

THE UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND

PEOPLE AND IDEAS FOR SPRING 2020

arches

The Data in Your Drain

What wastewater
can reveal about
everything from
air pollution to viruses

INSIDE: Visiting slavery's roots • Fine wine—from China? • Teaching in the time of coronavirus



JAZZ IS FOR LOVERS

Trombone legend, composer, and producer Delfeayo Marsalis performed a Valentine's Day concert with the Puget Sound Jazz Orchestra in February. Student photographer Alex Everett '22 captured the performance in Schneebeck Concert Hall.

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Cover illustration by Jasu Hu

LaToya Brackett designed and led Puget Sound's first-ever study abroad program in Ghana. Story on p. 20.



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A Time Unlike Any Other—or Not



WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THE GLOBAL HEALTH PANDEMIC is a time unlike any other for current members of the Puget Sound community, we know that over our 132-year history Loggers have been resilient in the face of world wars, depression, recessions, and yes, even a flu pandemic. In 2012, our colleague Nancy Bristow, professor of history, wrote the book on it: *American Pandemic: The Lost Worlds of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic*. Over the past few months, you may have heard or read her sought-after commentary on National Public Radio or in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and other news outlets as we as a nation and a world community have tried to make sense of our lives in these uncertain times.

The pandemic became a reality here at Puget Sound when we were forced to radically alter campus life in early March, closing our residence halls to all but a few students; moving to virtual instruction, academic support, student engagement, and remote business operation; recalling our students from abroad; and postponing many of the spring

President Crawford was happy to see university photographer Sy Bean from a distance outside the president's residence in April.

and summer rituals that we hold dear.

This is the time of year when we should be preparing to gather for the biggest ritual of all, our annual Commencement Ceremony, followed by Summer Reunion Weekend. It was with heavy hearts that we made the decision in late March to postpone the ceremony in accordance with guidelines from state and local officials, supporting the call for social distancing to slow the spread of the persistent and deadly novel coronavirus. I look out over Karlen Quad and close my eyes, imagining a sea of caps and gowns, proud parents with cameras flashing, graduates jostling to find their places in line for the ceremonial journey along Commencement Walk to Baker Stadium, and seeing for the first time their class year engraved in bronze along with all the graduating classes that have gone before them, dating back to the class of 1892.

Of course, that graduating class of 1892 did not make that historic walk here on our

current campus, which was built under the watchful eye of President Emeritus Edward Todd in the early 1920s. Todd assumed the presidency in 1913 for 29 years of leadership, seeing the fledgling college, then known as the College of Puget Sound, through the Great War, the Spanish Flu, the Great Depression, and the first half of World War II. Talk about fortitude!

The pandemic hit while World War I was still in progress. Looking back over issues of *The Trail*, I am struck not only by the unfolding calamity (“Alumni Greetings: One-Thing After Another,” reads one headline) but the spirit of resilience in the student writers. In the December 1918 issue, they wrote:

“The fall term opened with the largest enrollment in the history of the College. Work was just getting under way when the flu struck us. Our regular students were sent home, and the S.A.T.C. [Student Army Training Corps] men were quarantined on the campus. A total of 32 of the 100 men were ill – some seriously. The Boy’s Dormitory was converted into a hospital, a physician and nurses were engaged, and the boys were brought thru without the loss of one life. ... After 5 weeks’ suspension, academic work was resumed.”

The June 1919 Commencement issue of *The Trail* continued on with an almost surprising surge of optimism, writing that despite the pandemic, members of the previous fall’s entering class “caught the spirit of College life remarkably well, and seem anxious to do their part. They have made good in athletics, classes, and Literary Societies, and they are fast becoming loyal members of C.P.S.”

It is heartening to know that although the times and circumstances have changed, the character of our Puget Sound community has not. Our current generation of Loggers is just as loyal and resilient. Our students have impressed me beyond measure in how they are making their way through this challenging, and perhaps defining, moment in their lives. Our faculty and staff members have been nothing short of heroic in pivoting the university to remote learning in short order, providing person-centered and high-quality Puget Sound learning experiences, student support services, and engagement activities.

We have been strengthened by the unfailing support and wisdom of our board of trustees, our faithful and generous alumni and parents, our innovative and creative faculty, our resilient staff, and our capable and resourceful students.

We have done and will continue to do all in our power to support our students, allowing those to remain on campus (with appropriate social distancing) who literally have nowhere else to go; transitioning our beloved dining hall to carry-out only; continuing to provide support from Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services; providing prorated room and board credits and refunds to students who left so unexpectedly in the middle of the semester; and donating our excess supply of N95 masks to local hospitals. Our top priorities remain to care for our students and support our faculty and staff members, and to be of service to the broader communities we are called to serve.

Although our celebration of the graduating classes of 2020 this month was virtual, we look forward to welcoming them back to campus for their own formal ceremony next year, as well as to many years of class reunions that will be made all the sweeter for the simple pleasure of being able to join together in person to share stories, fellowship, and the bonds of lifelong friendship with one another. Pandemic willing, we also look forward to seeing all alumni for Homecoming and Family Weekend in the fall.

I hope to be able soon to say, in the words of President Emeritus Todd, that “the riot of war-madness and many emotions is passed.” In the meantime, your alma mater is steadfast in its commitment to the residential liberal arts experience and will continue to prepare its students to become the leaders our world needs. Thank you for the important role you play in supporting this campus community as we continue to fulfill our mission, transcending the current moment with the grace and fortitude of the generations of Loggers that have preceded us, and laying a strong foundation for the generations to come.

—*Isiaah Crawford*

For more information on the university’s response to COVID-19, please see pugetsound.edu/coronavirus.

Finding a Way

How the campus is coping with the coronavirus crisis

Kaela Hamilton '20 presented her **senior thesis research in biology** in late April from a room in her boyfriend’s house in Tempe, Ariz. Using her laptop and Google Meet software, she showed a series of slides about her research on the composition and distribution of epiphytes on bigleaf maple trees while her advisor, Assistant Professor **Carrie Woods**, and about two dozen faculty members and students watched from their respective homes. After the talk, audience members popped up on the screen, one at a time, to ask their questions—including a man named Ken, who asked whether certain environmental conditions could have affected differences in epiphyte community structure between trees. Hamilton paused a moment, then said, “That’s a good question, Dad.”

If this were a normal year, Hamilton would have been giving her senior thesis presentation in person, in Thompson Hall. And if her parents had wanted to see it, they would have had to fly up from their home in Phoenix. But this is not a normal year.



On Jan. 21, the same day that spring semester classes began, the United States’ **first case of novel coronavirus** was confirmed. Within two months, an epidemic of historic proportions had transformed daily life throughout the country. At Puget Sound, it disrupted the entire campus. Most students had to leave the residence halls, and

all classes went virtual. Faculty and staff members, except for a handful of essential employees, went home to begin working remotely. The athletic schedule was canceled. Events ranging from lecture series to the Spring Lu’au to Commencement were either canceled or postponed. Kittredge Gallery closed. The brand-new Welcome Center—just dedicated in February—sat empty, as the Office of Admission delayed its planned move there. In-person admission tours came to a halt.

But **something else happened** at the same time: The campus community figured out how to make the best of a decidedly difficult situation. In a March 12 email to the campus community and parents, **President Isiaah Crawford** said, “Loggers are creative, resilient and adaptable in the face of change. I am confident that we will weather these challenging circumstances with grace and fortitude.”

Faculty members worked quickly to **adapt their classes** to online teaching. In a series of virtual sessions with one another and with staff members from Technology Services, they brainstormed the logistics of remote learning—how to facilitate class discussions; what to do about laboratory exercises, art critiques, and group presentations; how to give exams. Many of the conversations centered on how to sustain a sense of community in spite of the distance. “I suspect that the most important thing is to just promote kindness between us and the students,” said Associate Professor of Biology **Mark Martin** during one faculty meeting. “We are all in this together.” And more than a few faculty members went above and beyond—as just one example, **Jeff Caldwell**, a faculty member and pianist in the School of Music, recorded 120 customized piano tracks for students in vocal studies to use for their virtual lessons, recitals, and juried performances. (For more examples of how faculty members adapted their teaching, see “Home School,” p. 10.)

Meanwhile, **the staff kept serving students**, albeit remotely. Counseling, Health, and Wellness Services staff members

dispatches

continued seeing students, relying heavily on telehealth appointments, and the staff in academic advising also met virtually with students. Career and Employment Services (CES) maintained a robust schedule of appointments, along with online events such as the Virtual Summer Job and Internship Showcase and a weekly online series called Ask a Logger: Career Q&A With Alumni. (One notable Ask a Logger presenter was **Jessica Columbo '07**, who graduated just in time for the recession of 2007–08—and who now runs a thriving digital and social marketing agency.) CES staffers also called every graduating senior to check on them and to offer support as needed.

For many students, **the move off-campus was abrupt** and unplanned: They left for spring break, not knowing that they wouldn't be returning. The Office of Residence Life arranged for them to return at the end of the semester to retrieve their belongings or, depending on the student's preference, to have a moving company pack up their room and either store the contents in a secure area of Warner Gym or ship them to the student's home.



About 130 students petitioned successfully **to stay on campus**; these included students whose homes are outside the U.S. and those who had safety concerns, among other reasons. Dining and Conference Services (DCS) stayed open to serve those students, as well as others who lived near campus and kept their meal plans, and essential workers who stayed on campus. DCS staffers made a point to tailor their meal options to the students' nutritional needs, allergies, and religious preferences.

One day in mid-April, **President Crawford** and his partner, **Kent Korneisel**, **baked cookies** in the president's house; the cookies were delivered to on-campus essential workers as a gesture of thanks.



The students themselves, regardless of where they were living, tried to **create normalcy—and community**—where they could. ASUPS (the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound) maintained a schedule of livestreamed performances, ranging from **Tom Higgenson** of the pop group **Plain White T's** and country singer **Hunter Hayes** to poet **Troy Osaki** and comedian and slack-key guitarist **Kermet Apio**.

For **fraternities and sororities**, the April 15 Greeks Got Talent show could have been canceled, but organizers decided that the show would go on—virtually. Rather than performing live, 14 participants sent in videos of their talents, ranging from juggling to solving a Rubik's Cube to playing a *SpongeBob SquarePants*-inspired tune on an Irish whistle. Via social media, more than 500 members of the campus community watched the videos and cast votes for the winners. **Katie McCannon '21** of Alpha Phi took first place for her *Tiger King* "Savage" dance on the social media platform TikTok.

Panhellenic Council programming director **Ashley Brauning '21** (Kappa Alpha Theta), looking for a way to foster a sense of community, devised a **pen-pal program**, matching interested sorority sisters with one another, so they could write to each other via snail mail. About 60 sorority members participated, sending everything from weekly updates to Netflix recommendations

to candy bars to their pen pal. Brauning assigned herself a pen pal, as well, and says, "It's been rewarding for me—not only to make a new friend but also just to feel connected to campus."

Other students pitched in to **help in the pandemic** in a variety of ways, large and small. **Capriana Jiang '23**, along with her brother Trenton, created the Facebook group "Mask-ER-Aid," which has helped people make more than 1,250 masks, 300 surgical caps, and 340 ear-tension relievers for health care workers in San Jose, Calif. First-year student **Jules Tan '23**, double majoring in violin performance and English, gave neighborhood concerts from the front porch of her home in Boise, Idaho. And occupational therapy grad student **Gabrielle McKenzie M.S.O.T.'21**, who specializes in restorative yoga, offered live virtual yoga lessons for her classmates on Zoom twice a week. "We focus on gentle stretching, alleviating stress, and relieving muscle aches that result from being at a computer all day," she says.

The university also did what it could to help the cause. It **donated excess N95 masks** to local health care facilities, and the campus's Makerspace manager, **Jada Pelger '96**, cranked out 3D-printed masks and mask extenders for use by a local hospital.

At press time, an **end to the pandemic** was not yet in sight. Two major events scheduled for June—the annual Summer Reunion Weekend and the Alumni Council Volunteer Summit—will not take place this year, and the university has said that remote learning will be in place through at least June 26. Given the most recent guidance from Washington state, the university is planning to welcome students again and resume in-person classes (while adhering to public health guidelines) in the fall, and potentially sooner. At the same time, according to President Isiaah Crawford, "We also are planning for contingencies, including—if absolutely necessary—enhanced remote learning that will incorporate the best of what we have learned from this semester."



Intriguing Instruments

Composer Harry Partch (1901–74) had a thing for creating unusual musical instruments. **The Harry Partch Ensemble** continues his legacy today, and during the ensemble's five-day campus residency in early February, students, faculty, and the public had a chance to view the instruments up close and hear both an informal recital and a concert. Shown here: ensemble member Sarah Kolat with Partch's "cloud chamber bowls," made out of glass containers from the University of California Radiation Laboratory.



The Voice

In 2019–20, **Jef Lucero**, a familiar voice for Puget Sound sports fans, celebrated 10 years as the public address and play-by-play announcer for Logger football, volleyball, and men's and women's basketball. A frequent announcer in gyms and stadiums throughout the Pacific Northwest, Lucero has called a wide range of sporting events at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels, including the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games, held in Seattle. In February, the Seattle Storm announced that he would join the club's in-game entertainment team as the public address announcer. Congratulations, Jef! We can't wait to hear your booming voice again, when the Loggers are back in Memorial Fieeeeeeeel-lllddd Hooooooooooooooooouse!

dispatches

We Got This, Loggers

Virtual backgrounds of campus scenes for your next Zoom meeting? Coloring sheets, featuring Grizz, to help keep the kiddos busy? A curated playlist of songs that remind Loggers of campus? Recipes to make some of your favorite dishes from The Diner at home? We've got you covered. As Loggers come together (virtually) during the pandemic, **visit pugetsound.edu/wegotthisloggers** and watch Puget Sound social media for fun challenges and digital swag. Share what you're doing to stay home, stay positive, and stay sane with **#WeGotThisLoggers!**



Seen and Heard

Puget Sound in the spotlight

Puget Sound was again named a top producer of **Fulbright scholars**, with five Loggers receiving Fulbright awards in 2019–20.

School of Music alumni Sam Faustine '13 and Patrick Schneider '13 each won **Grammy Awards** for projects they worked on in the past year. Faustine sang on Kronos Quartet's *Sun Rings* album, named Best Engineered Classical Album, and Schneider is a member of the Houston Chamber Choir, which earned Best Choral Performance for *Durufilé: Complete Choral Works*.

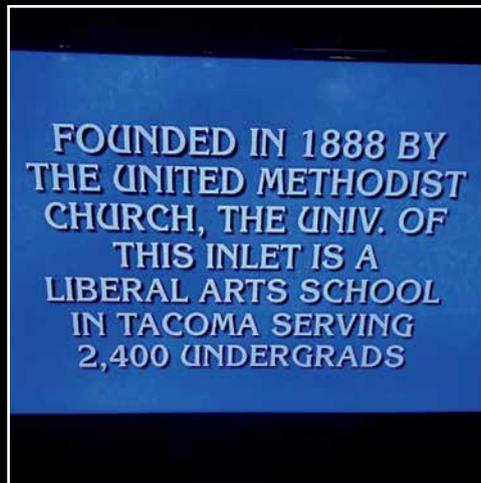
The Peace Corps named Puget Sound to its list of the top 10 volunteer-producing small colleges in the nation. Prior to being recalled due to the coronavirus pandemic, 12 Loggers were serving in the corps around the world.

Nancy Bristow, professor of history and author of *American Pandemic: The Lost Worlds of the 1918 Influenza Epidemic*, has become a **go-to resource** for news media looking to provide historical context for the coronavirus pandemic. She appeared on NPR's *Hidden Brain* and was quoted in pieces produced by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, and *The History Channel*, among others. Her new book on the 1970 Jackson State shootings (see p. 8) also got some ink in *The New Yorker*.

OH, SNAP



Challenge Accepted Colorado pup Denver showed out for #LoggerDayChallenge2020, inspiring pals on two legs and four to give back and share their Puget Sound pride. @denverdoingstuff



What is Puget Sound? That was the million-dollar question (or, at least, the \$200 answer) on a recent episode of *Jeopardy!* @univpugetsoundces



Cherry [Blossoms] on Top The beauty of campus can make it difficult to focus any time of year, but especially in the springtime. @prettygrittytours

ASK THE EXPERT

Inside the Election

Michael Purdy '76, M.B.A.'79 still owns a copy of his favorite book from childhood, *Facts About the Presidents*. He didn't pursue a career as a historian, but he never lost his passion for presidential history. Now retired from a career as a procurement manager, he's found the time to write extensively on the subject, including a 2019 book, *101 Presidential Insults: What They Really Thought About Each Other—and What It Means to Us*. We asked him for perspective on the 2020 race. —Ryan Jones

NOMINATING HAS EVOLVED

Nominating power started with congressional caucuses, where legislators would meet to pick the nominees. Over time, power moved to the political parties and, ultimately—mostly—to voters. After the 1968 Democratic Convention, when Hubert Humphrey won the nomination despite not entering a single primary, Democrats developed a process that reduced the control of the party elite. Today, says Purdy, influence is shared by unions, corporations, super PACs, and the media.

DEBATE PREP

In debates, “winners” are often determined by who's got the best one-liners, but Purdy suggests looking for substance. Keep a few questions in mind: “What do the debates show about their knowledge base? What policies are they talking about? Are they truthful?”

HOW DIVIDED ARE WE, ANYWAY?

Polarization is nothing new—Americans did once fight a Civil War, after all—and divisions are often most evident in an election year. Purdy recalls John Quincy Adams lamenting how “the union is in a state of agitation approaching the presidential election such as was never before witnessed.” That was in 1840. The challenge now, says Purdy, is that “opposing

sides often are not looking at the same set of facts.”

COLLEGE BOUND?

The oft-maligned Electoral College was conceived as a compromise to even out the influence of larger versus smaller states; Purdy says it also allowed a small number of “wise men” to largely determine the president. (A popular vote wasn't widely instituted until 1824.) Today, Nebraska and Maine pledge their electoral votes by results within their congressional districts; all other states use a winner-take-all system. Then there's the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which proposes states award all their electoral votes to whomever wins the national popular vote. But not enough states are on board for it to be implemented yet. The Supreme Court is expected to decide this year whether electors are bound by the popular vote or can vote their conscience.

THE GREAT DEBATES

Could a sitting president sit out the presidential debates? President Donald Trump has hinted that he might if the setting isn't “fair,” and Purdy guesses his decision will come down to “where he sees himself in the polls, and whether it's advantageous to participate.” Historically, debates can matter: Purdy cites the 1960

Nixon/Kennedy debates in which radio listeners felt Nixon was stronger while TV viewers thought Kennedy won based on his more composed appearance. Then there was Ronald Reagan's 1984 debate with Walter Mondale, when Reagan, 73, turned concerns about his age into a joke about refusing to “exploit my opponent's youth and inexperience.” Reagan won the election in a landslide.

NO, REALLY, THIS ONE MATTERS

We hear it every four years: This is the most important election of our lives. But how often is an election truly transformative? Purdy points to 1800, when incumbent John Adams lost his reelection bid to his own VP—Thomas Jefferson. With its clear two-party split and bitter campaign, it was a precursor to modern elections. Lincoln's election on the eve of the Civil War and FDR's 1932 victory, which positioned him to lead the country through the Depression and World War II, were defining moments. This year's election could have similar potential: No matter how you feel about Trump, he's shown a historic tendency to ignore the norms of the office. This election, Purdy says, could be, at least in part, a mandate on how presidents should conduct themselves.



COURTESY OF ISIAAH CRAWFORD

Our Man in Washington

President Isiah Crawford and other university presidents from Washington state hit the nation's capital in February to talk about college affordability and student aid with members of Congress. They also met up with several Capitol insiders, including (at left) **David Muir of ABC's *World News Tonight***. Also in the photo, from left: Terri Standish-Kuon (Independent Colleges of Washington), Beck Taylor (Whitworth University), and Andrew Sund (Heritage University).

In Short

Matthew Boyce is Puget Sound's new **vice president for enrollment**. According to President Isiah Crawford, “He brings to us a deep commitment to the liberal arts; outstanding research, data analytics, and technical skills; and a deep passion for college access and student success.” Boyce had been executive director of enrollment management at George Mason University; he starts June 8.

This year's **Logger Day Challenge** was a challenge, indeed, coming just as the novel coronavirus was shutting down most of the Pacific Northwest in early March. But more than 1,500 Loggers rose to the occasion, pledging nearly \$230,000 to the Puget Sound Fund, which supports student scholarships and services, academic programs, technological resources, and campus enrichment, as well as providing COVID-19-related financial help for students and the campus community. Contributions to the Puget Sound Fund are welcome year-round at giveto.pugetsound.edu.

The board of trustees has approved a new major in gender and queer studies, starting in the fall. The major requires eight units, including a theory and methods course; a course on experiential learning/public scholarship; a course on transnational, international, diasporic, or cross-cultural perspectives; and a capstone/thesis course; among others.

Forgotten Tragedy

Historian Nancy Bristow tries to make sense of a 1970 shooting on a college campus. (No, not that one.)

By Ted Anthony

HISTORY PROFESSOR NANCY BRISTOW SPECIALIZES IN RACE AND SOCIAL CHANGE in 20th-century history. Her new book, *Steeped in the Blood of Racism: Black Power, Law and Order, and the 1970 Shootings at Jackson State College* (Oxford University Press, 2020), explores a shooting of African American students by police that killed two and wounded 12. It's an event that you may have never heard of—in part because it took place just 11 days after the Kent State shootings. In her book, Bristow explores the historical currents behind the Jackson State shootings, their less-publicized aftermath, and efforts by survivors and activists to ensure that the event is remembered—and understood—today, 50 years on.



At Kent State, for the first time, we had soldiers wounding and killing white students on a college campus. It was shocking to most Americans—although it's important to remember that not everyone was sympathetic to the Kent State victims. What is remarkable, though, is how even in the wake of the Kent State shootings, the Jackson State students had difficulty making their case—that they were innocent victims of state violence—or getting the American public to remember them. Their experiences were overshadowed by the shootings at Kent State.

Are there other reasons beyond Kent State?

This could have been the moment when white Americans rose up and said, “Oh, my God, it's happening in the black community, as well.” But, in fact, the decade of the 1960s was filled with the murder of black people. People remember the little girls in the Birmingham church bombing. They remember Medgar Evers being gunned down in his driveway in 1963. They remember Chaney

and Schwerner and Goodman [civil rights workers murdered in Mississippi]. They remember Martin Luther King. They may remember Malcolm X. But remembering these moments doesn't require us to ask the tough questions that remembering Jackson State demands—questions about how systemic and institutionalized white supremacy has not only produced centuries of violence against people of color but has allowed that violence to be ignored.

You say that writing this book required “a new kind of courage for me.” Can you elaborate?

I've written two books on the era of the First World War in which the principal characters, the people whose life stories I would be telling, are all gone. And those books were only narrowly inflected with this fundamental reality of American life, the role of racial identity. I am a white American. I have been raised as one, and I move through the world as one, with all of the privilege and safety that comes with it. Now I'm attempting to tell a story of the African American community, a move that could signify a great deal of hubris. So I've had to constantly say to myself, “What in the world do you think you're doing?”—and at the same time try to do it. Because I believe this story is

This is a pretty momentous event. Why isn't it remembered better?

There actually was some press attention in the immediate aftermath, though never at the scale of the Kent State shootings, and then the event just disappeared from our national memory. On some level, this is easy to understand. The victims at Jackson State were African Americans gunned down by white law enforcement—a familiar story.



AP PHOTO

so important. Those who were affected by this violence have not been silent, have not forgotten, but beyond that community, only one book has been written on this event. I believe this is a story that needs to be known by as many people as possible. I'm always reminding myself that I will never fully know the experiences of those who suffered through it. But I have to try.

You frequently refer to something called “memory work.” What is that, exactly?

For many years, historians saw themselves as separate from popular memory, saw themselves as somehow above it. Memory, well, “That’s what everybody else does.” But increasingly many of us see ourselves as one part of the building of memory. It happens in the stories we tell at the dinner table, the songs we sing, the books we read, the monuments we build. We affirm those memories in our families, our hometowns, our colleges. Each community has its own set of memories. Nations, in turn, have their own memories. It’s essential to how we think of ourselves as

a people. So beginning to attend to how we create those memories and the impact those memories have is vital, because it shapes how we live our lives. Terrible things are done every day based on what we believe to have happened yesterday or the day before. For those with power, in particular, a more critical understanding of how we’ve built our national narrative could help move us toward a more just community.

As a historian, do you find that millennials’ ability for critical thinking is stronger or weaker compared to other generations you’ve taught?

I think students are increasingly aware that the world is more complicated than what they were taught as children. They’re recognizing that simple answers aren’t going to work with the pressing questions their generation is facing. They want to understand the complexities of their past and present, the differentiated and inequitable workings of their world, because they’re living and seeing them every day. We also have a generation of

During riots at Jackson State College in Mississippi, police—claiming they had been fired upon by snipers—opened fire on a women’s dorm, killing two people.

students coming up who are more willing to accept, understand, and learn more about the nation’s racialized, and often horrifying, past. More and more of my students, including my white students, recognize that there is a history of this country that is not only about white people and is not just the glorious narrative, the national lore, that they were fed as young people. They’re saying, “Why am I only learning this now?” And they’re outraged.

Longtime journalist Ted Anthony has written about American culture and history since 1990.

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**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STUDENTS FAN OUT OVER FIVE TIME
ZONES IN A MATTER OF DAYS?**

Despite the obstacles to teaching and learning while under COVID-19 quarantine orders, the Puget Sound faculty displayed agile and creative adaptability in the crisis. Some professors kept it old school, sending packages of tools and coursework to students' homes; others went digital, using platforms such as Google Jamboard and Slack. Most courses used one video platform or another, including the campus's learning management system, Canvas. Here are just a few examples of ways that faculty members adapted.

HOME SCHOOL

WORDS BY RENÉE OLSON | ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAURA CARLIN

WAS
UP
ED?

1987

Do you think that recommendation has been put in place?

MOST LIKELY NO
NO

NO LOL

1981

GAY MEN

WHEN DID AIDS - RELATED DEATHS IN THE US BEGIN TO DECLINE?

'97

3.1 MILLION

What year was the 'strange cancer' first noticed? What population was it associated with?

In 2002, what were the world-wide statistics on AIDS-related deaths?

GQS 201 Introduction to Gender, Queer, and Feminist Studies

Visiting assistant professor and interim head of gender and queer studies **Heather White** uses the Google product Jamboard for class discussions. "It's like a virtual version of a mood board," she says. Students watched a short video on the HIV-AIDS epidemic in the U.S., and White posted questions using Jamboard's "sticky notes." "The students answered the questions with their own sticky notes," she says. "They can see what the others are working on—it helps provide that missing visual dimension."



"On the first day of remote teaching, I had students looking at materials on black activism and leadership at the university. They wrote questions in Google Docs, and I was in the same file, answering them. They were just as engaged with the material as they are in person. That was very exciting."

—Adriana Flores '13, archivist and special collections librarian



COMM 381 Communication and the Internet

One of the things that **Nicholas Brody**, associate professor of communication studies, misses most about face-to-face teaching is knowing whether his cheesy jokes land. Online, his students' mics are turned off so he can't hear them while he's speaking, but a plug-in for his browser that displays everyone's video on a single screen has saved the day. "For the first time, I could see some smiles and some nonverbal feedback, the nodding along to my lectures and taking notes," Brody says. "That makes a huge difference for me as an instructor."



"Our seniors always look forward to senior dinner night at a faculty member's house, so this year I invited them to a virtual social. To make it memorable for those who registered, we secretly ordered a pizza to be delivered to each one."

—Robin Jacobson, professor and chair, politics and government



**MUS 111-462
Applied Violin Lessons**

Professor of Music **Maria Sampen** teaches 22 individual lessons each week. When in-person lessons became impossible, she devised a workaround: "I have students prerecord their solo pieces on their cellphones. They post them to an unlisted YouTube account. During the lesson, the student and I watch the performance together, make notes on what needs improvement, and then workshop specific spots. I actually see a lot of improvement because of this self-analysis."



My hypothesis? Must nail that.



Now I know what being objective means



Sosa says I get the experiment, yass



Read more existing literature, he told me



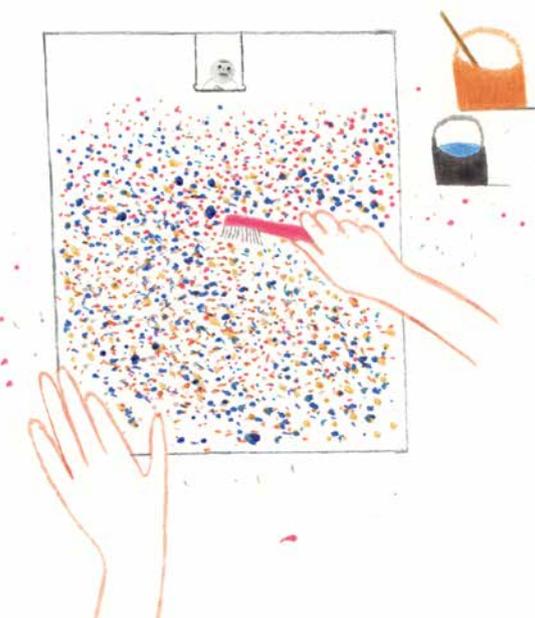
It's about putting our results into context

**ARTS 282
Beginning Printmaking**

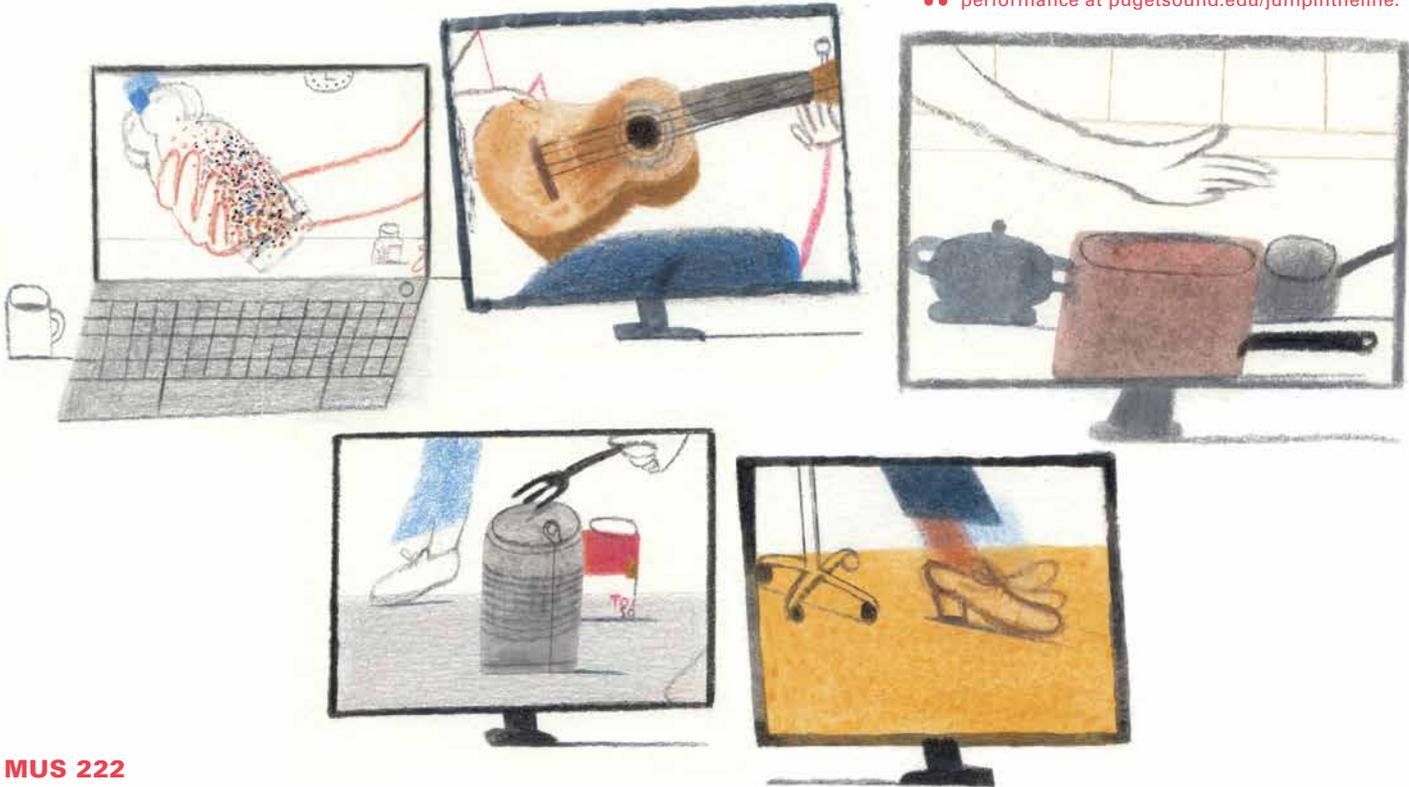
Janet Marcavage, professor of art, made a video to show her students how to do a stencil technique called pochoir. Then she sent them good paper, brushes, X-ACTO blades, and gouache in cyan, magenta, yellow, and black. The project? An 11" x 14" pochoir print about how COVID-19 has amplified a social concern. Students researched, then produced prints on, homelessness, economic disparity, relationships, racism, and mental health.

**BIOL 111
Unity of Life: Cells, Molecules, and Systems**

Could certain chemicals in everyday products treat bacterial infections? Assistant Professor of Biology **Oscar Sosa** had his students test components in red wine, manuka honey, and peppermint and lemon oils to see if any of them could kill bacteria. Once COVID-19 limited the lab work, Sosa took the course's focus on scientific writing and cranked it up several notches. Says Sosa, "I spent a lot of time giving students very detailed feedback on the conventions of a journal article, from adhering to structure and scientific nomenclature to reviewing related articles and drawing cautious conclusions."



 You can watch a video of the “Jump in the Line” performance at pugetsound.edu/jumpintheline.



MUS 222 **Music of the World's Peoples**

Instead of a planned outdoor concert, 28 students sent their own tracks of the calypso tune “Jump in the Line” to Affiliate Faculty **Matthew DelCiampo**, who mixed and mastered them into a single piece. Students in the

course, taught by Assistant Professor **Ameera Nimjee**, contributed a ragtag assembly of instruments, many based on what they owned or could make at home. Among them: bassoon, ukulele, autoharp, stock pots and frying

pans (substituting for the iron—a major percussion instrument in the Trinidadian steel pan orchestra), cutlery or metal rods (to bang on the frying pans), and homemade shakers (cans of dried beans, rice, or ball bearings).

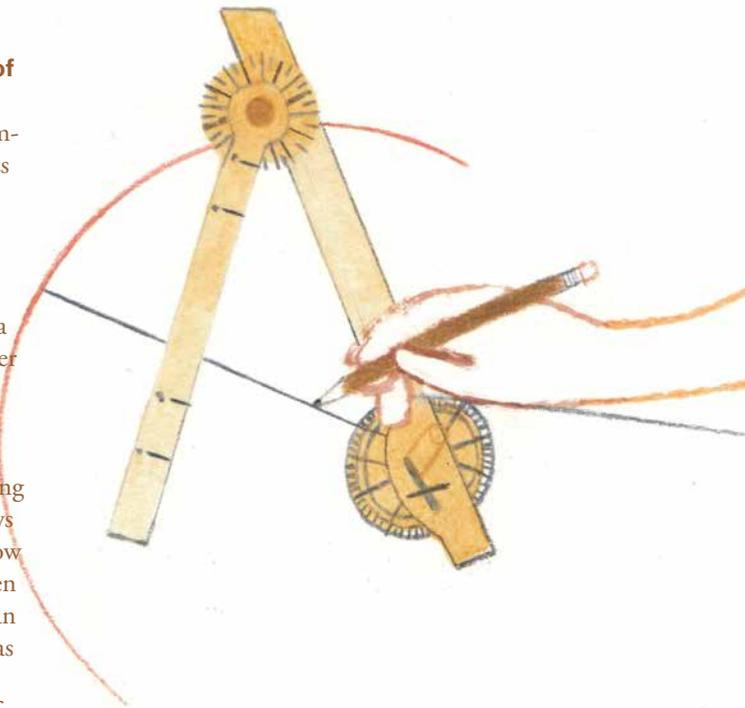


“My students have been the joy of all this. I usually have 99% attendance in my three virtual classes, and they come prepared.”

—Wind Woods, assistant professor, theatre arts

PHYS 299 **The History and Practice of Ancient Astronomy**

When it became clear that campus was about to close, physics professor **James Evans** made up packets of lab materials to send home to students. “One of the more unusual things I sent is the Ptolemaic slats, or a planetary calculator. It’s a paper device with moving parts that we use to study ancient Greek planetary theory,” Evans says. For example, setting the moving parts at particular angles allows a student to plot points to show the movement of Mars. “When they get good enough, they can figure out where the planet was on any date, avoiding tons of trigonometry. And it’s kind of fun, as well.”



SOMETHING

**IN THE
WATER**

CHEMIST DAN BURGARD IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF AN
EXCITING—AND STINKY—FIELD: WASTEWATER ANALYSIS.

BY MIRANDA WEISS ILLUSTRATIONS BY JASU HU



BENEATH OUR STREETS LIES A DATA NETWORK SO POWERFUL it can pinpoint the emergence of a new synthetic drug, inform disaster response to crises such as wildfires and flooding, and even serve as an early warning system for the presence of the novel coronavirus. The network? Our public sewer system. Sewers move about 34 billion gallons of wastewater each year, and they contain a near-endless sea of data that scientists are just beginning to navigate.

Puget Sound chemist Dan Burgard found his way into the field of wastewater analysis about a decade ago by way of a ferry ride from Vashon Island, where he and a student, Jake Berenbeim '09, had been testing school bus emissions for pollutants. Burgard recalls that as the ferry chugged away from the island, he and Berenbeim were talking about an upcoming exam, and he asked Berenbeim about academic cheating. "What really bothers me," Burgard remembers Berenbeim saying, "is that everyone is on Adderall." Burgard was incredulous. *How could everyone be using the prescription amphetamine Adderall?* he remembers thinking. But at the time, there was a lot of media attention on the extensive use of stimulants—"study drugs," they're often called—on college campuses nationwide.

Burgard had just read a paper by a group of Italian researchers who, using wastewater, had discovered that the prevalence of cocaine use in that country was vastly higher than official national estimates. It occurred to him that wastewater analysis could be an objective measure to assess stimulant use on campus. During the 2011–12 academic year, Burgard teamed up with a colleague, psychology professor David Moore, to get after the questions about study drugs from two directions: Burgard would deploy unobtrusive wastewater monitoring, and Moore would use student surveys.

With help from city of Tacoma wastewater officials, Burgard lowered a mechanical sampling device—about the size and shape of a household garbage can—down a utility hole near campus residence halls. With a long tube that dipped down into the effluent, they were able to sample campus sewage before it joined the public sewer main.

Both the chemical data and the students'

survey responses confirmed that Adderall use increased significantly during midterms and finals week, compared to the first week of classes. The biggest spike—nearly 800%—occurred during finals week of the spring semester. The survey data was a bit of a surprise: Students might be expected to underreport their amphetamine usage, but "the students actually reported similar use trends to what the wastewater said," according to Burgard.

The work felt promising for Burgard and his students. "It whetted my appetite and my students' appetites to continue to look at drugs," Burgard says. And the study caught the attention of other researchers, launching Burgard into a global network—called SCORE—of scientists using sewage analysis to investigate public health and exposure questions worldwide.

FOR DECADES, researchers have been concerned about pharmaceutical residues in wastewater. As early as the 1940s, there was worry that remnants of antibiotics might lead to widespread resistance. Concern about the downstream effects—on aquatic life and ecosystem health—led to testing of the effluent of sewage treatment plants in the years that followed. But in the U.S., the federal government's focus remained on nationally recognized "priority pollutants"—a few hundred acutely toxic or carcinogenic chemicals that were part of standard testing of drinking water, including pesticides and compounds from industrial waste.

In 1999, a chemist at the Environmental Protection Agency, Christian Daughton, published a landmark paper that put national attention on the residues of medicines and other everyday chemicals in lakes and streams and their potential environmental impact. His work changed the conversation about the kinds of public health information that could be gleaned from wastewater. For a 2001 book, Daughton proposed that wastewater analysis could be used to understand what was going on upstream, too, in order to quantify illicit drug use in communities in the U.S. This would be a "rare bridge," Daughton wrote, "between the environmental and social sciences ... that could provide a radically innovative approach to the decades-old quest of understanding the overall

issue of illicit drug use."

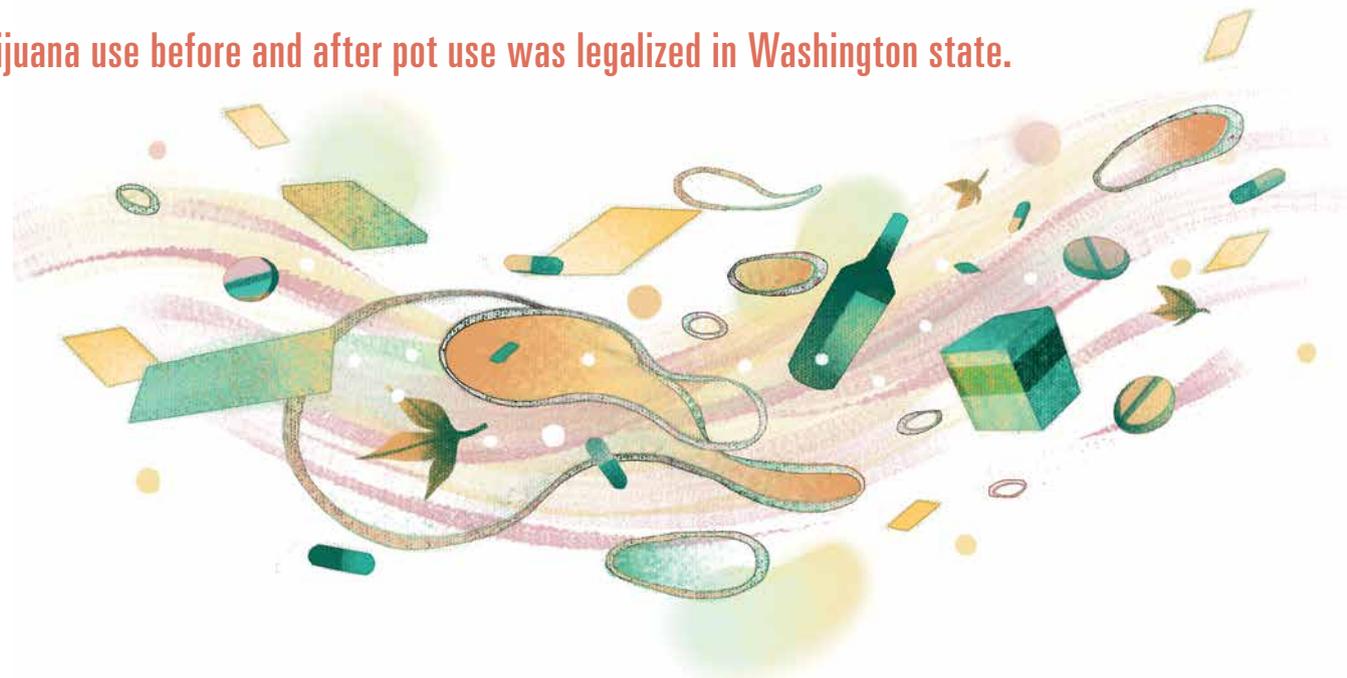
But the idea of testing wastewater for illegal drugs proved controversial in the U.S. Municipalities across the country were terrified—how might this data make them look? "They were afraid they were going to get a black eye," Daughton explains. No city wanted to be labeled the "cocaine capital" of the country.

In the mid-2000s, the federal Office of National Drug Control Policy dipped its toe into wastewater testing, though it never made the results public. Despite the fact that wastewater analysis cannot trace substances back to specific individuals, U.S. officials were paralyzed by privacy concerns. As the field faltered in this country, researchers in the rest of the world moved ahead. When the 2005 Italian study reported that the country's largest river—the River Po, which receives wastewater from about 5 million people—carried the equivalent of about 40,000 doses of cocaine each day, the results energized scientists around the world and sparked global momentum for the field of wastewater-based epidemiology.

BURGARD WAS READY FOR HIS NEXT PROJECT soon after Washington residents voted in the fall of 2012 to legalize adult recreational marijuana. Although decriminalization of marijuana had begun in the U.S. in the 1970s, the 1990s and early 2000s marked the beginning of a tidal shift in public opinion and public policy related to cannabis. After a flood of states created new legislation around medical marijuana, Washington and Colorado were the first states to legalize recreational use. But no one knew exactly how all of these policy changes would shape cannabis use.

The first retail pot shops were set to open in Tacoma in summer 2014. Six months earlier, in December 2013, Burgard began sampling wastewater, a process he and his team would continue over the next three years to amass more than 400 days' worth of sewage data. The goal of the study, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health, was to assess the amount of a cannabis metabolite called THC-COOH—the body's byproduct of THC consumption—in wastewater, both before and after legal pot came to market.

In one three-year study, Burgard and his students used data from sewage samples to measure marijuana use before and after pot use was legalized in Washington state.



A small army of city employees in blue uniforms, steel-toed boots, and safety glasses is in charge of ongoing wastewater sampling at Tacoma's plants. The influent arrives via twin 4-foot-wide pipes, bringing human waste, tree limbs, construction debris, bergs of grease and oils, and, well, anything a kid can fit down a toilet, explains Kirk Elliott, Tacoma's manager of wastewater treatment. A mechanical sampling device about the size of a dorm-room fridge pumps wastewater into 20-gallon plastic jugs called carboys multiple times throughout the day. Plant workers drive the carboys in the back of a small cart to the plant's lab, where the liquid is distributed into smaller containers for analysis. For Burgard's study, the samples were frozen on-site, and he or a member of his lab team would make the 10-minute drive about every other week to pick them up. Back on campus, Burgard stuffed three freezers with wastewater samples, the grey liquid filling scores of squat, clear plastic containers, each labeled with the date and source.

Danielle Westerman '16 was one of nine students who worked on the cannabis project. "It was like a citywide drug test," she says. Westerman spent hours prepping and processing the wastewater samples after joining Burgard's lab team the spring of her junior year and staying on through her senior year.

Between classes, Westerman would dash off to the lab in Thompson Hall to thaw wastewater samples in a water bath. In the afternoons, she prepared the samples in the trace analysis lab, where light streamed in from windows overlooking the glass-walled Oppenheimer Café and the Brown Family Courtyard. Decked out in lab coat, gloves, and safety glasses, and with Johnny Cash belting out mournfully through a speaker, Westerman would begin by putting a small volume of thawed wastewater samples through a filter to clean out the solids. "It definitely didn't smell great," Westerman remembers. But it was a lot more dilute than the contents of toilet flush, she adds, and "you'd be surprised how quickly you get used to it."

For the focused work of solid phase extraction, the next step of sample preparation, Westerman would fold her 6-foot-1-inch frame onto a lab stool in front of the fume hood. There, she put small amounts of the cloudy liquid through an array of tubes that looked like upside-down syringes on a stand. Each syringe contained a substance resembling yellow Styrofoam, which was, in essence, made up of microscopic beads covered in a chemical that bound to the THC metabolite. As a vacuum pulled the wastewater through the tubes, the beads held onto the metabolite. Then, she ran a different solvent through the tubes, to grab

the THC metabolite back from the beads, and put it into a clean solution. Westerman packed this new solution into tiny glass vials ready for the next phase.

In order to measure the amount of THC metabolite in their samples, Burgard and his team relied on liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry, a process that further separates a desired chemical from other compounds in solution and then calculates the amount of analyte present. Without the needed instrument on campus, Burgard partnered with the University of Washington Tacoma at the Center for Urban Waters, a water conservation facility at the edge of the city's Foss Waterway, which has a suite of analytical tools.

Even before Burgard released his findings, media outlets were in thrall of the work. A short article in *The Spokesman-Review* out of Spokane, Wash., in 2014 led to coverage over the next several years in *The Seattle Times*, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Discovery Channel, National Public Radio, *The Guardian*, and elsewhere.

Caleb Banta-Green, a drug epidemiologist at the University of Washington School of Public Health, was a collaborator on the study. He explains that drug use has conventionally been measured in two ways: through surveys, and through post-use statistics, such as numbers of overdoses, emergency room visits, and deaths.

While using wastewater to detect viruses is not new, researchers around the world have mobilized to figure out the role wastewater analysis can play in response to the coronavirus pandemic.



But neither gives a complete picture. Survey results are shaped by the population sampled and the individuals who respond. These tend to be higher-functioning, more empowered people, Banta-Green says, resulting in an underreporting of severe drug use. Post-use statistics, likewise, give limited glimpses into drug use. And overdose statistics are unlikely to yield useful data about pot use, since marijuana overdoses are extremely rare. Wastewater analysis, however, provides “a truly accurate measure of drug use,” he says.

Burgard and his team analyzed samples from roughly 400 days over the three-year period. They found that pot use doubled over the three years post-legalization, revealing that Puget Sound-area residents had the highest per capita cannabis consumption of any of the dozens of cities tested around the globe, including Amsterdam. And by comparing the increase in pot metabolite with the larger rise in marijuana sales over the same period—Washington state maintains a detailed tracking system of cannabis “from seed to sale”—the team concluded that in the years just after legalization, many established users switched to legal product.

Burgard’s work helped show that the legal market was edging out the illicit one. This was a key finding in light of the fact that marijuana remains illegal federally. As one of the first states

to create a legal market for recreational product, Washington was operating in uncharted territory. Burgard’s study provided hard data in this sea of uncertainty, framing the findings in the context of the now-rescinded “Cole memo,” the Department of Justice memorandum issued under President Barack Obama that said, although the federal government would not enforce federal marijuana prohibition in states that legalized its use, federal officials might step in if marijuana revenues were getting into the hands of gangs and cartels.

Along the way, the project shaped the lives of many of the students who worked on it. Today, Westerman is a Ph.D. student in environmental chemistry at the University of South Carolina, where she investigates contaminants in drinking water and uses mass spectrometry every day. Addison LaRock ’17 was excited by the near-universal application of wastewater analysis when he worked in Burgard’s lab. “You can’t hide much from this methodology,” he says. LaRock is now a chemist at FujiFilm in New Hampshire. Rosie Rushing ’19 is an environmental health Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, where she is focusing on “forever chemicals”—pollutants from everyday products that can end up in drinking water, lakes, animals, and humans, and that don’t break down.

IN THE YEARS SINCE THE ITALIAN COCAINE STUDY, the field of wastewater epidemiology has radically evolved. Testing methods and techniques for interpreting data have improved, and today, many countries around the world—including those in Europe, as well as Australia and China—carry out routine wastewater analysis as part of public health and crime reduction programs. But in this country, lingering privacy concerns seem to have hindered the field of wastewater epidemiology. Burgard remains the only U.S. scientist among an international group of researchers who have been contributing to SCORE’s multiyear compilation of wastewater data—information that spans 25 countries and includes the wastewater of some 38 million people. His lab has been verified by SCORE since 2015. Being a larger fish in this small sea enables Burgard to compete with researchers at much larger institutions for funding; he and chemistry colleague Megan Gessel recently received a National Science Foundation grant of \$350,000 to purchase a mass spectrometer for the university, so he’ll now be able to stay on campus for his research.

The cannabis study cemented for Burgard the possibilities of wastewater-based epidemiology. Now he’s particularly excited about applying the approach to answer some of the

WHAT WASTEWATER CAN SHOW

Wastewater-based epidemiology, or WBE, shows promise as a tool for scientists, public health officials, policymakers, and others. Here are just a few ways it's starting to be used.

SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE: Wastewater analysis can measure the use of illicit drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine, as well as new synthetic drugs. The National Institutes of Health recently announced \$2 million in funding to support development of “smart city tools”—novel technologies to detect drugs in wastewater. Biobot Analytics Inc., a Massachusetts-based startup, works with cities and states to use WBE to monitor the opioid epidemic, and calls itself the first company in the world to commercialize data from sewage.

BIOMARKERS OF HEALTH: Australian researchers and others are using wastewater to look not only at substance use but also obesity, disease, and gut health—and, with archived wastewater samples from nearly two decades of testing around the world, they can track public health changes over time.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE: Using knowledge about the way drugs metabolize and move through the body, researchers

can use wastewater to measure a region's exposure to air pollutants, chemicals in everyday products, environmental contaminants such as pesticides, and even extreme heat.

IMPACTS OF INTERVENTIONS: Wastewater can help researchers measure the effectiveness of interventions—everything from drug busts to opioid misuse prevention programs to efforts to help people stop smoking.

DISEASE DETECTION: In 2013, health officials in Israel successfully halted a potential polio outbreak after finding the virus in wastewater during routine testing. Wastewater data also can help monitor the growing public health threat of antimicrobial resistance—that is, resistance to antibiotic, antiviral, and antifungal drugs. A 2019 study of wastewater from 60 countries identified potential new hotspots for resistance. And Biobot is doing a pro bono project that attempts to test for the coronavirus in wastewater samples from various U.S. communities. —MW

most vexing questions about public exposure to environmental contaminants. This summer, Burgard plans to work with a student to explore the connection between air quality and what we find in sewers. They'll be looking for residues of respiratory drugs—like the kinds in asthma inhalers—and correlating that to the presence of air pollutants, such as particulates from forest fires, as well as ozone pollution, a key component of smog. Their work will help clarify the links between health impacts and air pollutants that Puget Sound-area residents are exposed to on a daily basis.

Burgard is also steps away from embarking on his next multiyear project, this time to look at opioid use and disposal. Vicodin is the most popular pharmaceutical opioid in Washington, with 35 million daily doses prescribed per year to the state's 7 million residents, which averages to a staggering five doses per person annually. If NIH funding comes through this summer, Burgard will use wastewater to monitor the use of Vicodin and other opioids and will tie this data to 2020 Census information to better

understand opioid consumption by Washington residents. And he'll partner with the state's new Drug Take-Back program—one of the first in the country—which promotes safe disposal of drugs. By measuring the amount of opioids both processed by the body and just flushed unused down the drain, Burgard will be able to monitor the effectiveness of Washington's new program, which is slated to begin as early as this fall. “That's the way to use wastewater,” he says, to objectively and quantitatively measure the effectiveness of a public health intervention.

Today, the world's most valuable commodity is not oil, and it's not gold. It is data. And while the wastewater we generate each year holds a trove of information, Burgard feels as though wastewater-based epidemiology has not yet had its defining moment, the point at which it will become a standard part of public health efforts. “To really become a staple, I think it needs that one big break,” he says.

Will the COVID-19 crisis present that break? While using wastewater to detect viruses is not new, researchers around the

world have mobilized to figure out the role wastewater analysis can play in response to the current pandemic. Preliminary results of work by scientists in the Netherlands suggest that wastewater analysis can expose the presence and spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 even before cases are identified through clinical testing. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency are launching a project to track the virus through wastewater, work that could detect the wind-down, as well as the re-emergence, of COVID-19. It will likely take years before researchers fully understand how to harness the power of wastewater analysis to save lives and protect public health. Until then, the billions of gallons of liquid waste that flush through global communities every day will hold answers to questions we're just now figuring out how to ask.

Miranda Weiss is a frequent contributor to Arches. She lives in Homer, Alaska.

A JOURNEY TO AFRICA

STUDENTS REFLECT ON AN EDUCATIONAL—AND EMOTIONAL—TRIP TO GHANA.

The history of Ghana, on Africa's western coast, is, in part, a brutal one. From the 1500s through the 1800s, it was a centerpiece of the European slave trade, with millions of Africans captured, marched to the coast, held in dungeons in "slave castles," and ultimately put onto boats for the Americas, to spend the rest of their lives in slavery. Visitors to Ghana today can learn about that history, as well as the country's vibrant current culture—from its kente weaving villages to its cities, its languages, and its people. Over the winter break, 17 students, led by Visiting Assistant

Professor of African American Studies LaToya Brackett, spent three weeks in Ghana, on the first Puget Sound course trip to the African continent. For the students—some black, some biracial, some Latina/o, some white, and all but one female—the trip was the culmination of the class AFAM 310, African Diaspora Experience, which began in the fall. In February, we brought seven of the participating students together in Wheelock Student Center and asked them to reflect on their experiences. Melvin Rouse Jr., assistant professor of psychology, moderated the discussion, which lasted nearly three and a half hours. What follows has been edited for length and clarity. ★

I want to hear about Day One. You're stepping off the plane in Accra, and the air smells a little bit different, the surrounding architecture looks different. What were those first few moments like?

Jade Herbert '21: I'll never forget it. As soon as I stepped off, the humidity hit, and I was like, "Oh, my God." That was that moment where I thought, *OK, I'm going to have to adapt. I'm not in America. I'm not at my home. I'm going to have to figure out how to navigate this space, because I can't turn back around.*

You had all the semantic knowledge—you had read the texts, you'd heard the stories, you'd been told about the cultural mores. But now you were there and actually experiencing this.

Jo Gudgell '20: That was the main thing I took away from the trip—that there's a huge difference between studying something in a classroom, knowing it on an intellectual level, and actually feeling it. The trip was deeply humbling for me, because I work hard as a student, and I consider myself a pretty good student in AFAM [African American studies]. But then, having to be uncomfortable in a way that I [as a white person] never had to be uncomfortable before

just reminded me that it is a lifelong process. It's something that I will never really, deeply know.

I'm extremely curious what drew each of you to this trip in the first place.

Grace Eberhardt '20: This was the only study abroad experience that seemed interesting to me. It was cool to go somewhere that's not overly visited in study abroad—and also to go with African American studies.

Makenna Hess-Fletcher '22: I think the fact that Dr. Brackett, a black woman, was leading the trip was really important for me; it made me feel safe in going. And the fact that it would be three weeks felt good—not too long, but enough to get over the nerves of going abroad.

Erica Greening '21: Having a black woman leading the trip made me feel more secure in my own hopes, and in my anxieties, about travel. I had never been abroad, so it was nice to feel reassured that those were valid things to feel—but also to feel pushed to try something new.

What about the logistics of getting ready—passports, visas, and all that? That would be tough.

Herbert: It was for me. Especially in my community, nobody's ever gone out of the country; they haven't had to use a passport. They don't know the first thing about traveling. Dr. Brackett held my hand through the whole process of getting the passport and the visa. It wasn't so hard to get everything, but I thought it would be, because it's so beyond what my people did.

Gudgell: Dr. Brackett set up a structure for us—we delegated certain tasks to different people. She made it known that we would be responsible for ourselves and for helping each other. She set it up so that we knew she would oversee things and make sure we were OK, but that, ultimately, we were in charge of ourselves.

Blake Bouligny '20: I've had Dr. Brackett in more than one class, and she's never the type of professor to hold your hand. As soon as you step in her class, you are accountable for you. So I knew what I was getting into.

Sammie Walimaki '20: It was nice that Dr. Brackett was so familiar with the country and knew the locals. She was very comfortable there. And she asked us to each take on one thing—whether it's surveys, taking photos of

“If you didn’t do anything else there, the market itself could tell you so much about Ghana. It was everything—a mile worth of stuff. If you want to see peak Ghanaian culture, it’s there.”



Blake Bouligny '20,
majoring in business
administration, minoring
in African American studies



Erica Greening '21, majoring in African American studies

“The slave trade was just so much bigger than what we think it is. Every step of the way, death was just there, present. I had never really understood that fully.”

the trip, monitoring people's health, managing medication. It was different to be on a trip where you're asked to not only monitor and recognize what's coming up for you and address that, but also notice how the group is doing, what the group is needing.

There was a class that you all had to take in the fall before going on the trip. What did Dr. Brackett have you all doing to get prepared?

Bouligny: There was a lot of reading, which gave us insight into the culture that we were about to dive into. We also talked about what we're going to be doing there, what we can and cannot do there. Reflecting on remaining ourselves.

Greening: We talked about how you present yourself in a space where you are an outsider—and recognizing that some of us are used to navigating the world like that, and some aren't. That was something we discussed a lot: We needed to act a certain way, not feed into the stereotypes of American students studying abroad.

Now you're in Africa—let's talk a little bit about the marketplace. [laughter] I hear the chuckles—what popped into your head there?

Bouligny: That was real Ghanaian culture right there. If you went to Ghana and didn't do anything else, the market could tell you so much about Ghana. It was everything—a mile worth of stuff. If you really want to see peak Ghanaian culture, it's there. It was insane.

Herbert: I was so overwhelmed. I think it was the smells, and the crowdedness. It was so much. And it was hot—the time of the day we would go, noon to 3 p.m., is the time you do *not* want to be outside. But, in general, it's like our shopping centers. You get your food, you get your clothes. It's what we do—just outside.

Were you worried about buying things and stepping into some cultural appropriation territory?

Gudgell: There were a lot of conversations about that, especially in relation to the fabric with different prints on it. I don't think any conclusion was reached because—I don't know, it's an important issue, but it's also so subjective. Different people, especially white students,

approached it in different ways. Some were asking the black students, "Is this OK?" It just became such a focal point of the trip. I think it's an important issue to consider, but if it takes up that much time, then maybe just don't buy it. [laughter] Focus on other aspects of the trip.

Greening: Also, the white students didn't really engage with the vendors or buy anything. I thought that was really interesting.

Hess-Fletcher: I also noticed something with that. It was cool being in a market where the products are for black people. Some of us saw things we wanted—like the shea butter. And the white students didn't want anything, but now I'm thinking the market wasn't really *for* them. So it makes sense that they didn't see any of that stuff as consumable. They were like, "I'm looking for the art." They wanted to go to the woodcarving place, get the earrings and things that are approved by Western society. They didn't want any of the everyday black-people things.

Greening: I guess buying black soap is not exciting. [laughter]

Hess-Fletcher: Right. For *us* it's exciting.

I want to know what it was like for you to be black, but not Ghanaian. What pieces of yourself did you have to downplay to fit in? And how did you work through that?

Greening: For me, that can be boiled down to one experience. We all got our hair done in Ghana, and I said to one of our student leaders from the University of Ghana, "I don't know, I've never gotten a haircut before." She said, "Well, let me touch your hair." And she said, "It's very soft, the texture of it—it's different." I never thought about it that way, because my whole life everyone told me my hair is coarse. She was observing that it *looked* the same, but it *felt* different—and that's how I felt in Ghana. People could tell that I was not Ghanaian, but some would still try to talk to me in Twi [the local dialect]. And I'd have to say, "I don't know what you're saying." But it was very comforting, to not be the only one walking around black; I could just be with myself and not be afraid to be in a space. On the other hand, I knew I

was different, and the Ghanaians knew I was different. It was interesting to observe that—to feel just slightly different.

Herbert: I felt like the only thing that made me different was being an American. When I was getting my hair done, the woman touched my hair and asked, "Are you Ghanaian?" And I wondered, *Why is she asking me that? Is it because I'm dark?* Then she said, "No, your hair is kinky. It's nappy." And I thought, *Oh. Cool.* She was saying, "You have to be Ghanaian—you look Ghanaian, you have the facial features, your hair is this way." Multiple people did that to me. I didn't feel like a minority there. I didn't feel like I was any different from anyone else, except that I couldn't say what region I was from or speak Twi.

Hess-Fletcher: My experience was a little complex. I feel like I blended there more than I can ever blend here, being lighter-skinned and biracial—I'm mixed with African American and white. I don't really understand it here, let alone in that context. I felt like I belonged there more, but I wasn't able to completely blend. But I still felt better than I do here.

In the slave castles, the tour guide was telling us that the biracial children would be used for negotiation [in the slave trade]. I started to reflect on that, and my own position—maybe being selected for certain things to please white people, because I'm a black but a little bit closer to white. I'm still processing that. It's a rolling process of figuring out how my biraciality works in these spaces.

Bouligny: I had an experience in the salon where Makenna was getting her hair braided, and I was getting my hair braided, and they still managed to gravitate towards Sammie [who is white and was along to take pictures]. The whole few hours I was there, I felt invisible, even in the black space that I always seem to feel comfortable in. It was really weird for me.

Herbert: I felt the same thing, but I didn't process it in that way. Daniel [Daniel Espinoza '22, a Latino student on the trip] came with me the second time to get my hair braided, and they were all over him, but I looked at it as, *They see me as being normal, and Daniel or Sammie or white people are the different ones.* They are



Grace Eberhardt '20,
double majoring in
African American
studies and biology,
with an emphasis
in bioethics

always going to get that attention, because they're foreign. In that moment, we weren't foreign—they were foreign. I took it as, *I'm invisible because I belong in this space.*

Bouligny: I think it was just because I know black spaces when I see black spaces, and then being in a black space in a black country, I thought, *I'm doubly protected right here.* But I didn't feel like I was being talked to. Yet I also felt comfortable because I wasn't being watched—I didn't have to worry about speeding on the freeway. I didn't have to worry about people thinking I'm stealing. And that made me comfortable. But internally, I was like, *I'm just another black person. That's all I am.*

There were times on the trip when you were divided into "affinity groups"—students who identified as black in one group, white students in another, and the two students of color who weren't black in another. It allowed you to experience certain things just with your peers. What was that like?

Greening: For me, I'm from Seattle, and being at a predominantly white institution, as well, I'm constantly suppressing things that bother me. I'm constantly telling myself, *Got to keep moving, got to get through the day.* In Ghana, we'd be in our affinity groups, and I'd be, "You know, I didn't realize that bothered me, but it actually bothered me," or, "Oh yeah, that was kind of strange." I felt validated in my observations. I think that was really important to me, to realize

that I don't need to suppress things in order to get by. A lot of times, it was just, "OK, that was strange, and you saw that, too. OK."

I wanted to ask you, Grace, about the affinity groups. You were with Vivie Nguyen [Puget Sound director for intercultural engagement] and Daniel Espinoza—all three of you being non-black people of color. How did you all work together?

Eberhardt: It was really nice, because it felt very intimate. First of all, I didn't want to take up space in a group with my black peers. I wanted them to have the space they needed. But also, not being in the white group, I didn't have to think so hard as to how I'm going to say things, policing my words. It was nice to talk to people and be confused as to where we are in this [black/white] dichotomy that we see in Ghana, and how I felt like my identity changed depending on who I was next to—which I also feel in the U.S. I didn't expect to grapple with my identity as much as I did. I thought, *I'm just going to be a white American there*, but that wasn't always the case.

I want to touch on the "slave castles," and, in particular, the dungeons, which can be among the most emotional parts of a trip to Ghana. How did you feel when you were there?

Bouligny: I definitely felt waves of emotion come over as we walked through the castles and heard what happened in every room, or dungeon, or cell.

Hess-Fletcher: It was more of a physical reaction that my body had—I could feel the energy and the pain, the heaviness of it. It was a spiritual connection to the space and the pain that our ancestors went through.

Herbert: I didn't expect to be so desensitized to it. Not that I was dismissing it; I was just like, *This is here, it happened.* I'm privileged to even be in this space and see what happened to my ancestors, but I felt the same way I feel when I walk around here [on campus]—this is native land and there's genocide on many grounds that we walk on. In Ghana, I knew I was walking on a piece of history that is directly connected to me. But I wasn't surprised at what I heard, because I knew how cruel everything was.

Greening: The only time where I was truly tearing up was when we were at the Door of No Return. You could feel the heaviness of the air in the dungeon, and the smells are still kind of there, and the scratches on the wall. You see that this was very painful. We were all very quiet, rightfully so. But we were also trying to navigate what we were seeing from other people visiting, and I was getting angry at the white folks who were just laughing it up, having a good time, taking silly photos, and me being like, "Uh, literally millions of people were murdered here." Then, also knowing that I wasn't visiting just for myself but for my whole family—that they were expecting me to report back on what I saw and what I felt, and knowing that I had to be present in the moment in order to truly take it in.

The folk in the castle who were not really careful with their reactions—do you think they understood what the Door of No Return even was?

Herbert: I feel it can be explained to them, but because they're Europeans, their people didn't go out that door. Our people did. There's only so much you can understand from a culture that's not yours. I can never understand the genocide of native people—I can understand it, but I will never be able to feel what they felt. So I think for them the slave castle was like, "Oh I visited that and it sucked," and then you keep going on with your life. But it doesn't really bother them.

Greening: I don't even know if it was like, "It sucked." It was more like, "It was interesting." Do you remember when our guide was explaining the significance of the courtyard? There was a cannonball that was used, essentially, for torture—humiliation of captured African women. And this woman comes by with this giant iPad and just walks through the middle of our group, and just—*click, click, click*—and then walks away. It felt like her reaction was, "Oh, this is very interesting. I know so much more now." I imagined her talking to her other white middle-aged friends and saying, "Look at these photos. Oh yeah, this is a cannonball right here."

Bouligny: The castle was just another museum to them.

Hess-Fletcher: I think there's also this tone of, for the Europeans and even the Ghanaians, not

being able to see how it still matters. It's just history to them. They don't see the relevance today. They're like, "We're not doing it anymore, so we're good."

Herbert: It's interesting that you say that, because I didn't realize how much Ghanaians are disconnected from the slave trade. One of our local guides told us that a lot of Ghanaians don't know a lot about what happened in the Americas. They are not the outcome of a slave trade, if that makes sense. The castle is more like a tourist place to them. It doesn't affect them.

Walimaki: Our guide, Kwame, was explaining it to me. A student asked him, "How can Ghanaians walk through and take selfies in this space?" And Kwame said that for Ghanaians, this time period was a population loss—they lost some people, the way you do in a war—and then their country kept going. That really made me think about how, in AFAM studies, we learned that blackness in the United States is descended from this horrible thing that happened, one of the worst crimes in humanity's history. But from the African perspective, it was like, "Oh, that was a really hard time for Ghana because we lost so many people, but we bounced back."

Seeing the castle actually gave me a very clear parallel with U.S. society, in terms of hierarchy. The construction of the dungeons, with no air ventilation, no effective drainage system—versus the governors and the higher-ups who were inhabiting the rest of the castle. They had wooden floors and 12 windows in their rooms, and it was scenic and overlooked the ocean. I saw how that would translate into the construction of the U.S. society, in terms of social hierarchies manifested in architecture. But I also realized, as a white person entering that space, white people were responsible for that. And it's on us to do whatever we can to prevent that from perpetuating further.

Grace, I'm curious for your perspective, being a non-black person of color, having an understanding of what the slave castle is, but also looking at the white visitors being disrespectful.

Eberhardt: We did have some disruptive people come into the Door of No Return. That was incredibly frustrating—they were just laughing and had their flashlights on and were like, "Oh,

Sammie Walimaki '20, majoring in Spanish culture and literature, minoring in education studies, Latina/o studies, and African American studies

"From my positionality as a white student, it's important to have an experience where you work on not expecting to be the center, not expecting to be the norm."



so sorry, I didn't know you guys were here." Also, the non-black POC [persons of color] group toured with the white group, and we agreed to have the non-black POC group go ahead by a few feet—and it kind of felt like the white students didn't know how *not* to be in the front.

Gudgell: I obviously messed up a lot on the trip, and I don't want to separate myself from the other white students, because we all were having to be very aware of physically where we were—the space we were in and the positions that we occupy—in a way that we've never had to be aware of before. With that, I think part of my frustration was that some of the other white students would go up ahead, even after we had talked multiple times about how we were going to try to do it. A big theme of the trip was individualism versus collectivism, and Dr. Brackett met with the white students at one point and

said, "I'm noticing that you all may have grown up in a very individualistic way, because that's a very Western value, and that's really impacting your peers and the staff members on this trip."

I also want to know about the experience at the slave river [the Assin Manso Slave River, where slaves took their last bath before arriving at the slave castles]. What happened there?

Bouigny: They had us [the black affinity group] take our shoes off before we walked on the trail to the river. The idea was so that our ancestors could feel our feet and we could feel what they felt walking that same trail. We made human chains and held onto each other's backs or shoulders as we walked. And then, in groups of three or four, we actually got in the water, shin deep. Being in the water, there was something completely different about it. It was a lot more



Jade Herbert '21, double majoring in psychology and African American studies

“I didn’t feel like a minority in Ghana. I didn’t feel like I was any different from anyone else.”

kids around. It was absolute chaos, and there was this joyous moment of people just letting it out. Oh, my God, I was in tears. I think that was the biggest moment for me, when everyone was just so proud of the work that they’d been doing all day. They worked hard, and then everyone took a moment to just let it go.

Greening: All the black students got dinner a few times together, and it was nice, after doing the heavy lifting of decompressing and reflecting, to just sit around joking with each other. I feel like when I was around white students, I had to intellectualize so much—because we are all academics in this space. But it was nice to be around black students or the POC students and just laugh and feel joyous by the beach. Really enjoy each other’s company.

Bouligny: One of the peak things we did was go to Kakum National Park. That day, we took the time to enjoy each other and the surroundings, being on the hanging bridges up in the trees. It was a lot of fun doing something that didn’t need a lot of emotion—just letting go and being there, just really existing in that moment.

Eberhardt: At the art village place, we met someone who had their own drum studio, so we went and got private drum lessons. I come from a music background, so I was really focused and trying to copy [them]—it was really fun to do something like that across cultures. We were laughing, and it was just super fun.

Hess-Fletcher: On our first full day there, we learned how to play the talking drum and we learned some dancing, and it was really fun. I felt like I got out of my comfort zone, and it set the tone for the trip a little bit. At the end of the trip, I did karaoke—I really got out of my comfort zone for that. It was really impactful on me and the way I see myself, not being afraid to take up a little more space.

Herbert: The church we went to was really a memorable moment. A lot of us got up there and danced—and they prayed over us, which was out of some people’s comfort zones. But it’s the church. That’s what they do.

Eberhardt: I was one of the first people to be invited up there, and I was dancing with this

to think about—we could spread out and just sit and hang out and think about what happened there. I think because it was so interactive it weighed a lot heavier than the castles did.

Greening: I really realized that there’s so much more to all of this than I can visualize or understand. The slave trade was so much bigger than what we think. Also, the fact that many of them didn’t even make it to the slave castles—they died or drowned in the rivers. So many more people were taken than the actual amount of people who made it to the Americas. Every step of the way, death was just there, present. I had never really understood that fully.

Hess-Fletcher: For me, the walking on the soil and holding onto each other to imitate the chains—it was all very spiritual for me. When

I got in the water, I felt this stillness, and I think a few tears fell. I just felt connected to the space and the land. I was thinking what they must have been thinking, how much anxiety and fear and strength they were channeling to be resilient and to keep going. Watching people around them die.

So, I’m going to change gears again. I want you to give me just one moment of joy. One moment where you thought, OK, this is why I came.

Walimaki: At Glefe [Glefe Youth Ghana, a non-profit organization where the students did a day of service], I was doing photography for most of the day. It was hot, and I was thirsty, and there was paint in my eyes. And a group of people on the trip just got up and started dancing and singing. People were painting, sanding, herding

older woman, and it was so fun. And to dance in a space where you're not sexualized was one of the best feelings I've ever had in my life.

Hess-Fletcher: Definitely agree with that. You're just allowed to have bodies. It doesn't matter. That was really nice throughout the trip.

Herbert: To have the bumps and the curves and not be looked at differently—because *everyone* had bumps and curves. Or there were the people who were thin, and it was fine.

Now, having been through all of these experiences, how has this trip changed you? Do you feel different in any way?

Hess-Fletcher: When we first came back, despite being exhausted, I had all this energy and motivation and I was really looking for something to get into. I felt inspired or awoken, I felt more confident and driven. And Jade and I have applied to go back to Ghana in the fall. I would have never had the confidence to do that if it weren't for this trip.

Herbert: I think I believe in my existence and being a black woman now. I believed it before, but now I'm like, "You are who you are. There's a whole continent of people who look like you.



Makenna Hess-Fletcher '22, majoring in African American studies, minoring in Spanish

You're valid. You just happen to be in the wrong country at the moment and you can't do anything about it." [laughter] It really validated my existence and changed the way I look at my life.

Greening: I feel like I engage with African-ness more, and I'm very curious about the African diaspora now. The Western media wants black people to believe that they're alone in the world: No one looks like you, no one acts like you. And, to a certain extent, the experiences of African Americans are unique, very *not* like any other experiences in the world. But there is a long legacy of African Americans living outside the U.S. and feeling closer to their blackness, engaging with the entire world. At the same time, I have realized that it doesn't matter how woke you are—it is still a lifelong process to ask yourself, Why do I do these things? Why do I think this way? I've learned so much from experiencing that in a black-majority country.

Eberhardt: I've always kind of struggled with my racial identity. Coming back from the trip, I felt validated by my experiences in Ghana, how they are similar to my experiences in the U.S., and I'm accepting the fact that people are going to perceive me different and I can't control that, whether they perceive me as white or they perceive me as Latina. I feel like I came to accept that. I understand that it's going to be a lifelong process, but it really did help me so much, and I never really expected that to happen.

Walimaki: I never thought that I would make it to college, much less study abroad. So that was amazing. And this trip taught me a lot about what it means to be a part of a community. I'd never really experienced such a strong group before. Ever. This group was really special, and for the first time I felt like I had that experience of being part of the collective. That was really amazing, and I think I'll move forward with that value, with that at the forefront of my mind.

So, thinking through all of this again, would you do it over?

Herbert: Yes. Yes. A thousand times. Even with the same people, the same stuff that happened over and over and over again.

Bouigny: Same drama. Same sicknesses.



Jo Gudgell '20, majoring in African American studies, minoring in sociology and anthropology

Walimaki: Same mangoes. [laughter]

Greening: I think it's unlike any opportunity available for students on this campus. I've never heard of this many students of color going on a study abroad trip, led by a black woman. And we all learned so much about the way power operates within all of us, and the way power operates between individuals. And seeing black people living and thriving is so unlike anything you could see in the United States.

Walimaki: From my positionality as a white student, it's important to have an experience where, for whatever the context is—five minutes, three weeks, whatever—you learn to work on not expecting to be the center, not expecting to be the norm, not expecting to be the loudest voice in the room.

Herbert: I would tell African American students that it is essential to your identity and the way that you'll see yourself, and the way you'll see others and your importance outside the U.S. and inside the U.S. You'll come out a completely different person.

Hess-Fletcher: It was a very freeing experience to be able to just exist, in a sense. And I feel like each one of us took something different home—for ourselves, for our education, for our communities, for our families.

 To read a longer version of this conversation, visit pugetsound.edu/ajourneytoafrica.





THE ACCIDENTAL

How Pierre Ly paired global political economics with Chinese wine

WINE EXPERT

Just outside the Chinese city of Xi'an, at the eastern end of the Silk Road, Pierre Ly, associate professor of international political economy, found himself in a winery unlike any he had visited before. In an area most famous for its terra-cotta warriors, Ly and his wife skipped

the ancient statuary to taste wine before heading home—the winery was just a 15-minute drive from the airport. Entering a theater and donning special glasses, the couple expected a short film on the wine-making process. But then the seats shook, wind blew through their hair, and water sprayed their faces—it was a full 4D movie experience.

Next, they were invited to board a Disney-like ride, and as the cart jerked along, a brick wall opened: “A Dracula-looking version of the founder of the winery popped up,” Ly recalls. “It was very strange.” Later they watched a live theater piece—ostensibly to describe food and wine pairings—that involved actors being whisked away in a tornado.

Back in a rainy Seattle, over glasses of French and Italian wines at the cozy-modern pub *Damn the Weather*, Ly relates the story in his lilting French-accented English. (Ly grew up in, and was educated in, France.) It's strange to picture a professor who teaches classes on international trade and finance unexpectedly belted into a carnivalesque ride—at a winery—6,000 miles from here. But Ly just shrugs. “When you do work in China, you have to be ready for really unexpected things,” he says, then takes a sip of a bubbly Italian white wine.

He should know. Ly and his wife, Cynthia Howson (a senior lecturer at the University of Washington), have made eight trips to China over the last six years to research the country's wine and its wine economy. The result is a book, *Adventures on the China Wine Trail*, published by Rowman and Littlefield in February. The book has already earned Gourmand International's Best in the World award for 2020 in the Wine and Beer Tourism category.

Ly, director of the International Political Economy Program at Puget Sound, joined the faculty in 2008. The head of the program at the time, Mike Veseth '72, was teaching a popular

class called *The Idea of Wine*, which looked at the local and global political, economic, and social forces that shape wine production and consumption. Veseth had earned a reputation in the wine industry as the “wine economist.”

As Veseth moved toward retirement, Ly took over a couple of his classes in international political economy, but there was never an obvious plan for him to do the same with the wine class—or at least it didn't seem that way: “My wife is pretty sure that he subtly groomed me into it,” says Ly. “First he invited me to the wine tasting. Later, when he was traveling, he asked if I would guest lecture, and I overprepared for it by reading all the books on the syllabus. I really liked the subject and it was fun, but it wasn't on my radar to take [the class] over.”

LY HAS BEEN TEACHING THE WINE CLASS EVER SINCE VESETH RETIRED IN 2013, and it has taken his life down a previously unexpected path. Growing up in France exposed Ly to plenty of wine, and he even had a maternal grandfather who had been a wine merchant in Bordeaux. But Ly had only a casual interest in wine before he came to Puget Sound.

Ly's background in international political economy influenced his wine explorations, as he looked for places where wine could tell new stories of commerce and trade. He was interested in China's economic growth and realized he could understand it, and teach about it, through its wine industry. In 2015, he took part in a faculty exchange program between Puget Sound and Fujian Normal University—an exchange sponsored by the Trimble Foundation, which also provided funding to Ly for later research. “At first, it was going to be a fairly short-term thing—my wife and I would go to China once or twice and write a couple of papers and then

move on. But as we worked, we discovered more and more layers,” says Ly.

In China they looked at wine from every angle, seeking out not only winery owners and employees but also scientists and writers, as well as professors and students at university wine programs. “The more we knew people, the more we got introduced around,” he says. They interviewed wine marketers, wine shop owners, importers, restaurateurs—even farmers who were selling grapes along the roadside.

Howson and Ly originally began their Chinese wine research as a purely academic project. But a few years into it, they decided to reach a broader audience by changing their writing style and by sharing travels and resources on Instagram and Twitter. A year ago, they started blogging as the “Traveling Wine Profs.”

Likewise, their book isn't an academic read; it's closer to a travel book. “We asked ourselves, ‘How can we take the serious scholarship we present at academic conferences but get more people to care about it?’” *Adventures on the China Wine Trail* crisscrosses the country from Beijing to Shandong to Ningxia, as the duo visit both older and just-opened wineries. They find tasting rooms in traditional Chinese buildings, manors in the English mold, and European-style castles. Some wineries are so isolated or so new that they aren't easy to find—Ly and Howson get stranded in a middle-of-nowhere field for hours when their driver gets lost and then has to fix a flat tire. They venture up to the cliffside city of Shangri-La to learn about a wine industry tucked in the surrounding mountains, with players ranging from small family growers to a venture headed by a multinational corporation.

While the book covers wine and wineries, it's also informed by Howson's and Ly's broader academic interests: It touches on the growth of the Chinese consumer society, how property

TRY IT: TOP FIVE WINES FROM LESSER-KNOWN AREAS OF THE WORLD

Good wine is grown all over the world, sometimes in unexpected places, says Ly. “Just look around Asia—there’s good Indian wine, good Thai wine. I’m looking forward to trying wine from Bali.” Here are Ly’s top picks from emerging wine regions, including China, Thailand, India, and Mexico. —SV



Grace Vineyard Marselan, Shanxi province, China. “One of our favorite wineries in China. Marselan is a lesser-known red grape variety from the south of France, now showing promise in China.”

Puchang Winery Beichun, Xinjiang, China. “Beichun is a Northern China hybrid red grape variety, and Puchang makes delicious wines in challenging conditions.”

Monsoon Valley White, Thailand. “Cynthia and I once enjoyed this at a Thai restaurant in London, before we even thought of doing Chinese wine research.”

Grover Zampa Vineyards La Reserve, India. “We’ve enjoyed several wines by this winery, and they are available in a few places in the U.S., including Seattle.”

Villa Montefiori Cabernet Sauvignon, Valle de Guadalupe, Mexico. “Delicious—and available in Washington state.”

law in a Communist country affects the ownership of grape-growing land, and how wine has brought education and job opportunities to Chinese farmers.

Chinese wine is booming. According to the book, China is the fifth-largest wine consuming country in the world. Most of its wine is sold domestically, so wine tourism is mostly for locals. That means that, superficially, visiting a Chinese winery might be different than going to one in the U.S.—that family-friendly, Disney-like experience at the winery outside Xi’an is a good example. But the equipment, grape growing, production, and bottling are the same in China as they are elsewhere. You’d recognize the names of the varietals, many made from imported cuttings, like cabernet sauvignon, merlot, and chardonnay. “Chinese wines can be mistaken for French, Australian, and Californian wines,” says Ly. There are a few hybridized grape varieties that are uniquely Chinese, like Beichun, which came out of a research project; “it’s very resilient and has cold-hardy properties,” Ly says. In southern Yunnan, winegrowers have developed varieties that can withstand the monsoon season. But overall, Ly says, “good Chinese wine is like good wine anywhere.”

Ly’s wine trail doesn’t stop in China—he wants to explore the niche growers of Vietnam next. His curiosity comes at least partially from a family connection: Ly’s father is Vietnamese and immigrated from Vietnam to France. But his grandfather was Chinese, and as Ly did more research, “it reconnected me with this part of my family heritage in a way I didn’t expect. It became more personal than I thought.”

His world travels have brought him other family, too: Ly met Howson, his wife, on an elevator in Bangladesh. She was working for the French school in that country, and he was doing research on NGOs for his Ph.D. They’ve been married for 12 years. Howson has a wealth of experience in fieldwork (her research is on cross-border trade), and Ly says she’s great at getting people to talk, which came in handy during the book research. “It’s not easy to do this work. There are lots of frustrating things—closed doors and stuff that goes nowhere.” But despite frustrations, the research and travel have cemented them as a team. “This work allows us to do what we love and spend time together as part of our work,” he says. “It’s an extraordinary privilege.”

“The idea of wine is complicated. It means different things to different people—including people who disagree with each other. That also attracted me to teaching it.”

IT’S NOT ALL ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND TRAVEL—Ly also teaches several courses in international political economy, as well as the beloved Idea of Wine class, each semester.

The wine course isn’t a semesterlong wine club: Wine tasting is limited to a few optional, after-class meetings, and the bulk of the class is about appreciating wine in a different way—as a microcosm of economic forces. As a Connections course, it’s meant to unite seemingly disparate parts of the liberal arts curriculum. It’s available only to juniors and seniors, reflecting both the legal drinking age and the complexity of the subject matter.

Ly’s class starts with the nuts and bolts of wine production. “Most students come with very little knowledge of wine or even how it’s made—which is true of most people anyway,” he says. “So we start in the vineyard with the grape.” Wine is an agricultural product, made by fermenting grape juice—but the simplicity ends there. Wine is a bottle on the shelf with a value, but it’s also a link to shared history, an intoxicant, and a beverage uniquely flavored by rainfall, sunlight, and geology. Some people taste, some quaff, some collect. And the “best” wine, unlike in many other products, is incredibly subjective. “The idea of wine is complicated. It means different things to different people—including people who disagree with each other. That attracted me to teaching it,” says Ly. The point of the class is to help students understand how culture, economics, and agriculture come together with the ineffable:

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DRINK



If you plan to visit China and want to try Chinese wine, Ly recommends a little research ahead of time. Unlike the U.S., visiting wineries in China isn't a drop-by situation—you'll need to let them know you're interested in a visit, Ly says. "And it's better to have someone in your party who speaks Mandarin." Here are a few places he suggests considering. —SV

Chateau Changyu Rena: Near the airport in Xi'an, it includes a 4D movie theater—and more.

Treaty Port Vineyards: "There's nothing like staying in a Scottish castle in a Chinese village, close to the beach resort area of Penglai in Shandong Province."

Chateau Miqin: Part of the Xixia Culture Park in the city of Yinchuan, in north-central China.

Chateau Changyu Moser XV: Like Chateau Miqin, this is in the Ningxia area of north-central China. This one features a French-Renaissance-style castle.

Xige Estate: This one is off the beaten path but accessible from Yinchuan. "A prominent new winery with excellent wines, a nice hotel, and restaurant."

Rose Honey guesthouse: For adventurous travelers, this is a very basic family-owned guesthouse in Cizhong, a tiny village of Yunnan. "The family makes and sells wine from their own vineyards, including from the local grape variety Rose Honey."

To try wines in a main city without the hassle of going to a winery:

Beijing: "The restaurant The Merchants has some good Ningxia wines, and the bar at Novotel Xinqiao serves 1421 Wines from Xinjiang."

Fuzhou (Tacoma's sister city): The café-bistro Angelina's two locations are owned by Grace Vineyard, a leading Chinese winery.

Almost anywhere: "You can find Grace Vineyard wines and delicious food near the city's top tourist sites."

the value a person puts on a fleeting flavor, an experience, a memory.

After covering the basics, Ly gets into geography—where wine grapes are grown and wine is made, and why. The class then delves into the wine business more broadly, as well as wine policy and trade in the European Union, U.S., and elsewhere: regulations, tariffs, trade disputes, sustainability, even immigration policy ("which impacts farming a lot, because of the people who typically work in vineyards," Ly says).

Finally, Ly talks about how wine reflects the society it comes from—"with all the beautiful and terrible things that can include." Like other industries—fashion, tech, even other agricultural sectors—wine can provide opportunities for economic development, job creation, and investment. But, also like those other industries, wine production has its drawbacks: using up vital resources or destroying natural habitat, for instance. "More and more, students are connecting wine with climate change," Ly says. "And last year, I had our first couple of papers where students were talking about diversity and inclusion in the industry."

Tasting wine together a couple of times gives space for students to talk informally about the higher-level topics covered in the syllabus. Ly also asks them to keep wine journals, asking them to choose and write about wines that connect with issues talked about in class. "I want them to look at a bottle of wine and think about it through the lens of the class," he says. So, as the students sip, they're thinking about who picked the grapes, how much they were paid, what impact climate change might have on the future of that wine, and who reaps the profits from that wine's purchase—small grower or large corporation.

The whole point is to get students thinking about how an agricultural product affects lives, economies, and the environment, and how it connects an increasingly globalized world. "When you spend a few months of your life thinking critically about wine, it sticks in the back of your mind somewhere," says Ly. "Whether you care for the product or not, wine will connect with things you do care about."

Starre Vartan writes on science and travel for publications including National Geographic, Scientific American, and Popular Mechanics.

classmates

CLASS NOTES / IN MEMORIAM / SCRAPBOOK



His jobs disappeared, but this tenor is still singing: **Robert McPherson '91**

By Marcie Sillman

ROBERT MCPHERSON '91 HAS BEEN SINGING SINCE HE WAS A VERY YOUNG BOY. “I was a preacher’s kid. I grew up singing gospel,” he says.

Decades have passed since he performed his first solo, but McPherson’s passion for music is as strong as it ever was. Instead of singing traditional gospel tunes, he’s an accomplished operatic tenor. And even though the coronavirus has shuttered performance venues across

the country, McPherson is still singing for his public, online.

Despite his early talent, McPherson didn’t harbor dreams of becoming a professional musician. That changed when he got to college. His teachers at University of Puget Sound immediately noticed his voice, and they encouraged him to study opera. (He lists Tom Goleeke, Bill Eddy, and William Mouat as among the faculty members

who influenced him the most.) More than 25 years later, McPherson makes a good living singing with opera companies around the country.

That is, he used to make a good living. The coronavirus pandemic forced almost every arts organization in the country to postpone performances, or to shut down altogether.

continued on next page

class notes

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McPherson lost every job he's lined up. "It's basically knee-capped the economy," he says.

McPherson worries about money; he says he has no clue what he'll do to make a living. But he's still singing—with a twist. Instead of tackling the serious operatic lead roles, you'll find him online in the persona of his comedic alter ego, the Drunken Tenor.

McPherson got the idea five years ago, when he was called on to sing in a casual show in a bar. "The original idea is that he [the Drunken Tenor] is afraid of the high notes," McPherson explains. "The first time he comes to a high note, he pulls out a flask and takes a sip." By the third high note, McPherson's Drunken Tenor was chugging down cocktails, and still singing his aria. The audience loved it. Since then, McPherson has taken his act everywhere—from Seattle Opera donor events to the Seattle Fringe Festival, where he won a Best of the Fest award.

The public gathering restrictions have pushed McPherson to rethink his Drunken Tenor bits. He does regular social media shoutouts for ideas, choosing the ones that he can marry to different music.

Taking his art online has challenges beyond finding good ideas; McPherson is learning how to perform for a camera instead

of a live audience. "I feed off the audience," McPherson says. "I've been studying late-night comedians to see how they're adapting." They're exactly the kinds of role models he needs to indulge his inclination for farce, even slapstick. For example, when he tackles the

That message bolstered McPherson's conviction that his Drunken Tenor videos could fill a void; they could provide a few minutes of comfort in uncertain, anxious times.

famous aria "Nessun Dorma" from the opera *Turandot*, McPherson's singing in his backyard, dressed in a dinosaur costume. Most often, though, he's in the kitchen, dressed in a tuxedo-themed T-shirt.

Sometimes McPherson questions the value of churning out opera antics in the midst of the ongoing crisis. But recently he received a message from an old high school friend who works in health care. She'd seen his backyard

"Nessun Dorma" video.

"After a day of calming people's fears, working with patients, and trying to save my own sanity," she wrote to him, "I watched an old friend from high school singing in a dinosaur suit." It was the first time she'd smiled that day, the friend wrote.

That message bolstered McPherson's conviction that his Drunken Tenor videos could fill a void; they could provide a few minutes of comfort in uncertain, anxious times. He continues to post them on various social media channels, with the hashtag #TheDrunkenTenor.

McPherson looks forward to a time when he can get back to grand opera. He dreams of singing the lead role of Cavaradossi, from the opera *Tosca*, for instance. But he has no plans to retire his alter ego when the pandemic eases. "I'd love to perform as the Drunken Tenor with a full orchestra," he says.

That dream will have to wait until the time when artists and audiences can gather in public places again.

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1961 In 2019, **Tom Barnard '61, P'60** retired from actively practicing the law after 55 years, though he continues to teach Employment Law at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) Law School and in the M.B.A. program at Baldwin Wallace University (BWU) in Ohio. He also continues to serve as an arbitrator for Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Inc. (FINRA). Like the faculty at Puget Sound, Tom finished teaching his spring courses for CWRU and BWU online, proving, he says, that "it is possible to teach an old dog new tricks." He's now taking senior scholar classes online, and he reports that his wife requires he change out of his pajamas before attending class.

1965 In November at the Diocesan Convention in Riverside, Calif., **Jim Alexander '65** was lauded with the title of honorary canon of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles by Bishop John Taylor. Jim was nominated for this award by his rector, Rev. Dr. Greg Kimura, who describes him as "the exemplar of servant leader," noting that "He gives tirelessly on the local and diocesan levels, deflecting credit to others, and bringing a deep spirituality to his work, in and out of the church." Jim celebrated his 26th year as building administrator at St. James Manor in August, and also serves on Diocesan Council, the Program Group on Mission Congregations, and the Diocesan Disciplinary Board. His contributions to the con-



Jim Alexander '65 (second from right), with his wife (in red), at the 2019 Diocesan Convention, where he was named honorary canon.

gregation also include multiple terms as president of Deanery 1, serving on the bishop search committee, and driving a 160-mile round trip to perform his ministry, which he has done for the past 20 years.

1967 Jerry Ramsey '67 retired from his job as a teacher in Tacoma Public Schools in 2017, and is now living in Tacoma at The Weatherly Inn. He lives independently since his wife, Elaine S. (Perdue) Ramsey, died in October 2019. Jerry says his health is decent, but he is battling a rare disorder called hemochromatosis, which requires him to have one pint of blood tested each week to check his ferritin levels. In terms of how he is managing this condition, Jerry says, "So far, so good!!" He enjoys spending his time serving as a collections committee volunteer at the Tacoma History Museum, and also offers free monthly Tacoma history lectures and a weekly scenic bus tour of the city for his fellow Weatherly Inn residents. These events are open to the public, and Jerry mentions that they are both very well attended by his neighbors.

1968 Jim Hopper '68 graduated from Puget Sound with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration and recently retired from a successful career spanning more than 30 years in the real estate industry. He held the role of managing broker at Windermere for more than 20 years, during which time "The Hopper Team" received multiple awards, including 24 features in *Seattle Magazine* as a "Five Star Real Estate Agent" recipient. Jim's career also includes more than 10 years of service as lead chaplain for South Snohomish County Fire and Rescue. Although his work at Windermere kept him busy, Jim's desire to serve in a more purposeful way led him to take on this additional work. While serving in this role, Jim responded to more than 800 traumatic death and fire calls and to calls from first responders to assist victims at the scene of trauma and crisis situations. He worked with recovery crews during the extended response to the Oso mudslide and

the incident at Marysville-Pilchuck High School. Jim and his wife, Judy, have enjoyed more than 50 years of marriage and live on Camano Island.

1968 Bill Ransom '68, author of poetry, short stories, and science fiction novels, released his latest book from WordFire Press, *Brother Blood Sister Death*, in January 2020. The book introduces twin hybrid vampires with serious sibling issues. Bill's science fiction/speculative fiction titles include *Jaguar, Burn*, and *Viravax*, and he co-authored (with Frank Herbert) the three novels of the Pandora Sequence: *The Jesus Incident*, *The Lazarus Effect*, and *The*



Ascension Factor. His *Learning the Ropes* (Utah State University Press), a hybrid collection of poetry, short fiction, and essays, was billed as "a creative autobiography." Three of Bill's short stories from this collection have been selections of the PEN/NEA Syndicated Fiction Project: *Uncle Hungry*, *What Elena Said*, and *Learning the Ropes*. These appeared in the Sunday magazine editions of several major U.S. newspapers. Bill's poetry appears in additional anthologies and literary magazines, such as *Conversations Across Borders*, *Weathered Pages*, *Oregon Literary Review*, *Portland Review*, *New York Quarterly*, *New Mexico Magazine*, *Seattle Review*, *New Poets of the American West*, and more.

1971 Karen Robbins M.Ed.'71 earned her master's degree in early childhood education from Puget Sound and has gone on to become the author of numerous educational children's books. She recently published two titles through Schiffer Books. *Flags Across America* is a look at flags through the diverse eyes of Americans, co-authored with Dale Baskin and released in 2018, and *America's Flag Story* is a children's book beautifully illustrated by J. James and released in March. She is



particularly excited for the timely release of her most recent publication during this election year, and reports that it has been endorsed by Col. Gail Halvorsen (a.k.a. "The Berlin Candy Bomber").

1975 Marcia Campbell '75 reports that she's "doing well, all things considered and—like a good friend of mine adds to the end of the often-used phrase—as long as I don't consider ALL things." She and her wife are comfortable in their new home in Des Moines, Wash. Their daughters are close by and taking good care of their moms. Marcia wants to give a shoutout to Katie Johnson '75 for all the work she put into reaching out to members of the Class of 1975, and says she's looking forward to the now-rescheduled class reunion in summer 2021.

1976 Laura Inveen '76 retired as a judge of the King County Superior Court after serving in that role for 27 years—longer than any other female judge. Her career also includes past service as president of the Washington State Superior Court Judges Association and presiding judge of the King County Superior Court. She has received numerous awards, including the Washington State Bar Association's Outstanding Judge Award, the Washington Women Lawyers President's Award, and the University of



FLAGS ACROSS AMERICA
DALE BASKIN • KAREN S. ROBBINS

Washington Law Women's Caucus Distinguished Alumnae Award. Laura has joined Hilyer Dispute Resolution as a private mediator and arbitrator, and serves as vice chair of the University of Puget Sound Board of Trustees.



1977 Gary Scott '77 earned his Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Puget Sound before embarking on a successful military career with the U.S. Air Force. Gary

class notes



earned his pilot wings and went on to fly F-16 and A-10 planes. He notes his experiences flying 32 combat missions and leading more than 50 aircraft attack packages over Iraq during Desert Storm as among the highlights of his military career. During that time, he also witnessed many surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery attacks against his squadron. During his 20-year career with the Air Force, Gary received several awards and honors, most notably two Distinguished Flying Crosses and three Air Medals. Following the completion of his military service, Gary moved with his wife, Kathy, and three sons, Garrett, Drew, and Kevin, to Puyallup to begin his second career flying the Boeing 737 for his hometown airline, Alaska. He was based in Anchorage and Seattle, and flew to destinations nationwide. Gary notes that his favorite trips were those through southeast Alaska and all over Hawai'i. Now retired after a 46-year flying career and logging 21,000 flight hours, Gary looks forward to home remodeling, RV trips, visiting family and friends, and playing the tuba.

1978 After his time as sports information director at Puget Sound, **Matt McCully '78** went on to write a book, *The Legend of Luke Daisy*. The work is a fictional account following a group of friends growing up in the 1960s and '70s Northwest. Matt says, "It's a story of friendship and faith, meant to generate laughter



and tears." The book highlights the group's ability to overcome various challenges, including bullies, tragedies, and asking girls out, as they strengthen their bonds. While at Puget Sound, Matt was a writer for *The Trail* and a member of the Loggers' 1976 national championship basketball team. He says he had fun writing the book and incorporating some of his Puget Sound teammates as side characters. To his fellow alumni, Matt says, "Go, Loggers!"

1978 Steven Walker '78 is the managing director and founder of Amfas International, a global contract provider of manufacturing and engineering services for component design, building tools and dies, and rapid manufacturing. Along with his wife, Ginny, Steve has lived in Memphis, Tenn., for 25 years. Together they have raised two children: their daughter, Kayla, a Beale Street pianist and director for the Iris Orchestra, and son, Andy, an anesthesiologist at Methodist University Hospital in Memphis. Steve and Ginny enjoy making frequent visits to their college friends in the Pacific Northwest.

1981 In December 2019, *The Collaborative* magazine highlighted **Paul Grondahl '81** as a "Game Changer" in his role as director of the NYS Writers Institute, which he has held since 2017. The article emphasized Paul's contribution to adding vitality to the institute, namely through launching

book and film festivals, and by encouraging writers and creatives to go into the community to lend their expertise. "One of the things I wanted to do when I came here was to work together," Paul says in the article, "to throw the windows and doors open to everyone. We need each other."

1985 J. T. Wilcox '85, P'12 shares this update: "Kathy '87, P'12 and I still live on the farm between Harts Lake and the Nisqually River. I worked for Wilcox Farms as chief operating officer and chief financial officer before leaving that work in 2007. Kathy got her master's in education while we operated a processing plant

near Eastern Washington University and has now taught in Yelm Community Schools for 15 years. I was elected to the Washington House of Representatives in 2010, and am now serving as House minority leader."

2003 In December 2019, **Patrick Karjala '03** graduated with a master's degree in computer science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. His thesis focused on using virtual reality to help teach Native Hawaiian noninstrument celestial navigation, also known as wayfinding. In 2018, partial work of his thesis was published in MIT's *PRESENCE* journal. Patrick also shares that, in relation to his thesis work, he was honored to be selected as part of the crew on the sister vessel *Hikianalia* for the voyage of the *Hōkūle'a* as part of the Polynesian Voyaging Society's 2020 Tahiti sail.

2003 After six years in the role of vice principal at Waimānalo Elementary and Intermediate School in Waimānalo, Hawai'i, **Cherilyn Mayumi Inouye '03, M.A.T.'05** was named interim principal of Ka'elepulu Elementary School in Kailua, Hawai'i, in August 2019, and was officially hired for the position in January 2020. Cherilyn writes: "Ka'elepulu is a small school, serving 213 students



Denver-based singer and songwriter Darcy Nelson '12 submitted an entry, "My Truth," to National Public Radio's *Tiny Desk* competition for unsigned musicians. Win or lose, she says, "It means so much to me to check one off the bucket list."

in grades K-6. There is a strong sense of community among students, staff, and families. I am excited to start my first principalship with an amazing staff, including fellow Logger **Laurie Ines '88**, who is our academic coach."

2006 Greg Groggel '06 served as executive producer on the film *Olympic Dreams*, starring Nick Kroll, which premiered in March 2019 at South By Southwest (SXSW) in Austin, Texas. The film was shot on location at the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympic Games. Greg helped bring *Olympic Dreams* to the screen through his role as director of original programming at the Olympic Channel. For more about the film, see olympicdreams.movie.



2007 In summer 2019, **Travis Titus '07** quit a job in engineering and started Titus Adventure Company, an adventure vehicle rental company in the Denver area. Titus Adventure Company specializes in mountain-ready vehicles to help guests get outdoors better and easier. The company rents Toyota SUVs and trucks, such as 4Runners and Tacomas, rigged with rooftop tents and camping gear for fun and easy backcountry experiences. Travis encourages Loggers to check out the possibilities at tacentrals.com.

Global Health Advocate: **Ali Hoover '13**

By Mary Loftus

ONE THING ALI HOOVER '13 HAS LEARNED IN HER WORK AS PROGRAM MANAGER FOR WORLD VASECTOMY DAY IS THAT WORDS MATTER. In the African countries where Swahili is spoken, for example, the word for "vasectomy" is the same as the word for "castration"—and that makes the procedure a tough sell for many men.

Hoover, an international political economy major at Puget Sound, has been working with reproductive health programs around the globe for more than six years. Last year, the Gates Institute named her one of "120 Under 40: The New Generation of Family Planning Leaders."

Her interest in global public health started when she was still a Puget Sound student: She did a semester abroad in Chile, a summer internship in South Africa, and a summer research fellowship in Ghana. Mentors like Mike Veseth '72 and Nick Kontogeorgopoulos encouraged a "critical global perspective," she says.

After graduation, Hoover moved to Hanoi for a public health fellowship, and worked with a friend to start a sexuality education social enterprise on the side. Since then, she's been a consultant for a smorgasbord of public health programs, including the United Nations Population Fund and the Seattle-based PATH—experiences that have made her an invaluable resource on clean water, vaccines, HIV, maternal mortality, and more.

In her work on reproductive health, she notes there's been progress in the past few decades on a number of indicators, such as the percentage of families who have access to contraception, the number of unwanted pregnancies, and the use of modern techniques (such as IUDs and implants) over less reliable approaches, like diaphragms and the calendar method. But that progress has begun to slow, and Hoover thinks that's partly because "we're



focusing too much on women's contraception, which is only half of the equation."

For the past three years, she's been program manager for World Vasectomy Day (WVD), held the third Friday in November. More than 40 countries participate in WVD, which promotes the procedure as a family-planning option among men who otherwise might not have considered it.

Hoover's work for WVD and other non-governmental organizations eventually led her to go to grad school: When she began stepping into program design and management, "I felt woefully unprepared. I wanted to learn about budgets, donors, investments, how to make the program scalable—administrative things." She's now working on a master's in public health at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, while still serving as WVD program manager.

Vasectomies, she says, are simpler, safer, and less invasive than women's tubal ligations. "It's 15 minutes under local anesthetic. A small puncture, no scalpel, no needle, no stitches," she says. "Across every indicator, the male procedure is superior. The gap is social and cultural, not medical."



One Load at a Time: Chet Selis '18

By Julianne Bell '13

CHET SELIS '18 NEVER IMAGINED HIMSELF IN THE LAUNDRY TRADE. When he graduated from Puget Sound with a business degree, he was on the hunt for a position at an up-and-coming company, a job that would be “flexible, yet challenging.” That’s just what he found when he stumbled upon a job listing for Loopie, a Seattle-based peer-to-peer laundry service app that allows users to get their laundry picked up, washed, folded, dried, and returned within 24 hours.

At the time, Loopie had exactly one employee: CEO John Vincent Lee. Selis and Lee launched the business together in July 2018, and the team has since grown to include 12 employees. Besides Selis, team members Jack Burns '18, Ian White '18, and Luke Murdock '20 are Loggers; additionally, three students from Professor Lynnette Claire’s entrepreneurship course recently worked with Loopie as part of the class.

The company diverges from many popular gig-economy players, like Uber and Postmates,

in that washers can make money from the comfort of their own homes, making it an ideal side hustle for stay-at-home parents and anyone else looking for convenient work. Loopie recently expanded from Seattle to Bellevue, and has its sights set on Portland next.

The startup life can be unpredictable: As chief of staff, Selis might find himself paying bills, organizing meetings, raising money from investors, or even picking up and washing orders. In March, Loopie took a revenue hit from the coronavirus and the closure of many small businesses—including barbershops, spas, and fitness centers—that relied on Loopie for their laundry needs. However, since laundry is considered an “essential business,” the company is still open and taking orders. It’s also launched a delivery service called Shippie, which takes advantage of Loopie’s third-party delivery network to help people send supplies, gifts, and food to others across town, allowing users to stay at home and avoid potential exposure to the virus.



graduating from Puget Sound with majors in Spanish and business, Evan worked for HomeChoice Senior Care as director of operations and minority owner for 10 years, until the business was sold. He was subsequently approached by the parent company of At-Home Care Company, Briggs Home Care, and was offered the position of executive director. Evan shares, “I continue to use the skills I’ve learned from both degrees in a variety of ways: communicating in Spanish with clients and employees, while analyzing trends and helping to develop processes on the business end. I credit much of my career success to the invaluable lessons learned at Puget Sound!”

2019 In February 2020, **Justine Jones '19** showed her art at Gathering Space Art Gallery at Bellarmine Preparatory School. Justine’s art uses a variety of painting styles, often showing subjects through an interplay of distortion and realism. Justine writes, “I hope to combine psychology and art to more fully understand their differences, but also to understand how much they play off one another and allow for a unique perspective on the world.” See more of Justine’s work at justinejonesart.wixsite.com/work.

2012 **Caitlin Bovard '12** is the owner of and a counselor at Authentic You Counseling in Denver, specializing in LGBTQ+ and sex/intimacy issues. Caitlin credits her work at *The Trail* for setting her on her life’s path. She writes, “As the founder of The Happy Trail [section of the paper], I am happy to report that writing a sex column for *The Trail* truly changed my life. I studied pre-med classes and studio art, but after my experiences with the column, decided instead to pursue a master’s degree in clinical mental health therapy from the University of Northern Colorado in

Denver. I now own a private practice and am a few months shy of becoming a licensed professional counselor and getting my second certification in sex therapy. I see couples and individuals, and absolutely LOVE what I do—and am accepting clients in the Denver area.”

2012 In July 2018, **Darcy Nelson '12** moved from Tacoma, Wash., to Denver, where she has been growing her skills as a songwriter and live performance musician. She recently created two live music videos for competitions including NPR’s Tiny Desk

contest for unsigned musicians and a cover challenge contest, hosted by *303 Magazine*, a Denver arts and culture media outlet. Darcy writes, “I’m using my songwriting during this time of uncertainty to share encouragement and optimism with my community and recently wrote a blog post about music as medicine that complements my recent cover video.”

2014 **Evan Herlocker '14** was recently appointed executive director of At-Home Care Company in Ames and Des Moines, Iowa. After

in memoriam

ALUMNI

Virginia Morrison '42 died Feb. 13, at the age of 100.

Walter L. Berg '44 was studying geology at Puget Sound when he was called to active duty in 1943. After his Navy service, Walter completed his studies, going on to earn master's and doctoral degrees from University of Washington and teach American history at Central Washington State College (now University). He was an inspiring—and inspired—gardener, donating more than 50 estate-size rhododendrons from his garden to Bainbridge Island parks in the last few years. He died Dec. 25.

Jane Loren Halver '44 died Dec. 4, at the age of 96.

Ellen Swayne Sherlock '44 died Dec. 2. She graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in English.

Robert P. Wederich '44 died Oct. 9. A member of the Army Specialized Training Program, he attended Puget Sound in the midst of World War II, while awaiting deployment.

Retired Lieutenant **Donald Park McClain '45, M.B.A. '54** died Feb. 6, at the age of 96. He attended Puget Sound, but received his undergraduate degree from University of Washington, returning to campus to earn his M.B.A. During World War II, Donald served as deck officer, amphibious assault missions, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. Professionally, he retired as vice president at Merrill Lynch after 28 years. He was an active member of numerous boards and community organizations, taught evening adult investment courses, and volunteered with Big Brothers, the Boy Scouts, and more.

Natalie Hyndman Gilbert '47 passed away on Oct. 9. She graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in psychology.

Nilmah Magill Gray '47 died Jan. 7, at the age of 93.



The Puget Sound skyline feels emptier as we mark the unexpected passing on March 19 of **George H. Mills Jr. '68, M.S.'72**.

Born in Boston while his father attended medical school, George grew up on the island of Oahu and graduated from Punahou School. A young fisherman who loved the sea, he chose to come to college here because he was curious about the Puget Sound; he majored in biology and chemistry, and became part of an ocean racing sailboat crew. In 1970, he became an admission counselor at Puget Sound, then married Nilmah Gray '69, M.Ed.'72. President Phibbs saw his talents and named George director of academic advising, supported his completion of a Ph.D. from University of Washington, and, when the director of admission position opened, appointed him to that role. Forty-two classes of Loggers later (and well-earned promotions to dean of admission and vice president for enrollment along the way), George brought his strong knowledge and personal relationships to success as associate vice president for university relations, the position from which he retired last year—always a Logger!

George was a colleague to many Puget Sound leaders, including Presidents Philip Phibbs, Susan Resneck Pierce, and Ronald Thomas. Always meticulously prepared, fountain pen notes on yellow pad and handouts of admission statistics or class profiles at the ready, George helped us understand not just the world of enrollment but the needs and concerns of the young people we serve. He pushed the big questions, challenging us to see from a different perspective and offering the breadth of his experience to the issue at hand. Sometimes protective, just occasionally a little

stubborn, George always put Puget Sound and Loggers as priority one. In a wonderful 2012 *Arches* feature story, President Phibbs praised George's commitment to honesty in helping students and families make "the right fit" decisions about college, and President Pierce commended George's "well-deserved reputation as one of the smartest, most effective, and most admired admissions leaders in higher education."

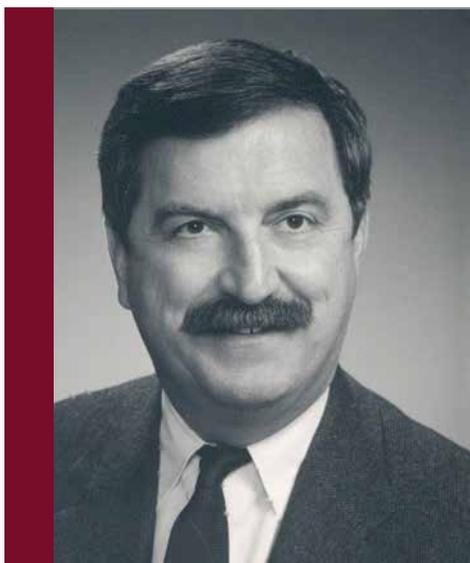
George and Nilmah were always gracious hosts in their home, including to the admission team, prospective students and families, or alumni. When George spoke about his family, his pride in Tad, Grayson, and Liz was palpable. The greater Tacoma community knows well the generosity of treasure and time that George and Nilmah shared with their city.

The skyline feels emptier because, in the words of poet Edwin Markham, "there is a lonesome place against the sky." It is as if the tallest among our campus's treasured Douglas firs has gone missing. And yet, we must hold in mind the image of George's ongoing spirit in those locations in our Northwest forests where a mighty nurse log is supporting a whole segment of its ecosystem, other trees already strong and all the surrounding life thriving. Our lives are better, and nurtured, by all that George has done for us.

There are few in our history who have done as much for and meant as much to Puget Sound as George H. Mills. The "H" is for Hi'ilani, which means "held in the arms of heaven." *Aloha nui loa*, George.

—Kristine Bartanen, professor and former provost

in memoriam



Trustee Emeritus **John W. (Jack) Creighton Jr.** was born in Pittsburgh and went to college in Ohio, but ultimately made the Pacific Northwest his home. He spent the majority of his career at Weyerhaeuser, from 1970 to 1997, serving as CEO from 1991 until his retirement—the first person outside of the Weyerhaeuser family to head the timberland company. In 2001, in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, United Airlines tapped him to serve as interim chairman and CEO. Later, Creighton served as a strategic director for the Madrona Venture Group, a Seattle-based tech firm, and chair of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle. Creighton, who was the first in his family to go to college, earned bachelor's and law degrees from The Ohio State University and an M.B.A. from University of Miami, and went on to become

a champion of higher education: He served from 1988 to 2004 on the University of Puget Sound Board of Trustees, as well as the board of the Washington State University Foundation and The Ohio State University Foundation. At Puget Sound, he also established a scholarship for students from underrepresented groups and helped spearhead the effort that created the William T. Weyerhaeuser Endowed Scholarship. Creighton served on the boards of a number of civic and nonprofit organizations, including the Overlake Medical Center in Bellevue, Wash., and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival; from 1996 to 1998, he was president of the Boy Scouts of America. Creighton died Jan. 29 at his home in Bellevue at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters, and two granddaughters.

Juanita Baumgartner '48 died on Oct. 27. She was 94. Juanita was one of the first students in College of Puget Sound's Occupational Therapy Program and, in 2018, attended her 75th class reunion. During her 30-year career as an occupational therapist at Leahi Hospital in Honolulu, Juanita worked with patients who had tuberculosis, leprosy, and cerebral palsy. She was involved in local theater as a stage manager, costume designer, and makeup artist, volunteering for more than 40 years with Hawai'i Opera Theater. Claiming she was born with "itchy feet," Juanita visited all seven continents and more than 60 countries during her lifetime.

Catherine R. Funke Jones '49 died Oct. 17. She was 99. Cathy graduated from Puget Sound with a degree in home economics. While working in Seattle, she met and married Marvin Jones. Together, they drove to Fairbanks, Alaska, and built a home where they would raise three children. A talented crafter, Cathy enjoyed fabric and fiber arts, as well as gardening, baking, and photography. Friends and loved ones remember her as the creative, adventurous, open-hearted hub of her family.

Jeanne Martinsen '49 earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Puget Sound. She died Dec. 16.

James Richards "Dick" Perkins '49 died Nov. 20, at the age of 95. While attending Puget Sound, Dick was called to serve in World War II, first in the ski troops until becoming a replacement with the first infantry division (Big Red 1) in Europe. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, receiving a Purple Heart. After graduating from Puget Sound with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry, he served as an educator and administrator in Washington before moving to California, where he earned a master's degree in elementary school administration and served as a principal for 27 years in the Mount Diablo School District. Dick's hobbies included woodworking, hiking, running, and playing with the Straw Hat Pizza banjo band.

Yvonne Marie Drues '50 earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Puget Sound, majoring in art/design and minoring in literature. She died Dec. 30.

Vonnie Schuler Dickson '51 died Oct. 18, at the age of 90. Known as a lover of life, music, and people, she was an active and enthusiastic member of the Tacoma community. She earned her bachelor's degree in music at Puget Sound and remained a loyal, lifelong Logger.

Bob George Witsler '52 died Feb. 7, at the age of 89.

At his high school graduation, **Frederick Turner Pedersen '53** played a solo on the violin that was heard by R. Franklin Thompson, then president of Puget Sound, who offered Fred a full scholarship to the college. On campus, Fred was president of the Sinfonia National Music Fraternity and, as a first-year student, joined the Tacoma Symphony (now Symphony Tacoma), playing first violin for the orchestra for 32 years. Fred played tuba in the Army band and, two years after graduating with a degree in music education, became a music and math teacher in Tacoma Public Schools, retiring in 1980. The following year, Fred and his wife, Lisa, began a seven-year adventure teaching in international schools before retiring in Tacoma, where they remodeled homes together.

Donald R. Rogers '54, P'83 died Oct. 9. He was 87. After earning a degree in chemistry from Puget Sound, Don attended the University of Washington School of Medicine and joined the Navy, completing flight surgeon school. He was Alaska's first state medical examiner—a position he held for 27 years—and assisted in the investigation and prosecution of many high-profile cases. Don owned and built planes, including his beloved black-and-white Cessna 180, and helped establish the Alaska Aviation

Museum. He and his wife, Georgia, enjoyed 63 years of marriage, raised two children, and traveled the world together.

Born in Seattle in 1932, **John Fremont Barker '55** worked for The Boeing Company for more than 35 years, first in inspection, then in industrial engineering. Upon retirement, he and Joan, his wife of more than 60 years, operated Barker's Antiques in Midway until 2004. The couple enjoyed the outdoors, sailing the Adriatic and circumnavigating Vancouver Island in their sailboat, Sofla, and cruising to Alaska in their trawler, Sea Change. He died Feb. 17.

Clark Duvall '55 earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He died Feb. 27.

Richard Lund '55 graduated from College of Puget Sound, then entered the Air Force—but not before he and a college friend floated down the Mississippi River, creating their own Huck Finn experience. In the Air Force, Dick flew the 124, C-133, HU-16, and C-5 during more than 30 years of service, completing two tours in Vietnam and earning the Silver Star for gallantry. Dick, who died Feb. 17, loved both the mountains and the water, and will be remembered as a caring, adventurous man.

Phyllis Barbara Sherman '55 died Jan. 7.

After serving in the Army, **Delbert Kennedy '56** studied accounting at Puget Sound, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration. He retired from Crown Zellerbach Paper Mill in 1990, after 34 years of service. A longtime member of the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, Del was a Boy Scout leader for 10 years and enjoyed camping, traveling cross-country, and cruising. He died Nov. 17, at the age of 89.

Laura M. Knapp Otto '56 died Oct. 29, at the age of 87.

William J. Rush '56 died Oct. 8, at the age of 85. After earning his bachelor's degree in business administration at Puget Sound and completing law school at University of Washington, William became a general practice attorney. He worked in personal injury law, specializing in medical malpractice and wrongful death, and, in 2010, was named Lawyer of the Year by the Washington Bar Association. William married Patricia in 1961, and together they traveled to all seven continents.

Miye Morimoto Hikida '57 died Oct. 19, at the age of 90.

Dale W. Platt '57, P'85 spent 10 years in Sitka, Alaska, before moving to Tacoma, where he lived for 78 years. After serving as a cryptographic specialist during the Korean War, he graduated from Puget Sound and began a 37-year career as a beloved history and English teacher at Gault Junior High, where he also served as the school's basketball coach for 28 years. A three-sport student-athlete for the Loggers, Dale served as president of the Kappa Sigma fraternity and the Letterman's Club. He and his wife of 62 years, Sue, met on campus and had three daughters, including Teri '85. Dale died Feb. 2.

Glenn A. Stavik '58 died Oct. 17. He attended Puget Sound, earning a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Elizabeth Mayo "Liz" Austin died Jan. 18, at the age of 82. She attended Puget Sound.

The grandchild of German immigrants, born in Mandan, N.D., in 1937, **Melvin John Bullinger '59** settled in South Tacoma with his family at the age of 5. He met Barbara, his future bride, in first grade. They wed in 1959 and spent 60 years traveling the world and sharing Friday-night dates. A craftsman, musician, and self-taught architect, Mel designed and built beautiful homes throughout the South Sound.

Larry "Gene" DeLorme '59 died on Christmas morning. He was 86. After graduating from Grays Harbor College, Gene entered the Navy, where he sailed on the U.S.S. General George M. Randall, logging more than 175,000 miles and visiting 22 ports of call. After his service, he attended Puget Sound, meeting Glorian, the love of his life and a student at rival Pacific Lutheran University. The couple married and raised three children. Gene taught in the Tacoma Public Schools district for 34 years. In the summer, he painted houses and for many years volunteered for Paint Tacoma Beautiful. He loved gardening, Westerns, and watching football.

Thomas Mitchell '59 died Dec. 28, at the age of 82.

Retired Colonel **Phillip Mlynek '59** died Jan. 23. He was 82. In more than 30 years in the military, Phillip piloted B-47s, B-52s, and C-118s, and held various command positions in aircraft maintenance and as a Wing Vice Commander. He flew more than 150 B-52 combat missions during the Vietnam War and earned military decorations including the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, and seven Air Medals. In retirement, Phillip was a passionate golfer. He was preceded in death by Jewel, his wife of 61 years, and is survived by their three children.

Barbara Lee Nielson '59 died March 11, at the age of 82.

Bette T. Brandis '60 died Oct. 9.

Marilyn Duvall '60 died Feb. 27.

Raymond W. Monaghan '60 died Nov. 1.

Robert Morris Pierce '60 shagged balls at a golf course and worked at the coal mines near his father's employment site before attending Puget Sound, where he was captain of the football team. After graduation, he worked at Safeco Insurance Company in Seattle, later joining Omar Bratrud Insurance Agency in Tacoma, which eventually became Bratrud Middleton Insurance Agency (now Propel). Bob and his wife, Toni, enjoyed cruising the Puget Sound and beyond on their vessel, the Pierce Arrow. They retired to Palm Desert, Calif., and continued traveling in the U.S. and abroad.

After graduating from Puget Sound with a major in history and a minor in economics, **Peter Rippe '60** became the first professional director of the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Va., before moving to Houston, where he directed the Harris County Heritage Society. In 1979, Peter and his family returned to Virginia, and he became the director of the Roanoke Museum of Fine Arts (now the Taubman Museum). He was honored by the American Association of Museums and the Institute of Museum Services. He finished his career by helping P. Buckley Moss found her museum in Waynesboro, Va. In retirement, Peter and his wife, Maria, served on the Arts Council of Randolph-Macon College, wrote articles for Northumberland County Historical Society, and traveled extensively. He died Jan. 19.

Paul Allen Claypool '61 died Jan. 4, surrounded by his family. He worked in the Washington State Employment Security Department for 36 years before retiring in 2001. He and his beloved wife, Janet, were married for 59 years.

Keith L. Robertson '61 died Nov. 13.

Karen MacKay '62 died Dec. 14.

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in memoriam

Glenda Watson '62 died Oct. 31, at the age of 79. Born and raised in Tacoma, she attended Stadium High School and Puget Sound, where she was a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She lived and worked for many years in New York City, but met and married her husband, Habib, in Los Angeles, where they enjoyed a large, extended family. Glenda enjoyed reading, playing Bunco, and volunteering at Tacoma Art Museum. She loved to travel and was always looking forward to her next trip.

Born in Tacoma in 1925, **Norma Arnold '63** lived in the Tacoma/Fircrest, Wash., area her entire life. After graduating from Stadium High School and College of Puget Sound, she served as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher and librarian at Wainwright School in Fircrest, retiring in 1987. Norma died Jan. 8, at the age of 94.

While attending Puget Sound, **George Wayne Carte '63** worked a summer with a surveyor crew on Kodiak Island, Alaska, where he met and fell in love with Katherine. The pair would have celebrated their 57th anniversary in September. During a career with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, George served his community as a Boy Scout troop leader and Scoutmaster, and was involved in youth football and soccer. He became mayor of Palmer, Alaska, in 1981, serving the city for 14 years. In retirement, he and Kathy spent three years in Japan, teaching English to children. He died June 28, at the age of 78.

Ronald Pemberton '63 died Dec. 26. He was 79. After graduating from Stadium High School, Ronald earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound. He was a principal of Western Builders Supply and, in 2018, retired as managing partner of Dwyer, Pemberton and Coulson. Ronald was an avid sailor and enjoyed sailboat racing; he was particularly proud that his team held the record for the Victoria to Maui Race for more than a decade. With his wife, Carla, he traveled

extensively and enjoyed playing golf and tennis, and spending time with family and friends.

Elaine E. Perdue Ramsey '63 died Oct. 29. She graduated from Puget Sound as a double major in communication and theatre arts.

Michael Mayes '64 died Dec. 29, after a short battle with acute myeloid leukemia. He was 79. Michael moved to Tacoma at the age of 3 and graduated from Stadium High School before earning his bachelor's degree at Puget Sound and enjoying a 45-year career in advertising and marketing. He maintained strong ties with college buddies, fraternity brothers, and a circle of close family friends.

After graduating from Puget Sound with a degree in business administration, **Thomas "Tim" Paul '64** followed in his father's footsteps, going to work at SeaFirst National Bank. He bought Seattle Injector Company, a diesel fuel injection parts and repair business, with his brother, and the pair developed the business, ultimately creating a partner company, Power Distributing, which supplies diesel parts throughout the Pacific Northwest. Tim retired in 2004. While celebrating his 27th wedding anniversary in Hawai'i, Tim suffered a massive stroke, but he was able to spend the last three years with his wife, Debbie, at home, where he died peacefully in March.

Jack L. Quinn '64 died Dec. 5. He graduated from Puget Sound.

Melvin Neighbors '65, M.A.'73 graduated from Clover Park High School before earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from Puget Sound. Mel taught sixth grade in the Clover Park School District for three years, then became an elementary school principal, assistant superintendent for personnel and labor relations, and eventually assistant superintendent for business in the district—a 34-year career. He was a dedicated community leader, founding the Lakewood (Wash.) chapter of the Boys and Girls Club, serving for

decades in Lakewood Rotary, and being involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 53 years. Mel died Feb. 23, at the age of 79.

Edward Zabel '65 grew up in Seattle and studied business administration at Puget Sound. He loved his career at the Office of Financial Management and, despite retiring early, kept in touch with many friends and co-workers. Known to live life to the fullest, Ed enjoyed tennis, concerts, car shows, and vacationing in Cabo.

Nancy Wahle '66 died Feb. 2. She was 75. After graduating from Puyallup High School, Nancy completed her bachelor's degree in education at Puget Sound and became a teacher. Treasured by her students, she retired from the Puyallup School District after 26 years.

Audrey Ann Warren '66, M.B.A.'69 died Jan. 1, at the age of 92. After receiving her M.B.A., Audrey taught at San Francisco State University, ultimately becoming chair of the business department there. In retirement, she used her accounting skills to help SIL International and Wycliffe Bible Translators set up and update their offices around the globe. Audrey loved to travel and, into her 80s, she drove up and down the West Coast visiting family and friends.

Patricia "Pat" DiAnn Cunningham Hediger '67 died Feb. 26. She was 74. Pat earned her bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound, with an emphasis in accounting, and went to work for Edwin L. Luoma, CPA, and later, Busert Law and Associates, where she stayed until she retired. She was a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Timothy J. Newman '67 died Oct. 27, at the age of 74.

John E. Sumich '67 died Oct. 3. He graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Carol Dahlstrom '68 died Dec. 2. She earned her Bachelor of Arts de-

gree in education from Puget Sound.

Allen L. Fuller '68 died Nov. 27. He was 75. Allen graduated from the American School in Iran before attending Puget Sound, where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. He served in the Army for 10 years as a medical service corps officer with assignments in Europe and the U.S., and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. He worked for ADT Security and was a licensed massage therapist in San Antonio, where he served as a children's literacy mentor in the city's READ program, and he and his three therapy dogs made many visits to local nursing homes and retirement centers.

Donald A. Praast '68 died Oct. 4, at the age of 83. After graduating from Puget Sound with a degree in business administration, he served eight years in the Army. On a blind date in 1962, he met Donna Jeanne Welch, the woman who would be his wife for more than 55 years. Don joined the U.S. General Accounting Office in 1970, and was a congressional auditor for 24 years. In retirement, he began a second career as an amateur genealogist and enjoyed many hobbies, including photography, travel, and reading.

Richard Taylor '68, M.S.'70 grew up in Tacoma and served in the Marines before studying biology at Puget Sound. After graduating, he went to work for what was then the Game Department, where he continued until retirement. With a love of wildlife and animals of all kinds, Dick will be remembered as a gentle, soft-spoken man.

Alvin Meyer '69 died Jan. 1, 2019.

James Curtis Fredrickson '70 died Feb. 8. He was 71. Growing up in Puyallup, Jim graduated from Wilson High School and Puget Sound, where he was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity and an All-American swimmer. He served in the Navy aboard the U.S.S. Wallace L. Lind, later working for St. Regis and, for 40

years, for Simpson Tacoma Kraft. He loved photography, traveling, meeting up with old friends, and spoiling his 10 grandchildren.

(Alfred) Tod D. McKelvy '70 was captain of the Logger men's soccer team, vice president of Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound, and a member of the Adelpian Concert Choir. A talented musician and businessman, he performed with the Kingston Trio and was a studio guitarist for Three Dog Night, in addition to serving as managing partner of McKelvy Properties LLP, president of McKelvy Oil and Petroleum Company, founding director of Diablo Valley Bank, and COO of Berding and Weil LLP. He enjoyed scuba diving, karate, and spinning yarns of his days as a wildcat oil driller. Tod died Oct. 16, at the age of 71.

Born in Greenville, S.C., **Gary Smith '70** enlisted in the Air Force before graduating from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in music. He died in December.

John Wolfard '70 died Dec. 17. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

After moving to Port Orchard, Wash., from Nebraska in 1965, **Kathleen Wood '71** earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Puget Sound, and began her teaching career in the South Kitsap School District in the early 1970s. She died Jan. 9, at the age of 79.

Suzanne Darlene Scotchmer '71 died Jan. 14.

Born in California and raised in Australia, **William Henry (Bill) Critch '72** returned to the U.S. in 1955 and became an Air Force pilot in 1958. Once out of the military, he worked as an airline pilot until being grounded by heart disease. He subsequently graduated from Puget Sound and worked at The Boeing Company for 20 years. Bill will be remembered for his sense of humor, his love of the Australian bush, and his fighting spir-

it. He died July 24, at the age of 85.

William D. Main '72 died Oct. 17. He graduated from Puget Sound with a bachelor's degree in history.

Mohamad A. Mattar M.B.A.'72 died Nov. 6.

Marilou Saxby Nelson '72 earned her bachelor's degree in education at Puget Sound. As an English language instructor, she enjoyed working with immigrant students attending public school. She loved learning about each child's culture and sharing her own in creative ways, often through children's literature. Marilou died Oct. 5, at the age of 89.

James F. Closson '73 died in December. He was 85. A decorated paratrooper and educator in the Army, James received a Purple Heart, as well as a Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, and more. He earned a bachelor's degree in business from Puget Sound and was an enthusiastic volunteer, dedicating his services to help veterans and children.

Constance Winslow '73 died Dec. 15, on her 46th wedding anniversary. After earning an undergraduate degree at University of Washington, Connie studied occupational therapy at Puget Sound. Shortly after graduation, she married Steve, her husband for more than 45 years. Connie had a knack for making people feel special and loved. She was a gourmet cook, a devoted volunteer, and a seasoned world traveler.

Janet Louise Eixenberger '75 died Jan. 24. Born in Ohio, Janet served in the Air Force before marrying and moving to the Pacific Northwest. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in public administration and enjoyed a long career with the State of Oregon Department of Justice. She'll be remembered for her love of family, good food, and the Delta blues, and for her beautiful flower gardens.

Dennis Jorve '75 died Jan. 16, at the age of 85. After graduating from

high school, Dennis joined the Navy and served as a hospital corpsman stationed in California. While home in Minnesota on leave, he met Sharon, who would become his wife. The couple relocated to Seattle, where they raised their family. A 27-year veteran of the Seattle Police Department, Dennis retired as a detective sergeant. He earned his bachelor's degree in public administration from Puget Sound.

David G. Neighbors '75 died Oct. 1. He was 64. David graduated from Puget Sound with a psychology degree and spent his early career in banking, though his true calling was education. As a career and technical ed teacher at South Kitsap High School, he enjoyed making an impact on the lives of his students. David and his wife, Kerry, shared 33 years together and raised two daughters.

Daniel Joseph Bader '76, '81, M.B.A.'88 died March 7. He was 68. Dan earned bachelor's degrees in accounting and business administration, as well as his M.B.A. at Puget Sound. He was a determined entrepreneur and an avid sailor, cyclist, and long-distance swimmer.

Donald Emily '78 died Jan. 2. He was 86. Donald earned his bachelor's degree in business administration at Puget Sound. From 1963 to 1974, he was a missionary with the Lutheran Church in Japan. He also worked as a manager at Teijin Seiki, and later worked as a buyer with The Boeing Company.

Ernest Perez '78 died Jan. 1. He earned his bachelor's degree in business administration at Puget Sound.

Lynn Mary Coffman '79 died Dec. 16, at the age of 64. She received her bachelor's degree at Puget Sound.

Carl M. Moore '80 died Nov. 13. He graduated from Puget Sound with a degree in business administration.

Growing up in Alaska, **Rudy Gavora '81** was a dedicated football and basketball player. He studied economics at Puget Sound and, after graduation,

returned home to put his degree to use for the family business, Market Basket stores, becoming president of the company in 1990. An avid outdoorsman, Rudy loved fishing, hunting, trapping, and hanging out in the midnight sun at Healy Lake. He died Feb. 27, at the age of 61.

John A. Liddell M.B.A. '82 died Nov. 7.

Ferdinand VanDeursen M.B.A.'83 died Feb. 25.

Donald Brenner M.B.A.'84 died March 3.

Raymond Heffernan M.Ed.'85 died Dec. 10.

Richard "Dick" Rabel M.B.A.'85 died Dec. 8, at the age of 71. He served honorably in the U.S. Coast Guard before earning his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at University of Portland. He earned his master's degree in business administration from Puget Sound.

Wendy Lynn Foster '90 died Nov. 25, at the age of 61. After earning her bachelor's degree in English at Puget Sound, Wendy went to work in Tacoma's social service sector, and then developed a second career as a jewelry designer. Under her label, Winter Sisters, she created thousands of pieces of women's jewelry and was an active vendor at Puyallup and Gig Harbor farmers markets for many years.

Amy M. Jackson '90 died Dec. 5. She graduated from Puget Sound with a degree in art and design.

Laura Stodden '90 died March 10.

In 1995 **Vicki Schmidt M.P.T.'97** moved to the Pacific Northwest to study physical therapy at Puget Sound. She spent the last 23 years working as a PT in numerous locations, including 20 years at Swedish Hospital. Warm-hearted and generous, Vicki loved nature and the outdoors, was wicked-good at Scrabble, and enjoyed studying and teaching yoga.

scrapbook



▲ **Jennie Noreen '12** married Dan Omasta on Sept. 7, in Almont, Colo. Loggers from across the country gathered to celebrate, including (clockwise from top left): **Polly Membrino '12**, **James Ray '12**, **Sophie Sessions '12**, **Pat Olson '12**, the bride and groom, **Ellie Barber '12**, **Laura Derr '12**, **Tedra Hamel '12**, **Caroline Kellough '12**, and **Elli Mc Kinley '13**.



▲ Local Alpha Phi gathered at Owen's Beach in Point Defiance Park to catch up and enjoy years of friendship forged at Puget Sound. Back, from left: **Marsha Nelson Klumpar '69**, **Laurel Call Powell '69**, **Kathy Schiller Judkins '68**, **Cathy Graff '71**, **Laurel Frahm Reilly '67**, **Suzanne Scherдин Haizlip '68**. Front, from left: **Toni Bremer Hara '68**, **Gail Plee Woodard '68**, **Linda Federico-Pearn '66**, **Cheri Daniels Ratay '68**, **Paula Harman Umbeck '67**, and **Julie Juelling Neff-Lippman '68**.



▲ **Emma Morzuch '07** shares that she was pleasantly surprised to get a visit from one of her best mates, **Brian Stewart '07**, in Canberra, Australia. Brian was on a work trip for Boeing, where he is currently senior manager, international strategic partnerships for Australia. Emma is currently completing her Master of Occupational Therapy at the University of Canberra.



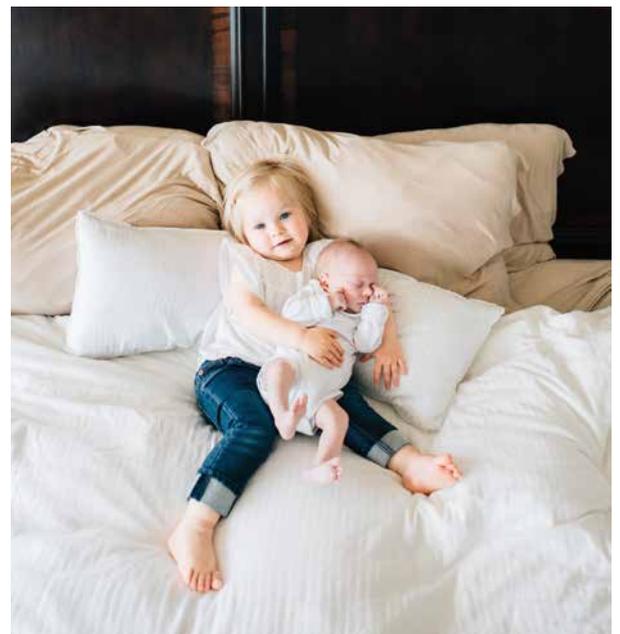
▲ **Donald Frank '92** (left) and **Edward Johnson '62**—both regular golfers at Gearhart Golf Links on the Oregon Coast—were chatting one day and discovered they both are alumni of Puget Sound. Ed is a retired science teacher and coach for Seaside School District, and Don is a commercial photographer.



◀ There was a strong contingent of Loggers in attendance when **Andy Galbraith '13** married Ellie Henningsgaard in Gearhart, Ore., including (from left): **Ava Williams '13**, **Nick Burns '13**, **Logan Jones '13**, **Geoff Abel '14**, **Anna Galbraith '22**, the bride and groom, **Allen Ward '12**, **Madeline Thiesse '13**, **Jessica Shiarella '12**, **Andrew Anderson '13**, **Rachael Long '13**, and **Cameron Ford '13**.



▲ **Olivia Fair-Lafferty '16** married Chris Lafferty on Sept. 8, in Texas. Pictured is a Lighthouse Core Group reunion of "the Swans," including (from left): **Haila Schultz '16**, **Lizzie Kressler '16**, the bride, **Courtney Carley '16**, Emily McCann, and **Megan Kober '16**.



▲ In June, **Lael Carlson Krug '02** and husband Michael welcomed Liesl Lillian to the family. She joined sister Margreta (20 months). The family resides in Seabeck, Wash., where Lael is deputy prosecuting attorney at the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office.

scrapbook



▲ **Robert Moore '82** writes: "What's better than getting together with Old Loggers? Getting together at an Old Logger's kid's wedding!" Pictured, from left: **Eric Herbel '81**, **Thomas Moore '84**, **Bob Russell Ivy '82**, **Cynthia Delaney Kaapana '83**, **Patrick Kaapana '83**, **Elizabeth Gilham Franklin '83**, and **Pamela Johnson Spooner '83** (mother of the bride).

► Unbeknownst to either of them, **Stephanie Mackley '02** and Prof. Ann Neel were both in attendance at the 400 Years of Resistance to Slavery and Injustice symposium at UC Berkeley on Aug. 30. Stephanie thought perhaps she was hallucinating when she saw Ann in the lobby, because 20 minutes prior, she had *literally* just told a friend about her experience of Ann's Race and Ethnic Relations class. Stephanie introduced herself, and the two marveled over the coincidence and caught up over the past 20 years. It was Ann's brilliant idea to take a selfie to capture the moment. Ann retired as a professor of comparative sociology in 2001, after 26 years at Puget Sound, and now lives in Sebastopol, Calif., with her dog, vast collection of books, and genealogical research. Stephanie lives in Berkeley, Calif., with her partner and two children; she gets paid for her work at UC Berkeley as senior editor and producer for digital learning services. Ann and Stephanie are now known to get together and geek out over genealogical research.



▲ **Tom Fitzgerald '13** and **Monica Edwards Fitzgerald '13** married in Evergreen, Colo., on Sept. 6, surrounded by several friends from Puget Sound. Loggers who joined the celebration include (left to right): **Matt Breuer '13**, **Chelsea Clark '13**, **Jack Todd '13**, **Alexandra Werner Todd '13**, **Nathan Little '13**, **Jay Herron '13**, the bride and groom, **Tim Kelley '13**, **Jeffrey Judkins '13**, **Gaelyn Moore '13**, and **Ben Armstrong '13**, plus Tom's next-door neighbor freshman year, **Rachel Borsini '13** (not pictured). The couple now lives in Denver with their cat, Chatwin.



▲ Was it mere coincidence, or was it The Force? **Julie Davidson '96** (left) and **Marette Whitney '91** (right) wondered after a chance meeting in the lobby of the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland, Ore. The alumnae had arrived to enjoy the music of composer John Williams, including several selections from the *Star Wars* movies. Within moments of casual conversation, they discovered their shared Logger and comparative sociology roots. Julie heads up the JD Group, a leadership development and executive coaching business based in the Puget Sound region, while Marette works at Pacific Power in customer service, plays violin in the Jewish Community Orchestra, teaches violin, and is a hospice volunteer for Care Partners.



◀ **Kari Vandraiss '13** and Alex Partin tied the knot Sept. 14, on Vashon Island, surrounded by a whole bunch of Loggers. Back row, from left: **Jenaca Holmes '12**, **Jacqueline Robinette '13**, **Kristin Howley '14**, **Erin Byrne '13**, and **Keila Meginnis '13**. Third row, from left: **Cierra Hunziker O'Neill '10**; **Rebecca Bryant '10**; **Rachel Borsini '13**; **Hannah Kitzrow '13**; **Lauren Raemhild '13**; **Allie Jones Wulff '13, '17**; **Elisabeth Young '13**; and **Collin Wulff '12**. Second row, from left: **Angel Johnson '13**, **Grace Sun '13**, the bride and groom, **Anthea Aasen '12**, and **Sara Sloyer '11**. Front row, from left: **Andrew Grady '12**, **Santiago Rodriguez '14**, and **Adam Guzek '12**. Not pictured: **Garner Lanier '12**.



▲ Longtime Puget Sound friends gathered for a Zoom call on April 1. **Alison Anderson Wallace '91** reports: "We loved the chance to reconnect, laugh, and toast to friendship." Top, from left: **Julie Smith Ward '91**, Alison, and **Kendra Thomas Grabowski '91**. Bottom, from left: **Lisa Passage Morse '91**, **Kathleen Fritz Rogers '91**, and **Deyette DeJager Swegle '91**.



◀ **Ryan Bede '05** and **Heather Houglum Bede '05, M.A.T.'06** welcomed Elin Marie Bede on Jan. 21. Big brother Kasen and big sister Adelaide are so excited that she is finally here and love to give her snuggles. Heather is a contractor with K-12 and substitute teaches for Washington Virtual Academy. Ryan teaches voice at Tacoma Community College and Seattle Pacific University, and through the Community Music Department at Puget Sound. He recently began his doctoral studies at University of Washington in voice performance/pedagogy.



▲ In January 2019, a host of Logger alumni met up in Las Vegas for their annual "Buckem" tournament. This quarter-ante card game began while group members were student-athletes on the swim team and occupied hours spent riding in the "Loggermobile," a 1970s seven-door stretch SUV, and in hotel stays during swim season. The tournament can be local or at a destination, an evening or a weekend, and each tourney allows the "Buckem" crew to reflect on and share not just swimming or school but everything from their time on campus to the present. In attendance at the Las Vegas tournament were: **Russell Wiglesworth '79**; **Jack Rataezyk '79, P'12**; **Leo Kosenkranus '82**; **Eric Wolgemuth '83**; **Robert Moore '82**; **Thomas Moore '84**; **Thomas Kretzler '82**; **Michael Woerner '82**; Kim Piper; **Bob Jackson '82**; and **Lyle Nalli '82**.



▲ On June 2, 2018, **Grace Oppenheimer '10** and **Mark Rosasco '08** were married at the bride's father's home in Boise, Idaho. President Emeritus Ron Thomas officiated the union, and the happy couple was thrilled to welcome Loggers from near and far to celebrate their special day. Back row: **Brett Veerhusen '08, Jamie Hosmer '10, Wes Lilja '09, Adam Harvey '09, Sam McCullough '08; John Rosasco '13; Isabele Riser '22; Jessica Cafferty '11; Shawna McElroy Potter '10; Graehme Morphy '10; Christopher Dugovich '11; John Elam '11; and Greg Saetrum '10.** Front row: **James Oppenheimer '14, Tess Davis '14, Jenny Anderson '10, Jeremy Blatteis '05; John Oppenheimer '80, P'11, P'14; Deanna Oppenheimer '80 P'11, P'14;** the bride and groom; President Emeritus Ronald Thomas; Mary Thomas; **Laura Calcagni '10; Lindsay Akoni '10, M.A.T.'11; Hannah Miller Bergersen '10; Lizzy Mosher '10; Laura Coe '10; Kelly Seidel '09; and Jeni Oppenheimer Elam '11.**



▲ **Gregory Groggel '06** and **Chelsea Schmidt** married on June 8, in Appleton, Wis. Among those in attendance, from left to right, were **Maureen McDonald '06; Ella Brown Daniels '06;** the bride and groom; **Scott Ordway '06; Charles Kashiwa '06; Kimron Thomas '06; William Pearson '06, M.A.T.'07; and Peter Daniels '06.**



▲ **Stephanie Eisele Lacey '10** and **Mike Lacey** married on Sept. 7, at The Vintage House in Yountville, Calif. The Dijonettes were there to celebrate! Left to right: **Margo Archey '10; Casia Chappell '10;** the bride; **Michel Rocchi '71, M.A.'72** (French professor); **Carly Golden '10; and Laura Calcagni '10.**

An aerial photograph of a university campus during a dramatic sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, red, and yellow clouds, transitioning to a deep blue at the top. The campus below is illuminated by warm lights from the buildings, which are surrounded by green lawns, trees, and parking lots. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

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OVER PUGET SOUND The university shines in this early February image by overtacoma.com. We'll take it as a sign of better days to come.

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