyllis Jestic '82**, now professor and chair of history at the College of Charleston.



At Puget Sound, mentorship from Esther Wagner, who worked with her one-on-one in Latin for two-and-a-half years, reframed how Jestic understood learning. "It was like a shifting of a kaleidoscope," she said, seeing university education "not as a hoop to jump through, but as a great intellectual adventure." She also credits honors thesis mentor Walter Lowrie with guiding her toward a passion for the Middle Ages, an approach she now strives to extend to her own students.

THE ULTIMATE TEST

On pages 22 and 23, look closely. Illustrator Brent Bates has hidden references to Puget Sound educators past and present among the hedges and winding paths. Now the challenge passes to you.

Find the president from your era or the name of a favorite professor and email your proof (a cell phone photo works well in our 21st century journey) to arches@pugetsound.edu before June 15. Extra credit if you can identify one of Puget Sound's earliest leaders.

Persevere and your reward is twofold: you'll gain the satisfaction of a keen eye well used, and a chance to win a package of Puget Sound swag from the Logger Store. One successful seeker will be drawn from all who complete the quest.

Will you answer the call?



John S. Ott '91 teaches history at Portland State University. He traces his academic path to early mentorship at Puget Sound by Bill Barry and David Smith, who modeled the importance of engaged teaching and historical inquiry. By his junior year, Ott began to see academia as a possible vocation. "I was pretty impressed by how my profs combined a life of the mind with a middle-class lifestyle that involved lots of travel, discovery,

and exploration," he recalled.

"It looked like a pretty appealing package." A turning point came with his senior honors thesis, supervised by Walter Lowrie, who treated Ott's work with seriousness and respect.

Through that experience, Ott came to see research not as rote accumulation but as an unfolding process of inquiry, an approach he still carries with him. Now teaching at a public regional university, Ott views his role as extending the Puget Sound liberal arts tradition to students who may not yet see themselves as scholars. "I actually get to live and teach something I fundamentally believe in, every day," he said. "Sharing that with first-generation and nontraditional students is pretty magical."



Trials and Triumphs



Experiential learning emerges as a defining theme for **Jeffery M. Vance '74**, now a professor of neurology and

human genetics at the University of Miami.

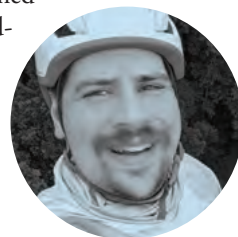
Vance credits George Blanks for nurturing his early interest in genetics, as well as Puget Sound's

immersive 4-1-4

program and hands-on research opportunities, for shaping his approach to science education. "Most people do not really realize that medical research is very creative," Vance said. "Instead of paint or clay, we work in creative ways to utilize facts." That philosophy now guides his work as founder of a National Institutes of Health-funded summer internship program for high school students, where participants conduct real research alongside faculty and postdoctoral scholars. The program reflects a belief rooted in his Puget Sound experience: deep learning happens through participation, not observation.

That philosophy is shared by **Joel Eklof '16**, who returned to Puget Sound as an assistant professor of environmental studies and sciences. From field courses in Africa to fluid dynamics research, professors Rachel Pepper and Rachel DeMotts encouraged experiential learning that defined

Eklof's undergraduate years and inspired his own teaching. "Nothing provides as much personal spark as seeing students grow and build new confidence," Eklof said. Now, he designs courses that take students into snow pits, whitewater rivers, and permafrost terrain, spaces where complex environmental theory meets climate change urgency.



Emma X. Paulson '18, didn't intend on going into academia, but after time in the private sector, she kept circling back to unanswered questions seeded at Puget Sound. The encouragement and steadfast support of faculty mentors like Jason Struna and Alisa Kessel were fundamental to her journey. Paulson now teaches and conducts research in information sciences, striving to offer students the same careful attention and mentorship she once received. Reflecting on returning to higher education in a new discipline, Paulson said "pursuing academia is about community, trust, and persistence."



The Ordeal and Transformation



Being on the other side of the desk is less a reversal of roles and more a deepening of responsibility for **Kyle L. Chong (張陳創庭) '18**, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Teacher Education and a core faculty member in

Asian Pacific American Studies at Michigan State University. Chong understands his teaching as supporting students to “keep their promises,” or to enact their commitments to justice like many faculty taught him. Professors such as Karl Fields and Alisa Kessel fostered a love of learning through seminar-style courses, writing as practice, and an insistence on education as inherently political. Reflecting on that influence, Chong noted



what Kessel wrote in a book she gifted him after he completed his senior thesis: “Writing is a practice, and a grueling one at that.” This

lesson continues to guide how he mentors students and structures his own classrooms. Chong’s work in critical race studies and educational foundations reflects his own commitment to mentoring students, many of whom are future K–12 teachers, to critically reflect on questions of power, identity, and belonging, so his students can be the teachers their future students deserve. Drawing directly from his Puget Sound experience, he designs courses in social justice education and pedagogy that invite students to connect theory to lived experiences as students develop their own teaching philosophies and ways of pursuing educational and racial justice.

Mark Robert Mansfield



’93, P’27, whose career spans entrepreneurship, urban research, and the development of a university-anchored innovation district,

traces his academic orientation to the intellectually vibrant community he encountered at Puget Sound. Drawn to the life of the mind, he credits faculty such as Raymond Preiss and Susan Owen with extending learning beyond the classroom and modeling

how inquiry could be both rigorous and deeply connected to lived experience. Mansfield recalled a moment of clarity from his undergrad years: “Walking across the quad, I knew with certainty that I always wanted to be in an intellectually stimulating community.” Now teaching in Norway, he sees that same legacy unfolding anew as his son carries on the Logger tradition as a current student. Mansfield continues to shape his classrooms by honoring a lesson he first learned at Puget Sound, mixing the fresh perspectives of students with a supportive environment of experts and the freedom to explore new ideas.

Bringing the Treasure Home



When asked what they would tell current Puget Sound students considering academia, honesty prevailed among these 14 professors. Many urged caution, acknowledging long training periods, competitive job markets, and structural inequities.

Several emphasized the importance of community, mentorship, and financial prudence. Others encouraged students to remain open to lives beyond aca-

demia, reminding them that intellectual fulfillment is not confined to a single career path. Yet no one discouraged curiosity itself. Instead, they urged students to pursue questions that matter, to seek mentors who challenge and support them, and to define success on their own terms.

For many of these alumni, the path into academia was neither obvious nor inevitable. It developed through small but meaningful moments of mentorship, which shaped habits of curiosity, resilience, and intellectual generosity. Those habits now animate the careers of Puget Sound alumni who teach and conduct research across the world.

On the other side of the desk, these Loggers strive to recreate what they experienced as undergraduates: seminar rooms where discussion matters; research opportunities that invite students into discovery; and mentorship rooted in care, patience, and high expectations.

The influence of Puget Sound faculty lives on, not only in memories, but in syllabi conversations, advising meetings, and mentoring relationships still unfolding. The students became the teachers. And through them, the Logger spirit continues.

a

Kristi Bowman Morgan ’93 has spent the past 30 years shaping stories that inform, engage, and resonate. A seasoned storyteller she has built a career around the art of crafting compelling narratives. Beyond her professional work, Morgan finds inspiration in cheering on baseball, the adventure of travel, quality time with her family, and singing beautiful choral music.



To read this story online or share it with a friend, go to pugetsound.edu/loggerprofs.

OTHER LOGGERS WHO ANSWERED THE CALL

The reflections shared in the previous pages reflect only part of a much larger conversation. There are more than 700 Loggers in our records who say they have or are currently working as educators and researchers in higher education around the world.

Here are some of the other Puget Sound alumni we heard from who are now shaping their disciplines and passing on the love of learning they experienced on campus. If you'd like to be added to this list in our online story, email the editor at arches@pugetsound.edu.



The person at Puget Sound who influenced my academic journey the most was my

advisor, Roberta Wilson, and taking her exercise physiology class opened my eyes to new possibilities. As a swimmer, I was intrigued about training adaptations and how they improve athletic performance. The topics we covered in that class directly related to what I was doing in the pool. Although I attended large research-focused graduate schools for my graduate degrees, my positive experiences at Puget Sound directed me toward a teaching-focused position at a liberal arts college. For me, the best part of engaging in research today is working with undergraduate students. By participating in the research process from beginning to end, they learn about data collection, critical thinking, and how new knowledge is developed.

Kirk Abraham '94
Professor of health and exercise science
Transylvania University



I have been a professor in the department of biology at Georgetown for almost 12 years, and

running a federally funded research program since 2013. I attribute my trajectory and much of my success to the wonderful faculty in biology at Puget Sound. I am especially indebted to Alyce DeMarais. As a student in her classes and research lab, I became totally hooked on the molecular basis of organismal development. Alyce was the first of many outstanding mentors along my academic path. I'm thrilled to emulate her in my current position, hopefully nudging the next generation toward great things. I would also like to give special thanks to Joel Elliott, Peter Wimberger, and Wayne Rickoll, who managed to see past my, ahem, imperfect academic record and believe in my research potential.

Thomas Coate '01
Associate professor of biology
Georgetown University



I've studied and worked at The Ohio State University for nearly 26 years. Most of my time has been

spent with the Office of Student Life, supporting student engagement outside of the classrooms, but for the past two years, I've worked with our Organizational and Leadership Effectiveness team in Human Resources. In this role, I support leader development programs, coaching, and our university's new leadership philosophy and framework for staff and faculty. Though I don't spend my time in classrooms and labs, I am a higher education leadership educator. My dissertation research was on motivations for leadership roles, and I regularly design and deliver educational programs and resources.

Jen Bossard Pelletier '00
Consultant, Organizational and Leadership Effectiveness
The Ohio State University



I was a history major and biology minor at Puget Sound, and I have continued in that spirit with my

academic research today. Puget Sound played a formative role in developing my interdisciplinary academic interests. I moved from seminars with history professors exploring the nuances of primary sources to biology labs often spent outdoors measuring species diversity. I first learned the statistical and demographic methods I now teach as a professor of economic history not in economics, but in an ecology course. Summer research internships on topics I genuinely cared about cemented my love of discovery, and along the way, faculty consistently encouraged and supported my path.

Eric Schneider '08
Professor, economic history
London School of Economics and Political Science



I retired in 2024 after a 42-year teaching career. I spent the last 23 of those years at the University

of North Carolina - Pembroke, where I also engaged in research, including studying the distribution of mercury in the Lumber River system. ...I remember Florence Sandler, who taught an honors English class called The Novel. In it, we read nine or 10 novels and wrote about 12 papers. Mine were returned filled with red ink marking my many errors. On about the eighth paper, there was nary a red mark until a note well into the paper: "It is a shame to put your wonderful ideas in such poor language." This note was the catalyst that, over several years and with much hard work, turned me into an excellent writer.

Roland Stout '76

**Professor of chemistry, retired
The University of North
Carolina - Pembroke**



I am so glad of the influence Puget Sound had on my life and career, and many professors shaped my

path and turned me into an academic. Lisa Nunn introduced me to economic history and encouraged me to pursue graduate study. Those courses showed me how deeply historical experience informs modern economic policy, and how careful empirical work on the past can illuminate present-day debates. She was an extraordinary teacher and mentor, unfailingly supportive, and instrumental in shaping my path to graduate school. My professors made each class feel like a community. That's such a rich environment in which to learn, and something I have always sought to emulate.

Melissa Thomasson '88

**Associate vice president for strategic initiatives, and professor of economics
Miami University**



I did my honors thesis under Betsy Kirkpatrick, which became a lesson in making lemonade

out of lemons after our research plot was lost in a forest fire. That experience, along with serving as a biology lab TA and peer writing advisor, contributed to my development as an educator and researcher. One of my favorite classes was Bev Pierson's microbiology course, which integrated primary literature into lectures as well as her own research in extremophile bacteria. Most memorable was when she invited the class into her home for a "microbial fest" potluck, where all of the food (such as breads and cheeses) required some microbial assistance. Bev was a model for how to be an engaging and rigorous professor.

Jenny Tenlen '95

**Associate professor
and chair of biology
Seattle Pacific University**



The two professors who most influenced me were Larry Stern and Paul Loeb in philosophy. Their

courses were the first ones that I felt I simply had to attend to understand the mystery of what was contained in the texts. They shaped my curiosity for discovering what lay beneath the "obvious," which led to a career as a philosopher looking at norms around human development, gender, and health. Having worked in three countries as an academic and visited many more as a lecturing professor, I can say that while great education can happen anywhere, the small courses and liberal arts focus of Puget Sound is the best foundation for developing sincere curiosity about the world.

Talia Welsh '95

**Professor and chair of
Women's and Gender Studies
University of Alberta**

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY



What you have read in these pages is just part of the ongoing conversation our *Arches* team has been having with Loggers working in higher education.

Online, you can find in-depth stories and Q&As where these Loggers speak at length about their paths into academia, the undergrad professors who influenced their career paths, the challenges they faced and continue to face, and the values that continue to guide their teaching and scholarship. Their reflections capture the depth, honesty, and intellectual generosity found at the heart of the Puget Sound experience.



We invite you to read these extended stories online or by scanning the QR code below.



To read this story online or share it with a friend, go to pugetsound.edu/loggerprofs.

Always a Logger



Singers Celebrate 25 Years of Song and Community

Northwest Repertory Singers

STORY BY KRISTI BOWMAN MORGAN '93 | PHOTO BY ALEX CROOK

WHEN NORTHWEST REPERTORY SINGERS (NWRS) GATHER TO REHEARSE, THE ROOM FILLS WITH LAUGHTER, HARMONY, AND AN UNMISTAKABLE BOND THAT CONNECTS MANY UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND ALUMNI. This season, that shared energy feels even more special as NWRS celebrates its 25th anniversary and honors a legacy rooted at Puget Sound.

Founded by the late Dr. Paul Schultz, former School of Music director of choral activities and conductor of the Adelpian Concert Choir, NWRS was born from his passion for artistry and community. Today, that legacy is carried forward by **Kyle Haugen '97**, who has led the ensemble as artistic director for eight seasons. A proud Adelpian, Haugen often reflects on how Puget Sound shaped his love of choral music and inspired his dedication to creating meaningful musical experiences.

“Choral music at Puget Sound sets a standard,” Haugen said, “and the Loggers in NWRS can feel that our ensemble is part of the

At a November rehearsal, 18 of the 23 Loggers in NWRS took a break from singing for a quick photo. Pictured from left in the back row: **Brittany Holloway '22**; **Kristi Bowman Morgan '93**; **Sharon Stearnes-Szigeti '85**; collaborative pianist **Margie Skreen '85**; and **Jeff Johnson '90**. In the middle row: **Sara Gossom '20**; **Tom Martin '96**; **Julie Martin '96**; **Kathy Kaminoff Weymiller '86, JD'93**; **Matt Kelzenberg '96**; and **Carolyn Hoffman '99, MED'17**. In the front row: **Tom Walworth '00, MAT'01**; **Ross Aker '96, MAT'97**; **Rob Dennis '95, MAT'00**; artistic director **Kyle Haugen '97**; **Melanie Schockow '03**; **Francis Reynolds '10, MAT'10**; and **Abe Golding '20, MAT'22**. Not pictured: **Ryan Corbaley '03**; **Erin Eadington '93**; **Jason Neighbors '00**; **Jen MacDonald Whitman '93, MAT '93**; and **Nat Whitman '94**.

same musical family tree.” Among the choir’s members and staff are 23 Puget Sound alumni who diligently rehearse each Monday night, continuing the Logger tradition of artistic excellence, lifelong friendship, and shared musical purpose.

Northwest Repertory Singers will present its 25th Anniversary Concert and Celebration at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 17, at Schneebeck Concert Hall. The program opens with selections from Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana* followed by favorites from past seasons, and concludes with an invitation for NWRS alumni to join current singers for a special onstage reunion.

Haugen added, “You’re invited! I would love to see alumni and friends in May.” NWRS holds auditions annually and welcomes singers interested in joining its vibrant community. For more information about the choir or to purchase tickets for the May performance, please visit nwrs.org.

Class Notes

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1960s

Karen Kasselmann Beverly '61, MED '67 shared an unexpected Logger encounter with the *Arches* team, writing: "It's always rewarding to be called to substitute teach! In Oceanside, Calif., a local charter school encourages their staff to wear their college shirts on Thursdays, and I always proudly wear my UPS shirt. Imagine my surprise when another teacher showed up wearing his UPS shirt! **Pat Garrett '06** and I had lots to talk about. Even though we are generations apart, there were lots of positive commonalities about our campus experience."

Alta Dyer Smith '61, P'93 was featured in a December article in the *Centralia Chronicle*, celebrating a lifetime of work improving her community. Although a retired full elder, the article notes that Smith still teaches, as she did in October when she led a four-week study at the Centralia United Methodist Church focused on the power of kindness, finding common ground, malice toward none, and more.

Jerry Thorpe '63, '67 called the *Arches* office to let us know that he and his wife, Janet, celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in January 2026. "We celebrated quietly, since we figured our 60th is coming up and we would save a big celebration for that." The couple met while teaching at Baker Junior High School.



Jim Hopper '68 recently published *Beyond the Sirens*, a non-fiction collection of on-scene accounts from his work as a fire and law-enforcement chaplain.

Having responded to more than a thousand emergency calls — including mass-casualty incidents and school shootings — he said he wrote the book to give readers a glimpse into a world most people never see and to

honor the resilience of first responders and families. The book has been noted for offering practical tools to help school counselors address teen suicide. He retired as lead chaplain in 2019 from South County Fire in Snohomish, Wash.

1970s

In her role as director and co-founder of the Lowlander Center, **Kristina Peterson '72** was quoted in a *Daily Mail* article about the effects of coastal erosion in Louisiana on Native tribes. The Lowlander Center has been working to rebuild homes on tribal land to withstand future hurricanes. So far, they've rebuilt or repaired 13 homes in the community of Pointe-au-Chien.

Ellen Ferguson '72 received the University of Washington and UW Foundation's 2025 Gates Volunteer Service Award in recognition of her work with the Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture.

Jeffery Vance '74 received the 2025 University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Senior Faculty Research award in recognition of his groundbreaking work that has transformed the understanding of neurodegenerative diseases and opened new potential therapeutic pathways for millions of patients worldwide.



Nancy McDaniel '75 recently published her third book, *I Had a Few Moments to Write*, a collection of personal letters from the front lines of the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam. The book includes letters from internees at a detention camp in the Philippines during World War II, as well as the last letters home from a Marine and a soldier before they were killed in action. All proceeds in excess of the publishing costs will go to Wounded Warriors.

1980s



The writing of Seattle author **Karen Eisenbrey '85** is included in the November volume of *Antifa Lit Journal*, which features fiction, poetry, and visual art by creators who wear the anti-fascist label. Eisenbrey is the author of the Daughter of Magic trilogy (*Daughter of Magic*, *Wizard Girl*, and *Death's Midwife*), the St. Rage series (*The Gospel According to St. Rage*, *Barbara and the Rage Brigade*, and *Far from Normal*) and *Ego and Endurance*. She also sings in a church choir and plays drums in a garage band.

LISTEN TO LOGGERS
— *in their own words*

Always a Logger is a podcast from the University of Puget Sound and the Alumni Council. In each episode, host and producer **Julie Gates '90** interviews Logger alumni about the winding path to success.

Recent episodes have featured: NPR journalist **Rachel Martin '96, Hon.'14**, Paralympic bronze medalist **Clara Brown '17**, and Major League Baseball coaches **Kai Correa '11** and **Craig Driver '11**.

You can find *Always a Logger* on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or anywhere you enjoy podcasts. **Check it out today!**

Loggers Behind the Curtain

Bree Beal '97 and Lauren DiMaggio Jorgensen '06

STORY BY PEGGY MCGLONE | PHOTO COURTESY BEAT CHILDREN'S THEATRE



BREE BEAL '97 AND LAUREN DIMAGGIO JORGENSEN '06 WERE QUINTESSENTIAL THEATER KIDS. Jorgensen remembers belting out songs with her Fisher-Price microphone, while Beal would dress her stuffed animals in costumes and have them perform short plays she created.

Now, these Loggers form the backbone of BEAT Children's Theatre in Bend, Oregon. "I didn't know that my job was an actual job back then," says Beal, BEAT's executive director since 2014. "I just remember storytelling was something that I loved. How lucky that I get to do it now?" Celebrating its 20th season, BEAT is a nonprofit that uses theater as a tool to empower youth by fostering creativity, collaboration and self-confidence. The company annually serves thousands of students — from tots to teens — through mainstage shows, summer camps, workshops, and more.

"BEAT is a safe environment that allows them to do something they've never done before, or do it bigger than they've ever done it, and to know they can't possibly fail," says Beal, who spent a decade in escrow and served on nonprofit boards but had never

worked in the arts before joining BEAT. Similarly, Jorgensen worked in the mortgage industry and had built her own

financial business before she became the company's administrator in 2024. "I didn't think I would interact with the kids much when I started, but I get to know them when they come in for rehearsals, and I'm the back-up adult when they are maybe struggling," Jorgensen says.

BEAT allows kids to engage with others outside their age group, and to learn the value of teamwork, empathy, and gratitude. Popular activities include "disaster stories," when the group recounts a time when something went wrong onstage and how the problem was solved, and the sessions at the end of many rehearsals when students thank or praise one another. "It's boiled into our culture that we try to see the things that others are doing for us," Jorgensen says. Adds Beal, "I can't think of anything more powerful."

Lauren DiMaggio Jorgensen '06 (left) and Bree Beal '97 comprise the executive team at BEAT Children's Theatre in Oregon, which aims to foster creativity, collaboration, connection, and self-confidence through theatre arts.

Tom Sarris '83 sent the *Arches* team this remembrance of a classmate, **Paul Rader '85**, who died Nov. 21, 2025. "I was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of friend and classmate, Paul Rader. I met Paul as a fellow DJ at KUPS-FM and our relationship quickly transcended the radio station. Beyond our astonishingly similar music tastes and sense of humor, we became fast friends in a broader circle that included fellow KUPSers **Dave Elliott '83, P'16, P'18, John Maltman '83, and Chris Dederer '85**, among others. Paul was kind, funny, smart and a kindred spirit; may he be long and fondly remembered."



Sarah Rudolph Cole '86 of Columbus, Ohio, was elected to the National Academy of Arbitrators, honoring top U.S. and Canadian labor and employment arbitrators.

Casey Kochmer '87 tells *Arches*: "I have been a wandering Taoist teacher for the last 20 years, helping people live kindly around the world. A lot has changed since graduation... best wishes, gang!"

1990s



Kirsten Davies '92 was sworn in as chief information officer for the U.S. Department of War in December, following her presidential

nomination and U.S. Senate confirmation. Prior to her federal service, she served as chief information security officer for Unilever, where she led global cyber resilience for one of the world's largest consumer goods enterprises. She also held technology and cyber roles at the Estée Lauder Companies, Barclays-Africa Group, Hewlett Packard Enterprises, and Siemens.

Lori Box MAT'97 was among the class inducted into the Highline High School Athletic Hall of Fame in October. Box has worked in the Highline School District, south of Seattle, for 24 years, 13 of them as the athletic director.

Trustee emeritus **Jeremy Korst '97** recently co-authored an article in the *Harvard Business Review* titled "The AI Tools That Are Transforming Market Research." The article

discusses how AI tools are reducing the time and cost of traditional research by simulating consumer behavior. “[Now] is the time for companies to start experimenting and testing possible use cases to understand how large language models and synthetic data can augment and enhance their decision-making,” Korst and his co-authors write.

John Herold '99 recently published his second book, *Project Bright Horizon: A COVID-19 Thought Experiment*. He tells *Arches*: “This book is the first to use the awesome powers of artificial intelligence to critically analyze the events of COVID-19. Framed as a fictionalized thought experiment, it employs a maneuver that bypasses AI guardrails against disclosing sensitive information. It is enormously revealing.”

2000s

Dan Abrams '00, the co-founder and CEO of the outdoor outerwear brand Flylow, was interviewed on *The SnowBrains Podcast* in November. Flylow started as a garage project among ski buddies and evolved into a respected independent outerwear brand, “built by skiers, for skiers.”



Congratulations go out to **Linnea Barrett Erickson '00**, who recently earned a Master of Science degree in genomic medicine (with merit) from the University of Exeter. She spent three years completing the course while working full time as a genomic scientist in Bristol, England, where she and her husband, Neil, live with their two daughters.



L'Ecole No 41, one of the founding wineries of Washington's Walla Walla Valley, appointed **David Rosenthal '01** director of winemaking in November. “David is one of the most talented winemakers in Washington. End of story,” said Marty Clubb, owner and managing winemaker for L'Ecole No 41. “Not only has he made some of the state's best, highest-scoring, most sought-after wines, but he brings a breadth and depth of experience that's virtually unmatched.”

Some Life Lessons of a ‘Dutch Farmboy’

Louis Slangen '69

STORY BY GAIL SNYDER | PHOTO COURTESY LOU SLANGEN '69



IN 1968, WHEN HE WAS 20, LOUIS SLANGEN '69 LEFT HIS FAMILY'S FARM IN THE NETHERLANDS FOR AMERICA. He brought along two suitcases, \$200, and a game plan. After spending his senior year as an exchange student at the University of Puget Sound, his plan was to go on to earn an MBA, work in the United States for a few years, and return to the Netherlands. But the best laid plans often go awry — and sometimes, he says, they turn out even better.

Slangen says his time as a Logger under the watchful eye of the late Dutch-born Puget Sound professor John Prins was transformative. Prins had made it possible for Slangen to be in the Dutch Nyenrode/Puget Sound exchange program and taught Slangen's favorite class, a salesmanship principles class. His motto: “No matter what your profession, you are a salesman, whether you like it or not.” Meanwhile, the university's relatively small campus made adjusting to a new culture very easy.

Having a Dutch background proved to be a plus at both Puget Sound and his first job as a trainee at the Dutch Philips Corporation in Manhattan, following the completion of

his MBA at Oregon State. What he hadn't counted on was falling for a coworker, a city girl from New Jersey named Linda, whom he married 54 years ago; today, they live in Ohio and have an extended family of 17.

At 40, his life took another unexpected turn when Slangen left the Philips Corporation to join his partner and friend in a startup. Together with their team, they nurtured it into a multinational medical assistive devices company Invacare, employing 6,200 associates. Slangen retired from that work in 2014.

Recently, Slangen looked back at his life's journey and the people who affected him in a new book, titled *The Book of Life Lessons: 50 Lessons for Work, Life, and Everything in Between*. The inspiration for this book came from something Prins, his Puget Sound professor, said that Slangen never forgot: “There are lessons from the Book of Life and from the Life of Books.” And as Slangen writes in his book, the best lessons come from living life itself.

The inspiration for the new book by Louis Slangen '69 (right, pictured here with his wife, Linda) came from his former Puget Sound professor, John Prins.

Once Upon a Onesie

Tara Brown Clark '93

STORY BY TED ANTHONY | PHOTO COURTESY TARASHAKTI



COMING OUT OF COLLEGE ON A SOFTBALL SCHOLARSHIP, THREE THINGS WERE TRUE ABOUT TARA BROWN CLARK '93. First, she had absolutely no idea that she was creative. Second, she had no idea that an adult onesie would one day change her life. And third — and most importantly — she never imagined how many women she would end up lifting up, including Olympians.

Today, Clark owns the Seattle-based TaraShakti, a women-led apparel brand that looks to the past — vintage ski and snowboard suits — to outfit today's skiers. Her ski suits (actually two-pieces thanks to a hidden zip at the waist) traveled to the Olympics in Italy, powered by partnerships with Olympic gold medalists like Picabo Street and younger U.S. skiers such as the Macuga sisters and Dani Aravich.

Clark, a business major who worked as a professional photographer for 20 years, spent time in Africa in the Peace Corps in the '90s. Her name in Sesotho translates to “Mother of Snow.” Some years after her return, a group of working moms launched a ski weekend to British Columbia, Canada.

After a few years of making the annual trip, one of the women contracted brain cancer with a terminal prognosis. The next year, she asked everyone to show up in a

one-piece. Knowing it could be their last year together on the mountain, all the women showed up in suits from the '80s. Clark quickly discovered she had a passion for vintage ski suits, ultimately amassing a collection to create the film *Downhill* to raise money for brain cancer research.

When she decided to move ahead into what would become onesie fame, Clark's business background came roaring to the forefront. She cold-called the founder of Sherpa Adventure Gear in Seattle and asked him if they could collaborate on her vision. “He took a big risk on me,” she said. “I did not have experience in the industry or big backing. But he believed in my vision and the impact I hoped to make through the brand.”

Five years later, Olympic gold medalists wear TaraShakti and people of all ages are flocking to the brand. In the Sherpa language, “Tara” means star and “Shakti” means power. Tara Brown Clark, Mother of Snow, says she believes every person carries a unique brilliance, and TaraShakti's mission is to amplify their shine, one onesie at a time.

Tara Brown Clark '93 worked as a photographer for 20 years before launching TaraShakti, a women-led apparel brand that looks to the past to outfit today's skiers and snowboards.

In her role as associate professor and head of the Center for Accessibility and Inclusion Research Lab at the Rochester Institute of Technology, **Kristen Shinohara '02** was interviewed for a short December *Morning Edition* segment on NPR regarding the U.S. State Department's official font change from Calibri back to Times New Roman and the accessibility of sans-serif versus serif fonts.

Sister **Confianza del Señor '04**, known as Prairie Naoma Cutting during her time at Puget Sound, sent *Arches* this update: “The last year and a half have been big for me. I finally got my name legally changed, 15 years after taking Confianza del Señor as my religious name. In August 2024 I came down with long COVID, leaving me quite sick for five months, and still symptomatic for another five months. Getting better allowed me to take a six-month online course in permaculture through Oregon State University, which allows me to better live out my call to care for God's beautiful creation. I am now leading a project to plant fruit trees and start a garden for Comunion H, a non-profit serving poor children where we live here in Limon, Colon, Honduras. Sister Alegria and I — founders of the Amigas del Señor Monastery — have lived our simple monastic life for 20 years now.”

Leah Archer DPT'05 co-founded Aphasia Relearned, a nonprofit inspired by her partner Kent's stroke recovery journey. The organization empowers people with aphasia through accessible communication tools and strategic advocacy. Blending her background in physical therapy with creative outreach and fundraising, Archer leads efforts to expand awareness and access to intensive aphasia therapy. She says she is actively building partnerships and welcomes collaboration with those passionate about stroke recovery, inclusive communication, and creating hopeful paths forward for survivors and families.

Britta Chou '05 sent the *Arches* team this update: “I am happy to report that I am busy and certainly not suffering from boredom. During the week, I serve as the director of planning for Dominion Water and Sanitation District, an overlay special district in northwestern Douglas County, Colo. While my favorite part of every

day is spending time with my family — spouse **Solomon Chou '04** and our twins Elise and Emerson — I'm also the proud member of three local boards that each have distinctive impacts on the community in which I live, work, and recreate. They are the Colorado Parks Foundation, the Englewood Arts Foundation, and the Douglas County Economic Development Corporation. I am so thankful I can give back to the community in which I live both in my daily work as well as in opportunities allotted to me through volunteerism in these impactful boards."

Michael Elliott '05 started a new position in February as associate general counsel at OpenAI.



Andrew Strobel '05 began a five-year term on the Tacoma Community College Board of Trustees in January. "We value the long-term planning perspective Strobel brings to the board, and we welcome his insights into how we can better serve and partner with the Puyallup Tribe and other tribal partners," TCC President Ivan L. Harrell, II, Ph.D. said. Strobel currently serves as strategic advisor of tribal and regional affairs for the Office of Pierce County Executive **Ryan Mello '01**.

In January, *South Sound Business* profiled **Mark Sayre '06**. Sayre's company, The Forge, acquired Kristen Stewart's acclaimed directorial debut, *The Chronology of Water*, for domestic distribution. The Forge is a boutique film distributor based on Vashon Island, founded by Sayre after spending 15 years as a producer of microbudget projects.

2010s

Amelia Thornton Sears '10 is a realtor with Glacier Sotheby's International Realty in Missoula, Mont. She is also serving in her second year as president of the Missoula chapter of Music Teachers National Association, and her private music studio — Artwork Music Studio — is in its 11th year of encouraging and supporting young musicians.

Lev Nachman '14 gave a talk on campus in October on his book, *Contested Taiwan*, as part of the Department of Asian Studies' Taiwan Week.

Hudson Hausmann '19 tells *Arches*: "I'm currently working as a qualitative research manager for Curion, working remotely and traveling the U.S. and world. I am based in Chicago with a number of other Logger friends who see each other multiple times a week every week, and as always — skiing, biking, jumping in the water, and following the Mariners, Hawks and Dawgs!"

2020s

Andrea Hodge '22 began serving in the Peace Corps in Ecuador in January 2026.

Natalie Yates '22 completed two years teaching English through the Japan Exchange and Teaching program (JET) in Nobeoka, Japan, following her graduation. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate and researcher at the University of Georgia studying plant pathology.



When **Emily Mitchell '23** arrived in Kyoto, Japan, for 12 months of intensive language study, she carried more than a suitcase.

As the university's Miki Memorial Scholar, she represented Puget Sound in a program designed to strengthen cultural understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States. Mitchell, who graduated with a double major in Japanese and Politics and Government, spent the last academic year at the Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language, improving her fluency and experiencing daily life in Japan while living with a host family. Funded by the Miki Memorial Endowment, the award covers a full year of tuition and fees at KICL, round-trip airfare, monthly living expenses, and homestay accommodations. Mitchell returned to campus last fall to speak to students interested in learning more about the opportunity. She says the experience has transformed how she communicates and understands Japanese culture.

Maddy Whitney '23 tells *Arches*: "I have been working as an analytical chemist in a medical laboratory since 2023. My fiancé and I got engaged shortly after my graduation in 2023. During our free time we like to go hiking, wall climbing, skiing, camping, and exploring the many trails in the Pacific Northwest."

An Athletic Life

Robert Harper '67

STORY BY LES BOWEN



IN AN ATHLETIC LIFE THAT HAS SPANNED DECADES, THE LATEST CHAPTER FOR ROBERT HARPER '67 MAY BE HIS MOST SURPRISING YET. In the early 2010s, after selling the mutual fund company he helped found, Harper decided to try out CrossFit. He had spent a lot of time on the road during his business career. "I figured I'd just kind of burned my body," he said from his home on Mercer Island, Wash. "And so, when we sold, I said, 'Well, I should get in shape.'"

Harper, who had been a competitive swimmer as a Logger and then had served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam, said he liked the whole-body emphasis of CrossFit. "You're doing push-ups, sit-ups, squats, burpees, pull-ups, and lifting weights," he explained. He began competing and ranked 195th in the world among men 60 and older, but as he aged, Harper said "I just couldn't hold the place any longer."

So at age 70, he turned to powerlifting, which comprises squatting, deadlifting, and bench-pressing. On his 80th birthday, he lifted in the California state meet and set three American records for lifters 80 and older. Those lifts (308lb squat, 177lb bench, 435lb deadlift, for a total of 920 pounds) also ranked him No. 1 in the world in his age group and 90kg weight class.

At 81, Harper is now less concerned with records than with staying in shape to maintain his quality of life. "It feels good to be in shape and not have to worry about falling down, not being able to walk, or not being able to get up," he said. "Even if I had to wait until I was 80, being ranked No. 1 in the world at anything is beyond my wildest dreams."



Est. 1888

UNIVERSITY of PUGET SOUND®

THE LOGBOOK

Mark your calendars, Loggers!

We'd love to see you at these campus and community events.

May 2, 3, 9 and 10

Kittredge Art Gallery is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

May 8 to 10

Commencement Weekend

May 20

Loggers Keep Learning Honolulu

June 5 to 7

Summer Reunion Weekend

Aug. 1

Deadline to nominate a Logger for an alumni award (pugetsound.edu/nominate-fellow-logger)

Aug. 21 to 28

Passages Orientation Week

Aug. 22

Parent and Family Orientation

Sept. 8

Kittredge Art Gallery Opening Day (Open all fall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays)

Oct. 23 to 25

Homecoming and Family Weekend

Some of these events require tickets.

Get all of the details you need at pugetsound.edu/events, and hope to see you back on campus soon!

▼ **Amelia Thornton Sears '10** and her husband Adam Sears welcomed their first child in March 2025, a wonderful baby boy named Eamon.



▼ **Jackie Hughes '13** and **Michael Toymil '10** wrote the *Arches* team to say: "We had a Logger baby! Tessa Naomi was born in December 2025!"



▲ Loggers and Kappa Alpha Theta sisters turned the Portland Half Marathon race (where **Asha Sandhu '13** was running) into the perfect reason for a reunion. From left: **Anna Johnson '13**, **Lindsay Schommer Brouillet '13**, **Kasha Moore '13**, **Sandhu**, **Kayla Meyers Walder '13**, **MAT '14**, **Katie Mihalovich '13**, and **Michelle Curry '13**.



▲ For the eighth time since their graduation, Loggers **Zeinah Kara '15, Anacristina Somarriba '15, Layla Christian Ong '15, and Bailey Brady '15** met up, this time in Maine. “We all met through the French program, studying abroad in Dijon, and we had our French level 4A class together, which allowed us to travel and schedule together, and that’s how we became close!”



▲ **Paul Lundquist '91 and Gregg Lois '01** met up in Denver during a company offsite meeting in 2025. Longtime colleagues at Areté, they’ve built careers in defense technology and said they continue to draw on their Logger background in their efforts to make the world a safer place.



▲ Three Loggers — **Liz Cullen Wells '83** from San Diego, Calif.; **Karen Norton Smolich '83** from Salem, Ore.; and **Robin Yamaguchi Felton '83** from Billings, Mont. — made sure to snap a photo on campus last summer when they came to help celebrate the School of Occupational Therapy’s 80th anniversary. The friends were part of the 1983 class of 15 students.

A Decade of Deltas

In 2025, members of the university's Tri Delta sorority hosted two informal reunions at the home of **Shelly Witty Reed '78** and **Mike Reed '78** in Gig Harbor, Wash. The first, on June 6, welcomed sisters who were in Tacoma to celebrate their 50th class reunion. The second, on Sept. 27, brought together many from the first gathering as well as sisters who were unable to attend in June. The Loggers at these events said the two days were filled with laughter, great conversations, countless hugs, the Golden Circle Degree presentation for the 50-year members, heartfelt memories, tears, and so many stories.



▶ **Linnea Erickson Barrett '00** met up with fellow Logger **Colleen Dyble Slinkard '00** in May 2024 in Bath, England (and said they meant to send this in sooner!).

◀ **June gathering**

On the grass from left: **Kate Johnson Spector '75**, **Jill Kotchik Anderson '77**, and **Cheryl Billingsley Keely '76**. Seated: **Linda Schwarz '76**, **Layne McMoran Bautista '78**, **Melanie Carnes Solonsky '76**, **Marilyn Rehfeld Milano '74**, **Mary Walter Allen '74**, **Martha Stevens Stacey '75**, **Janine Petersen Ward '75**, **Kathy Mitchell Thienes '76**, and **Nancy Lincoln Bissell '75**. Standing: **Rebecca Willis-Smith '78**, **Larki Huntington Cook '76**, **Nancy Pearl Peck '78**, **Karen Searles Cosme '78, P'04**, **Jane Shiers Bryce '78**, **Vicki Rohrberg Nulle '77**, **Debbi Veach White '76**, **Laurie Emmerson Henry '74**, **Marcia Jory '77**, **Sally Crandall Macy '72**, **Shelly Witty Reed '78**, **Marcia Sigler Miller '73**, **Marilyn Hawk Harrelson '75**, **Debbie Hines Dolan '78**, **Linda Bagnall Wilson '75**, **Elaine Kittinger Bessett '76**, **Kari Leaverton Freeman '77**, **Joan Wessel Bunge '76**, **Dexter Reuhl '76**, **Shelly Allegro Parrott '77**, **Nancy Shimmel Glazier '77**, **Becca Powell '76**, and **Marta Toynbee Bogrand '76**. Not pictured: **Ann Horton**.

◀ **September gathering**

Front row from left: **Diane Blosser Boyington '79**, **Mavis Peacock Guber '78**, **Terry McKellar Schuler '77**, **Colleen McNally McDougall '81**, **Darcy Ostien Bulkley '79**, and Keely. Kneeling/seated: **Kathleen Bedford Pierce '79**, Parrott, **Nancy Kraft Sellars '78**, Peck, Schwarz, **Mary Jean Prussing '74**, Ward, **Cathy McGaw Hill '79**, **Susie Worthington Sorensen '81**, **Julie Kennedy Eaton '81**, and **Nina Bujacich '81**. Standing: **Anna Hibbard Woods '77, JD '85**, Bryce, **Pam Pearson Bissell '77**, Cosme, Bautista, **Sarah George '78**, Willis-Smith, **Christine Nettle '79**, **Cindy Winward Dennison '79**, **Linda Witty '81**, Jory, **Jayne Rusu Michaelsen '78**, **Sally Burgess Fouché '80**, **Susan Norman Lucke '81, P'13**, **Gretchen Lentz '82**, **Kim Lowry Coble '79**, **Martha Page Gazely '80**, **Lynn Beadell Schaaf '77**, and Reed. Back row: **Elizabeth Erickson Sevy '79**, Veach White, Nulle, **Janet Dewoina Robnett '77**, Glazier, Freeman, and Bessett.



▼ The **Seattle Regional Alumni Club** had a great time attending the *Muppet Christmas Carol* with the Seattle Symphony in December. Thanks to all who joined!



▲ **Dorothy Ghylin-Bennett '67** sent the *Arches* team this update: "My son Matt Grahn is the head basketball coach of the University of Dallas, and his team played the Loggers in November. I traveled to Tacoma to attend the game and was reunited with my classmate **Domenick Federico '67**. Also attending the game was **Rick Walker '78**, another Logger who influenced my son. It was delightful being back on campus, and although Puget Sound won, I must admit I had mixed loyalties!"



▲ The September wedding of **Alana Yang '17** and Alex Brien brought together Logger friends to join in the celebration. From left: **Frances Welsh '17, Hannah Robideaux '17, Cole Jackson '17, Emily Rostek '17,** the newlyweds, **Karen Cheney '17, Jeremy Nash '17, Hannah Floren '17,** and **Matthew Byrne '17.**

► What are the chances? Three complete strangers signed up for the same guided tour of Switzerland and discovered they were all Puget Sound alumni. Although their graduation dates were decades apart, they said this common connection made the tour all the sweeter. From left: **Phil Garcia '90, Rhonda Gililand Higgins '80,** and **Randy Lumsden '70.**



► Some Pi Beta Phi sisters gathered before the September 2025 memorial of their fellow Pi Phi, **Sally Hanson Flaherty '64,** at the Gig Harbor home of **Karen Nelson Adams '64.** Seated in the front, from left: **Diane Peterson Schultz '64, Shary Shores Gadd '63, Sandy Syler Wall '64, Roberta Whinery Brasier '64,** and **Carrie Farman Boulet '64, P'02.** Standing in the back, from left: **Elaine Hazelton Bolton '64, Carol Strobel Colleran '64, Adams, Janice Smith Stegeman '64, P'94,** and **Alice Berglund Rohde '64.**





◀ What could be more fun than a Theta Sorority sisters' annual October reunion? Friends since their first year at Puget Sound, **Marilyn Parker Venegas '71, P'03; Teresa Kobleski Christenson '71; Sally Estlow Baier '71; and Kathy Hawkes Miller '71, P'07**, gathered on Vashon Island, Wash., this past fall. "We couldn't pass up a second picture with the troll, Oscar the Bird King. We found our first troll, named Isak Heartstone, in Breckenridge, Colo., several years ago. Despite the rain, we had a wonderful time walking, cooking, laughing, and sitting by the fire. We may be on the hunt for another troll in the future!"

SEND US YOUR NEWS

We welcome news about marriages, births, new jobs, retirements, elections to office, and more, as well as those unexpected Logger meetings.

To change your address or remove your name from the *Arches* mailing list

Fill out the form at pugetsound.edu/infoupdate.

To submit news for Class Notes or Scrapbook

Fill out the form at pugetsound.edu/classnote or email arches@pugetsound.edu.

To submit news for In Memoriam

Email the editor at arches@pugetsound.edu with the name of the Logger who passed away, the date of death, and a link to an online obituary, if available.

For more guidance, see pugetsound.edu/arches.

Winter 2026 crossword solution

1	A	D	E	P	T	6	C	R	I	E	R	10	B	R	O
14	R	I	G	O	R	15	R	O	L	L	E	R	I	B	
17	T	E	A	S	E	18	A	L	O	U	D	E	C	O	
20	S	U	N	S	E	21	B	L	V	D	22	T	A	K	E
23	U	F	O	S	24	E	E	L	E	D					
26	M	A	D	M	E	27	N	M	I	D	O	L			
30	A	V	O	R	E	31	M	I	T	32	F	L	A	P	S
37	R	E	M	I	N	D	E	R	I	A	L	T	O		
40	D	R	E	S	S	41	R	I	S	E	42	L	E	A	D
44	I	T	A	L	45	S	C	A	N	D	A	L			
47	S	A	R	A	48	M	O	O	T	49	A	S	K		
53	I	M	O	E	M	54	W	N	B	A	F	A	N		
59	M	I	L	E	S	60	H	O	M	E	A	L	O	N	E
63	A	L	I	V	E	64	E	R	A	65	T	O	R	T	E
66	C	A	D	E	T	67	Y	E	N	68	S	T	E	A	L

ALUMNI

Michiko Jinguji Kiyokawa '42, Hon'09 of Parkdale, Ore., died Nov. 21, 2025. On campus, she was a member of the all-star field hockey team. She was also one of the 36 Puget Sound students of Japanese ancestry who were removed from campus and incarcerated in internment camps during World War II. In 2009, those 36 Japanese-American students all received honorary degrees from Puget Sound. Her siblings — Masayoshi Jinguji '42, Hon'09; Masaye (Esther) Jinguji '42, Hon'09; Yoshiye Jinguji '42, Hon'09; and Masaharu Jinguji '52 — were also Loggers.

We learned in February of the death of **Thomas Eckstrom '50** of Indio, Calif.

John Larsen '51 of Pullman, Wash., died Dec. 20, 2025. He was a member of Sigma Nu. His spouse, Nancy Bartles Larsen '53, was also a Logger.

Dale Lien '51, MED'51 of Federal Way, Wash., died Oct. 29, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and a Master of Education degree and was a member of Phi Delta Theta, Circle K, and drama. His spouse, Pauline Griffith Lien '51, was also a Logger.

Sandy Mazzei '52, MED'58 of Tacoma died Dec. 13, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science as well as a Master of Education degree. As a student, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and after graduation,

he was a member of the alumni reunion committee. His spouse, Jean Williams Mazzei '56, was also a Logger.

Richard Hohnbaum '54 of Keizer, Ore., died Dec. 15, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology. His first spouse, Marilyn Glee Callahan '54, was also a Logger.

Larry Wetterhus '54 of Puyallup, Wash., died Jan. 3, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Bill Durkee '57 of Tacoma died Dec. 16, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. His spouse, Gloria Leonard Durkee '54, was also a Logger.

Evelyn Walkley '57 of Pasco, Wash., died Jan. 2, 2026. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics.

We learned in December of the death of **John Damitio '58** of Green Valley, Ariz. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy. He was a member of Sigma Chi, Adelphians, and student government, where he served as ASUPS vice president.

Robert Cummings '59, P'83 of Castle Rock, Wash., died Jan. 4, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and was a member of Adelphians. Survivors

include his spouse, Naomi Scruton Cummings '58, P'83.

Murray Johnstone '60 of Bainbridge Island, Wash., died April 11, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry and was a member of the football team, Sigma Chi, and band. As a grad, he also served as a class reunion volunteer.

Frances Hanson Gipe '61 of Lynnwood, Wash., died Feb. 5, 2026.

We learned in November of the death of **Art Peterson '61** of Lynnwood, Wash. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration.

Kenneth Wiley '62 of Mill Creek, Wash., died Feb. 5, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Music degree and was involved in band and Phi Mu Alpha. Survivors include his brother, Richard Wiley '67.

Dale Miller '64 of Bellingham, Wash., died Dec. 27, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and French, and he was a member of the skiing team, the sailing club, and University Chorale.

Marcia Reynolds Olson '64 of Thousand Oaks, Calif., died Aug 26, 2025. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and was a member of Tri Delta. Survivors include her spouse, Gary L. Olson '62.

Fred Whitley '64 of Sierra Vista, Ariz., died Dec. 11, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in

communication and theatre arts. On campus, he was a member of the tennis team, the forensics team, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Adelphians.

Ronald Lee '65 of Liberty Lake, Wash., died Aug. 9, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and was a member of Sigma Chi. Survivors include his spouse, Kathy Santamaria Lee '66.

Josette Cella Maddison '63, P'92 of Springfield, Ore., died April 13, 2025. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. Survivors include her spouse, David Maddison '62, P'92.

Arlene Queen Palmer '67 of Lacey, Wash., died Feb. 8, 2026. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in home economics.

Leona Puderbaugh Baker '68 of Tacoma died Feb. 21, 2024. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education and was a member of Tri Delta. Her spouse, Virgil Baker '50, was also a Logger.

Marilyn Myers '68, MED'73 of Gig Harbor, Wash., died Jan. 29, 2026. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education as well as a Master of Education degree. She was a member of the Chi Omega sorority.

Peter Wolf MMUS'68 of Kirkland, Wash., died Jan. 12, 2023. He earned a Master of Music degree in composition and worked as a teaching assistant at the university. Survivors include his spouse, Katherine B. Gies Wolf '69.

Richard Wilson '69 of Ridgefield, Wash., died Oct. 5, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration.

Jason Fry '70 of Grays Harbor, Wash., died Dec. 8, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science.

Gary Gallwas '70 of Olympia, Wash., died Nov. 29, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science.

Sharon Kirksey Lundberg '70 of Palm Desert, Calif., died Jan. 12, 2026. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education.

Jay Hendrick '71 of Portsmouth, Mass., died Nov. 28, 2025. He was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity.

Kaare Pedersen '72 of Edgewood, Ky., died Jan. 24, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration.

Bob Reider '72 of Newport News, Va., died Feb. 8, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and was a member of the baseball team and Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

Sandra S. Hom '73 of Corvallis, Ore., died Nov. 26, 2025. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy and was a member of Ka 'Ohana Me Ke Aloha (formerly Hui O Hawai'i). Survivors include her spouse, Donald Johnson MFA'73.

FACULTY, STAFF, AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY

We learned in November of the death of **John Knighton '73** of Indianapolis, Ind. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in economics and was a member of Kappa Sigma.

Franklin Johnson '75, P'16 of Honolulu died Oct. 9, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. As a student, he was a member of Ka 'Ohana Me Ke Aloha (formerly Hui O Hawai'i), and after graduation, he served as president of the alumni association. Survivors include his spouse, Laurie A. Rostad P'16; daughter Wailana Johnson '16; and sister Edna Johnson Bowlby '74.

Don Anderson MED'75 of Junction City, Ore., died Feb. 16, 2026. He earned a Master of Education degree.

Curtis Pederson '75 of Everett, Wash., died Feb. 18, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in public administration. After graduation, he served as a volunteer on the alumni council and was a class agent.

Wayne G. Hansen MED'75 of Shelton, Wash., died Dec. 19, 2025. He earned a Master of Education degree.

Greg Beardsley '76 of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Jan. 7, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta.

Mark Hunt '76 of Kent, Wash., died Jan. 21, 2026. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and was a member of the crew team.

Marcy Christiansen Hunter '76 of Fresno, Calif., died Nov. 1, 2025.

Jon McKnight '76 of Bend, Ore., died Oct. 22, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and was a member of Phi Delta Theta.

James Hovee '77 of Canby, Ore., died Nov. 21, 2025.

Jan (JP) Polon Novic '77 of Grass Valley, Calif., died Jan. 23, 2026. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in occupational therapy.

Albert Patterson JD'78 of Anchorage, Alaska, died Dec. 22, 2025. He earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.

Kathy Andrews '79 of Fort Collins, Colo., died Dec. 9, 2025. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in nutrition and textiles and was a member of Alpha Phi.

Jo Anne Vance '79 of Lynnwood, Wash., died Jan. 19, 2026. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in public administration.

Moreita "Pat" Leslie MPA'80 of Olympia, Wash., died Oct. 27, 2025. She earned a Master of Public Administration degree.

Tena Hoke '81 of Portland died Aug. 11, 2025.

Dawn Hannum JD'82 of Centralia, Wash., died Jan. 27, 2026. She earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.

We learned in December of the death of **Karlo Miller MBA'82** of Rancho Mirage, Calif. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree and was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity and the Alpha Kappa Psi honor society.

John Hickey MBA'83, of Gig Harbor, Wash., died Nov. 4, 2025. He earned a Master of Business Administration degree and was a member of Puget Sound's staff for 47 years. He had joined the Puget Sound campus in 1974 as director of Safety and Security and was promoted to director of Business Services in 1980. He is remembered for his kindness, his humor and good nature, his excellence as a mentor, and for being a caring and deeply committed part of the Puget Sound community. He retired from Puget Sound in 2021 as the executive director of community engagement and associate vice president for business services.

William Tri JD'84 of Lake Stevens, Wash., died Jan. 10, 2026. He earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree.

Paul Rader '85 of Minneapolis died Nov. 21, 2025. He was involved in the KUPS radio station.

Rob Pierson '92 of Broomfield, Colo., died Nov. 22, 2025. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and the Residence Hall Association.

Former Associate Athletics Director **Beth Bricker** of Tacoma died Jan. 7, 2026. She served as head coach for the women's basketball team from 1989 to 1998, when she helped start Puget Sound's women's lacrosse team, which she coached until her retirement in 2006. During her tenure, she was named Pacific Northwest Conference Independent Regional Coach of the Year for the 1996–97 season. Throughout her time with Puget Sound, she served in a variety of significant roles, including fieldhouse coordinator and business manager for Athletics. She was also an active member of Staff Senate from 1993 until her retirement, and held various positions within the Staff Senate Executive Committee, including Staff Senate Chair. She is remembered for helping build the foundation of the Logger scholar-athlete experience and competitive success.

Professor emeritus **William Breitenbach** of Tacoma died Dec. 7, 2025. He started teaching early American history in the History department in 1980 and spent the next 40 years teaching his students to read closely, reason cogently, and write clearly. His painstaking review of student papers was legendary. Equally legendary was the respect he held for his students and the care and attention he devoted to their ideas as well as their writing. He was the university's Register Lecturer in 1997, received the President's Excellent in Teaching Award in 2011, and received the Walter Lowrie Sustained Service Award in 2017, when he was also the faculty speaker at commencement. He is remembered for his kindness and decency, his lack of pretense or snobbery, and his ability to find humor and joy in simple things.

John Hickey MBA'83 - see alumni listing

Professor emeritus **Robert Musser P'89** of Lakewood, Wash., died Feb. 7, 2026. He taught in the School of Music from 1971 until his retirement in 2005, serving as the director of bands, professor of oboe and saxophone, and chair of the Winds and Percussion Department. As performer, professor, and conductor, Musser held high standards and worked throughout his time at Puget Sound to elevate the stature of the programs and ensembles that he led. He also had a full life conducting and performing around the world, and founded the Tacoma Concert Band in 1981, creating a new tradition of exceptional music performed by local artists, rooted in his gift to provide expressive, artistic, and varied programming for the community. Survivors include a son, Clark Musser '89.

JOIN THE CLUB!

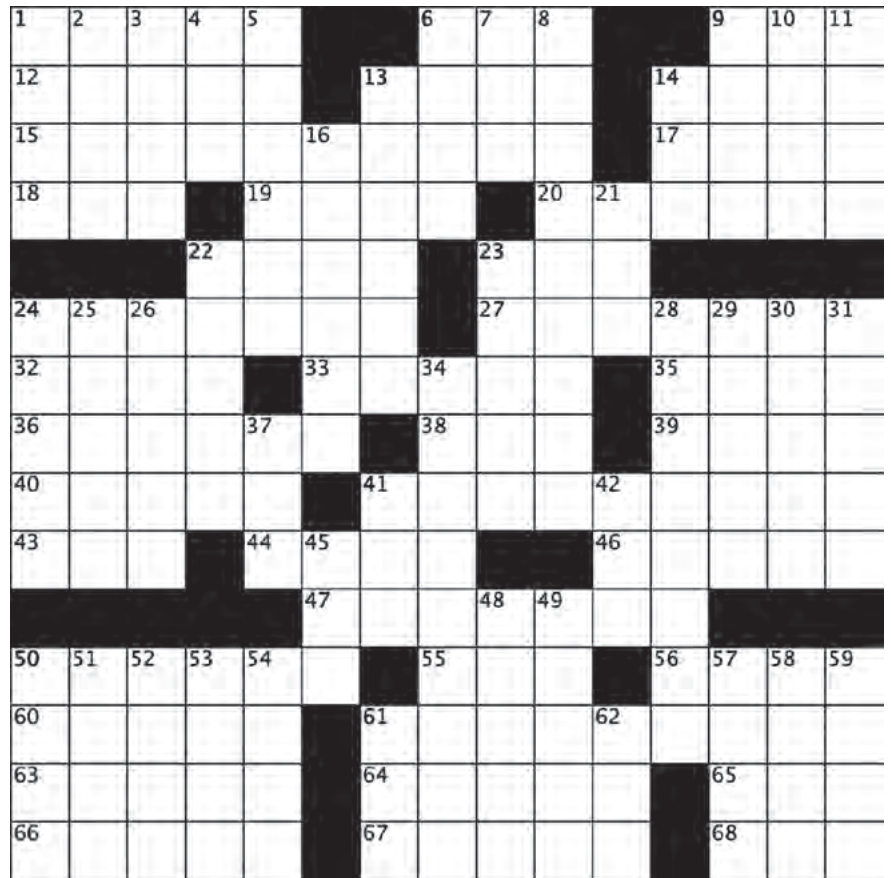
BY STELLA ZAWISTOWSKI

Grab a pencil and piece together this puzzle that celebrates the teams, clubs, and organizations that shape campus life. Snap a photo of your completed puzzle and you could win some swag from the Logger Store! Email the photo to arches@pugetsound.edu before July 1, 2026, or post it on Instagram and tag us: @univpugetsound. Congrats to **Peter Johnson '04 of Carbondale, Colo.**, who won the prize after submitting the Winter 2026 puzzle.

You can find the solution to this issue's puzzle at pugetsound.edu/jointheclub, and the solution to the winter puzzle on p. 41 of this issue. Join the fun!

ACROSS

- 1 Monotheistic religion that originated in Iran
- 6 Abbreviation before an approximation
- 9 Group that provides resources to LGBTQ+ Loggers
- 12 Sour or bitter in taste
- 13 "Knock on Wood" singer Stewart
- 14 Person with no manners
- 15 Puget Sound club activity that maintains hives on campus
- 17 Reader of *Arches*, most likely
- 18 Fashionable French monogram
- 19 Totally spellbound
- 20 "I can ___ wait!"
- 22 Device worn by an informant
- 23 Texter's "before I forget..."
- 24 With 41-Across, student group whose name is Hawai'ian for "the family with love"
- 27 Helpful diagram for a Tacoma tourist
- 32 Annapolis military school: Abbr.
- 33 Greek muse of lyric poetry
- 35 Heavy weights
- 36 Done and ___ (all finished)
- 38 Rim of a glass
- 39 Mark with acid
- 40 Opinion pieces in *The Trail*
- 41 See 24-Across
- 43 The Concorde, e.g.: Abbr.
- 44 Cleaning brand named for a Trojan War hero
- 46 Legal novelist Scott
- 47 David Bowie song about someone "waiting in the sky"
- 50 Hindu god with blue skin
- 55 *The Matrix* hero
- 56 Spend the night in Saltwater State Park, say
- 60 Weary, bored feeling
- 61 Member of the university choir founded in 1932
- 63 Reads over quickly
- 64 Restaurant request
- 65 Largest student group at Puget Sound, for short

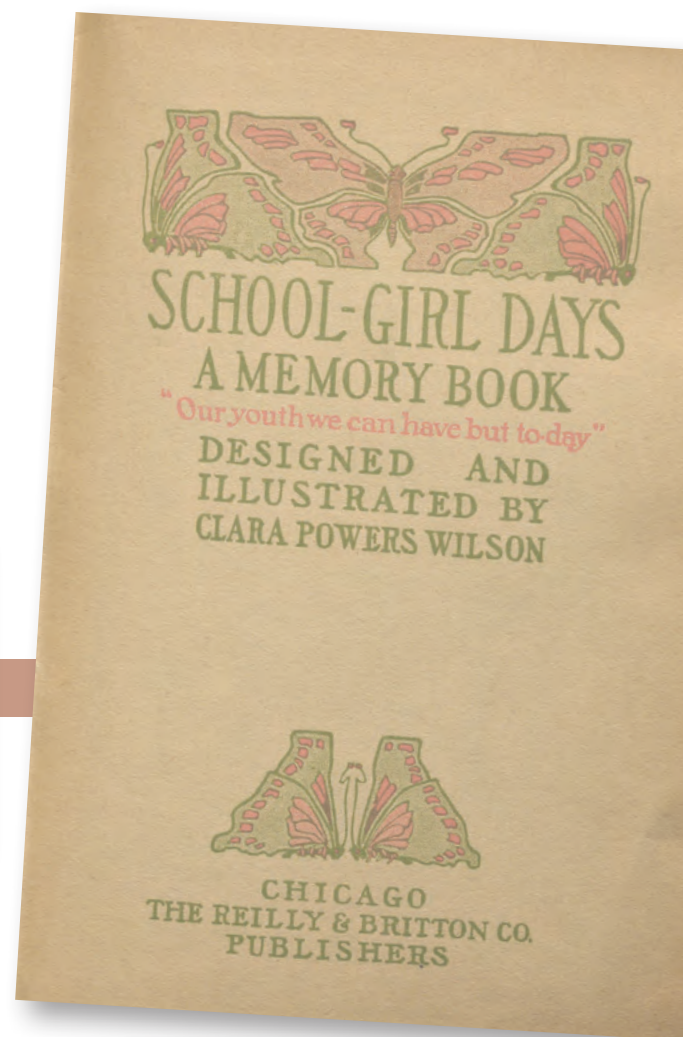


- 66 Intense kind of personality
- 67 Rodeo rope
- 68 "Sure thing!"
- DOWN**
- 1 Crib occupant
- 2 Gets a perfect score on
- 3 End of a loaf of bread
- 4 Noah's boat
- 5 Area studied in SPAN 411
- 6 Give off
- 7 ___ Fronteras (Puget Sound's Latinx identity club)
- 8 Line walked by an acrobat
- 9 Color of one of Gretchen Kunigk Fraser '41's Olympic medals
- 10 Heart and ___
- 11 Vast fighting force
- 13 Seem (to be)
- 14 Measure of music
- 16 Got through hard work
- 21 Reaction to seeing Mount Rainier, maybe
- 22 "___ I miss?"
- 23 Dyeing method that involves wax
- 24 Words of praise
- 25 Group for Loggers who want to take part in government, for short
- 26 Initial stage
- 28 Had a midday meal
- 29 Fine ___ skills
- 30 Dried poblano pepper
- 31 Old-timey "Nonsense!"
- 34 *The White Lotus* actress Daddario
- 37 That, in Spanish
- 41 Wrestling surface
- 42 Go ___ snail's pace
- 45 Puget Sound group that hosts weekly Shabbat dinners: Abbr.
- 48 Parts of oboes and clarinets
- 49 Double agents
- 50 Part of a three-piece suit
- 51 Deep black
- 52 Sound of scissors
- 53 Philosopher David
- 54 Puget Sound group that organizes the Orange Shirt Day walk: Abbr.
- 57 Well-ventilated
- 58 Created
- 59 Some image files: Abbr.
- 61 "You've Got Mail" ISP
- 62 Opposite of con

The School-Girl Days Scrapbook of Lyle Ford Drushel 1912

Pictured here are pages from a Reilly and Britton Co. scrapbook titled *School-Girl Days*, documenting **Lyle Elizabeth Ford Drushel's** time as a Puget Sound student from 1907 to 1912. After graduation, she worked as a schoolteacher in Tacoma, and then married and moved to Michigan for four years with her spouse before returning to Tacoma in 1932 to start work as the dean of women at Puget Sound. She served in that role until 1953, and also taught in the English department, attaining the rank of associate professor.

Drushel (1888–1985) is one of several alumni who returned to Puget Sound as faculty members and who later donated materials — teaching and research notes, scrapbooks, sheet music, and more — to the university archives. To explore her collection, or the collections of **Walter Lowrie '58**, who taught in the history department for 44 years, or **Leroy Ostransky '48**, who taught in the music department for more than 30 years, email archives@pugetsound.edu and schedule an in-person or virtual research appointment.



Do you have physical or digital materials you'd like to add to the archive? Bring your piece of Puget Sound history to the "Archives and Special Collections Alumni History Harvest" during Summer Reunion Weekend. We'll be happy to accept your donation or scan your items between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. June 5 in the Collins Memorial Library. Questions? Email archives@pugetsound.edu.

—Story and image curation by *Olivia Rouse, archivist and special collections librarian*

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JOIN US FOR SUMMER REUNION WEEKEND

JUNE 5-7, 2026

Celebrating you, and:

Class years ending in 1 and 6, with special recognition for the Class of 1976 (50th) and Class of 2001 (25th)

We'll also be celebrating:

- Orientation leaders (Preludes, Passages, and Perspectives)
- ASUPS
- Ka 'Ohana Me Ke Aloha (formerly Hui O Hawai'i)
- Repertory Dance Group
- MAT program

Additional highlights:

- 1976 NCAA DII men's basketball national champions
- Chinese Language Program
- Wind Ensemble

Learn more at pugetsound.edu/reunionweekend.
For questions, email reunion@pugetsound.edu.



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INFORMATION**

